

Soon after entering on this vast plain the travellers observed a marked change in the character of the fruit trees, which appeared more decided as they approached the districts referred to. It was seen that the foliage became much thicker and leather-like, and better fitted to endure extremes of temperature and drought, while in size the trees were stunted. They penetrated to the interior, visiting several Provinces where fruit is grown on an extensive scale, and finally reached the Province of Kasan, about 430 miles north-east of Moscow, on the upper waters of the Volga. As they journeyed they frequently met with immense orchards, each containing from 10,000 to 25,000 trees, cultivated and cared for in the most admirable manner. In the Province of Vladimir they found that cherries were grown in very large quantities, so that during the fruit season whole trains were laden with them, carrying them to the Russian cities. They are described as "very prolific, about the size of the Early Richmond, nearly sweet, with a small stone, purple flesh, and nearly black when ripe."

Continuing eastward and northward, it was observed that the trees became more and more stunted in their growth, although still bearing good crops of fine fruit, until in the northern part of Kasan, which is probably the coldest apple-growing region in the world, the apple trees were reduced to the size of mere bushes, and were grown in clumps about 10 feet apart, with two, three and sometimes four little trees in a clump. At this point, 600 miles nearer the North Pole than the city of Quebec, are several small villages, where one of the principal industries is apple growing, the value of the crop being estimated in favourable seasons at not less than \$50,000. The thermometer here frequently reaches 40 below zero, and is said in extreme weather to drop occasionally to 48 and even 58. Much information was gained in reference to the quality of the different varieties of apples which have during the past 600 or 800 years been gradually acclimated to endure the severe tests to which they are exposed in this extreme climate, and arrangements were made for obtaining the most promising sorts to be tested in America. As results of this work, Prof. Budd has now growing in the experimental grounds of the Iowa Agricultural College more than 100 varieties of apples, about 40 of pears, 30 of plums, 40 of cherries, and several varieties of peaches and apricots, all from these cold regions. In addition, this collection includes a large number of the forest trees found in Russia, especially the more rapid-growing varieties, as well as ornamental shrubs and trees, in all about 100 sorts.

While spending a day with Prof. Budd, in looking over this large and interesting collection, and noting their growth and character, I was convinced that there are among them many varieties which would be of inestimable benefit to our North-West Territories, and which would, if introduced into Canada, enable us to enlarge very much the area of successful fruit culture in the northern parts of all the Provinces in the Dominion.

One very striking practical demonstration was afforded as to the hardiness of the Russian apples. Two adjoining orchards on the college grounds, similar in situation