

The Petoskey Record Wed 9-16-1885

Plums.

On Monday a party consisting of Mr. Jno L. Connable and son of Xenin, Ohio, Dr. A.G. Oven of the University of Michigan, Mr. Ralph Connable, and the writer climbed the hill to "Tollview" upon the invitation of its genial and courteous proprietor Col. I.D. Toll to inspect his plum orchard. After a half hour delightfully spent in looking over the many souvenirs of the gallant Colonel's military life in Mexico, and of his revolutionary ancestors, our host convoyed the party to the orchard where they were greeted with a magnificent sight. Green Gages, Lombards, Imperial Gages, Coe's Transparent, and Smith's Orleans, hanging in immense clusters so heavy as to bend down the tops and branches in sweeping curves, were on every hand. The fruit is perfect in form and development, uninjured by insects, and makes a beautiful showing. These trees are about five years old and we doubt whether there is a young plum orchard in the country which is its peer in perfection of fruit and luxuriance of yield. The Colonel is not a horticulturist, but simply planted trees beautify the surroundings of his charming home, and having planted them, let them grow at their own sweet will. Naturally however he takes great pleasure in seeing the lavish bounty of mother nature hang upon the bending branches of his trees, and is sharing it with his friends. The success he has met with in plum culture is of very great interest to the general public however; for it clearly demonstrates the adaptability of our soil and climate to the growth of that delicious fruit. No fruit commands a readier market or so uniformly high a price; and the Emmet county man who plants a good sized plum orchard of those standard varieties which experience suggests, will in four or five years reap large profits from his investment. Having stuffed themselves with fruit, and spent a few minutes in walking over the pleasant little demesne of "Tollview", and returned thanks for the very cordial attentions of their host the party wended their way homewards.

P.S.- Just as we write the words above comes Mr. E. Schlappi who resides four or five miles east with a full corroboration of our conclusions as to the probable profits of plum culture. He lays on our table a twig nine inches long upon which are clustered 16 large, fine, fully developed plums of the "red egg" variety- the fruit measuring 5 ½ inches in circumference. Mr. Schlappi says that the tree from which they came is six years old and that its yield this year is worth \$8.00 cash. He believes with us that plum culture will become a large and profitable industry in this part of the country, and in accordance with that belief has been setting out young trees. How many trees 16 feet apart can a man put on as acre, and what would be the profit at \$8, or \$4 or even \$2, a tree? Figure on it farmers.