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THE GRIMSBY AND WINONA FRUIT GROWERS,

THESSE two sections are really one; the G. T. R. railway stations are scarcely five miles apart, and are in adjoining townships. Here the fruit industry was first stimulated into activity by such pioneers as A. M. Smith, and C. E. Woolverton, who began shipping strawberries and other fruits by express, about the year 1860.

In those days strawberries averaged 10 cents a quart for the season, grapes 10 cents a pound, apples \$2 a barrel, and peaches \$3 and \$4 a bushel. The first blackberry plantation at Grimsby was of the old Lawton variety, and these averaged about 15 cents a quart. Those were the palmy days of fruit growing; yet, every one planted sparingly for fear of overstocking the markets. Between the years of 1860 and 1870 probably \$1,000 a year would cover the total value of fruit shipped by express from Grimsby, while that of apples by freight would be covered by two or three times that sum. What a contrast with to-day, when the value of the fruit shipped from

each of these shipping points is upwards of \$100,000 per annum; while of apples the G. T. R. agent reports that about 18,000 bbls. have been shipped this season from Grimsby alone, and 6,000 from Winona.

Our frontispiece shows the Winona station just before the arrival of the fruit train, with the fruit packages piled up on the platform awaiting transportation, photograph was taken by Mr. Craig, and the plate first appeared in the report of the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Commons, and was loaned this journal by Mr. J. H. McLeod, Secretary of the Committee. A similar view might easily be made at Grimsby almost any day during the whole fruit season from July to October.

It seems a little strange that now, when prices are so low, the fruit growers are planting whole farms to fruits, while in those days of high prices a small garden plot was enough to satisfy them.

Among the prominent fruit growers of Grimsby and Winona, at the present time, we will mention the following, and others will be noticed in a future number: