

and exhibited here for the first time in Canada. This collection excelled by far anything before seen in the Province. Of apples, 310 plates and 110 varieties were exhibited. This year the counties of Brome and L'Islet held their first exhibition. In 1881 this society united with the Shefford County Society in holding a joint exhibition at Granby. There were about 580 plates of apples and 72 different varieties of grapes shown. In 1882 and 1883 the exhibitions were held at Abbotsford, at the latter of which 308 plates of apples, 137 of grapes, 29 of plums and 8 of pears were shown.

In June, 1882, Mr. Chas. Gibb, in company with Prof. J. L. Budd, commenced their journey to Russia, in the Horticultural interests of the Dominion and the United States, in search of hardy varieties of fruit, &c.

On Feb. 6th, 1883, Mr. Gibb arrived at Abbotsford, on his return from Russia, when a public reception and address was given him by the members of the Association.

On Sept. 25th, 1884, the eighth annual exhibition was held at Rougemont in connection with the Rouville County Agricultural exhibition and at the special request of the latter society. Here, 469 plates of apples and 155 plates of grapes, including 65 varieties grown by Mr. Pattison of Clarenceville, were shown. This year, the society took up a new branch of work and imported 190 apple trees from the North Western States, of Russian origin, for distribution among the members, and a Flemish Beauty pear tree from Ontario for each member, besides 119 cherry and 50 plum trees from Moscow, Russia.

This importation of cherries and plums did not reach Abbotsford until the 26th June, during a period of hot and dry weather, and was much injured from their long journey, consequently but a small percentage will be available for the members.

Before distributing the apple trees, each tree was carefully labelled, and a record is in the hands of the society, showing the varieties each member received. Thus each member becomes an assistant, in the testing of these new varieties; and as they must necessarily be planted on a variety of soils and exposures, the test will prove a practical one. In a few years the society will be in a position to report as to what is of value, and what to discard among the varieties in its hands.

The chief work of the society the coming year, will be in the direction of importing Russian fruits of various kinds for trial in this locality, of which there are already some 75 varieties of Russian apples and 50 or 55 of Russian and North German pears growing at Abbotsford. It may be added that, during the earlier history of this association, visitors and competitors from outside *drove* in from distances varying from ten to forty-five miles, (without reckoning those that came by train,) who are now supporters of Horticultural Societies in their several localities.

## REPORT

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