

The Canadian Horticulturist

Published by The Horticultural
Publishing Company, Limited

The Only Horticultural Magazine
in the Dominion

Official Organ of British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec
and Prince Edward Island Fruit Growers'
Associations and of the Ontario Veg-
etable Growers' Association

H. BRONSON COWAN,
Managing Editor and Business Manager
A. B. CUTTING, B.S.A., Horticultural Editor
W. G. ROOK, Advertising Manager
GARRETT WALL, Circulation Manager

GREAT BRITAIN

FRANK FLETCHER, 135 Henrietta Street, Old Trafford,
Manchester, Eng., Advertising and Circulation Manager

1. THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST is published on
the 25th day of the month preceding date of issue.

2. Subscription Price in Canada and Great Britain 50
cents a year, three years \$1.20. For United States and
local subscriptions in Toronto, 25c. extra a year is charged
for postage. Foreign subscriptions, \$1.00 a year, in-
cluding postage.

3. Remittances should be made by Post Office or
Money Express Order, or Registered Letter. Postage
Stamps accepted for amounts less than \$1.00.

4. Discontinuances—Responsible subscribers will con-
tinue to receive THE HORTICULTURIST until the publishers
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ordered, both the old and the new addresses must be
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A BRITISH COLUMBIA NEED

In the province of British Columbia, where the
majority of fruit growers are novices, more
vigorous efforts than those prevailing now might
be made to disseminate useful knowledge gained
elsewhere. There is danger lest quacks and
empirics should mislead those who, in a genuine
desire to gain knowledge, make manly confession
of ignorance. *Au royaume des aveugles les
borgnes sont rois.* It is difficult to see how the
high quality of Okanagan fruit is to be main-
tained and loss to the individual and country
avoided, unless some well-organized efforts are
made.

A cooperative movement in this direction—
for the provision of valuable knowledge and ad-
vice—would be more opportune than the present
movement for cooperation in the sale of fruit,
having regard to the fact that several years must
elapse before the province can produce fruit to
a large extent. Lectures in the nearest town,
and demonstrations in suburban gardens, are
ill-attended for obvious reasons, and are seldom
worth the time spent upon them; the distribu-
tion of literature is another imperfect half-
measure. The necessary knowledge and advice
should be brought right into the farmers' own
orchard by properly accredited experts, appoint-
ed to go from orchard to orchard. Other coun-

tries have profited largely by such measures,
when thorough and well organized.

It is, of course, absurd to expect the govern-
ment of the province or anyone else to carry out
precautions and scientific methods for the farmer,
but, if it is worth while to invite immigrants
from far and wide to try their hands at fruit-
growing, and to threaten prosecution of those
farmers who do not keep their orchards clean, it
is equally worth while to make provision for
thorough, practical advice and instruction. The
magnitude of the possibilities before the Okana-
gan Valley call for the establishment of a staff
of experts with unquestionable credentials in
that excellent fruit section of the province. It
is difficult to-day to convince discerning visitors
from other prosperous fruit countries that there
is not in the province even an official entomol-
ogist. The time is at hand when the Okanagan
Valley will discard the characteristics of youth
and inexperience, and abandon the illusion
hugged so closely in some quarters that she is
endowed specially by Providence for fruit-cul-
ture without effort. *Absit invidia.* The fortu-
nate conditions which have allowed hitherto even
orchards neglected by man to produce good
fruit, are passing away. The marvellously fer-
tile soil and the climate have proved their
potentialities; it is left for man now to prove
his power. If the growers' efforts are guided
on the right lines, the prospects of this beautiful
valley as a producer of hardy fruits are unsur-
passed upon the continent.

INSPECTION AT COAST

Fruit growers in British Columbia should con-
tinue to protest to their provincial government
in regard to the discrimination against eastern
nursery stock that is practised by the officials
of that province. The matter should not be
allowed to drop until there is an inspection sta-
tion at Revelstoke or Golden. The present in-
spection and fumigation station is located at
Vancouver. Growers in the fruit districts of
the eastern side of the province suffer many
disadvantages when they buy trees from Ontario
or elsewhere in Eastern Canada.

First of all, the British Columbia government,
by compelling eastern nursery concerns to ship
stock through to Vancouver for inspection,
makes it almost impossible for the eastern con-
cerns to have their stock delivered to the grow-
ers in perfect condition. The unnecessary delay
caused by the stock having to cross the province
to Vancouver, from which point it has to be
shipped back almost to the original point at
which the goods entered the province, is un-
reasonable and anything but good for the stock.
In the case of perishable goods, the delay often
proves disastrous. Owing to the exorbitant
freight rates in the west, the freight on goods
shipped in this way, is almost double what it
would be were they shipped direct to the grow-
ers, so that instead of being a benefit to the Brit-
ish Columbia fruit grower, the lack of a station
on the eastern border of the province handicaps
him, as eastern stock is excluded almost entirely
from the province, for it is almost impossible
for him to import under anything like reasonable
conditions.

Most British Columbia fruit growers of the
interior parts of the province, such as the Okana-
gan Valley, Kamloops and Nelson district, and
also in the Columbian Valley, want eastern
grown stock. Much of the stock in the east,
particularly that from the Niagara district, is
grown under climatic conditions almost identical
to those of their own districts, whereas the trees
that are shipped in by the coast and Washington
and Oregon concerns are grown under largely
different conditions. In the interior parts of
British Columbia, they have some winter, and
consequently must have trees thoroughly hard-
ened and matured in order to stand the climatic
changes. Trees at the coast, however, are
grown where there is practically no winter.
Trees grown under these conditions make a soft
and pithy growth, and often winter-kill or be-

come black-hearted, and at best are but short-
lived. It is, therefore, the British Columbia
fruit growers' wish that eastern stock be allowed
to come into their province, under the same con-
ditions as stock from the Washington and Oregon
concerns, which would be the case were a station
established at the eastern border of the province.

We can show numerous letters from the most
prominent fruit men of British Columbia, show-
ing that eastern trees are wanted. In fact, the
orchards that are now in bearing and are bring-
ing profitable results to the growers, and that are
producing fruit that is making a name for Brit-
ish Columbia, are grown from eastern trees;
they have proved, in every respect, better.
The growers are able to secure a much larger list
of varieties from the east and, also, larger and
older trees. Under present conditions, however,
they are almost compelled, by the provincial
government laws, to buy their trees from a
foreign country; trees which, in many cases, are
utterly unsuited for their own districts. There
are, it is true, some small coast concerns in Brit-
ish Columbia that have probably excellent
stock, but only a small list of varieties to choose
from.

Indignation meetings have been held in vari-
ous parts of the province, and this spring resolu-
tions were passed by different local associations,
as well as by the British Columbia Fruit Growers'
Association, petitioning for the establishment of
a station at Revelstoke. The Board of Horticul-
ture at Victoria, while agreeing that it would be
a most desirable thing for these growers to have
a station in the east, claimed that in recent
years the imports from the east have fallen off
fully seventy-five per cent., and that it would
not pay them to establish a station in the east.
A poorer excuse could not be given. The only
reason for the falling off of eastern importations
is due to the passing of this unjust law discrim-
inating against eastern concerns. Were con-
ditions reversed and the inspection station estab-
lished at Revelstoke or Golden, and the Wash-
ington or Oregon concerns compelled to ship
their stock to Revelstoke to be examined, it is
safe to predict that the Washington and Oregon
concerns' trade would fall off fully seventy-five
per cent. and the trade from the east increase
several hundred per cent. As a few hundred
dollars would erect a shed sufficient to serve the
purpose of an inspection and fumigation station
in the meantime, the excuses given do not hold
water. In view of the repeated requests made
by the fruit growers of British Columbia, it is to
be hoped that the provincial government will see
its way clear to establish an eastern inspection
and fumigation station at an early date.

A HEAVIER PENALTY NEEDED

The need for a revision in the Fruit Marks
Act which will make it possible to deal more
severely with packers who habitually defy the
law, becomes more apparent every year. As it
is, the heaviest fine that can be imposed is 25
cents to \$1 a barrel. It has been found that this
fine is not heavy enough to deter fraudulent
work on the part of some shippers who consign
large quantities of fruit every year to the Old
Country. Some of these men have been fined
repeatedly, but continue to resort to false pack-
ing. They believe that they can make more
money by shipping second grade fruit as finest,
than they are in danger of losing on the com-
paratively small number of falsely packed bar-
rels of fruit on which they may be fined.

It is seldom that a man can be caught with
more than 25 barrels of wrongly marked fruit in
his possession. In such a case, the fine cannot
exceed \$25. In the warehouses, barrels that
have been falsely packed are not marked until
shortly before they are shipped. It is seldom
that the inspectors can catch the fruit just as it
is being put on the train. At Montreal, the
inspectors are unable to inspect more than five
or six barrels an hour. While these are being
inspected, three or four carloads of apples may