

exhibitions are the best given in any State in the Union. Then we had no building of our own; now we possess the most costly and magnificent temple of horticulture that the world can boast. Then the American Pomological Society, whose president, by the mercy of God, in his twenty-eighth year of service now stands before you, had never been dreamed of—a society that emanated primarily from the influence of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society—a society that embraces not only our national domain, but whose jurisdiction extends over our continent—whose catalogue prescribes the appropriate fruits for fifty States, territories and districts, and at whose quarter centennial in this city, the far-off State of Nebraska, with her Governor at her head, carried off triumphantly the Wilder Medal for the best collection of fruits. Then there were few exports of fruits; now we send 400,000 barrels of apples in good years to foreign lands. Then the grape was scarcely cultivated; now, in addition to all that are used for the table, we make 15,000,000 gallons of wine, and wine, too, that took the first prize at the World's Exhibition at Vienna in 1873. Then the statistics of our fruit crop were not thought worthy of record; now it amounts to \$140,000,000, or nearly the average annual value of our wheat crop. But I must bring these remarks to a close. I thank you for the kind references to me as a pioneer in rural affairs. You do me no more than justice, for I cannot, as I have told you before, remember the time when I was not fond of the cultivation of the soil. But, gentlemen, my labours are mostly over. Soon I shall be resting in the bosom of my mother earth, but if I can believe I have done anything to advance the great interests of our land, and which shall contribute to the happiness of my fellow men, shall, so far as this world is concerned, die content, feeling that I have not lived in vain.

MICHIGAN STATE POMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The following paper on Cranberry culture was read at the meeting of this Society in December, 1877:—

ST JOSEPH Mich., Dec. 3.

It not being convenient for me to attend your meeting at this time, I have taken the liberty of sending you by express a sample of cranberries picked on the natural cranberry marsh I am improving near this place.

I would also call the attention of your Society to the importance of the cultivation of this fruit in this State, where I suppose there is considerable soil adapted to its growth. In Wisconsin it is becoming a very large business, one grower having this year gathered a crop of over 6,000 barrels, on about 200 acres of land which has not cost over \$25 per acre to improve, and they are worth \$8 per barrel at this place. Several others have crops of 2,000 and 4,000 barrels. The only serious obstacle in Wisconsin is the danger from frost, which I suppose would be less likely to trouble them in this State. I have spent the past four years in superintending the improvement of a large cranberry farm in Jackson County, Wisconsin, which yielded its first crop of about two hundred barrels this year, and should have had more, but for frost. The sample I send you is of the "Bell & Bugle" variety, and are very superior berries as to size, flavour and keeping qualities.

They are the natural variety grown in the large natural marsh of over 200 acres, which I selected in this vicinity from its possessing in a very perfect manner all the conditions for a cranberry farm. It is within half a mile of Lake Michigan, which renders it absolutely free from danger of frost. The water supply, depth of soil, etc., are the best of any I know of in the West.

I should be pleased to give any members of your Society any advice in my power, on the selection or improvement of cranberry lands.

Aside from my personal experience in the business, I have been acquainted with many of the most successful growers both East and West, and have been familiar with the history and *modus* of the business, and reasons for its success and failure in different places. I may say I believe the West can excel the East in this as far as in growing wheat and corn. On my land, this year, I picked at the rate of 450 bushels per acre. From the limited extent

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