

FRUIT GROWING IN ONTARIO AND HOW TO MAKE IT PAY.

Mr. A. M. SMITH, of St. Catharines, read the following paper : Fruit growing in Canada in the past has been a series of experiments, many of which, on account of want of knowledge of what varieties were adapted to the soil and climate of different localities, have been disastrous failures. But enough have been successful to demonstrate the fact that most if not all the fruits grown in the temperate zones can be grown here in greater perfection, taking, keeping and quality into consideration, than in any other part of America, if not in the world. Thirty years ago the larger portion of the fruit consumed in this country was brought from the United States. The Mother Country then knew nothing of Canadian apples. To-day we are not only independent of these States as far as these fruits are concerned, but our apples stand at the head of theirs in the markets of the world, and we have shown in competition at their own great World's Fair that Canada stands second to none in the production and excellence of this most useful commodity. This being the fact—is it not well to ask themselves the question—What is to be the future of this great industry—Are we to rest contented with present achievements, or are we to press on and develop the vast resources at our command? There is no other country of the same extent that has as much land as we have bordering on lakes and large bodies of fresh water, which is particularly adapted to growing the apple in perfection, and although we have not as large areas adapted to growing pears, peaches and grapes and some of the more tender fruits, we have enough to supply our own markets and some to spare for our neighbors; and plums, cherries and most of the small fruits can be grown wherever the apple succeeds. And when we consider the increased demand for fruit, the increased consumption, the markets already opened up in the old country and the neighboring States, and the markets opening up in the newer portions of our own country, where fruits can not be grown with success, and think of the increasing facilities for preserving fruits, such as canning, evaporating, etc., so that they can be transported to any part of the world, we can easily see that this industry is but in its infancy. And if we but carefully improve the advantages we possess and systematically develop our resources it will soon become a vast source of income and prosperity to the country. The question then of how best to accomplish this object, or in other words how to make fruit growing pay best in the future, is one that deeply interests us as fruit growers. While I do not consider myself competent to answer this question in full, I may be able to offer a few suggestions that will be of value to planters. As I remarked in the beginning, many of us have had serious failures from planting varieties not adapted to our soil or climate. This need not be repeated if we, as members of the Fruit Growers' Association, avail ourselves of the information obtainable from it, watch carefully the experience of our neighbors, and remember this rule, "Plant only fruits that are adapted to your soil and locality and the markets you want to supply." Don't plant too many varieties. Five or six of the leading varieties of apples or any other fruit are all that are profitable in any one locality, and when these are planted they have got to be carefully cultivated and fed in order to make them profitable. No starving the orchards or robbing them with other crops must be allowed. In order that fruit growing may pay in the future it must be engaged in more as a business than in the past. The chief attention given to other products of the farm and a little, or entire neglect of the fruit will not make it pay. The fruit grower has to be educated then to attend to his business. The adaptation of different fruits to different soils and localities has to be considered. While I do not believe as, the saying is, in "putting all your eggs in one basket," I would say to the planter "if your soil and location is particularly adapted to the growing of pears or plums or any particular variety of fruit make that fruit a specialty particularly if there is a market and demand for it." The cause of many failures in the past, and I fear will be in the future in fruit growing, is so many people embark in the business without any knowledge of the principles and requirements necessary for its success. They imagine they get into a peach section, for instance, they can grow peaches on any soil there, and the same with other fruits, not knowing that in our best peach belts there is comparatively but little soil and a few choice localities where that fruit succeed well. Consequently not only a knowledge of how to grow fruits but a knowledge of where to grow them

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