

there comes the distinct question of the matter of varieties. This is so intertwined with the question of soil, climate and modes of handling that we had reached the point where we should ask the Government to bring to our aid an expert who could give his whole time to the development of the fruit industry of the Province. Good work has been and is being done by our fruit experiment stations, which, however, are in the hands of men who have business of their own to attend to, and have not had any special training for anything but elementary work. We have confined ourselves to a few variety tests, a few climatic tests, and have been eminently successful, but we must now look at the broader side of horticulture, and note what is being done in other countries for the development of new and profitable lines of fruit-growing.

The expert required would be fully informed as to the latest and best methods practiced in the experiment stations of the Republic and in the Old Country, and might be very properly attached to the agricultural college, using the several local experiment stations for the development of his plans, and supplementing the excellent work of the present Professor of Horticulture, unhampered by the routine of class work.

Referring, in conclusion, to the death of one of the oldest members, Mr. D. W. Beadle, Mr. McNeill indulged in a little reminiscence and horticultural history, and commended the appointment of a standing committee, whose duty it would be to make compilations from year to year, recommend memorials, and provide for suitable records in Provincial horticulture.

#### A REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION.

Part of the Wednesday morning session was spent in considering the report of the committee on revision of the constitution. A feeling obtains that the association as at present constituted is too much of a cut-and-dried affair, a few enthusiastic fruit-growers of means, many of them directors, meeting from year to year and re-electing themselves to office. While much good has been accomplished, and a great deal of valuable information distributed through the press and annual reports, it is felt that the organization is not so truly representative as it should be of the fruit interests of the Province. The opinion was expressed that the central or provincial association should comprise representatives of local fruit-growers' associations and horticultural societies. The amended constitution accordingly enjoins the officers and directors of the provincial association to encourage the formation of them. The membership fee in the aforesaid affiliated associations or societies shall be the sum of one dollar per annum, payable in advance. Of this sum the local secretary is to transmit to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Association seventy-five cents for each member, payment of which shall entitle members of the local society to all the advantages of membership in the provincial association. The proceedings of the affiliated societies shall, on or before the first of November, be forwarded to the secretary of the association, who may use such portions for the annual report as may seem of general interest and value. Each affiliated society is further expected to send at least one duly-accredited delegate to the annual meeting of the provincial association for each 50 members or more, the actual expenses to be paid by the provincial association. The directors of the association for the agricultural district in which any society is formed shall be, ex-officio, members of the directorates of such societies affiliated.

Some little discussion ensued over a proposal to change the name of the association, with a view of making it more acceptable to the horticultural societies that are interested in floriculture, etc. It was concluded, however, that as the present name, in addition to being very well known, stands better for the commercial idea than would the term Horticultural Association, the old name, "Fruit-growers' Association of Ontario," be retained.

The membership is one dollar per annum in advance, whether paid to the general secretary or to the secretary of a local affiliated body. The fee for life membership is a single payment of ten dollars to the general secretary.

#### HON. SYDNEY FISHER.

On Wednesday afternoon the convention was addressed by Mr. A. N. Brown, of Wyoming, Delaware, on "New Ideas in Spraying." He advocated fall spraying for San Jose scale, especially for districts where it is bad. A synopsis of his address will be published later. Following him, Hon. Sydney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture for the Dominion, was called upon, and in the course of his speech took the opportunity to explain fully his reasons for placing the Fruit Division, along with the Cold Storage and Extension of Markets Division, under charge of the Dairy Commissioner. Mr. Fisher held that educational work should be left to the several provinces, and that the commercial aspect of the fruit industry and the various matters affecting the general interest were the only ones with which the Federal De-

partment should busy itself; thus the Fruit Division, being concerned chiefly with work allied to that of the departments aforementioned, might very well, for administrative reasons, come under the purview of the one branch, over which Mr. J. A. Ruddick at present has charge. The Chief of the Fruit Division, however, has a free hand in any work he undertakes. The explanation was given for two reasons: first, that the fruit-growers might know just what to expect; secondly, that the provincial authorities may realize what is being left to them. He was pleased to note that the protest which had been heard in several quarters at the time the rearrangement was made in his Department, had since quieted down.

[We scarcely think that Mr. Fisher has interpreted the signs aright. The question is one of great delicacy, first, because the present Dairy Commissioner, Mr. Ruddick, is personally well liked, and, secondly, because during the past year the President of the Association has been the same person as the Chief of the Fruit Division, and it would not be seemly for him to lead a convention in a protest to elevate his own position. There is, however, among the fruit-growers a strong undercurrent conviction that their industry requires a Commissioner at Ottawa, who may appeal direct to the Minister, instead of reaching him with necessarily diminished eloquence through an indirect channel. The members of the association believe this will all work out in time, but the Minister is mistaken in construing their temporary quiescence as acquiescence.]

While on his recent trip West, Mr. Fisher had observed a remarkable improvement in the selection, grading and packing of British Columbia fruit, which now rivals the best California stuff, and is driving the latter out of the market.

Referring to the Fruit Marks Act, he noted that in few or no cases had there been failure to secure conviction when the machinery of the Act had been put in force. For the first year or so the inspectors had been purposely lenient in prosecution, but the time had now come when the Act might be enforced in all its severity—a remark in which his audience heartily concurred.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NEW FRUITS.

Two of the three members of the above committee reported on new fruits that had come to their notice. In peaches, Prof. H. L. Hutt exhibited a wax model of a very promising thing, called Orr's Seedling, originated by Wm. Orr, of Fruitland. It is a late freestone, coming in about the second or third week in October, and is of exceptionally fine quality, without any astringency about the skin. Prof. Macoun reported comparatively few new varieties this season, though he had received one very large crab of good quality, which he thought would prove valuable for the Northwest.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CO-OPERATION.

Co-operation in shipping and selling fruit is still a live subject. Mr. A. E. Sherrington, of Walkerton, Chairman of this committee, said he was a firmer believer in it than ever. This season several co-operative shipping associations had been organized. Some of the older ones in good standing are at Forest, Walkerton and Chatham. One was organized this spring at Oakville, a joint stock company, that handled nearly all the apples in the district. One of the things to be guarded against is the breaking away of members when buyers offer inducements. More men were needed like President Johnson, of the Forest Association, who refused an offer of 25 cents per barrel more for the product of his orchard than he obtained through the association. Clarksburg also has a splendid association, which the speaker understood had erected a storehouse superior to anything else in the Province. Another co-operative association is at Burford, another in the neighborhood of St. Catharines, others at Burlington, Thedford and Ilderton. The Walkerton associa-

tion is in good standing, but unable to do any business this season for lack of fruit.

During the summer Mr. Sherrington had spent some time in England and Scotland, and his observations convinced him that Canadian produce is not properly handled there, the ways of the commission men and auctioneers being in not a few cases shady. He was not favorably impressed with the system—or lack of it—in the Covent Garden market, where a sort of pandemonium seemed to prevail. His description of the way the auctioneers vied with each other to see who could sell fastest was quite at variance with our ideas of Old Country deliberateness, and would be anything but reassuring to the man who saw his fruit knocked down, apparently without time for a second bid.

Mr. Sherrington cited a case that came under his notice of apples sold in Canada for \$2.50 to \$2.75 a barrel costing the Old Country dealer \$5.00; \$1.50 would pay the freight. Where does all the balance go? The dealer referred to believed that it would be unnecessary for our co-operative associations to even send an agent to Britain; he thought the Old Country dealers would have confidence in goods packed by such organizations, and be willing without canvassing to risk buying direct. Mr. Sherrington had met two Old Country dealers who already buy their fruit f.o.b. in Canada, and during the summer had received stacks of orders.

He expressed the opinion that it would pay our growers to convert more of the No. 2 apples into canned stuff, for which he thought a good demand could be worked up. Fruit must be regarded as a luxury in England, for Mr. Sherrington soberly related an experience in a restaurant, where an extra bill had been rendered for eating marmalade with a spoon.

One or two delegates complained that co-operative associations could not be run in their districts, as farmers were so short of labor they would not undertake to pick the fruit. This brought out a suggestion that one association had hired the picking done for a couple co-operators unable to do it themselves. Mr. Sherrington thought that might be done, though he wanted no one but himself looking after the picking in his orchard, and did not see why a farmer could not afford to hire men as well as the regular buyer.

Mr. A. W. Peart said in the Burlington district they had a species of co-operation that has been going on for twenty years. They have a manager, paid according to the number of boxes he handles. Each grower packs his own fruit and puts his name on it, but they also have a common brand under which they ship. They ship in boxes, and 99% of all the good shipping fruit they send over in that package arrives in good condition.

Mr. D. Johnson, President of the Forest Fruit-growers and Forwarding Association, reported a very satisfactory season's outcome. They had any number of orders from the West, where they sold in 1904, but chose instead to sell this year to an English firm, which took the whole output, paying \$2.50 for No. 1's and \$2 for No. 2's, spot cash, f.o.b. Mr. Johnson is an enthusiast on orchard culture, and very truly says we must successfully grow fruit before we can successfully co-operate in selling it. This year their association had a by-law, compelling its members to spray twice before and twice after blossoming. As a result all the members had good crops, many the best they ever had, while their neighbors, excepting one or two good fruit-growers, had practically nothing.

Mr. W. D. A. Ross, of Chatham, said they had started co-operating nine years ago; five years ago they organized as an association, and this is the fourth season they have packed at a central packing-house. The membership has grown to 75, and they are now going along swimmingly. They have a power sprayer, which nearly all the growers employ. The association advances the money, does the spraying, and deducts the charge in the fall from the returns, which he believes are doubled thereby. In one case a man with an orchard of some 180 fine trees estimated his crop in the



A Glimpse of Fruit and Flowers in Massey Hall.