

successful one for the horticultural societies of Ontario. While the final returns had not been received it was evident that the expenditures as well as the membership for 1909 had largely increased. When the societies which had applied for organization had attained a legal status there would be nearly 10,000 members of horticultural societies. Haileybury had filed its application and begun its work of civic improvement with a membership of over 100. The Twin Cities of Port Arthur and Fort William had caught the spirit of floriculture and were beginning to organize societies. The towns of Milton, Oshawa and Whitby had formed societies during the year.

Comparing 1908 with the previous year, the total expenditures, in the following branches of all of the societies were:

	1907	1908
Lectures and periodicals..	\$2593.00	\$3280.00
For Exhibitions	\$4172.00	\$4543.00
Seeds, bulbs, and plants	\$5649.00	\$6854.00
The total actual amount expended in		

1907, was \$17,353.00 and in 1908, \$20,882.00.

Returns for 1909 received from 46 societies since the annual meetings held during the first week in November showed a net gain in membership of 500. The increase in expenditure was \$2,400.

A number of successful meetings had been held in different parts of the Province during the year at which Mr. Everet Weed, Landscape Architect, of Chicago, was the principal speaker. Mr. Weed was a practical gardener and his lectures were illustrated by lantern slides which made them attractive.

A number of towns and cities had applied to the Department for assistance in laying out their public parks and squares and Prof. Hutt had done good work in this connection. School teachers, too, were turning their attention to the study of plants and flowers with the greatest educational uplift to all concerned.

Two amendments had been made to the Horticultural Societies Act during 1909.

The first reduced the maximum grant to new societies during the first year of their existence from \$100 to \$75. The second amendment set the maximum grant any society could receive at \$800.

BILL BOARD NUISANCE

The bill board nuisance received considerable attention. Pres. Snelgrove expressed regret that the bill, regulating billboards, that was introduced in the Ontario Legislature at its last session, by Mr. Evan Fraser, M.L.A., had been killed in the municipal committee. Numerous petitions favoring its adoption were sent, at the time, to members of the Legislature. The bill had been supported by Hon. Mr. Hanna. The agitation was one that should be pushed vigorously. Bill boards are supported by men who object to pay taxes on vacant land. Such men rejoice to see their neighbors build nice houses as the value of their property is thus increased and they are enabled to derive a greater revenue from the bill boards they erect on their own vacant land. While the neighbors of these men do what they can to improve and beautify the district these men debase the neighborhood by their ugly signs and they do so sordidly and selfishly. Bill boards ought to be taxed to the hilt. If their erection cannot be prevented they should be properly taxed and restricted.

Mr. C. C. James, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, drove this point home. While in Kristiania, Norway, last summer he had noticed a number of closed boxes on the streets something like those used by the police of Toronto from which to telephone for the patrol. On making inquiries he was informed that they were used as municipal billboards. The city owned them all. Bills could not be posted anywhere in the city until they had been inspected and approved by municipal officers and then only on the civic bill boards. A charge was made by the municipality for the use of these boards. Mr. James thought that in Canada we might well follow such an example.

SOME OF THE ADDRESSES

The addresses by the various speakers were of a high order of merit. Space does



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