

## PREFACE.

The attempts in Manitoba to harness horticultural enthusiasm into some sort of effective organization have been numerous and ambitious; but they have had sadly checkered careers. Most of them proved to be too good for the unheeding generation in which they found themselves and they died young. The first, of which Mr. C. N. Bell was secretary, and which was to devote itself especially to tree planting, lived only long enough to procure a number of government reports from the East and South. In 1884 a new organization was effected, and under its auspices an exhibition of fruit, flowers and vegetables was held, at which Mr. Richard Alston, then a new arrival in the City, began his prize-taking career. Next came the Manitoba Floral Association, under the vigorous management of the late Mr. C. J. Brydges as President, and Mr. John Cape as Secretary. A very successful exhibition was held in Trinity Hall in August, 1887, but the Society was itself "a faded flower" before the time for another exhibition came around.

On the 13th of February, 1895, the market gardeners met to the number of seventeen in the office of the Messrs. Holman Bros., Main St., Winnipeg, and formed the Society which has since grown into the Western Horticultural Society. Mr. Thomas McIntosh was the first President, and Mr. G. T. Chapman the first Secretary. At first the Society was purely professional, but in September of the same year a resolution was passed providing for the admission of amateurs. Monthly meetings were held for a time, but gradually the conclusion was reached that the interests of horticulture would be better served by the concentration of the Society's energies on a larger meeting, to which horticulturists from beyond the City and Province would be invited. The first of these gatherings was held in February, 1898, and as a result of a suggestion made at it, the name of the Society was changed from "Manitoba Horticultural Society" to "Western Horticultural Society." Soon after, the Provincial Government showed its interest in the Society's work by making it a grant of \$100, which makes the publication of this volume possible.

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