

become the vanguard of the host that leads to victory. It must become more intensely Provincial, and assume the reins of direction. Perhaps, I ought to have said, it must become national. Fruit-raising must characterize all our districts. Our climate is, on the whole, favourable to fruit-raising—our soil in several large sections of the Province is singularly adapted for the purpose. Yet, alas! what stagnation reigns from Amherstburg to Fort Erie. A district capable of supplying half a continent with delicious fruit given up to a hand-to-mouth way of doing things. These capabilities are admitted, nay proved. Should any doubt remain on the mind of any man, let the fruit shown at the Guelph Central Fair last week by James McCrone, Normandale; G. J. Miller, Virgil; D. N. Broderick, and Jno. McLaren, St. Catharines, and on exhibition here to-day, demonstrate the fruit producing power of our soil and climate. We greatly need determined and united action. Give us, get us laws for the suppression of pests—enactments for the enfranchisement of the commerce in fruits and fruit trees—Agricultural and Arts' Acts for the better encouragement of agricultural and horticultural pursuits.

In looking over the governmental estimates for the encouragement of various industries, I find horticulture enriched and overburdened with the munificent sum of a thousand dollars. Think of the amount! A thousand dollars! What can the direction of the F. G. A. do with such a large sum? I was told at the time of the increase of the last grant—an increase of \$250—that the members of our Legislative Assembly were all alive to the importance of so large an increase. Little do many of our legislators think of the straits to which we are put. Straits to meet the demands for the publication of our infantile periodical, the *Horticulturist*—the expense connected with the important illustrations of the annual Report to the Government—difficulties in meeting the ordinary outlay in the shape of paying for practical essays on agricultural and horticultural pursuits and subjects—the money needed to call forth to public notice new seedlings of all varieties of fruits—our tree dissemination—our advertisements, postage, papaterie, and the needful travelling expenses of the Directors—all these have to be met from the members' fees and from the munificent contribution of a thousand dollars.

When the public are made aware that the amended Agricultural and Arts' Act makes provision for thirteen Directors from the thirteen agricultural electoral divisions, and that a resident Director must be chosen from each of these, it will be seen how economical and careful our outlay must of necessity be. We question if \$5,000 annually were too large a sum to be judiciously spent on the fruit interests in the Province of Ontario. In fact, I know I am only uttering the opinion of every member of this Association, when I say that our means of usefulness in advancing fruit interests are only limited by our scanty means—with more means we might become the instrumentality of much good.

Indications at present point to the propriety of fostering grape culture in Canada. In France, Spain, and Portugal, and also in Germany, the Phylloxera is working immense havoc among the vines. Nor are the ravages of this insect confined to the old and settled countries of Europe. Through the kindness of Mr. John McLean, of Owen Sound, I have been favoured with the Fruit Report of the Government of South Australia. The Phylloxera is making equally dreadful inroads upon the vines in that, and in the neighbouring Australian Colonies, as well as in America. On the principle that it is a bad wind that blows nobody good, I would have our Canadian fruit-growers prosecute with unflinching assiduity the cultivation of the grape. With hardy grapes so adapted to our soil and climate, there is no sufficient reason why our grapes and wines should not become the staple of the world. Mr. Peter C. Dempsey may live long enough to see what a mighty impulse he has given to vine culture by the introduction of "the Burnet" grape to the notice of fruit-growers. We are satisfied that it is destined to work a mighty revolution in Canadian grape-growing. We long to see his other hybrids, and as some say varieties superior to "the Burnet," especially his No. 18, disseminated. Might I be pardoned in saying, that I would like to remain in good company, and that Mr. Dempsey could not do better than name his 18 after Beadle, our worthy Secretary; his 22 after Arnold; 25 after Saunders; another after Roy; and signalize another member by giving to the world "a Bucke," to roam on the rich pastures of another "Leslie."

Mr. B. Gott, our eminent horticulturist and nurseryman, at Arkona, writes me in reference to grape-growing, and says, that it will prove an important lesson if we profit by the last spring's frost, and learn "to select and to plant for profit only those vines that are "

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