HORTICULTURE

Ontario Fruit Growers' Convention

The fiftieth anniversary of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association was marked with great enthusiasm and a large attendance. An excellent number of addresses were given and discussed at the convention held in Toronto, Nov. 10 and 11. The only living charter member of the association, Mr. A. M. Smith, of St. Catharines, was presented with an illuminated address and a purse of money in recognition of his work to the fruit industry of Canada, and of the esteem in which he is held by the members of the organization.

The association passed resolutions respecting legislation that have to deal with the development and progress of the fruit industry. A new Fruit Pest Act was proposed to cover the present Acts respecting these things, and in addition to include certain injurious insects and fungous diseases that have become prevalent since existing Acts were framed The proposed Act will control all leading injurious pests of the orchard including San Jose Scale, codling moth, little peach, black knot, yellows and crown gall. This proposed Act will repeal the present Acts respecting yellows, black knot and noxious insects. Pear blight and pear psylla may be added to the Act on the recommendation of the association.

The association will submit to the Government a recommendation to amend the Pharmacy Act by adding white arsenic to the list of poisons that may be handled by grocers and others outside of druggists and chemists. A committee was appointed to draft and submit to the Dominion Government an Act to cover the adulteration of all chemicals used by fruit growers.

In his opening address President E. D. Smith reviewed the progress of fruit growing during the past half century. He said that the future of apple growing lies in producing perfect fruit. The Ontario Government should establish short courses in apple packing in all fruit districts. The compulsory care of orchards and training in packing and marketing fruit will work wonders in improving the apple industry of the whole country.

SMALL FRUIT CULTURE

Small fruit culture in Ontario during the past 50 years was dealt with by Mr. A. W. Peart of Burlington. He traced the history of small fruit culture by periods of 10 years, the most recent of which was marked by much progress. He estimated the area in small fruits for 1909 at 9,000 acres. He said that the outlook for the future is promising. Better systems of distribution, an increase of population, the advancing tide of immigration towards the north-west and other factors are creating a demand for our fruits, both fresh and canned, the potentialities of which are unlimited.

The advisability of growing small fruits in young apple orchards was discussed by Mr. L. A. Hamilton of Lorne Park, and the overplanting of strawberries was dealt with by Mr. Robert Thompson of St. Catharines. These papers will be reported at length in a later issue.

CHERRIES

"Sweet Cherries for South-Western Ontario," was the subject of an excellent address by Mr. F. C. Stewart of Homer. He pointed out that the soil for this class of fruit should be light and dry. The varieties recommended were Gov. Wood, Alton, Napoleon Biggareau, Black Tartarian and Windsor. Mr. A. E. Sherrington of Walkerton dealt with sour cherries These papers will appear later.

GRAPES

The premature marketing of grapes was the subject of an interesting discussion. The general consensus of opinion was that this is a mistaken policy. Grapes picked before they are ripe hurt the market. How grapes are grown in New York State was told by Mr. D. K. Falvay, Westfield, N.Y.; "Is Grape Growing Profitable at Present Prices?" was ably discussed by Ontario's well-known vineyardist Mr. Murray Pettit, Winona. The speaker claimed that there is no profit in grapes at 10 or 12 cents a basket, which was the prevailing price this year.

PEACHES

The question of pruning peaches was dealt with by Messrs. J. W. Smith of Winona, Wm. Armstrong, Queenston and others. From these address and discussions that they incited it would seem that our growers are now adopting the low-headed trees in preference to high headed ones. Practical principles for profitable peach production were referred to by Mr. C. E. Bassett of Fennville Mich.

PEARS

Much valuable information was given on pear culture by Mr. W. F. Fisher of Burlington and Mr. J. R. Cornell of Newburgh, N.Y. These papers will be referred to at further length in another issue. Mr. Cornell pointed out that cultivation, fertility, light pruning and intelligent spraying are necessary in the production of this crop.

APPLES

The marketing of apples was discussed by Mr. R. J. Graham of Belleville, who stated that there is a splendid opportunity for popularizing Canadian apples in the British markets. Mr. C. E. Bassett told of the advantages of co-operation, and stated that such were obtained not only in the selling end, but also in the buying of supplies needed by growers. Mr. S. E. Todd of Guelph showed, by the use of charts, that most of the district bordering on Lake Huron could be made into one large orchard. In his report of a survey made there during the past season he showed that it pays to spray, fertilize, cultivate and organize.

In a practical address on spraying, Mr. Max Smith of Burlington stated that it costs to spray three times during the season with lime-sulphur and arsenate of lead about 33 cents per tree, by using a power sprayer. By the use of this combination, Mr. Smith has had excellent results. The value of lime sulphur as a summer spray compared with Bordeaux mixture was discussed by Mr. L. Caesar of Guelph. These papers will be reported in a later issue. A number of other addresses and discussions that took place also will appear later.

A Striking Display at the Ontario Horticultural Exhibition in Toronto, Last Week

This exhibit was put up by the Norfolk Fruit Growers' Association, Simcoe, Ont., of which Mr. James E. Johnson is manager. It was a prominent feature of the exhibition. The fruit was well-colored, clean and of good size, and was all grown by members of that Association. The display was an excellent advertisement for that district.

Ontario Horticultural Exhibition

(*Continued from page 2*)

exhibits were shown by Brant and York.

The most striking feature of the fruit department was a grand display put up by the Norfolk Fruit Growers' Association which is illustrated on this page. This exhibit reflected much credit on this association and on the district in general. Northumberland and Durham also had a fine display of about 40 or 50 varieties of apples, all good samples.

The St. Lawrence Experiment Station at Maitland, of which Mr. Harold Jones is director, made an excellent display of the varieties grown there. A striking feature of this display were the large, perfect, highly-colored specimens of Fameuse which Mr. Jones is developing through propagating from a bearing tree in his orchard that produces a superior strain of that variety. Lake Huron Experiment Station, at Walkerton, through its director, Mr. A. E. Sherrington put up a large and attractive exhibit of fruits in the fresh state and in bottles.

The specimen apples or standard varieties for which first prizes of $10 and second prizes of $5 were offered, were the subjects of much interest and comment. For most perfect Baldwin, first prize went to Norfolk F.G.A. and second to Robert Thompson, St Catharines. Greening:—1st, C. W. Challand, Marburg; 2nd, R. T. Michael, Brooklin. King:—1st, C. W. Challand; 2nd, W. C. Parker, Humber Bay. McIntosh:—1st; John McDonald, Cornwall; 2nd, W. M. Robson, Lindsay. Spy:—1st, W. C. Oughtred, Clarkson; 2nd, R. T. Michael.

High-class specimens of apples, pears and grapes were shown in the general plate sections and in pyramids. A large number of entries in preserved fruits attracted much attention.

The vegetable department vied with the fruit in quality if not in quantity. The stuff mostly was perfect in variety, type and well grown. First prize for best general collection of vegetables shown went to W. Harris; 2nd, Brown Bros.; 3rd, J. W. Rush, all of Humber Bay.

Fruit Marks Act.—Further prosecutions by Dominion Fruit Inspectors for illegal marking and packing of apples, have resulted in the following convictions: J. P. Dunn, Streetsville, Ont.; J. A. and E. Brown, Port Hope, Ont.; W. J. Henders, Port Perry, Ont.; Albert Brent, Port Perry, Ont.; C. F. Chase, Frankford Ont.; Philips & White, Frankford, Ont.; Philips & White, Frankford Ont.; R. J. Graham, Belleville, Ont.; Thos. Brain, Oakville, Ont.; E. P Ainsworth, Brighton, Ont.; Royal Fruit Co., Edmonton, Alta. The fines in these cases ranged from $10 to $50.

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