

## THE PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND FRUIT GOWERS' ANNUAL CONVENTION

I FEEL that my horticulturist friends in Ontario may expect a line from me, now that our annual meeting is over, on the work we are trying to do here in orcharding. I shall not attempt to load your columns with the matter of any of the reports, papers or addresses which form the transactions of our association, but merely state in general terms that we assembled in Charlottetown this year on the 3rd and 4th of February, with all the best orchardists in the province in attendance, and Messrs. W. A. McKinnon, A. McNeill and Saxby Blair from without. Our meetings were most enthusiastic all the way through, the night ones being crowded to the doors, and they all furnished much instruction which must ultimately benefit horticulture here.

The fruit show was a revelation to even ourselves. This was the off year with us, and the season was late and the fruit crop as a consequence retarded in growth and ripening. Still, there was never such an apple show here, and the pears were splendid as far as they went; also Mr. McNeill attended the Nova Scotia show before coming here, and certainly Nova Scotia has fine fruit this year and lots of it. He was also at your Ontario show, but he did not hesitate to say that little Prince Edward Island's exhibit of winter fruit was *facile princeps*. We did not expect this verdict this year. We have ambitions in that direction for some near period in the future.

Of all our apples the Baxter and the Gravenstein elicited most agreeable surprise. Of the former I can only say that it is not widely enough grown to be pronounced on definitely; but it is a beauty, and Mr. A. A. Moore, a large grower, declares it everything that can be desired. He gives the lie

direct to many of the unkind things your Ontario committee said of it some few years ago. Do you ever revise your judgments? Of the Gravenstein I can only say that we can equal, if not excel Nova Scotia, and ours is a month later. That means much for us in tempting the British market. Our association has done its share in stimulating fruit growing in the past year. It has now the whole province behind it. Education is omnipotent in this regard at least. As to the amount of aid received from the public chest, it is still absolutely incommensurate. But it is coming up a notch yearly. The papers read were all of a superior class. Vice-President Johnstone's on "The Need of Grafting and My Experience With Same," was one of the best papers we have ever had, and Chief McKinnon declared openly that he had never heard its equal. Mr. Registrar White's paper on "My Experimental Orchard" brought out much practical discussion on varieties and culture. Senator Ferguson's, on "The Apple Market," could not be well bettered, and the other papers and reports were all of absorbing interest. Of course Chief McKinnon gave several of his pleasing and profitable addresses on matters connected with the commercial side of apple growing, and A. McNeill was a host in himself on anything and everything connected with horticulture. He addressed the young people from the cottages, come in to see what a fruit growers' convention was like, with the same ease as he struggled with that interesting question, "Is the Gano and the Black Ben Davis Identical," or "What is the influence of the stock on the cion and vice versa?" Then we had W. Saxby Blair's splendid address on "How to Conserve the Moisture of Or-