

relative merits of the different sorts. Mr. Galusha, of Illinois, favored liberal manuring, especially with bone dust. Mr. Hollister, of St. Louis, has found the Wilson the most valuable and profitable variety, which was confirmed by Mr. Gibbs, of Chicago.

At the morning session on Friday, Feb. 23rd, the President read a number of letters from distinguished pomologists who were unable to be present, after which the society proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year. This was followed by reports from the Committees on Experimental Stations, on Horticultural Statistics, and exhibitions. The latter Committee recommended that exhibitions be held by the Society at least once in every two years. The Hon. F. P. Baker, of Topeka, Kansas, read a paper on "Irrigation in Horticulture." Beginning at the earliest dawn of primeval history, and running along down through Assyria, Egypt, Persia, Syria, China, India, Peru, Mexico, Italy, Spain, Germany, he fully established the antiquity and universality of the practice of irrigation, and proceeded to shew that a large part of Western Kansas and Nebraska, and Eastern Colorado and New Mexico requires irrigation before the soil can be cultivated and made to produce the usual variety of farm products; and that when these shall have been rendered fertile by irrigation, the tornado, horn of idleness on a parched, empty and lazy prairie, will become a thing of the past. He concluded his interesting paper by shewing that irrigation is needed wherever water does not fall from the clouds when and where it is required for the development of vegetable growths.

After some discussion of the subject of Mr. Baker's paper, a short paper written by Mr. E. P. Roe, of New York, was read, he being detained at home by sickness. The title was "Small fruits

in the South," in which the writer discussed the necessity imposed upon the Southern fruit grower of seeking to develop a class of varieties suited to his climate. Doubtless Canadian growers will find their advantage in acting upon this suggestion fully as much as the Southern.

At the opening of the afternoon session, Mr. P. J. Berckmans, President of the Georgia Horticultural Society, read a paper upon "the Newer Peaches and new fruits for the Cotton States." In this paper he maintains that the form of the leaves and a very slight difference in the texture of the flesh is all the variations he has been able to detect between the Alexander, Amsden, Governor Garland, Waterloo, Saunders, Downing, Musser, Wilder, Brice, Early Canada and perhaps a dozen others. The Early Louise and the Early Rivers have so thin a skin as to prevent distant carriage. He states that the Flat Peach of China is well suited to the subtropical climate of Florida, where the varieties cultivated by us are not successful, and advises the horticulturists of that State to raise seedlings from this Peen To peach, believing that new and distinct varieties will be obtained giving them a race of peaches as valuable as the Orange. He expressed the opinion that the Japanese Persimmon would prove a valuable fruit especially below latitude 32°. He also gave the history of the LeConte Pear, the original tree of which is yet standing and although now some forty years old has never shewn any sign of blight nor failed to yield a crop of fruit. This seems to be well adapted to the soil and climate of the south where the pears of European origin are a failure. This paper was followed by one on "Pears and their culture in the South," by W. H. Cassells, of Mississippi. Although of great interest to those residing in the south, we did not find anything in