

right technical word ready in French. I saw the dignified and scientific names of things here, that common words? "I get these names in an English paper," was the reply.

"The college takes 'The Farmer's Advocate,' then?"

"O! Not only the college! More than three-fourths of the students here subscribe to 'The Farmer's Advocate,' and 'discuss it' every Saturday evening at the meeting of the debating club."

I rather felt that the little French-Canadian student was politely giving me blarney, but I forgot the incident.

A few days later, when the mail came in to the College, I saw the dignified and scientific names of things here, that common words? "I get these names in an English paper," was the reply.

TRAVELLING FARMER.

THE FARM BULLETIN.

The frequency with which bank robberies have occurred in Ontario and Quebec of late gave rise to a discussion at the annual meeting of the Canadian Bankers' Association in Toronto last week. The city police do good work, but constables in rural sections are not sufficiently experienced to follow up cases of safe-blowing. This is another fact pointing to the advantage of Provincial forces of rural police.

Fruit, Flowers, Vegetables, and Honey.

The annual foregathering of fruit-growers, vegetable-growers, florists and apiarists occurred in Toronto last week in connection with the Ontario Horticultural Exhibition, held this year in the St. Lawrence Arena.

The Horticultural Exhibition opened auspiciously on the evening of Thanksgiving Day, with a large attendance, while four conventions, representing the various horticultural interests concerned in the show, were held at various points in the city. All these events have been covered by the regular editorial staff of "The Farmer's Advocate," and a concentrated extract of the information elicited, as well as a concise review of the proceedings, will appear in this and subsequent issues.

HORTICULTURAL CONVENTION.

The third annual convention of the Ontario Horticultural Association, held in the City Hall, Toronto, last week, gave a great impetus to the civic-improvement movement, whereby Ontario's homes in cities and towns, and rural parts of the Province, will be made more beautiful, and the Province more attractive for all classes. In order to make the desirable improvements possible, legislation has been suggested to control the bill-board nuisance and the erection of advertising monstrosities; to require that no dogs shall run at large in town or city, and that telegraph and telephone poles be placed underground. Another feature of the convention was the faith expressed in the ability of the press to help in the good work of home beautification, by making the facts and methods of procedure public.

The President of the Provincial Association, in opening the convention, dwelt on the important educational benefit to the common people, and pointed out that national happiness depended on several small satisfactions. The efforts of the local horticultural societies comprising the greater association would lead to friendly rivalry locally, and to co-operation on the whole. The chief aim was the development of homemaking and the production of homes that would put an end to boys and girls imagining they could find more congenial surroundings elsewhere.

The report of the secretary, J. Lockie Wilson, showed that the societies were making substantial gains. Returns from over 40 societies indicated that only 9 had decreases, and these were only slight. The most noticeable gains were Ottawa, from 385 to 1,010, and St. Catharines, from 426 to 701. Other societies increased the membership over 50 per cent., and a few 100 per cent.

The treasurer, H. B. Cowan, reported a balance on hand of \$152.30, as against \$86.10 a year ago. This did not include the expenses of speakers to the convention. To an oversight in the Department of Agriculture, in preparing the estimates, was attributed non-receipt of the customary grant of \$100.

The officers elected for the ensuing year are: President, Maor H. J. Snelgrove, of Cobourg; 1st Vice-President, R. B. Whyte, of Ottawa; 2nd Vice-President, Roderick Cameron, of Toronto; Secretary, J. Lockie Wilson, Department of Agriculture, Toronto; Treasurer, H. B. Cowan, of Peterboro. Honorary Directors—W. B. Burgoyne, of St. Catharines; Professor Hutt, of O. A. C., Guelph; and Prof. Macoun, of Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. Directors for Districts—Rev. A. H. Scott, of Perth; W. Jeffers Diamond, of Belleville; Miss M. E. Blacklock, of Toronto; A. Alexander, of Hamilton; Jas. Mitchell, of Goderich; Geo. W. Tebbs, of Hespeler; J. S. Pearce, of London.

Figures showing the membership and expenditure of societies, given by W. B. Burgoyne, of St. Catharines, told the merits of the amendments to the act in reference to Horticultural Societies. Forty-three societies had an increased membership of 2,012, or an advance of forty-five per cent. It was suggested that the Department of Agriculture give further assistance to horticultural work by increasing the annual grant from \$8,000 to \$12,000.

A paper prepared by—J. E. Watson, of Ottawa.

and read by S. Short, gave the results of increased enthusiasm in the Capital City, after the revised Act gave an opportunity to augment the funds by working hard for larger membership. Business men could be induced to join, but they expected to be treated in a business way, and not as though horticultural work were a fad. A live and businesslike executive was a necessity. All progressive citizens had the interest of the city or town at heart, and would join if they knew the situation. For this reason the newspapers must be won, and their support insured. Every up-to-date paper or journal aided such laudable work, and gave space freely. With such a system of directing efforts, Ottawa's membership jumped from 385 to 1,010 last year.

In the discussion following, J. P. Jaffray, of Galt, dwelt on the importance of doing work that

PLANT-BREEDING.

"Scientific Plant-breeding," by H. H. Groff, of Simcoe, proved to be an interesting topic. Observation was said to be one of the essentials to success, while a well-directed imagination had much to do with obtaining the end sought. In any event, it meant hard and persevering effort. The effects of light, heat, soil, moisture and food supply, as well as the individual characteristics of the plant, had to be considered. Mr. Groff characterized this as the age of hybrids, where man is developing new and valuable varieties by the use of well-known plants from wild and cultivated areas. The instability of form recognized in all life was made use of by the breeder to produce something better than had been grown. Characters were transferred, but chances of obtaining duplicates were slight. When the desirable type was secured, it could be reproduced by cuttings, or grafts. To show the change of demand, Mr. Groff stated that, while customers used to request, "Send no reds," the higher shades of that color were now sought after, and he had refused \$10 for a single corymb of a popular red gladiolus.

As a new departure, Mr. Groff had devoted some time to corn-breeding, with the object of getting an ear averaging 5 to 7 inches in length, so that canners can put up corn on the cob for table use at any season. Already he had satisfactory results, and hoped to supply the necessary. In all his work his object had been to supply the largest possible quantity of high quality at the lowest possible cost.

A chart for the ordinary town or city lot, or a residence on any property where a similar area is given to house and surroundings, was presented by Roderick Cameron, Assistant Park Commissioner, of Toronto. Desirable arrangements of house, walks, drives, trees, flowers, etc., were given, with the



Sunflowers Grown for the Poultry.

Giant Russian Sunflower in the Poultry Plant, and Poultry Students at La Trappe, Que.

would enlist the children of the district as helpers in the interests of horticulture. In his town, great good had resulted from this distribution of seeds and the planting of school gardens. The value of town councils in beautifying towns or cities was small, compared with that of a permanent parks board. Secretary Wilson dealt severely with the scanty space and little attention paid to the great horticultural show and conventions by Toronto papers. Comparatively unimportant events could be spread over half a page, where these great meetings had to be passed by with a few inches, or at most a column. Representatives from Goderich, Guelph, St. Catharines, and other points, assured the delegates that every newspaper in their communities was anxious to secure copy dealing with the work of horticultural societies. There was not a local paper in the Province that would not assist the society.

precautionary advice to avoid straight lines.

WINDOW BOXES, BASKETS AND RUSTIC STANDS.

The usefulness of window boxes, baskets and rustic stands in brightening up the homes in city, town or country, was dealt with by Wm. Hunt, of the Ontario Agricultural College. Boxes could be made at slight expense out of ordinary inch lumber. Dark olive-green paint should be applied on outside and two inches down the inside. Such box, if well cared for, would last nine or ten years. Imported cork bark made an attractive covering for the box, but native barks could be used to advantage.

In order to give good appearance for the entire season, it was necessary to have strong plants in rich soil. Rich loam or rotted sod, with a liberal admixture of well-rotted manure and bone