

Province, and they have derived from that system, began three years ago, very good results. I have read a paper on that subject before the convention of St. Jean d'Iberville last winter. It was printed in both languages and we wanted to put it before the Legislative Assembly of Quebec. Unfortunately, however, we were too late, but I propose to keep agitating in the matter, and I am glad to see here to-night the Hon. Mr. Fisher, who understands very well this question of fruit experimental stations, and who, I am sure, will give us all the help he can in that direction.

I am sure I express the feeling of every member of our Society, when I say that we consider ourselves highly honoured in having Mr. Fisher, our Vice-President, raised to the important position he now occupies. We are all very proud of that (applause), and I take the liberty of congratulating him, or rather of congratulating ourselves, on his having been called to so high a position, in which I am sure he will do all he can to help us in our work, which he understands so well and sympathizes with so fully. (Applause.)

Hon. Mr. Fisher (Minister of Agriculture):—Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen.—I wish to thank you, Mr. President, for the very flattering reference which you have made to myself, and you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for the kind manner in which you have endorsed the friendly congratulations made to me by our President on my elevation to the position I now occupy. I have had the pleasure of visiting Howick on former occasions, and am very glad indeed to see that to-night the people of this neighborhood have turned out in such numbers to welcome the Provincial Fruit-Growers' Association. I know of old, from experience, the hospitality of the people of Howick, and I am satisfied that no better place could be chosen for our winter meeting. I was unable to attend the meeting at St. Jean Port Joli, a deprivation which I felt very keenly, because not only would I have been glad to make the acquaintance of the people in that far-off part of the Province, but because I had known of the great efforts which have been made there in fruit culture, and the success which has attended these efforts—a success which most of us, in the western part of our Province, thought to be impossible. We cannot, however, refuse to believe in that success after the evidence we had of it in the shape of the fruit sent from that part of the country for exhibition here, where they could be seen by everybody. I regret especially that no director of our Association from this western portion attended that meeting. We have been fortunate, when we held meetings of our Association in this part of the Province, to have present at these meetings directors from those far-off districts, and I think it is but right that directors from the western sections should try and attend meetings in these distant districts, and bring back reports of the work that is being done there. The Provincial Fruit-Growers' Association is a comparatively young body. It has not got, by any means, the age or prestige of the Dairymen's Association, which has done so much good for the dairy interests of this Province; but I am satisfied that just as that Association has done great things for the dairymen, so this Society can and will do great things for the fruit-growing interests of this Province. We have abundant capacity for the raising of fruit of the finest quality. We cannot, perhaps, raise quite such enormous quantities as the Province of Nova Scotia or Ontario, and there are some of the finer and more delicate fruits to