

REPORT
OF THE
FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION
OF
ABBOTTSFORD.

(Extract from Report of Montreal Horticultural Society, &c.)

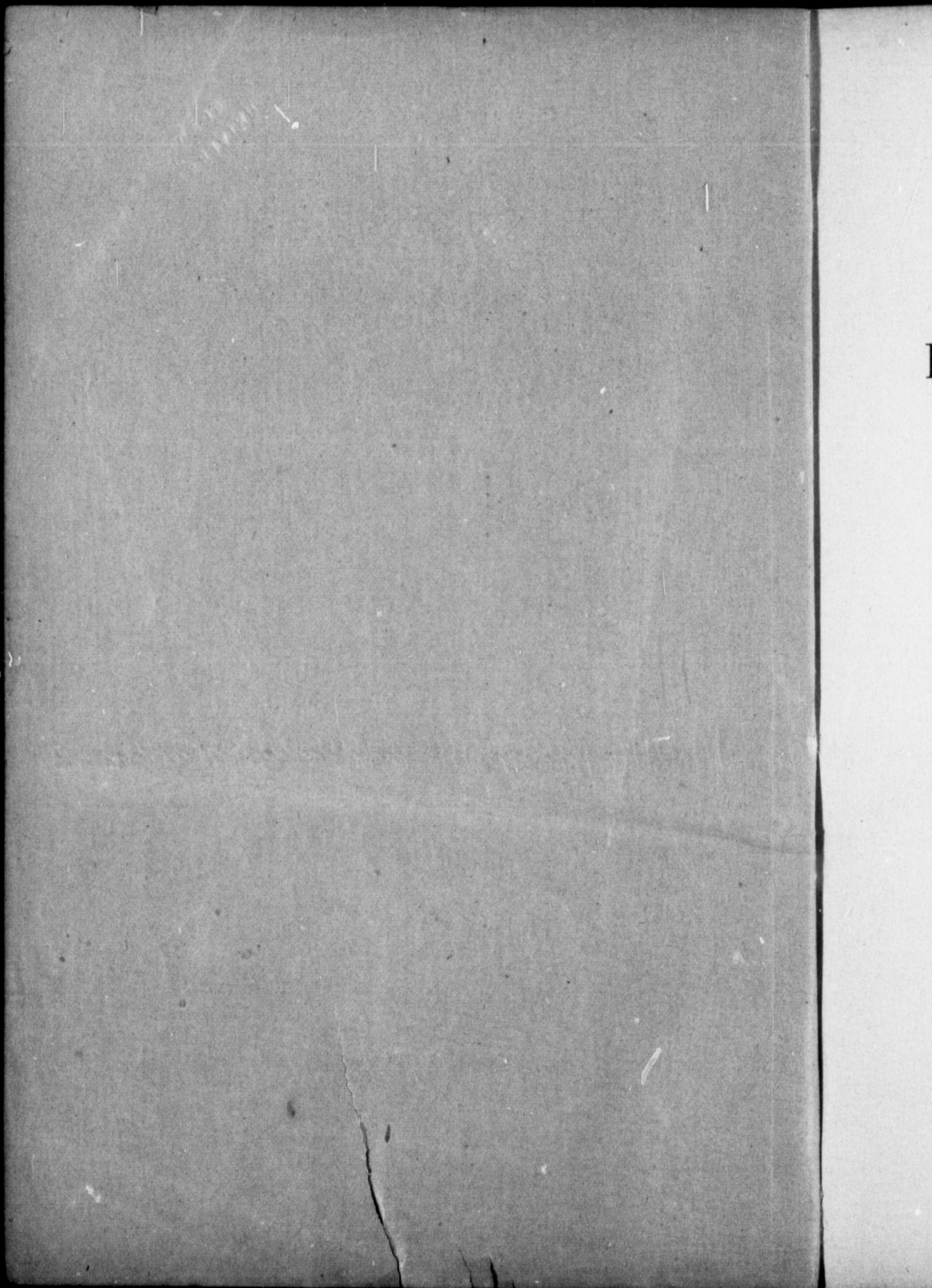
President :
N. COTTON FISK.

Corresponding-Secretary :
CHARLES GIBB.

Montreal :
"WITNESS" PRINTING HOUSE, 33, 35 & 37 BONAVENTURE STREET.

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FRUIT-GROWERS' ASSOCIATION OF ABBOTTSFORD.

N. COTTON FISK, *President.*
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Our Association held its third Annual Exhibition of Fruits, Flowers and Vegetables on 25th September last. A fine day brought our fruit-loving friends from far and near until there gathered on our quiet mountain-side at the very least 2,000 persons. That such a wide interest should be manifested in the work of a *local* Society, is a point that merits our closest attention. It shows a lively interest in Horticultural and Fruit Growing, that only needs to be organized, to show its power for good. It shows that there is a growing yet pressing need for such yearly gatherings of fruit growers with their fruits, at points to which the farmer can drive, and, what is important, take his family with him without incurring the expense of attending a city exhibit.

Of apples there were upon the tables 383 plates, which together with 37 of crab apples, made a total of 430 plates, which was quite equal to that of last year, though the close packing on wide tables, and the leaving of large spaces for collections which were expected but did not arrive, led many to think otherwise. This collection embraced over 60 varieties of more or less known grafted apples, several recently imported varieties appearing on exhibition for the first time in this Province. Of the 22 kinds of crabs, 13 were late importations, showing the kind of experimenting that is being carried on by this Society.

Of Out-door Grapes there were shown but 23 plates, small indeed compared with the year previous, when there were exhibited 23 different varieties and a total of 56 plates.

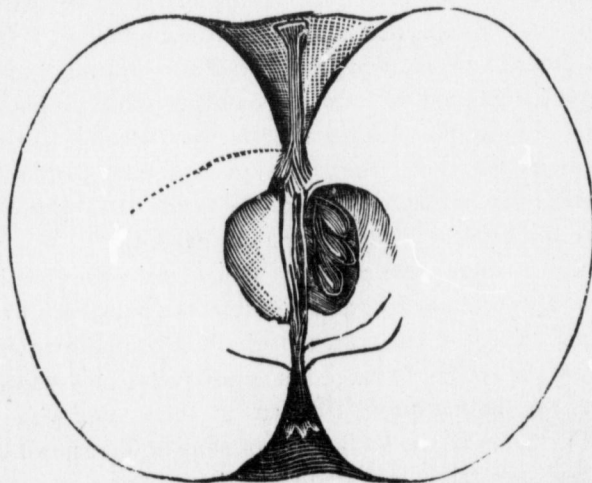
Our vegetables were meagre enough, for our melons and squashes were badly injured by what is with us so unusual, a late spring frost, and our roots, as the result of the intense drought, were ill-shaped and non-attractive.

The Floral display was not large, but tasteful and varied, and the floral designs, wreaths and hanging baskets added much to the general effect.

To the following apples we wish to draw special attention :

CANADA BALDWIN.—This seedling of St. Hilaire we wish to draw renewed attention to. It was described in the Fruit List for Province of Quebec published by us in 1875, also in the 2nd report of the Montreal Horticultural Society, p. 28, but experience to date shows us that in both cases we criticised it too harshly.

The tree is of undoubted hardiness, but its fault is that on warm dry soils the sap rises too soon, hence, if the hot suns of

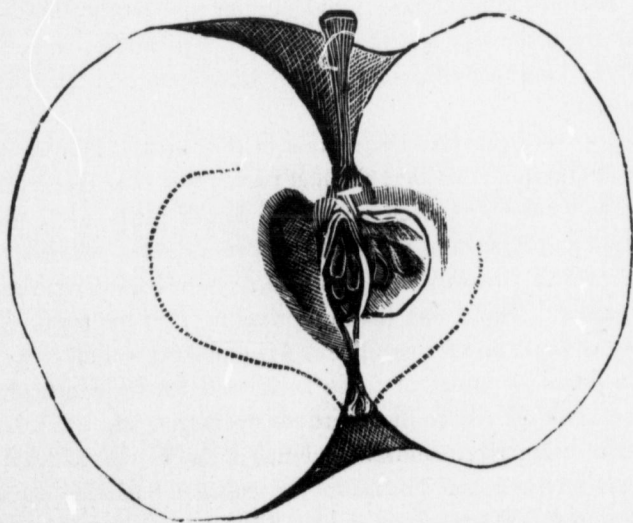


early spring are quickly followed by severe freezing, the trunk is apt to become sun-scalded. Should this happen, the tree still holds on to life with great tenacity. In heavier soils, even though in localities less favorable to apple growing, and in cold and even wettish soils, where Fameuse planted alongside of them have died, this Canadian Baldwin is a success both in tree and fruit.

The fruit is of fair size ; with us about the size of the Fameuse. In other localities where Fameuse attains less size, the Canada Baldwin is correspondingly larger. In quality it is good, in color mainly red and quite prepossessing in appearance. Its fruitage is

heavy, and keeps till April or May, and all things considered, we know of no long-keeping apple more worthy of planting in such soils as suit it.

LATE STRAWBERRY, *Winter Strawberry*, has not yet been described in the Reports of our Provincial Society. One tree of this variety was brought here by the late Col. O'Dwyer, about 1812, from the Spaulding nurseries, on Shefford Mountain, the grafts of which came from New England. It also found its way into Bromæ, where it has long been known as Wheeler's Lawrence. In nursery the tree is of slow growth and ungainly form and apt to reflect discredit upon the nursery that has raised it. In orchard it forms a



round but "brushy" head, and needs much pruning. It bears its fruit on the ends of the twigs, causing the tree to become drooping soon after it attains bearing age. The fruit is about medium to large, roundish, somewhat oblate and conic, often angular and furrowed. Flesh yellowish, yielding, juicy, with a peculiar aromatic and sub-acid flavor. It begins to ripen a few specimens during the last of August, and continues thus to ripen till the last of September. Those then barrelled keep till February. This habit of uneven

ripening is not against the fruit for family use. The tree is not to say long-lived, yet it bears so young and so regularly, and heavily, and the fruit is so saleable that we recommend it as a profitable market fruit.

FINIS.

Until 1877, no moneys were appropriated in this Province for purely horticultural purposes. The Montreal Horticultural Society, up to that time, was enabled to draw her annual grant of \$328 only as the Montreal Agricultural and Horticultural Society, and by offering certain prizes for agricultural products.

In 1877, however, the Montreal Society became a Provincial Society, with a yearly grant of \$1,000 for Horticultural purposes only, the Government also providing for the publication of its reports; and the action of the Council of Agriculture, since then, shows its earnest desire to advance Horticulture in all possible localities.

Let us see what has been done in this matter by our sister Province Ontario. In 1877 she had twenty-five *local* Horticultural Societies, besides the societies in the larger cities of Toronto, Hamilton and Kingston, 18 of which *local* societies received from their Provincial treasury, the sum of \$1,750 besides certain municipal grants. There was paid in prizes in 1877 for fruits, \$491, for flowers \$944, and for vegetables \$544, making a total of \$1,979 paid in prizes by fifteen of these *local* societies for Horticultural purposes, and the reason that there are not larger, and a still larger number of these Horticultural Societies is due to the fact that the Electoral Division and Township Agricultural Societies enter so largely into the Horticultural field. These Agricultural Societies paid that year in prizes for fruits \$3,669, for flowers \$1,651, for garden vegetables (field root crops not included), \$2,408, making a total of \$7,728 spent by these Agricultural Societies upon the fruits of Horticulture. To this let us add \$1,343 paid at the Provincial Agricultural Exhibition for like purposes, and we have the sum of \$9,071 expended by the Agricultural Societies, or the total sum of \$11,094 paid by the Agricultural and Horticultural Societies for Horticultural premiums.

Let us see what has been done in our own Province. First, the Montreal Agricultural and Horticultural Societies paid in 1877 for premiums for fruit, \$114, flowers, \$457, vegetables, \$82, making a total of \$653 expended for Horticultural purposes.

Next as to *local* Societies. Until the organization of the Missisquoi Horticultural Society, in April 1879, we were alone, one of a system whose co-workers were as yet increate. Our Association paid in prizes in 1877, but \$26 for our 132 entries, a mere crown of wild olive. "It would have been of gold had not Jupiter been so poor." Yet with a prize list open to all, with exhibition free, and competition to non-members for the nominal sum of 50 cents, with large, but short-lived debts, this voluntary Association has drawn large and distant competition, and has gathered crowds of 2000 persons, largely from distant counties, even with this paltry prize list, showing that it is not to ourselves only that we are a want supplied.

Of County Agricultural Societies, however, we have a complete organization. In 1874 we had 81 Societies, with a membership then of 12,537, probably now much larger, subscribing over \$25,316, and receiving from our Provincial Government about \$38,775, or sixty-five per cent of the amount received by the Electoral Division Societies in Ontario. But they do but to a very limited extent enter into the Horticultural field.

In 1877 these County Agricultural Societies paid in prizes for Fruits about \$104, Orchards, \$116. In Flowers, \$106 is all we find noted. Of this, the No. 1. Agricultural Society of Huntingdon paid in floral premiums the sum of $\$95\frac{45}{100}$, an amount which reflects great credit upon the Society and also upon the long and valued services of its ex-President, Mr. Daniel Brims. As to vegetables it is sometimes hard to define between the garden and field, let us say \$544, Gardens, \$93. Making a total of \$966 paid by these County Agricultural Societies for Horticultural premiums. To this we can add nothing from our Provincial Agricultural Society, for in making out the prize list it was forgotten that Flora and Pomona were among our tutelary deities. To the County Agricultural Society expenditure add that of the Horticultural So-

cieties, and we have as the total amount paid in 1877 by the Agricultural and Horticultural Societies of Quebec the sum of \$1,645 as compared with \$11,094 in Ontario.

These amounts, though made with a good deal of labor, are not absolutely correct. There are some omissions, but minor ones, and the sums total we present as close approximations, and such as will serve to show what has been done by a sister province, what should be aimed at by ourselves.

Our HORTICULTURAL NEEDS are—

- (1) Hearty coöperation from the County Agricultural Societies.
- (2) Distinct and independent organization of Local Horticultural Societies, for localities whose needs cannot be reached by Agricultural coöperation.

It may be said that many parts of Quebec are too poor to take much interest in such things. Farmers on some soils will continue to remain poor till they become commercial orchardists. In some exceptional localities even that most uncertain fruit, the plum, yields large returns. Small fruits bring high profits, and with some such the Montreal market is badly provided. The cranberry we import largely, yet many samples said to be American and first class both in color and size are the spontaneous growth of our own swamps. Market gardening when near market yields a profit far above that of general agriculture. The culture of winter blooming plants near Montreal has perhaps brought the highest return of all and the fact that we import largely what our own climate can as easily and cheaply produce shows that production is far from over done.

There is use, too, in beauty; if we must say it, there is moneyed value as well. To surround our houses with those "vegetable aristocrats," trees, contrasting the massive with the graceful, the formal with the eccentric, the fastigate with the drooping, is not a matter of expense. Such grouping can be managed with our own forest trees and need cost but a minimum of labor. It is but a taste—a taste, it is true, which does not appear to be everywhere indigenous, yet Edenic enough to be worth propagating.

Local Horticultural Societies when first organized give their

special attention to the apple ; but some one is enthusiastic about his (or probably her) grapes ; another prides himself upon his pears ; with another the love for flowers is so ardent that it becomes contagious, in fact epidemic, in the community. A properly organized society compounds these varied horticultural loves, and scatters them broadcast, while it adds the joy of conscious use to every horticultural pet we possess.

The prize lists of these local societies in some departments, at least, should be open to all. With a prize list restricted to our parish our usefulness would have been marred, our growth crippled. To see if other localities have not what we most need, is what we most need to know. We have been able to see the seedlings of adjacent counties only through the labor of visiting their orchards. They who wished have seen ours through a road so easy that it was almost the "royal road to learning" to them. But Missisquoi has organized her Horticultural society, and other counties have expressed their determination to follow her example. Thus our work now becomes co-work, and its usefulness largely dependent upon the hearty action of our *sister* societies.

May we point to a yet further, because a pressing want? Our position in the "cold north" is a peculiar one, not favorable to horticulture. Our list of "tree fruits" is incomplete, and has many blanks. Whence are these blanks to be filled ?

(i)—From our seedling orchards, of which we have a large extent.

(ii)—From our isothermic lines, both to the East and West, not excepting Russia.

The Department of Agriculture at Washington (for our good rather than their own, we should suppose) received about ten years ago from St. Petersburg, scions of several hundred varieties of apples, though not all natives of Russia. Many of these are now being tested by Dr. Hoskins, of Newport, Vt., who will faithfully report upon their merits as they fruit.

A. G. Tuttle, of Baraboo, Wis., a few years ago received from the United States Consul, at Moscow, 150 varieties of Russian

apples, and we believe, some Russian pears. Ellwanger & Barry have imported largely, we know not how many; at any rate, 31 kinds. The Iowa State Experimental Station, under Prof. Budd, at Ames, received not long ago 200 varieties of apples from Russia, and were expecting 200 more.

Now shall we profit by all this costly importation from the home of the Duchess, the Astrachan, and the Alexander, or shall we not? Let us decide. Let us clearly see our course. If our decision be in the negative, let us at least know the cost of our inaction. If otherwise, let us with least cost accomplish the greatest and speediest results.

This importation from *our* isothermics is of far more relative value to us than to the United States. In fair play we should claim the right of paying our friends in the States half the cost of all this work, so directly is it to *our* advantage.

There is a way, however, in which we can make a partial repayment—a northern testing ground. Such would be of use to their North as well as to ourselves.

In Ontario, no such work has been done, because less necessary. The similarity of her climate to the adjoining States, whereby they all become unconscious workers in a common cause, the describing of new fruits in the monthly and in the yearly reports of her Provincial Fruit Growers' Association, and the distribution of certain trees and plants to her widely scattered members, as well as the healthy state of her nursery trade and the general leaven of experimenting that pervades her people, all go to make this, our great need, to her, but a minor want.

This testing of new fruit trees, new timber and ornamental trees, is to us a necessity to fair progress, on account of our peculiar position in the North. "It is a great work left undone," but a work not great in cost. The cost is but an investment in our own welfare. It is, however, a work that needs organization, organization having a controlling centre, and that centre a land owner. We need an EXPERIMENTAL STATION.