

be profitable ; it is such a good shipper and evaporates so easily."

Why don't you top graft your General Hand and Washington to some other variety ?

"Well, they don't do well in my experience. I have a lot of Lombard trees which I top grafted to Reine Claude and Bradshaw, but after a few years the grafts died off, and we have still an orchard of Lombards. I think I will dig those trees out and plant the orchard all over again."

What is your prospect for this season ?

"Oh, too good, I am afraid, for the price. I expect there will be a heavy crop all through the plum sections. Still, even at the low prices of the past two years, they pay very well ; and perhaps the Canadian Northwest will soon open up excellent plum markets for us."

The Transportation of fruit at reasonable rates is a burning topic with fruit growers and fruit shippers everywhere. The time was when this business of fruit growing was too insignificant to command either special cars or special rates, and it is no wonder the rates were exorbitant. But now all is changed, and the fruit products are becoming more important in Southern Ontario than the grain products. Why then should not as reasonable rates be made for the carriage of fruit as for grain ?

At our meeting at Cobourg, a report was brought in by Mr. W. H. Bunting, chairman of the Transportation Committee, which was very much to the point, and although the report was superseded by a resolution looking toward the appointment of a railway commission, the report of the committee should not be lost sight of as expressing some of the points of grievance which we fruit growers have against the carrying companies. The following is the resolution :—

Local and Provincial Distribution.—Resolved
1. That a revised schedule of reductions in rates and improvements in service be laid before the railway officials for their consideration, with a

strong request for their acceptance, in order that at least to some extent justice may be done to the fruit industry.

2. That, inasmuch as improved systems of refrigeration and ventilation, in connection with the carriage of fruits, have been favorably reported on from the tests already made, and since the car service in this respect has not been satisfactory in the past, the railway company be requested to arrange for a more extensive equipment in this respect on some plan that may show reasonable prospect of success.

3. That matters of local grievances or hardships in connection with the transportation of fruits be promptly reported to the secretary of this association, with full details, in order that complete information on this point may be obtained and efforts put forth to relieve the same if possible.

4. That some comprehensive plan be adopted whereby the local conditions of over supply or scarcity of fruit in any particular district may be promptly made known, so that a more even and satisfactory distribution of the more perishable fruits may be obtained.

Export Trade.—Your committee note with satisfaction that improvements in the service are being made by the steamship companies, and, while they regret to learn that the financial results from export shipments have not yet been of such a nature as to inspire confidence in the shipper, they trust that the time may not be far distant when it will be possible to land our apples and pears in the English market in uniformly good order and with a reasonable assurance of a safe and careful handling throughout the entire journey. To this end it is hoped that the Dominion and Provincial Governments will continue to supplement the valuable assistance already rendered in this respect, which has been productive of good results.

We solicit the co-operation of local and provincial Fruit Growers Associations in securing for fruit growers fair play in the matter of freight rates on fruits, so that we may be agreed upon details when we again seek for a better classification of freights on fruits.

Civic Improvement is certainly one of the most important fields of work for our local Horticultural Societies, and the noble example of the Cayuga Society might well be followed by every other such society in Ontario. The plan of work laid out by the American League of Civic Improvement includes the following suggestive sections,—public recreation, a gymnasium, playgrounds, etc ; parks ; municipal art ; village improvement ; rural improvement, including good roads, country schools, etc. ; sanitation ; libraries and museums ; social settlements ; public nuisances, as smoke, advertising, etc. ; preservation of nature ; arts and crafts, etc.