

upon, therefore, as unreasonable if we request a higher recognition at the hands of our Government in the best interest of our children, by insisting that the study of agriculture and horticulture be placed in the common school curriculum. By the present system our brightest boys are systematically educated away from interest in rural pursuits, so that now the chief industries of Canada lie languishing for the want of intelligent attention by an educated yeomanry, whereas professions of all kinds are crowded to excess. Everything is done to give prominence to the so-called "learned professions," which in itself is right enough; but why neglect entirely the foundation and backbone of all interests—the arts of agriculture and horticulture? Are they so degraded as to be beneath the ken of educated humanity? Surely it is a feeling long since dead that the tiller of the soil should be recognized as a sort of machine, a clodhopper, a necessary evil, one whose avocation should compel him to hold down the head and remain an outcast from cultivated society. The true aim of education is to fit the pupil for some sphere of usefulness. A grave responsibility rests upon our legislators for so long neglecting, from an educational point of view, this, the greatest economic science in our country, and until this study is placed, as it should be, prominently in our common school system, justice cannot be complete.

The season of 1889 will long be remembered by fruit growers. The unusual and widespread frosts of May, while vine, plant, bush and tree were in bloom, did its work of destruction so thoroughly that in most sections nothing was left to mature into fruit. In some favored sections the blossom was either not far enough advanced to kill, or the fruit formed and so beyond injury from such a degree of frost. Generally speaking the raspberry crop was fairly abundant, but other small fruits were in most sections less than half a crop. The grape escaped better along the Niagara peninsula, especially that portion between the lake and mountain range, and in the water fronts of Essex, than in any other section. Pears and plums yielded enough to satisfy home demand generally in the western part of the province; but the apple crop was confined chiefly to the counties of Kent, Essex, Elgin and Lambton. The loss of the apple crop to this province is a large one, but still we find some grains of comfort that we hope may encourage growers to persevere and put forth greater efforts in the future. While we feel the financial loss here, the consumers in foreign markets feel more keenly than we can the loss of this luxury which they have learned to appreciate more and more every year. Prices have advanced materially, and we observe that this season there is a much greater difference on British markets between prices of Canadian apples and the apples of other countries; that difference being in favor of ours. What fruit has been shipped is better culled and packed than in past years, and as a result our reputation for a genuine article is better. Then, again, there is a change working throughout British markets in favor of the best flavored fruit rather than highly-colored specimens. The Rhode Island Greening that a few years ago had to be sold at a loss, generally on account of color, is now coming into favor. It realises about the same price as the Baldwin this year, with a tendency, I believe, to take its proper place in public esteem several points ahead of the Baldwin; intrinsic worth is sure to come to the front. Is it not reasonable to expect that the codlin moth has been materially diminished by the absence of the apple crop, and that next year we may hope for much less damage by that orchard pest? This must not deter growers, however, from using means to eradicate the pest entirely. Orchards have had in most instances a much needed rest, and if we can arouse growers now to give proper attention to their orchards in the way of cultivation, manuring, trimming and keeping clean, it is reasonable to look forward to a new era in fruit culture. We have an opportunity now, bought dearly it is true, but if we take advantage of it the results will be most encouraging I am sure. To produce clean, large, high-flavored fruit, we must see to it that the soil is kept in good heart, that those substances required to produce such a crop are returned regularly and systematically to the soil. If this is attended to we will succeed; if not, failure stares us in the face.

The carrying companies are still to blame for much of the loss on fruits shipped. We can still charge them with rough handling, lack of proper accommodation, and often much delay in transit. The shipments of last spring bear abundant evidence of this. By