

THE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL ADDRESS.

Gentlemen of the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario,

The usages of your Association make it obligatory upon the President to deliver an Annual Address. Occupying, by a singular mistake of the Society, the position of President, I attempt to perform a duty that should have been given into abler hands.

Friends of Horticulture,—We meet again, after the labours of another year, to exchange friendly greetings—to look back upon the results of our toil, and with words of cheer to encourage each other to new endeavour. The lessons of past success or failure will alike instruct us, and if rightly learned we stand to-day on vantage ground to take up the work of the coming year. Our meetings during the year have been of more than usual interest, and well attended. The discussions, to those who had the privilege to take part in them, have been of a very important character, and I only regret that any of our members have been unable to avail themselves of these opportunities for receiving and imparting information. You, gentlemen, who have taken part in promoting the usefulness of this Association, have reason to feel proud of so great a work already achieved. The results of your labour are now to be found everywhere in very much improved systems of the cultivation of fruits. The orchard is beginning to receive some considerable share of the attention of the farmer. Finding that no insignificant part of the income of the farm is derived from the orchard, more extensive plantations are being made, and enquiry instituted for the varieties most likely to be remunerative. It is to be regretted that many of the older orchards were planted with varieties not profitable for market, or not calculated to withstand the severity of the climate, which had its effect to discourage the cultivation of fruit in many sections. In this your labours have been appreciated, aiding them to make better selections of varieties that are better suited to their soil, climate, commercial and culinary purposes. We now find among us farmers who are well informed as to varieties and the better methods of cultivation; and though it is true that some of them will tell you that they were never members of your Association, yet we find that the reading of our discussions, published, however imperfectly, in their paper, has been of no small service to them—so great, indeed, that if they would only reflect for a moment they must surely see that they have lost much by not attending our meetings, and participating in our discussions and interchange of ideas. Nor is it merely loss of practical information of no small value. Does it not help us much in our individual struggles to meet now and then with those who know the same trials—to grasp their friendly hand and enjoy their sympathy? And when we have told what little we know, garnered from our own experience, is there no pleasure in the thought that perhaps we have helped some toiling brother up his hill of difficulty?

CATALOGUE OF FRUITS.

It has been the opinion of some of us that a catalogue of the fruits cultivated in our country would be useful to the majority, but there are very great difficulties attending the publishing of such a work. Such is the effect of climate, for instance, upon the different varieties of fruit in different localities, that an apple which will succeed at Niagara is often found to fail in the more eastern counties. The culture of the peach is confined very nearly to only three of our agricultural divisions, while the grape and most of the small fruits have been found to succeed in almost every part of Ontario. Your Committee has asked each Director to make a report from his division upon the fruits cultivated therein. These reports will not only be of great practical value to the fruit-grower, but will largely take the place of a catalogue, and remain among our records for centuries, and become a history of the progress that is being made by your Association.

INCREASE OF MEMBERSHIP.

We often ask ourselves how can we best manage so as to increase our membership. We tell the people that they will get a copy of our report, to which they reply, "We get

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