

## American Pomological Society

The American Pomological Society passed its 62d milestone at the time of its last meeting in St. Catharines, September, 1909. The formal meeting which brought this historical horticultural organization into existence was held in New York in September, 1848, although that meeting was preceded by a preliminary conference held by those interested in the organization some time previous in the city of Buffalo.

The report of its 31st biennial session is now going through press and will be distributed to its members in a few weeks.

In view of the many inquiries regarding the scope and purposes of this society, the secretary makes the following statement: The society is non-sectional, and is as comprehensive in its aims as the broadest interests of fruit growing demand. Its purpose is to co-ordinate, unify and further the interests of the various horticultural societies by stimulating the best methods of culture, popularizing scientific advances, and urging the planting of varieties characterized by high quality.

The society has no limitations in regard to membership. It is open to the amateur as well as to the commercial grower of fruits, to the nurseryman as well as to the orchardist. The fees are light, being two dollars for the biennial two-year period. The reports are exceedingly valuable as well to the teacher as to the practical fruit grower.

Life membership in the society is of two kinds: To institutions, it is secured for a 30-year period on payment of a 20-dollar fee. Individuals may secure life membership on payment of the same fee. In addition to the forthcoming reports, the society gives each life member, on entering, copies

of as many of the back volumes of the Transaction as are now available. These are becoming rare and valuable.

The society is of special interest to the fruit breeder. It promotes development of improved varieties by offering prizes for distinctly worthy new kinds. To this end it maintains a committee whose duty it is to examine and report on new originations and make such recommendations as in their judgment are appropriate. One of the earlier presidents of the society, the late Marshall P. Wilder, left a small fund which is used to provide silver and bronze medals to be awarded to originators of worthy new fruits.

The officers of the society are: Pres., L. A. Goodman, Kansas City, Mo.; sec., John Craig, Ithaca, N. Y.; treas., L. R. Taft, East Lansing, Mich.; executive committee, C. L. Watrous, Des Moines, Ia.; W. C. Barry, Rochester, N. Y.; C. W. Garfield, Grand Rapids, Mich.; G. L. Taber, Glen St Mary, Fla.; W. T. Macoun, Ottawa, Ont.

## Horticulture in Toronto

The Toronto Horticultural Society is doing active work this year in interesting the residents of the city in the improvement of their home grounds. Action has been taken also in the work of improving certain streets in unimproved parts of the city. The response of the citizens shows that the society's efforts are bearing fruit. Through bringing the matter of civic improvement directly to the attention of a number of leading and wealthy citizens, Mr. W. G. MacKendrick, one of the vice-presidents of the society, has been successful in augmenting the funds of the society by personal subscriptions, which are being applied to the work of street improvement. The chairman of the committee directly in charge of

this work is Mr. Roderick Cameron. The scheme of improvement is as follows:

The committee selects the blocks where they think the prizes would be appreciated and where there is a chance for considerable improvement to be made, endeavoring to scatter them through the city. A first prize of \$3, second of \$2, third of \$1, is offered in each block for the best climbing roses; the same prizes for the best Virginia creeper; the same prizes for the best flower bed; and the society bronze medal for the best general effect in each block.

Chairman Cameron has appointed a practical gardener to take charge of each block. They will meet the citizens on these blocks and endeavor to work up a desire to improve their premises, and will tell them and show them how it can be done.

As the judge for each set of prizes will be confined to one block, and to specific articles in that block, it is anticipated that the judges will not have much difficulty in reaching satisfactory judgment.

Three prizes are being given in one block, consisting of \$12, \$8 and \$5, first, second and third prizes, for the best lattice work or chicken line wire fence between two properties covered with climbing animals, vines or shrubs; by drawing attention to these matters it is hoped in time to make an improvement in the hideous back yard fences which disfigure the city.

The Walkerville (Ont.) Horticultural Society is planting a privet hedge around the Pere Marquette grounds, and is putting four or five large beds for flowers in conspicuous places.

I greatly appreciate your interesting paper—THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.—A. F. Figerstedt, Korja, Finland.

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