

It was out the question to grow sweet melons, cauliflowers, tomatoes, bunch turnips ; and even celery, which was always supposed to do well on old, rich soils, now badly blighted there.

Mr. Stone, of Waterton, spoke of his success in using fertilizers for ten consecutive years and the soil was steadily improving.

Mr. King, of Peabody, used fertilizers on hoed crops for six years, and the last year gave the best crop. The piece is now laid down to grass, and it gives him his best mowing.

PROVINCIAL EXPERIMENT STATIONS.



THE importance of having a Horticultural Experiment Station in southern Ontario, was debated upon at our Winter Meeting at Hamilton and a special committee appointed to prepare a scheme and bring it before the Ontario Government.

The necessity of such a Station is obvious from the fact that the climatic conditions, both at Ottawa and Guelph, are unfavorable for the testing of tender varieties of fruits and it is very important that intending planters should have some more reliable guide with regard to the value of new fruits than the recommendations of interested parties.

A very economical plan would be one patterned after that which succeeds so well in Michigan, where a branch experiment station, fruit under the Agricultural College, has been established in connection with the farm of Mr. T. T. Lyon, President of the Michigan Horticultural Society. A tract of land, adjoining his fruit farm, has been purchased by the government and placed under his care ; and in this way, the public receive the benefit of Mr. Lyon's lifelong experience in testing varieties on his farm, as well as of those fresh experiments carried on upon the new experimental grounds. We read the bulletins prepared by Mr. Lyon, with special interest, because they are prepared by a practical fruit grower, and, therefore, they are in touch with the work of practical men ; a statement which cannot be made regarding all horticultural bulletins issued by experiment stations.

The Committee appointed for the purpose, interviewed the Minister of Agriculture, at his office on the 21st of April, and proposed the purchase of twenty five acres of choice land somewhere in the best fruit growing district of southern Ontario. They estimated the outlay for land, buildings, trees, plants, horses, and implements at about \$10,000; and the annual expenses at about \$3000, which in time would be nearly covered by the sale of produce. The Hon. Mr. Dryden viewed the scheme with favor, only questioning whether the people themselves had become sufficiently aroused to its importance.

The members of our association, scattered everywhere throughout the Province, can aid their officers very greatly in furthering this enterprise, by talking about it with their neighbors, and with their parliamentary representatives ; and thus, by all proper means, proving that there is a real need of such a station.