

FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO.

ANNUAL MEETING.

• TOWN HALL, WATERLOO. Wednesday, Dec. 15, 1897.

The President, W. E. Wellington, took the chair and called the meeting to order about 10.30, after which the following committees were duly appointed :

Fruit Exhibit : Messrs. M. Pettit, G. E. Fisher and T. H. Race.

Resolutions : Messrs. Thomas Beall, W. M. Orr, Alexander McNeill.

Nominations : Messrs. A. M. Smith and A. H. Pettit (by the President) and Messrs. M. Pettit, W. H. Dempsey and T. H. Race (by the meeting).

New Fruits : Professor H. L. Hutt, the Secretary and the President.

Constitution and by-laws : Messrs. M. Pettit, Thos. Beall, George E. Fisher, Alexander McNeill and T. H. Race.

All these committees were to report at this meeting except the Committee on new fruits.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL ADDRESS.

By W. E. WELLINGTON, TORONTO.

It is with a feeling of pleasure, that at this critical period in the history of fruit growing in Canada, I am able to meet the Fruit Growers' Association, with a feeling of hopefulness for the future of this great industry.

For some years past there has been a feeling of great anxiety amongst fruit growers, and with some cause. The difficulties of raising fruit, through the attacks of insects and fungi, were very alarming, but when to this was added the great difficulty of selling the fruit at a profitable rate, in the markets of Canada, it became a subject for very serious contemplation. The cost of raising the fruit was much greater than in the past, and the prices obtained, especially in years when we had full crops, were so much less, that many felt there was little or no money in the industry, and that something must be done, or fruit growing would have to largely be given up in this fertile Province, which is so finely adapted for producing the choicest fruits that are grown.

Thoughtful men, however, have been trying to solve the question, and, it seems to me, with every prospect of success, and I think that many will agree with me, when I say that there is even a greater success in the future than there has been in the past, if fruit growing is carried on in a business-like way, and advantage taken of the new openings which we have found in the markets of England for our surplus fruit.

I believe there is a great market also in the North-West, but, as I suggested last year, on taking my seat as President of this Association, the difficulty to overcome was mainly that of transportation. It will only be a few years, in all probability, before the great North-West is pretty well settled, and there will be a large population who will require our products, and will be dependent upon us for furnishing them fruit, which is such a necessary and beneficial article of diet.