

were on the committee of examination. One of them writing lately (Dr. Hoskins) says:—"I think it would be well, after selecting say six or eight of the most promising varieties to distribute scions to interested and careful fruit growers throughout the Province, keeping a list of their names and getting reports from them from year to year until they have a fair trial." The foregoing is very practical work and, should even one or two good varieties be found among the lot, the country would be repaid the cost many fold. A number of the native seedlings have been put away for further examination during the winter, the result of which will be known later.

The Society again offered prizes this year for the best peck of seedling apples sent in on the 1st May last. The competition resulted in first prize being awarded to Mr. Jack, of Chateauguay Basin, 2nd prize to J. Smith, Lachine, and 3rd prize to R. Hamilton, Grenville. All of them seemed to be apples of very good quality, and the apples obtaining the 2nd prize, though irregular in size, were of a very fine flavour indeed. This is a prize it would seem advisable if possible to keep up.

The society was again able to offer prizes for winter gardening the past year, M. H. Gault, Esq., M. P., having again liberally subscribed fifty dollars in aid of the object. The result of their awards has already been published.

The members of the society are again indebted to the following ladies and gentlemen for their courtesy in opening their conservatories on stated dates during last winter, viz.: Mrs. Redpath, Andrew Allan, Wm. Lunn, Edw. MacKay, E. P. Hannaford, Hon. D. A. Smith, and Andrew Robertson, Esqrs. The first conservatory was opened on the 20th January and the last one on the 20th of March. I trust that even a larger number may be open the coming winter, especially during carnival week, as two or three fine new conservatories have been added the past summer to those already in existence.

The regular annual show of the society took place in the Victoria Rink on the 18th, 19th and 20th September. The weather was very fine, but the amount of money taken in at the door was disappointingly small, being only \$325, against \$663 in 1882, \$668 in 1881, \$1,002 in 1880, and \$291 in 1879. The opinion has been expressed by some that a large Provincial Exhibition was rather a hindrance than a help to the show of this society. The foregoing statement will easily refute this, as in the first and last years named there was no Provincial Exhibition, while there was one held the other three years.