

anical names are seldom explained. For instance, how could it be expected of us to know the meaning of globular glands, reniform glands, and the like? And when you talk of using the tap-root, what do you think we know about the tap-root? We may guess at it, but that would be all. There is seldom even a hint given why one kind of a tree should be grafted and another budded. It would also be very interesting to read a chapter on the art of hybridizing; but as I have said enough for the present, I will stop by wishing you success in your noble work.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

THE STATISTICS OF FRUIT-GROWING IN ONTARIO.

The statistics of fruit-growing is an interesting as well as an important subject, but it is not one to be easily dealt with in so far as relates to the Province of Ontario. The fact is that such returns as have been obtained are conflicting, and it is yet too early to express a positive opinion as to their accuracy. According to the census, the area in orchard and garden in 1881 was 281,541 acres in the rural municipalities, and 23,264 acres in the urban—making a total of 304,805 acres for the Province. According to the municipal returns, which were collected by assessors for the first time in 1883, the area in rural municipalities was 197,450 acres, and in 1884 it was 192,837 acres. The discrepancy between the census and the municipal enumerations is nearly 90,000 acres, and is too large to be readily accounted for. The source of information is the same in both, for the census collectors and the township assessors make a house-to-house canvass alike. Why should there be so great a disparity in the results? Why should the

census for 1871 give as large an acreage as the assessment for 1883? I cannot answer, but upon comparing the assessors' returns for the two successive years, 1883 and 1884, I am disposed to think that they are more reliable than those of the census. Between these years the difference is only 4,600 acres, and when one considers that there are about 200,000 farmers in the Province, it is obvious that a very slight change in the returns of one-tenth of their number might account for the aggregate. There are not many farmers, even in the oldest settlements, who know the exact area they have in orchard and garden; but it is a reasonable supposition that when they find the question asked by the assessor year after year, as it now is, they will, in a growing number of instances, endeavor to answer it by actual measurement. Four or five years hence we shall doubtless know the area of orchard and garden in the Province with almost as near approach to accuracy as we now know the area of cleared land.

Assuming that there is uniformity in the system of taking each decennial census, the returns have at least the value of enabling us to show the rate of progress made. Thus we know that in 1851 there was in Ontario, on every hundred acres of cleared land, an average of one and a half acres in orchard and garden; that in 1861 the average was about the same; that 1871 it was two and a third acres; and that in 1881 it was two and three quarters. The last, it must be allowed, is a very good average for the whole Province, and even according to the assessors' returns of areas, it is an average of nearly two acres for every hundred cleared.

In the following table the acreage at four decennial periods is given by county groups, arranged as nearly as may be according to their climatic con-