

stand as they never before have done, the balance in favour of the Association. From this statement I pass to the consideration of the best means of advancing our future usefulness.

POPULARIZING THE SOCIETY'S WORKS.

The operations of our Association are not sufficiently known. In too many sections our very name has not penetrated. Such an assertion is very humiliating, but it ought to be made, if true, and good will come out of it. Some time ago, I was in the county of Elgin, and found that prominent fruit-growers in their own locality had not seen nor read any of our fruit reports, and did not know of the Association at all. Two weeks ago I had an inquiry from a successful firm of nurserymen as to the mode in which they might become members of our Association. We require to take means to organize county branch societies, whose work would be indetical with our own. Our worthy Secretary suggested some time ago that your President might undertake to give addresses on horticulture in different districts, being aided and abetted by leading local fruit-growers. This suggestion would probably have been acted on before this, if you believe me capable of such an effort, had it not been that a severe attack of sickness incapacitated me from entering on the discharge of such a duty. A more extensive circulation of our reports, and the increased distribution of the *Horticulturist* is urgently needed. Where known our reports are diligently sought after. Where read, our *Horticulturist* is a welcome monthly visitor. In regard to the latter, poetry, learned essays, spirited editorials, delightful horticultural gossip, spicy travelling accounts, contemplated botanical pursuits, all claim the attention of our members, and would be greatly relished by the portion of the community that the monthly never reaches. Let us devise some means to get readers, I might say subscribers, to the organ of our Society. It will never be much till it is made to pay—till people, in fact, pay for it. Gratuitous distribution does not pay, has not paid, will not pay. People estimate gifts very often according to the money value which they pay for them. In this connection, I may also state that our quarterly discussions are greatly lost as far as regards usefulness from a similar cause. They are not known. We have been struck with the little interest they excite even in the localities where our meetings are held. Often, were it not for the laudable attendance of our directors, the meetings would have to be dissolved for want of a quorum. A review of this nature just shows what a mighty work is before us, and how we ought to gird ourselves to the battle against indifference, ignorance and sometimes censoriousness. Of late we have remarked that no mention has been made of these meetings by the metropolitan press. An Assistant Secretary should be appointed at every meeting to help our Secretary and prepare paragraphs of our discussions for insertion in at least the leading newspapers of our growing towns and cities. The Peterboro' *Review*, under the able management of its editor, did our Association good service at our summer meeting. Like results ought to be made general. We require to make earnest solicitation for assistance. There are many persons, shall I say it, so affected with a common disease called laziness, that they are not aware what they can do till they are pushed to do something besides. If a thing is desirable in itself, it is worth asking for. It is true in soliciting assistance, and is equally true in urging attendance at these meetings of fruit growers; last winter we made a good beginning in securing essays and topical addresses from a number of our own members. It would be a pity to let this good practice drop. Skilful and talented individuals, even outside of the roll of membership, might be enlisted for these purposes. Not to mention the improvement to our meetings by such a course, these papers would prove an unfailing source of benefit in awarding suitable material for the preparation of the annual report to the Government. Efforts should be made to lengthen out our sessions to two days at least. We are too much in a hurry to get home. Longer sederunts would secure a deeper and wider public interest in the Society's sayings and doings. Important subjects are chosen for discussion. It frequently happens, however, that often several of them are left unconsidered. A determined exertion should be made to secure cheap railway fares. Other societies receive this benefit, which cannot be said to be so important, or which are doing so much gratuitous good as we are doing. A deputation should be appointed to wait upon the leading railway authorities. Our case should be strongly argued and convincingly put: exertions in this direction would largely increase

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