

REPORT ON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETIES FOR 1898.

The number of affiliated societies in operation as reported at the annual meeting of the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario in December last was twenty-seven, with a total membership of 2,076. I now find from the list as published in the last Annual Report that the number of societies for the year 1898 is given as thirty-six, with a total membership of 2,610. Omitting from this list Burlington society where the membership is not given, and the Paris society, for sufficient cause, the true number of societies for 1898 is thirty-four and the membership 2,551. My work this year, which is now about concluded, will I venture to hope add several new societies to the list for 1899, which, if a corresponding aggregate is maintained, will make the membership from these societies something over 3,000 for the year 1899.

As the yearly aggregate and the yearly average of membership of each of the affiliated societies will be an increasingly interesting item for comparison with future years, I add the following comprehensive table commencing with the year 1895, which should be continued, or added to, for many a year to come :

Year.	No. of societies in affiliation.	Aggregate of membership.	Average per annum for each society.
1895.....	11	798	72.5
1896.....	17	1,197	70.4
1897.....	27	2,076	77.0
1898.....	34	2,551	75.0

I wish also to call the attention of the Board to the desirability of having a skeleton draft of by laws suitable for the guidance of the horticultural societies prepared as quickly as possible, and that a copy with the necessary instructions for their adoption be sent to each society.

Most of these societies are doing excellent service for our country and are deserving of every encouragement and assistance that can be given by the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario.

THOS. BEALL.

In accordance with this suggestion, the directors afterward appointed Mr. Beall and the secretary a committee to draft the by-laws. (See page 54.)

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FRUITS ON EXHIBITION.

We, your committee, find on exhibition the following fruits :

Shown by T. R. Merritt, St. Catharines : Two varieties of Rogers, Niagara and Vergennes grapes in a good state of preservation and of fine quality ; fine samples of Columbia, Clairgeau and Lawrence pears ; Rhode Island Greening, Rox. Russett, Ben Davis, Baldwin and Fall Pippin apples, also a fine display of hot-house plants, including two specimens of Australian ferns.

A. M. Smith, St. Catharines, has fine samples of Duchess d' Angouleme, Anjou, Lawrence, Josephine de Malines pears ; Champion quinces and Sutton Beauty apples, the latter a new claimant for public favor.

E. H. Wartman, Kingston, shows thirteen varieties of apples grown by Jas. Russell, of Wolfe Island, namely, Cayuga Red Streak, Colvert, Blenheim Orange, Cabashea, R. 1. Greening, Tolman Sweet, Baldwin, Gilliflower, Snow, Seek-no-Further, Grimes Golden, all of excellent quality.