

Our Work.

The Ontario Fruit Growers' Association have still an enormous amount of work on hand, in order to assist in developing this fair province of Ontario. Their work may be the means of advertising the Dominion as a whole.

We see vast strides made in the Southern States, by which they are becoming famous. How did this come about? The great motive power is the Southern Industrial Association, which is bound together to advertise in every possible way the great resources of the Southern States. The Fruit Growers' Association can do the same with the portion of Ontario devoted to fruit. This portion is at present very small compared with what it will be in the near future. Our statesmen, our politicians, our manufacturers and mercantile men are doing their best in this respect and the Canadian Horticulturist is doing a great deal, but our Fruit Growers' Association have still a large work on hand. At the last annual meeting a flood of useful knowledge was set forth, mostly beneficial to individuals, but not so much to the industry as a whole.

The work of the Association should be continuous throughout the year. We elect officers and directors to look after our interests and, if they have the power, they undoubtedly should have also the means to further the fruit interests of which we Canadians are justly proud. One branch of work which they should look after, is the correcting of false impressions regarding our country.

England's statesmen, journalists and leaders in thought and action are the ones first to be brought to the realization of Ontario's claim as the brightest jewel in the British realm. We have been told and we know that the English are very conservative and once possessed of an idea they hold it tenaciously. For example we will quote a few false impressions from writers of high repute. Lord Macaulay's English History, considered one of the great works of literature, is to-day read and re-read in England by all the statesmen, journalists, politicians, ministers, lawyers, students and others. Now what impression do they derive about Canada in that work? Macaulay gives a beautiful description of Holland, he speaks of its fertility, its highly cultivated gardens, its quiet towns, trim villas, summer villas, summer houses, flowers, renowned tulip beds, etc., and further he proceeds to say that "this view produces the same effect on an English traveller as the sight of Eng-

land produces on a Norwegian or a Canadian." Here we are classed as living in the same surroundings and climate as these of Norway.

Again we read in another renowned work, Gibbon's Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, a similar statement. Gibbon describes the climate of Germany in the early days of the Christian Era as a country of intense frost and eternal winter, the home of the reindeer, an animal which requires the most intense cold; then he proceeds as follows "Canada is at this day an exact picture of ancient Germany; although situated in the same parallel with France, that country experiences the most vigorous cold, the ground is covered with deep and lasting snow and the waters of the St. Lawrence are regularly frozen over in a season when the Seine river in France and the Thames river in England are free from ice."

You would infer from the above two quotations that flowers and fruits in Ontario would be an oddity. These are only a few of many instances which might be quoted, but enough is shown to prove that means are needed to counteract such wrong impressions.

The shipping of fruit to England assists in dispelling this error, but still other means are needed. A great effort is being made to develop the Great North West, but before that can be satisfactorily performed it is requisite that would-be settlers should be fully informed that they have a province close at hand where they may procure an abundance of fresh fruits daily. It is only a matter of a few years when a vast improvement in fruit transportation rates will be realized (providing our Association insist on securing them.) We will not be surprised to see fruit laid down in Winnipeg as fresh and nearly as cheaply as it is now being delivered in Montreal.

We had a golden opportunity to show the Duke and Duchess of York the resources of the fruit sections of Ontario, but it was lost, and they returned to England carrying only deep impressions of the great resources of the North West, our Indian people, the lumber camps of Quebec, and of some gorgeous military spectacles. Why should not our Association seek to induce a few of England's nobility to pay a summer visit to our fruit districts, so that, on their return, the English minds may be filled with reports of Ontario's beautiful climate and luscious fruits.

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