

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

OF THE

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO,

FOR THE YEAR 1878.

To the Honourable the Commissioner of Agriculture.

SIR.—I have the honour to transmit herewith the Report of the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario for the current year.

You will be gratified to perceive that the Association continues its work with unabated zeal, and that it is improving every means within its power for the gathering and disseminating of useful information concerning the cultivation, gathering, preserving and marketing of the Fruits of Ontario.

The Directors have this year ventured to carry out a long contemplated and much cherished purpose which they have been fully persuaded would be most conducive, nay, absolutely necessary, to the highest efficiency of this Association, namely, the issuing of a monthly, which would bring interesting intelligence or instructive hints more promptly to the knowledge of our fruit growers and horticulturists, and serve as a medium of communication between the members. There is reason to believe that this action has been very acceptable, and that the Little Monthly, which has been designated by the title of *The Canadian Horticulturist*, has been most heartily welcomed.

It has been found that the system adopted by the Legislature enjoining the election of a Director from among the members resident within each Agricultural division, has very materially increased the expense of holding the Directors' meetings, and that in consequence of this and of the expense incurred in publishing the *Horticulturist*, the Association has exhausted its revenues and is very considerably in debt. The Directors therefore hope that you will request Government to recommend to the Legislature at its present Session to grant a further sum in aid of the objects of this Association.

The past year has not been on the whole an unfavourable one to the fruit interests of this Province. The crops of small fruits, though somewhat injured by the late spring frosts, proved to be bountiful, and the apples sufficiently abundant and of excellent quality. Canadian apples have compared favourably in the home markets with those from the United States, and have brought remunerative prices to shippers who have made careful selections