

Issued
Each Week

FARM AND DAIRY & RURAL HOME

Only \$1.00
a Year

Vol. XXXII.

FOR WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 27, 1913

No. 48

IS ORCHARD PLANTING BEING OVERDONE IN ONTARIO?

This and Many Other Subjects of Importance Discussed at the Fifty-third Annual Convention of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association—Light on the Transportation Problem—A Summary of Addresses.

IS there a danger that the fruit industry is being over-boomed in Ontario? Are we planting too much land to orchard? Is production liable to outrun consumption, and make the orchard investment of little worth?

These questions have been asked at many previous conventions of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, but the subject of over-production was never so seriously considered as, at the annual convention held on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of last week. It was the keynote of the opening address of President W. H. Dempsey. "The crop in production sold this spring," said Mr. Dempsey, "at prices far under cost of production in many cases. This low price was the result of over-production, and while not a full crop by any means it was heavy enough to give a slump in prices. All our selling organizations seem to be helpless in the face of an over-crop and the prices and profits in which we have so long believed. This year, with a crop almost a failure, apples have kept within reason."

And then Mr. Dempsey voiced this caution: "We begin to feel that the apple business may soon be overdone, and caution seems necessary on the part of our fellow investors and on ourselves who already know the business." Mr. Dempsey believes that peach growers have equal reason with apple growers to be cautious in future plantings. Cherries have not advanced in price and berries were high only because of dry weather.

PRODUCE FANCY VARIETIES

Prof. J. W. Crow, of the Ontario Agricultural College, approached the subject of over-production from a different standpoint. He admitted that some varieties had been over-planted. The Baldwin, for instance, one of our best commercial varieties, is already being produced in just as great quantities as the markets can stand. The lowering of tariff duties on apples going into the United States and the lowering of our own Canadian customs tariff that may follow, makes the planting of Baldwins and similar varieties less advisable as United States growers are also heavy producers of these varieties. In the production of strictly fancy varieties, however, Prof. Crow predicted a great future for the Canadian fruit growing industry. He advised the planting of Snow, McIntosh and Spy, varieties that are always at the top of the market and which we in Canada can produce at better advantage than any other country in the world.

Mr. McIntosh, the originator of the McIntosh apple, endorsed Prof. Crow's views, and instructed a sale of apples that he had made in Montreal this fall at \$7.50 a bbl. for well-packed McIntosh Reds. Mr. Dempsey suggested that a great market for first class Canadian fruit could be worked up right in our own cities. "Toronto people," said he, "are paying long prices for foreign fruit of inferior quality to that which they can secure at home."

PEACH DISTRIBUTION THE SOLUTION

Still later in the session Mr. Robert Thompson came back to the subject of over production and

tion problem presented the most difficulties. In a rather lengthy paper, Mr. G. E. McIntosh of Forest, the Association's transportation agent, reviewed the entire situation and showed how inadequate were the provisions made by our leading railway companies for the transportation of fruit. The problem of rates, though they are all the traffic will bear, he did not consider the essential point. The grievances of the fruit growers as he saw them are lack of railway equipment, inefficient terminal facilities, uncertainty as to rapidity of transit, rough handling, pilfering and neglect in icing cars or heating them, according to the season. In concluding his remarks Mr. McIntosh made the following recommendations:

First, that an effort be made to have navigation companies handling freight and operating upon Canadian waterways, placed under the jurisdiction of the Railway Commission; second, that

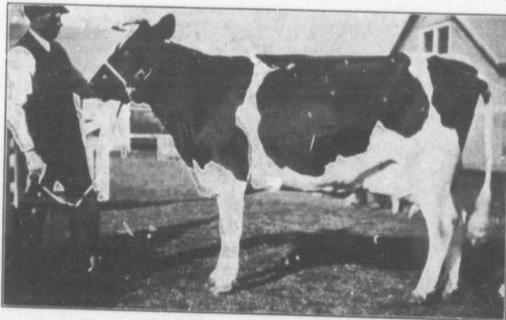
power be given the Railway Commission to adjudicate claims against railways or express companies not settled in 60 days; third, that the Commission be given jurisdiction in the fixing of penalties for rough handling and pilfering; fourth, that fruit inspectors be also cargo inspectors; fifth, that the express minimum be reduced from 20,000 lbs. to 15,000; sixth, that the railway companies allow free transportation both ways for men sent in charge of heated cars; seventh, that the railway companies be asked to provide a special fruit service from central shipping points in Ontario to Winnipeg during the shipping season.

The recommendations made by Mr. McIntosh met with the approval of the Association and were incorporated in their resolutions. It was also decided to print Mr. McIntosh's address in pamphlet form to be distributed among the members of the Association, Members of Parliament, and others who might be interested in the subject.

PEACH DISEASES DISCUSSED

A popular speaker at this as well as several previous conventions, was Mr. L. Caesar, Provincial Entomologist, who discussed "Little Peach and Peach Yellow and Apple Scab." Of the former disease, Mr. Caesar reported a continuous and rapid decrease in the number of trees destroyed each year for Yellows and Little Peach, the total having dropped from 60,000 in 1911 to 6,000 in 1913. He asked for the assistance of all growers in the extermination of these diseases. Prof. Caesar attached little importance to the so-called cures for these diseases, claiming that the only remedy was eradication by digging the diseased trees and burning them.

The new interest that fruit growers are taking in the production of absolutely clean fruit was shown by the interest taken in Mr. Caesar's



The Champion—First in Her Class by Merit of Production

Dairy cows had an opportunity to win honors at Toronto by two distinctly different methods, on conformation and by proving their ability as producers. The winner by the first test appears on the front cover of Farm and Dairy this week. Herewith may be seen Madam B. 3rd Alma Ind. champion of the dairy test. She produced 213 lbs. of 55 per cent milk in the three days. She is owned by W. F. Walker, Manchester, Ont.

—Photo by an editor of Farm and Dairy.

stated most emphatically that he did not believe there was any danger of fruit growers outrunning the demands for their products. "There are consumers enough in Canada," said he, "to use all the tender fruits that can be grown from Toronto, around the head of the lakes and to the Niagara River if all the suitable soil were planted." Mr. Thompson speaks from the experience of many years as the president of one of the oldest, largest and most successful of our cooperative fruit growers' associations. His remedy for the apparent over-production that was in evidence in connection with tender fruits this year and apples last year, is proper distribution. He refuted the idea that Ontario fruit is unpopular in the West and told of the immense shipments that his own company is making there every season and with satisfactory results at both ends. The smaller towns and cities of Ontario and the East also present an enticing market when their needs are intelligently studied.

THE TRANSPORTATION PROBLEM

As at all previous conventions the transporta-