

# Work Being Planned by the Ontario Vegetable Growers

THE various branch associations of the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association have all held their annual meetings, and appointed their representatives on the board of the provincial association, which is now fully organized. A meeting of the executive committee of the Ontario Association was held in the secretary's office, Toronto, Feb. 7. Those present included Messrs. J. H. Lewis, of the Hamilton branch; Geo. Syme, Jr., Jos. Rush, F. F. Reeves, and Thomas Delworth of the Toronto branch; John Atkin of the Sarnia branch, Mr. Ross of the Chatham branch, A. McMeans of the Brantford branch, W. C. McCalla of the St. Catharines branch, and the secretary, H. B. Cowan. Mr. Robert Thompson, president of the St. Catharines branch, was also in attendance, although not a duly qualified delegate.

The secretary reported that lists of paid-up members had been received from the various branches as follows, entitling them to the number of representatives on the provincial board mentioned: Toronto, 152 members, 6 directors; Brantford 25 members; St. Catharines, 26; Chatham, 26; Hamilton, 30; Sarnia, 25; each entitled to one director.

The election of officers resulted as follows: President, F. F. Reeves, of Humber Bay; 1st vice-pres., A. McMeans, Brantford; sec.-treas., H. B. Cowan, Toronto.

Mr. Rush reported on behalf of the committee who had been appointed to interview Mr. Putnam in regard to a series of meetings for vegetable growers, that he had seen Mr. Putnam, who was willing to assist this work.

The secretary read a series of questions that had been sent to the branch associations, and the representatives from the various associations reported the decisions of their members in regard to the points raised in the statement. On motion of Mr. Delworth, seconded by Mr. Ross, it was decided to appoint an executive committee which committee should conduct the routine business of the association. On motion of Mr. McCalla, seconded by Mr. Atkin, the president, vice-president, Mr. Lewis and the secretary were appointed a committee.

The advisability of the association expending money to obtain crop reports was considered. The feeling of the meeting was that crop reports would be a splendid thing for the vegetable growers of the province, and that if they were issued properly they would be of great value. The best method of obtaining these crop reports was considered, and the expression of opinion was that it would be better to have a few men in the leading vegetable sections paid to forward letters at stated intervals covering the conditions in their sections, rather than to obtain a large number of correspondents and expect them to report for nothing. It was pointed out that such men would make it their business to acquaint themselves with the actual conditions in their districts. The matter was left in the hands of the executive committee with power to act.

The advisability of petitioning the government to appoint an appraiser whose duty it would be to examine consignments of vegetables from the United States imported into Canada and find if they were undervalued by the consignee, and where such was found to be the case to place a proper valuation on same was considered. It was decided that a deputation from the association should wait on the Dominion Government and impress on the government the urgent need for a specific duty on vegetables, but failing this the need for the appointment of a competent appraiser, whose duty it would be to watch the valuation placed on vegetables imported into Canada through the principal points of entry. On motion of Mr. Lewis, Messrs. Delworth, McMeans and the secretary were appointed a committee to wait on the government to press this matter. The committee was authorized to arrange with the growers in the Province of Quebec and with growers in the vicinity of Ottawa, to act with them in pressing this matter on the government.

The executive committee was instructed to wait on the Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, to request that experimental work in the growing of vegetables and combating insect pests, fungus diseases, etc., be carried on much more extensively than in the past. It was stated that this committee should gain information as to what has been done in this direction not only in Ontario but in the States of the American Union.

Mr. Syme reported that the committee to wait on the officials of the Toronto Industrial Exhibition to see that the association was given proper representation on the board of management of that exhibition had seen Dr. Orr. At first Dr. Orr had not given them as cordial a reception as they felt they were entitled to receive, and it was not until they intimated that the association might be willing to make a grant to the Toronto Industrial that Dr. Orr seemed willing to give them the reception they felt they should have been accorded. Dr. Orr finally suggested that a committee from the association should meet

with him and go over the prize list for the Toronto Industrial. On motion of Mr. Syme, Mr. Reeves and Mr. Rush were appointed to confer with Dr. Orr in regard to this matter.

The secretary reported that he had written to the members of parliament in the various districts of the province where it was stated that there were vegetable growers and had asked them for the names of prominent growers who might be interested in forming branches of the association. He had received a large number of replies from the members, and thought it would be advisable for a committee to be appointed to go into this matter thoroughly. One reply from the Napanee section stated that there should be no difficulty in organizing a branch at that point with 170 members. The executive committee was authorized to act as an organization committee.

Messrs. Reeves, Delworth, McCalla and Lewis were appointed to represent the association on the executive of the Ontario Horticultural Exhibition.

## Our Prince Edward Island Letter

Rev. Father Burke, Alberton, P.E.I.

AS the session of Federal Parliament is to be called March 8, the Horticultural Council so anxiously awaited by the fruit growers will not assemble until about the middle of that month. Meantime the schedule of questions is before those concerned, and it is the duty of the delegates to properly qualify themselves to intelligently discuss the subjects, and give a vote calculated to advance the general interests involved. Coordinated action is earnestly required to remove from the region of controversy many of the burning questions that have beset the instruction propaganda of the country, and confused the public mind at home and abroad. Different sections may hold widely different views, but a policy of give and take must be adopted in many things, so that something definite may be snatched from the assembly, and the fruit interest advanced a long pace towards complete organization.

In Prince Edward Island we are deeply interested in all the phases of horticulture, from the educational to the commercial. We had a sort of paternal attention from the Federal Department of Agriculture under Prof. Robertson. Since his withdrawal from the general commission-ership of agriculture for Canada, however, this department has failed us, and failed us at a most untoward time. The fruit inspectors under the Marks Act were here as instructors in the interim between crops and they did much to advance horticulture generally. They visited the neglected orchards and inspired the dejected with new courage: they brought fresh methods

and new ideas to those who were busy at the work; they held meetings and aroused the whole community—and thus thoroughly awakened the province to its possibilities in fruit production.

The fruit division at reconstruction went as an appendage to the dairy division, and with this much of its usefulness, so far as we were concerned, departed. The instructors were withdrawn at the moment the province was suffering from a great loss in its orchards because of severe snow banks which resulted in the breaking down of innumerable plantations. Then spraying was withheld and instruction done away with as a specialty of our horticulture, with the result that the forward pace of other years has not been maintained.

We hope for a better adjustment of representative interests at Ottawa, and a return to the policy that helps the country forward most here, handicapped by our insularity, we cannot be too generously treated in the encouragement of the few pursuits that can be followed with some show of success.

Our winter is not such so far—and the worst is probably past—as to cause us any concern about our apple plantations. The weather is very mild and there is enough snow to cover the ground perfectly, but not enough to make dangerous banks such as break down trees, or afford a shelter for the mischievous mouse. The glass has seldom registered zero, and the killing back of severe seasons need not be feared. There is no ice in the straits. The conditions are unusually mild.

## Workmen Fined Too

Further penalties have been meted out to those who persist in violating the Fruit Marks Act. Some time ago Mr. Jas. Coyle, of Colborne, was fined \$50 and costs for improper marking. This was not sufficient to put a stop to the fraudulent practice in that section. Since the first conviction John Coyle, a member of the firm of J. and R. Coyle, apple operators, Colborne, Ont., has been fined \$30 and costs as owner at the time of packing of very poor apples marked No. 1 in violation of section 6 of the act. He also was fined \$5 and costs under section 4 of the order-in-council, as foreman of the men who packed this fruit.

Geo. Bachelor, boss packer for J. and R. Coyle, and A. Turney, boss packer for F. C. Morrow, were fined \$5 and costs under section 4 of the order-in-council. Other convictions under section 6 of the Fruit Marks Act were: C. A. Nugent, fined \$5; F. F. Snelgrove, \$12.75;

R. D. Snelgrove, \$6.50; and J. D. Osborne, \$6, with costs in each case.

In the case of the workmen, Messrs. Bachelor and Turney, there was no desire to be particularly severe. It was only where there was the clearest evidence of the workmen knowingly assisting in perpetrating a fraud that the fruit inspectors felt justified in prosecuting the laborers in the packing houses.

Seed Potatoes.—Smith Bros., of Beachville, have worked up a large business in seed growing. Last year over 1,000 bushels of potatoes alone were grown for seed. This firm is carrying on a very important work in selecting from the finest of the finest each year. The Eldorado potato, mentioned in their advertisement in this issue, is highly spoken of as a heavy cropper and good quality. Smith Bros. are members of The Canadian Seed Growers' Association, and sell seed stock with registered pedigrees.