

fruit-growers, and especially members of the Fruit-Growers' Association of Ontario, to advance fruit culture? I crave your patient indulgence and generous criticism. The views are entirely my own, and to be received and acted on with caution, on account of my limited experience in fruit-growing.

The first, and one of the most important influences for the advancement of our interests and those of the country, is the proper outlay of the means placed at our disposal by the Act of our Provincial Legislature. If private means and enterprise have so much benefitted horticulture, how much more the intelligent disposal of public money. Any of our members, some years ago, were taken with the idea of an experimental farm. This useful old and stereotyped notion has been productive of much good in its day, in older and more advanced countries than ours. But what we desiderate, is the formation of the whole Province into an experimental farm, for the propagation and testing of old and new fruits. Our Province is so varied in its climate and height that what suits one quarter seems to be the very reverse in another. Even at short distances the most singular contrasts appear. An apple does well at Windsor, but it fails at Toronto or Kingston. We require, therefore, to know not only the best fruit, but also the locality where it will succeed the best. We are aware that soil has much to do in this case, but we will reserve this question for a distinct paragraph. The plan adopted last year is a good one, and has borne the test, and nothing could have been more successful, I mean, the issuing of a plant or fruit that is of superior excellence, asking for its cultivation, and annual report of its success. The dissemination of the Kumlan grape has largely benefited the Society in the way of additions to the membership—not far short of 300 new subscribers were obtained in the city of Hamilton alone, and large accessions throughout the country in general.

It is not to be expected, indeed, none of the promoters of this movement for a moment suppose that the fruit trees distributed will prove wholly suitable—that is not to be expected, but it is no little gain to intending purchasers for the Society to be able to say such and such a variety has been tried in your neighborhood, and under similar circumstances it will not succeed.

We are satisfied that attention has not been sufficiently directed to the geological strata of our country, and to the question of the influence of the different strata on fruit growing. Some years ago I was incidentally led in this direction, by the observation of the fact that the finer varieties of fruits flourish well in a friend's garden at Goderich. I tried to account for it, and passed in review before my mind the moderating influence of Lake Huron, and the height above the sea, but to the discomfiture of all my notions, I further found that the same fruits were only produced in certain localities, and not throughout the length of the district—Kincardine, Goderich, and Bayfield. In looking at Sir William Logan's geological map, I saw that a certain formation cropped at those places, and from the fact that the varieties of fruit did not appear to do well at certain intermediate localities, where they had been tried and where a difference prevailed, I was forced to the conclusion that the geological formation of a country has much to do with good fruit raising, and that the question of soil, now as of old, is of paramount importance to us as encour-

agers and directors of fruit growing. So impressed was I with this idea, when Mr. Baudle and I prepared your last fruit report, that I then proposed a new distribution as a basis of comparison, viz:—a geological one instead of one into districts. It has not happened that you get a report from two members living a stone throw from each other in the same district, in the same valley, on the same plateau, with similar exposures. Such reports are contradictory and unsatisfactory. Mention may be made of the same fruit trees, doing badly in one case and well in another. Such reports are not only puzzling to compilers of statistics but worthless as data on which to build up any practical plan and direction for local fruit growing. We would suggest that our Society should bring out the views of members on this point, give a premium for the best essay on the different geological strata best adapted to fruit culture. It would ventilate this important subject, and nothing loses but mustiness by ventilation.

Let me also notice the question of the utilization of fruit when it has been raised. I do not refer to its consumption by the immediate producers and their immediate neighbors, but as to the mode of dealing with it, that others at a distance may also be induced to enquire for it. Exhibitions are most commendable, and I could not, I would not lift up any derogatory word against their usefulness. Our presence here, on this occasion, would be a living rebuke to any such rash sentence. It seems to me, however, that we have got beyond the day of exhibitions, pure and simple, these being accomplished facts. What we want now is the utilization of our exhibited fruits.

The Hon. George Brown, at a recent meeting of the Local Committee, suggested that subjects of discussion, arising out of the articles exhibited at our Provincial Fairs, should be fair, and temperately canvassed on the different evenings of the Exhibition week. The benefit likely to accrue from this, if undertaken, is so apparent, that it requires only to be put to commend itself to every exhibitor. Publicity is the grand desideratum of our exhibitions. Competition involves publicity. The fact of our having goods or products better than our neighbor, and more deserving of public confidence, requires to be known. What I would urge would be that not only should our Association order its Directors to prepare questions for discussion, connected with our speciality, but that they should be so widely disseminated through the press, that intelligent and practical farmers, interested in the Horticultural branch of their profession, should come up to the place of exhibition and to the meetings for discussion, prepared to take an active and prominent part for the general good.

The question of utilization does not end here, though it may, well begin with the former suggestion. We would like to see the samples of our exhibited fruits at our Provincial shows, more widely distributed, to catch the eyes of as many beholders as possible. Let the Provincial Association pass a rule, that all prize farm and garden products are to be considered as the property of the Association, and a difficulty is obviated in these not being the property of the Association. Something similar is done by the owners of stock and machines. Why not with fruits? The same bull that took the prize to-day may be exhibited next week in a distant county, and