

the first county, or local organization of the kind in the Province. In 1875 it published after much correspondence and discussion with over a hundred persons, exclusive of Abbotsford, the first fruit list of the Province of Quebec, containing much valuable information as to the best and hardiest varieties of the apple, pear, plum, cherry, grape and other small fruits adapted to our climate. It held its first exhibition on September 20th, 1876, and after holding three exhibitions, and publishing a fruit list at considerable expense, it received its first Government grant of fifty dollars in 1879.

In 1884 importations were made by the Society of Russian apple trees, from the North Western States, and also Russian and North German pear, plum and cherry, from the Academy at Petrowskoe Rosumowskoe, near Moscow; from this last importation all available scions were cut and set upon root grafts, and during the period between the years of 1884 and 1890, no less than 1285 trees were distributed to the members, and as these were necessarily planted on a variety of soils, entailing different exposures, each member practically became an assistant in testing these new fruits, which in most cases have proved more hardy and productive than many of the old varieties, though often lacking in quality and keeping propensities.

In 1893, application was made by several of the leading fruit growers of the Province of Quebec to the Provincial Legislature to incorporate a Provincial society under the name of "The Pomological and Fruit Growing Society of the Province of Quebec," which was granted by the Government in January, 1894, when a meeting was convened and held at Abbotsford on the 8th and 9th of February, attended by delegates from different parts of the Province, as well as from the Experimental Farm, Ottawa. Mr. J. M. Fisk was moved to the chair, and after some discussion it was deemed but just to

Abbotsford that the first president should be an Abbotsford man, consequently the mantle fell upon the chairman. A committee was named to divide the Province into nine electoral districts, after which a Director was elected to represent each district, a constitution adopted, and many interesting papers read, which brought out animated discussions. The Society is still carrying on the good work, holding a summer and winter meeting in different parts of the Province; and as the transactions of these meetings are reported, and published by the Government in both the English and French languages, they form a source of great value from an educational point of view, and should be in the hands of every fruit grower and farmer of the Province.

Cider making has been in vogue here for upwards of seventy-five years, bringing into use almost every known device for crushing and pressing the apple, from the old sweep cog-roller and lever cheese press to the most modern horse-power fluted roller and screw press; and for family use, the improved Buckeye hand press mills.

In 1897, Mr. Robert Gillespie erected a cider and vinegar plant, introducing the "Gould Generator," quick process system for making vinegar, and with "The 20th Century Multiple Filter" a superior quality of vinegar is manufactured and placed upon the market.

In 1898, petition by the Society was made to the Government for a special grant, and the privilege of using its funds for that year, (instead of holding an exhibition) to co-operate towards the erection of a Parish hall in which the Society could hold its meetings and exhibitions, which was granted, placing the Society in a position heretofore not enjoyed.

Spraying was introduced in 1888, and is still followed by most of our growers with beneficial results in combating both the fungous and insect pests; and by this means,