

## PREFACE

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Our object in presenting to the public this modest treatise on fruit trees, is to popularize the culture of these trees, which once well understood, cannot fail to become a source of large revenue to all who devote themselves to it. For far too long a period have the farmers of the Province of Quebec neglected this matter and even in our day, the cultivation of fruit trees is carried on in a very small way, and principally in the vicinity of large centers. Still owing to the increased facilities of communication, the value of fruit has considerably improved and the receipts from a well planted piece of ground add materially to the revenue of the farm, as every one will eat fruit, when obtainable at a reasonable price.

The intelligent cultivation of fruit trees may become one of the most lucrative branches of agriculture. It has even been remarked that one of the most striking signs of the degree of comfort and morality existing among the population of a village, is to see it surrounded by well kept gardens and orchards. The possibility of the profitable cultivation of fruit trees in the Province of Quebec was a matter of doubt. It will be seen in the following chapters that, although the rigors of the climate prevent the cultivation