

Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Convention

THE 43rd annual meeting of the N.S. Fruit Grs. Assn. was held at Wolfville on Dec. 12, 13 and 14. There was a good attendance. While the meeting cannot be regarded as one of the most important in the history of the Assn., it was quite a successful one. Owing to the good work done at the Dominion Conference of Fruit Growers at Ottawa last March, several questions which usually occupy considerable time, such as the grading, packing and marketing of fruit, did not receive the usual attention.

The address of the president, Mr. John Donaldson, was full of practical information. In it he said that there was an abundant show of blossoms in the orchards last spring, but cool, wet weather prevented good pollination. A favorable summer was followed by an ideal autumn, but a gale in October blew off a large amount of fruit. The crop was below medium, but the apples were comparatively free of spot with the exception of Gravensteins, which were badly affected, there being only a small proportion of No. 1's. The advantage of having this refuse fruit utilized by the canning and evaporating factories, which used a large amount this year, was referred to by the president among other things.

An interesting address on "Orchard Management," by W. T. Macoun, C.E., Ottawa, followed the president's address. A report of it will appear in our next issue.

The afternoon of the 2nd day was all devoted to spraying, it being felt that this was the most important subject that could be discussed in view of the fact that the Gravensteins had been almost ruined by spot this year. Prof. F. C. Sears, Horticulturist, Agric'l College, Truro, had charge of this subject, and subdivided it into nozzles, pumps, hose, fungicides, lime, insecticides, preparation of the mixture and application of same, so that the whole subject was thoroughly covered. The plan adopted was to have several fruit growers speak on each branch of the subject. The Vermorel nozzle, or a modification of it, was considered the best. It was shown that it was very important to change the disc in the nozzle frequently, as the aperture soon widened by friction, and a coarser spray was the result. The general opinion was that 3 nozzles were as many as could be economically used on each line of hose even on a power pump, while 2 or even 1 was sufficient on a hand pump. No one pump was considered the best. It was generally thought that $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch hose was better than $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch, being considerably lighter and just as effective. The complaint was made that hose did not last long enough. A special 5-ply hose was referred to by Mr. Black, Wolfville, as being the most durable, and while a little more expensive, it was much more satisfactory than the hose usually bought. The variability of lime was referred to, and it was shown that it was important to use good lime. As a rule 4 lbs. to the bbl. was sufficient, though more could be used if necessary.

Some arsenate of lead had been used in N.S. this year. There was a discussion on the relative merits of it and Paris green as insecticides. Some had found it difficult to mix, while others were favorably impressed with it owing to its adhesiveness, and the good results obtained. As a poison had to be used with each application of Bordeaux mixture, it was thought that the adhesiveness of the arsenate of lead did not offset the danger from using a poison of its color in consideration of the general carelessness of fruit growers in leaving poisons about.

Dr. Jas. Fletcher, Entomologist and Botanist, Dom. Exp. Farms, who was on the program to speak on "Insects and Insecticides," was called on when the discussion had reached the point of the proper time for spraying, a fruit grower claiming that he had very satisfactory results from only spraying once, and that when the trees were in full bloom. Dr. Fletcher

took a very decided stand on this subject, showing that insects, especially honey bees, which visited the flowers, were killed by the poison; that in Ont. it was considered so important not to spray at that time, that a law was in force which prohibited fruit growers from doing so. Not only were bees killed by the poison, but the crop was lessened by the Paris green injuring the pistil of the flowers, thus preventing fruit from setting. He recommended 4 sprayings with Bordeaux mixture, 2 before the flowers opened, and 2 after. All insects could not be controlled by 1 spraying, as they were active at different seasons of the year. The one spraying would control the black spot. Thoroughness in spraying was of the utmost importance. It is an expensive operation and, if not properly done, money was thrown away. Speaking of the San Jose scale, he congratulated the fruit growers on not having it. In procuring nursery stock, he advised getting trees from Ont. rather than the U.S., if good trees could not be obtained in N.S., as the Ont. nurseries had their stock thoroughly inspected and fumigated according to law. "Practically all the insects affecting trees in N.S.," said Dr. Fletcher, "can be controlled by spraying."

In concluding, he stated that at many of the meetings he had the pleasure of attending during the last 2 years, many of the important subjects which had come up for discussion at the present meeting, as for instance, "collar rot," had been keenly discussed. He urged the members to keep accurate notes as to all the conditions of soil, weather, location and particularly to methods of cultivation in orchards where trees died from this mysterious injury, so that actual data taken at the time might be available for comparison and discussion at the next meeting, thereby arriving at something definite.

Considerable discussion took place on the No. 2 apple, as defined in the amended Fruit Marks Act. Mr. G. H. Vroom, Dom. Fruit Insp., explained the view taken by the inspectors in regard to this grade. The point not clearly understood by the fruit growers was as to what was meant by "material waste." From Mr. Vroom's statement, it is understood that 80% of a No. 2 grade, providing they are of medium size, may be spotted, providing the spots are not large enough or numerous enough to cause "material waste." A fruit grower should be able to form a fair opinion of what would cause material waste. A question was asked as to whether any apples of a "fancy" grade had been exported from N.S. this year. The statement was made that 800 bbls. had been exported, it being understood that the man who exported them was S. B. Chute, Berwick, N.S. A large proportion of this fancy grade went to South Africa.

The fruit growers of N.S. are very anxious to have a fruit exp. sta. in the Annapolis valley. The matter was discussed at some length, as it has been for many years, and a resolution urging the establishing of such a station will be sent to the Dominion and Provincial governments and to the members of parliament.

A move was made at this meeting to make some town the headquarters of the Assn., where it would meet every year, but this proposition was voted down. It was thought that more good could be done by moving around. It is probable that the meeting next year will be at Berwick.

The exhibition of fruit, though not large, was of good quality. It was judged by Prof. F. C. Sears and Mr. W. T. Macoun.

The officers elected for next year are: Pres., John Donaldson, Wolfville; vice-p., G. C. Miller, Middleton; sec., S. C. Parker, Berwick—the same officers as last year. Mr. Donaldson was highly complimented for the manner in which he filled the office during the past year.

A popular meeting was held on the evening of Dec. 13, when addresses were given by

Lieutenant-Governor Fraser, Judge Longley-Dr. Fletcher, Prof. Cumming, and Mr. Campbell, the local member. The addresses were more than of usual interest, and delighted the large audience assembled.—W. T. M.

Ontario's Sick Little Ones

The 31st year of the Hospital for Sick Children in Ont. work has just closed. It is something to be proud of, and the results, both in its in and outdoor department, compare most favorably with that of any of the large hospitals on either this or the other side of the Atlantic Ocean.

The hospital is not a local institution, but provincial. The sick child from any place in Ont. who can't afford to pay, has the same privileges as the child living in Toronto, and is treated free.

The hospital had last year in its beds and cots 858 patients, 331 being from 231 places outside of Toronto. The cost is 1.37 cts per patient a day, and there were 138 sick little ones a day in the hospital. Since its foundation the hospital has treated 12,120 children. About 8,500 of these were unable to pay, and were treated free.

Next year the hospital will supply prepared food for infant feeding at cost. This will enable mothers at a trifling cost to feed babies properly, and so decrease the great mortality amongst children. Babies under 2 years are now received, so that mal-nutrition cases and those of the digestive organs will be treated.

The Lakeside Home for Little Children, Toronto Island, is the summer home of the mother hospital. It is open from May till Oct. every year, and during this period nearly 300 children are benefited by their residence, Ontario's breezes (the Home receives them from all sides) do much for the little ones who are able to be moved from the main building in the city. About 80 children sleep every night in the open on the balconies of the Home.

A dollar sent to the Hospital for Sick Children is \$1 sent on an errand of mercy and nobility—for sweet mercy is nobility's true badge. Please send contributions to J. Ross Robertson, chairman, or to Douglas Davidson, sec.-treas. of the Hospital for Sick Children, College Street, Toronto.

Encourage the Apple

The farmer in the east is naturally looking with some envy upon the bumper grain crops which the farmer in the west gets by merely tickling the soil. He hears of men going out upon the prairie, taking up land, running up a shack, putting in a crop, and then banking good hard money at the end of the year. But if he would look up at his apple trees instead of far away at distant fields, he might be better employed.

The patient, old, gnarled apple tree is bearing gold for him every golden autumn, and yet he lets a great share of it waste upon the ground, or, worse still, deteriorate by improper handling. If he would turn his golden apple into gold in dollars he would forget to envy the western novice with his golden grain. —*Montreal Star*.

In this issue, W. H. Brand, of Jordan Station, Ont., draws attention to 3 articles for which he is Canadian agent. He was at the Ont. Hort. Exh. with a "Wallace" sprayer that appeared to be as near perfection as one could desire. "Target Brand" scale destroyer is becoming well established in Ont. Before long, our fruit growers will find it hard to do without it. Kewanee Air Pressure Water Works Systems enable every rural resident to have a full water-works service and fire protection the same as in the city, with a valuable feature in addition, viz., either hard or soft water can be used. See Mr. Brand's advt. on another page.

The annual meeting of the N.B. Fruit Grs. Assn. will be held at Fredericton on Feb. 14.