

Our work is educative. We have no personal interests to serve in our work, our object being to distribute information with regard to the best means of growing fruit and the best varieties to cultivate in the various parts of our province. One great aim, which we have had in view for some years, is the introduction of hardy fruits for Northern Ontario and we have imported large quantities of hardy varieties from Russia and placed them under test at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. In due time these will be distributed to the members of our Association in the various parts of Ontario to be further tested with regard to their adaptability.

I believe that a very important part of our work is done by means of the *Canadian Horticulturist* through which we are able to communicate with one another the results of our experience with various fruits. Each year we distribute to all our members two good sized volumes, the journal and the report, and I trust that every year we may be able to make them of more value to the public.

The vocal class rendered in chorus "*The Cruiskeen Lawn*" (Stewart).

The President, A. H. Pettit, then delivered his annual address.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Members of the Fruit Growers' Association:

It falls to my lot on this occasion to deliver an annual address, a custom that has prevailed in this Association since its first inception; I will therefore ask you to bear with me a few minutes while in the discharge of that duty. The year 1892, upon which we entered with such promises of success, is fast drawing to a close and we find ourselves gathered together in the city of Brantford, one year older, and I trust wiser, in the pursuit of horticultural knowledge. Each year brings us face to face with new anxieties, new hopes or realizations; realizations cheer us onward, but disappointments sometimes strengthen us the most; they make us study and dig down deeper into the laboratory of nature for the reason why. We cultivate the soil to obtain moisture and to obtain plant food, thereby to increase the fertility of our soil; we cultivate the mind in order to expand its power of grasping and solving the great problems in horticulture that are daily and yearly presenting themselves to us. In the spring time just past, the outlook was most promising; in many respects the whole country seemed to be one vast profusion of bloom, but a little later on our hopes were to some extent blighted.

More particularly so was this the case in the southern fruit belt of Ontario; some of us no doubt felt the show was too good to be realized. Looking on the dark side, sometimes we find just what we are looking for; indeed, how often do we find this to be the case, confirming us as it were in our gloomy predictions.

We are here to-day as fruit growers from all parts of this province to discuss questions of great importance to the interest we represent. The great fruit growing industry of this province demands at our hands the dissemination of sound, practical information, and wherewith are we to be supplied if not from the field of practical experience? If we fail in gathering the crop of information this section is so fully blest with, we fail in the realization of our visit in that respect. If we sow seed and it fails to germinate in this locality, we must attribute it to one of two causes: either that the seed was bad or