

PAPER ON THE STATUS OF FRUIT CULTURE IN WESTERN PRINCE COUNTY

READ BY REV. A. E. BURKE AT PROF. CRAIG'S MEETING, JANUARY 31st, 1896.

Mr. Chairman, Professor Craig, Ladies and Gentlemen: Yielding to the written request of the learned professor of horticulture who is about to address us. I have at very short notice, and unskilled as is my hand in such matters, prepared this imperfect paper on the "Status of Fruit Culture in Western Prince County", so that he may at the outset have some little idea of the progress orcharding has made amongst us and thus embrace the best means of speaking directly to our needs. And, first, I must admit that in this science I am no specialist. Indeed, I regret to say it, I know of no one in this section of the province who could with propriety be called a skilled orchardist or pomologist. We are here to Prince Edward Island what Western Ontario is to the older and more flourishing portions of the peninsula; what Western Canada is to the Eastern Provinces; what the Western States are to New England. As universal settlement then has been later with us, and as we have been pretty generally cut off from the centres whence scientific ideas in agriculture and its subordinate science horticulture emanate, orcharding has come in as a general practice only within late years—as the sale by agents of fruit trees became more general—The early settlers were too much occupied with the rude and arduous task of cutting down and clearing the forest to devote much time to what was then and must still be considered minor projects. True, had first trees been planted, had they been available to our pioneer farmers, as they blazed and cut down and rooted out the forest a great step forward would have been made; for such plantations would now constitute matured orchards. But this too called for proper conditions to ensure success.

1—The soil should be suitable. 2—The trees should be of the right kind and quality. 3—Proper care should be taken of them in and after planting. Let us examine those cardinal points in their turn. First, I think almost every one will hold with me that our soil is well suited for pomoculture, perhaps much more so than any other portion of the province since here to a greater extent than elsewhere in Prince Edward Island are found great numbers of those granite boulders which have come to us on the bosom of the great glacier during the ice period of the world's history. Those rocks I need not stop to say have added valuable inorganic matter to our soil which has to be artificially introduced in the middle and eastern portions of the province and those inorganic elements are of the greatest value for fruit culture. But they are not equally distributed even here. We have soils varying all the way from the heavy loam which makes Manitoba so fertile to the sand bank which only by introduction of heavy supplies of manure and an extra share of matter can be turned to anything. I think, however, that in this Western Prince County we have a greater proportion of good clay and sandy loam land

to our acreage than can be found East of us. Now it will be Professor Craig's duty to show us how best we can adapt this varied and varying class of soils to the proper and successful growth of fruit. While we can point with pride to some fairly successful orchards upon the sandy loams of the Riding and while I may add incidentally, our exhibition of fruits in the classes shown, for the past two years, compared more than favorably with those of either the county or general exhibitions, I must say frankly that the section of black loam lands, like a portion of Palmer Road settlement and the heavy clay loams of Lot 7, have so far been unsuccessfully tested as fruit raising sections. It will be pleasing to hear from the learned professor then how our own good orchards may be bettered and how successfully to grow on kinds of soil I have just spoken of and which according to popular belief are refractory valuable fruit trees. Of course the situation of the land too must be taken into consideration. Large portions of Lot 7 runs along the Straits of Northumberland to the west of us and it is claimed by the settlers there that the salt mist from the straits is deadly to the apple tree at least. This is also averred of Tignish, a greatly exposed section of the Province with a good spruced lined break which can with a little care be grown everywhere. I feel sure fruit trees can be grown successfully even in these places.

But fruit culture is a very general term, and claiming for West Prince many advantages in this regard it is not contended that those sorts of fruits to which added climate is hurtful can be grown here. We have raised good apples, pears, plums, cherries and about all the small fruits—grapes cannot be matured and ripened out of doors in our short season.

Secondly—As to the best kinds of fruits to grow in this country much information is needed. The first trees planted here as in all new countries were either engrafted seedlings or suckers from somebody's else orchard. It is claimed that the first cherry trees (and in cherry trees we are well stocked) were brought out from England by Capt. Hill, after whom Hill's River is named. The Keebles, Weeks, Gordons, Hardys, Ramsays and many others indeed the whole West—enjoy cherries to-day from off trees derived from this source. And despite all the matter to the contrary we read in scientific papers, I am able to say that those inbred cherry trees produce up to the present much better fruit than that procurable from the dearly bought imported article. In the same way we procured most of our old apple trees—unerrable landmarks with wide spreading branches like the umbrageous beech to hide the youthful thief in a profusion of sweet smelling blossoms in spring and a splendid crop of what were generally termed "pig-squealers" in the fall. Verily I believe if such had been obtained in Eden when mother Eve plucked the unlucky fruit and gave it to her mate, Father Adam would never have infected us with the dire results of his fondness for apples. Later the imported article has been planted—nicely labelled and named it is true, but not always true to name and often so weakly in constitution as to be an easy prey to black knot bark lice, and every other enemy of the species. A proportion of good trees have however

been secured and it is our desire to be instructed as to the process of engrafting good scions on bad trunks, as to the renovation of old orchards and as to the destruction of the enemies of the fruit tree, even if this latter discourse should lead our learned instructor into the territory of entomology, the particular ground of Prof. Fletcher. With regard to the apples suitable for this locality, we may mention Crabs (of all kinds) Alexanders, N. B. or Duchess of Oldenberg, Scots winter, yellow transparent, Fameuse and Gideon with some others.

Thirdly—The care of fruit trees in and after planting Professor Craig will necessarily touch upon. Here then I will only say to conclude this paper of commonplace that with the majority of our people little or no care has been taken of the tree. In many cases the prospective orchard has not even been fenced round the attack of mice in deep snow and hares above the crust, sheep, pigs, cows, horses and geese have barked, browsed and broken the trees at their pleasure—still the whole province has lately—thanks to the untiring efforts of our worthy governor—become aroused to the value of the fruit industry, and as you, Prof Craig, have now come among us with this new gospel as Professor Saunders, Chapais and Robertson came with that of butter and cheese, it is more than likely—Indeed it is pretty sure—that we will listen attentively to its lessons, become converted and live, more generally on delicious fruit.

Londres, 24—On mande de Constantinople qu'une alliance offensive et défensive vient d'être conclue entre la Russie et la Turquie. La "Pall Mall Gazette" dit que le traité a été signé à Constantinople et que les ratifications en ont été échangées à St-Petersbourg, entre Aarej Pasha et le sultan.

Les bases du traité sont, dit-on, sur les mêmes lignes que l'arrangement conclu en 1833 à Unkiarkelessi, par lequel la Turquie s'engageait de fermer le passage des Dardanelles aux navires de guerre des autres nations au cas où la Russie ferait des préparatifs de guerre contre n'importe quelle puissance.

La "Pall Mall Gazette" ajoute que l'on abandonna aussitôt l'idée d'un tel traité devant le refus formel des puissances de la reconnaître. Ce journal dit également que l'ambassadeur français en Turquie, M. Cambon, a eu hier une entrevue avec le sultan et qu'il est fort probable que la France soit admise dans la nouvelle alliance.

Faisant des commentaires sur cette nouvelle, la "Pall Mall Gazette" dit: Nous considérons cette nouvelle bien fondée et par ce traité il faut bien reconnaître que les Dardanelles sont maintenant le point fort des frontières extrêmes de la Russie et que les Tarcs sont les vassaux du tsar. Il est à espérer que le gouvernement anglais protestera énergiquement contre un traité semblable.

Cette nouvelle est de la plus grave importance, disent les journaux anglais, et un tel traité prouve que la Turquie a compris son impuissance à réprimer les troubles sur son territoire et s'est jetée dans les bras de la Russie pour se faire protéger.

A l'ambassade russe, à Londres, les attachés disent n'avoir eu aucune connaissance d'un traité conclu avec la Russie sur

les lignes indiquées par l'article de la "Pall Mall Gazette."

Manchester, N. H., 24—Mme Marion Spears, de Chicago, est arrivée en cette ville lundi, et elle y a rencontré sa fille, qui lui avait été enlevée il y a neuf ans.

Cette petite fille, qui a maintenant 9 ans, est fort jolie. Elle avait été enlevée à sa mère à Augusta, Maine, en 1883, pendant que celle-ci était malade.

C'est une dame Frank Ricker qui vola l'enfant. Cette femme en avait eu soin, et elle s'était prise d'un amour incommensurable pour la petite fille.

Pendant la maladie de la mère, elle disparut avec l'enfant, et aujourd'hui pour la première fois depuis neuf ans, Mme Spears a pu embrasser son enfant, après avoir dépensé des milliers de dollars en recherches.

La police avait aussi recherché l'enfant, sans succès. Finalement, la femme Ricker la laissa chez un fermier, aux environs de Concord, N. H. Le fermier, au bout de quelque temps, conduisit l'enfant dans une institution de cette ville où le détective O'Dowd l'a découverte.

La scène a été vraiment poignante quand la mère a rencontré son enfant après une si longue séparation.

NOCES D'ARGENT

Le 14 janvier avait lieu à St. Louis les noces d'argent de M. Rosimond Bernard et sa dame Emélie Caissie. Un bon nombre de personnes s'étaient rendu chez M. Bernard pour l'occasion et la fête fut des plus agréables. Au nombre des invités on remarquait M. J. B. Gandet et sa Dame, M. Napoléon Pineau et sa dame, M. Jean Poirier et plusieurs personnes de Tignish. Un magnifique pot à fleurs fut présenté à M. et Mme Bernard par Mme. J. B. Gandet.

ce 6 Fev, 1896 } Un Abonné

DUVAR ROAD

MM. les Rédacteurs.

Venil-

lez inscrire ces quelques lignes dans les colonnes de votre estimable journal.

M. Peter S. Duffy, inst, de Bloomfield, qui depuis quelques jours était retenu à la maison par un mauvais rhume, peut maintenant vaquer à ses affaires.

La dernière séance que nous avons eue, samedi soir, a démontré que nos débats continuent à devenir de plus en plus intéressants. Sur la liste des membres nous voyons déjà les noms de plusieurs personnes des autres districts. Le sujet: "Est il prudent de conseiller à nos jeunes gens d'émigrer à Matapédia ou ailleurs?" a donné occasion à de beaux discours.

Nous avons en dernièrement une course de chevaux sur la rivière "Mill River" entre quatre des trotteurs du Duvar Road. La glace était en excellent état et le temps très favorable. Les spectateurs, qui étaient en grand nombre, ont passé une après-midi de sport dans toute la force du mot.

L'ordre a été parfait.

- Ci suit le résumé: Dandy Dean Pros Gallant [2.2.1.1. Duvar Belle, Aug, A Peters [1.3.3.2. Hobbler, Jës. P. Arsenault [4.1.2.4. Lady Dean, Jelas Peters 3.4.4.3. ce 29 Jan, 196. Honestus

Ripans Tabules relieve pain.

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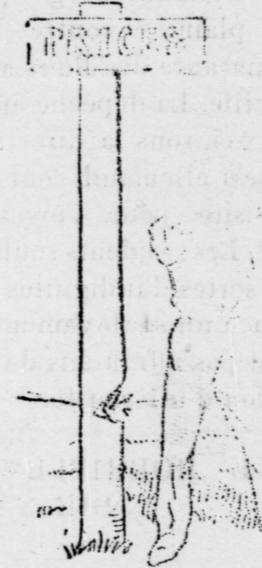


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A. J. BERNARD

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