

Quebec Fruit Growers' Annual Convention

THE annual meeting of the Pomological and Fruit Growing Society of the Province of Quebec was held at Macdonald College, Que.

Apples of all sorts, sizes, shapes, and flavors decorated the platform, and a long line of tables at the front of the assembly room of the college. Among these was a plate of freak apples brought by Mr. Peter Reid, Cateauguay Basin, Que. They were Red McIntosh apples secured from a graft on a Ben Davis tree. The result was that the fruit took on the shape and appearance of a Ben Davis apple but maintained the taste and quality of a McIntosh.

About fifteen plats of seedlings that promise a great deal for the future of the apple growing industry in Quebec were shown by Mr. W. T. Macoun, of the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. These were mostly from Northern Spies, which so far have not grown very well in Quebec, but these new seedlings, which are really hybrids with another variety, have so far proved themselves much hardier than the ordinary Northern Spy.

Of the varieties of apples shown, the most prominent were the Alexander, Fameuse, Wealthy, McIntosh, Wolf River, American Golden Russet, Scott's Winter, Baxter, Pewaukee, Canada Baldwin, Canada Red (Pomme de Fer), Northern Spy, Blue Pearmain, Bethel and about thirty other varieties.

The president, Mr. C. P. Newman, Lachine Locks, reviewed the results of the discussion at the Dominion convention of fruit growers at Ottawa, saying that he hoped the Government would look into the Cooperative Credit Association system in

Europe as it had been asked to do by resolution.

He spoke of the work of the demonstration orchards in Quebec as object lessons to the districts where they are situated. To show the necessity of stimulating fruit production in Quebec he said that less than half the fruit consumed in the province was produced within its borders, although there was a good home and export demand for Quebec varieties. Nova Scotia, Ontario, and British Columbia were all showing greater activity in this direction. "Fruit growing was too much of a side line in Quebec."

EXHIBITION PROPOSED

Dr. F. C. Harrison, principal of Macdonald College, advocated the holding of a fruit and flower exhibition in Montreal.

He introduced Prof. T. G. Bunting, a former assistant of Mr. W. T. Macoun at the Central Experimental Farm, who had taken Prof. Blair's place; Prof. F. M. Clement, lecturer in horticulture, and Mr. W. M. Aikenhead, assistant in the same department, all of whom, he said, had made good records for themselves in their former spheres of work.

Rev. Father Leopold of the Trappist Monastery, who was received with applause, spoke on "Establishing Canneries and Their Advantages in Connection with Cooperative Societies." He made the text of a large part of his address the work done by the recently formed Cooperative Society of Kamouraska which he saw while on a visit to Ste. Anne de la Pocatiere to establish a demonstration orchard.

He told of the cannery at Ste. Anne de la Pocatiere undertaken by the Cooperative

Society after it had sold eight thousand gallons of the plums in a fresh state, and found that this was the only method of saving the rest of the crop which were a glut on the market. Very quickly, with the help of Father Athanase, of La Trappe, they organized a canning plant in the old college and preserved in a few days ten thousand pounds of plums, making something like six thousand gallons of preserves. The fruit was put in tin cans processed mostly by hot water, the processing vat having a capacity of five hundred gallon cans at a time. The very best grade possible was put up. The preserving was done with pure white granulated sugar, six pounds of sugar to one gallon of syrup. Mr. Dupuis, the secretary, expected to sell these Damas plums in large cans at five dollars forty cents a dozen, and small cans at two dollars forty cents a dozen. Without the improved cannery the crop would have been a loss to the growers. The speaker insisted on the importance of pure fruit being used, and a label being put on the tins to show who was behind the work as a guarantee of quality.

In the evening an address was given on the "Commercial Handling of McIntosh and Fameuse," by Prof. T. G. Bunting, Macdonald College.

Prof. W. S. Blair described the development of the Annapolis Valley in Nova Scotia as an apple growing centre, and gave it as his belief that it would become a still greater factor as an apple exporting centre in years to come, although they were not now taking any more trees from Canadian nurseries on account of the introduction of the San Jose Scale.

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