

## MINNESOTA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

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The annual meeting of this Society was held in the First Unitarian Church, Minneapolis, on December 1st to 4th, 1908. The President, Prof. Samuel B. Green, of the State University, was often in the chair, and proved a model Chairman, both in his grasp of the subjects under discussion and in the courteous but firm handling of the time and speakers. Western Canada was represented by Dr. H. M. Speechly, of Pilot Mound, Man., who contributed to the programme an address on "The Gardening of Perennials in Manitoba." The programme of the meeting was of a very varied nature, including, in addition to forestry topics, papers and discussions on gardening, the culture of fruit trees and bush fruits, beekeeping and landscape work. "Evergreens" was the subject of a question exercise on the first afternoon of the Convention by Mr. Clarence Wedge, of Albert Lea, who had an exhibit of many varieties.

Thursday afternoon was devoted particularly to forestry. The President, Prof. Green, gave an admirable address in which he pointed out the urgent need of careful forestry and the value of the new Forestry School at Itasca Park. Minnesota now has 395,000 acres of State Forest Reserves. The Forestry School at Itasca aims to turning out practical foresters and is equipped after camp fashion with the necessities and not with the luxuries of life. Open air talks often take the place of formal lectures. The students are sent out in fours, each man having his own particular duties.

This address was followed by two excellent addresses, one on "Fire Fighting in our National Forests," by Mr. G. E. Marshall, the other on "Prairie Plantations," by Prof. Wentling. Mr. Marshall spoke on very practical lines, being Supervisor of the Cass Lake Reserve, and stated emphatically that four years' experience of destroying slashings by the modern method showed that the cost instead of being as high as two dollars per thousand feet of lumber was much lower and varied between twelve and twenty-five cents per thousand feet. On the Minnesota Reserves they compel lumbermen to cut the trees to a height corresponding to the diameter at point of cutting. All tops are cleared of brush and made as much use of as possible.

Too little time was given here for discussion, probably because the series of four short talks by Forestry Students, which were excellent in quality, had to be crowded in too. Carl Hamilton read a paper on "Summer Work in Itasca Park;" Clarence French on "Afforestation in the Nebraska Sand Hills;" Raymond Orr on "In a Washington Lumber Camp," and Jas. Gilles on "In a Montana National Forest." Immediately after