

Late grapes have done well. There are sections in which nothing in the shape of grapes have been left. Plums are about half a crop, in some places abundant, and realizing good prices. Mr. Woolverton, Grimsby, says that in his district, the apples are not much touched. Peaches largely escaped, but owing to another evil, not less terrible than the frost—the Yellows—are but an indifferent crop, and of very poor quality where this disease has prevailed.

The difficulties attending fruit-growing are steadily on the increase. We had supposed that, as the country progressed in its material advancement, as clearances became more numerous, and the land better cultivated, our culture would make correspondingly rapid strides. This, however, in our experience is not found to be the case. Innumerable evils and trials beset the path of the horticulturist. Last year, in my address, I directed attention to the drawbacks to our cultivation, caused by the terrible depredations of insect pests. Their name is legion, and many of them unpronounceable. Thoughtful individuals amongst us have begun to consider what are the best means for lessening, if not for the removal of these evils. It will be a happy day for the fruit-grower when adequate methods are devised, and universally carried out, for the total destruction of all noxious insects, or at least their being brought under the control of the fruit-grower.

In the case of frosts, even much can be done to alleviate, if not obviate its sad ravages. One man of my acquaintance had a large number of chip piles through his orchard, and on the appearance of a clear sky, indicative of frost, fired them. Whether a sheltered locality, or the means he employed, favoured him, true it is, that his orchard is loaded with fruit.

We are persuaded that insect pests can only be got rid of by legislation. It is not until the whole country is aroused to the loss entailed on the community by the attacks of insect pests, not until a well enforced law to destroy fallen and stung fruit be carried out, will our fruit-growers reap the full reward of their labours.

Surely it is a matter of regret that year after year passes, annual meetings of the F. G. A. of Ontario come and go, without active and practical plans being broached and executed for the protection of our own members.

Perhaps the habit of lecturing is so engrained in the nature of your presiding officer, that his address would be scarcely *sui generis* unless it contained an earnest inculcation to immediate action. There are so many drags on the wheels of action, that there is no fear of any sudden catastrophe from our stepping down and out.

Why should we not appoint an active committee to draft such a bill for the protection of fruit interests as would meet with favour in the eyes of our legislators at Ottawa, who might pass it into a permanent enactment? Such a bill might embrace two or three paragraphs on statistics.

The importance and advantage of such immediate action can scarcely be denied. I have sometimes thought, that an Executive Committee formed from our direction would effect great results, if armed with the necessary power to originate and carry out plans for the better working of our associational efforts.

Another subject, and pressing, demanding the immediate and prompt attention of our members, is, the ravages of "the Yellows" in our peach orchards. Mr. A. M. Smith, nurseryman, Drummondville, deserves well of our Association in that he has been sounding the trumpet of warning in reference to this destructive agent. In a recent communication to me, he says: "The peach-growers of Grimsby, and, I might say, of Ontario, are in trouble, and are in danger of a great calamity, and not only peach-growers, but all lovers of this delicious fruit as well." It is spreading with fearful rapidity in Western New York, nearly all the orchards, in what was formerly the best peach section being more or less affected. Some orchards are entirely ruined by it. Mr. Smith further says, that he and others, have been examining the orchards in and around Grimsby, and traces of the disease are found in several places. "The Committee of investigation found out this fact, that in all the orchards where there were symptoms of the disease, there were more or less trees which had been imported from the States, and where the trees were all home grown, there was not one as yet affected. The disease is no doubt disseminated in diseased pips, buds, and young trees, and fruit of the present year. There have been hundreds of baskets of diseased peaches, shipped from Western New York to Canada, and you will hear the universal verdict wherever it has been sold, that it is tasteless and almost worthless."