

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION
OF ONTARIO

FOR 1876.

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To the Honourable the Commissioner of Agriculture.

SIR,—It gives me much pleasure to submit herewith the Report of the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario, for the year 1876.

The past season has been one of peculiar character, producing effects upon our fruits that are seldom noted. The mildness of the winter gave promise of a most abundant crop of fruit of all kinds, but when the autumn came, we found that, taken as a whole, we had not been favoured with our usual abundance of fruit. The plum crop was a failure in all those districts where it is usually most abundant. The crop of pears was also far below the usual average. Apples were more abundant—in some sections exceedingly abundant, but the quality of our apples, taken as a whole, was hardly up to the usual average. On the other hand, the grape crop was large and in more than usual perfection. Small fruits were in general, abundant and fine.

Notwithstanding all these unusual circumstances, we have had a sufficient supply of most fruits, especially the great staple fruit, the apple, to supply our own wants, and to export a considerable quantity. Some of our apples were sent to Nova Scotia, where they have been much admired for their beautiful appearance and high quality.

We have also been able to make a very creditable display of our fruits at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia. That collection of the fruit of Ontario was matter of great surprise to many thousands of visitors who had never supposed that our soil and climate could produce fruits of such beauty and high quality. The high encomiums passed upon the collection by the judges and by the press, will prove that we hold no mean position in the grand fruit display of the continent. A large number of copies of our Annual Report were distributed to those who were interested in fruit matters, from which the readers will learn that the people and Government of Ontario are not devoid of interest in the collection of fruits. But I must say in justice to those who contributed as they were able, to make up this exhibit of fruit, that it would have been far more satisfactory and complete, had the members known in January instead of July, that such an exhibit would have been undertaken.

On the whole, the work done by the Association during the past year will compare favourably with that of any former year, and the information in regard to fruits and fruit-