

ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

Mr. THOMAS BRIGGS, President Kingston Horticultural Society, read an address of welcome as follows :

To the President and Members of the Fruit Growers' Association of Canada :

GENTLEMEN,—On behalf of the District Society of the City of Kingston, I have the pleasure of congratulating and welcoming you on the occasion of this your annual meeting for the purpose of discussing and promoting the objects of the Association in all matters connected with the progress of horticulture and floriculture, in both of which great improvements have been made during the past few years, the result, no doubt, of the information obtained at your annual meetings by the discussion and explanation of the various experiments and different modes of cultivation.

The climate and soil of Canada are very suitable for growing most kinds of fruit, and every effort should be made to improve in quality and quantity, as fruit is becoming a leading article of export. Many thousands of barrels of apples have already this season been forwarded to England, where the Canadian apples rank foremost in market, and are readily disposed of at remunerative prices.

Referring to the floral department, the improvement in producing flowers in their varied classes is remarkable, as may be observed in some of the old leading kinds, such as the rose, gladiolus, chrysanthemums, dahlia, fuchsia, petunia, pansy and many other kinds too numerous to mention. This improvement is the result of skilful hybridizing and improved modes of culture, by which the plants are increased in size and form, and in colors and shades. It may well be said that the florist is perfect master in this department, and competent to produce flowers of almost any desired shade.

Yet, notwithstanding all the advances so obtained, it is expected, through the skill, science and perseverance of the members and cultivation, that further improvements will follow.

As electricity possesses light, heat and power and is now made available in nearly every branch of industry, it might possibly prove an assistant in advancing horticulture and floriculture, which you are endeavoring to bring to perfection.

I will not further intrude upon your time by referring to the subjects of your meeting, but will leave the numerous points for their proper place, to be discussed by those who have met here for that purpose. We hope that great benefits will result from your discussions and that your meetings will prove a success.

His Worship Mayor ELLIOTT then welcomed the convention. He alluded to the early history of the place, and referred to its many present advantages.

The PRESIDENT : On behalf of the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario I assure you we appreciate very highly all the words of welcome that you have extended to us, also the kind invitations. It was with feelings of very great pleasure that our officers decided to accept your kind invitation to hold our annual meeting in the old historic city of Kingston, founded on a rock, emblematic of the firm and lasting loyalty of her people, and we feel that not only every fruit grower but every Canadian is under a debt of gratitude to your city for the many eminent men that she has produced—men who have had so much to do with the founding and up-building of this grand Dominion of ours. (Applause). We hope that your citizens will attend our sessions, feel free to take part in the discussions, and ask questions. We have men in our Society who are full of knowledge on these lines—(hear, hear)—who have grown gray in experimenting in different fruits and flowers, and who will gladly impart any information they can. We in turn expect to receive a great deal of valuable information from you, coming down here among the wise men of the east. (Laughter). Meeting in this building is suggestive that while we may give you some valuable ideas as to how to produce the berries, you in turn can teach us how to produce the cream. (Laughter and applause). The next item on the program is the President's address. It is an old time-honored custom, and I will have to confine myself to my manuscript. (See page 4.)