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and 20th at Trenton (when practically the same programme was carried out, except that Harold Jones, of Maitland, and W. H. Dempsey took the place of W. H. Bunting), should correspond with Mr. Putnam for particulars.

The following resolution, passed by the Trenton meeting, shows the attitude of those who attended the meetings:

Moved by G. W. Saylor, Hastings Co., and seconded by W. W. Farley, Northumberland Co., that we, the fruit-growers of Trenton and the surrounding vicinity, desire to express our appreciation of the action taken by the Farmers' Institute branch of the Department of Agriculture in putting on this three-days' course of instruction; and that we consider it has been of very great value to those in attendance; and that we trust the said Department may see fit to favor the counties of Prince Edward, Hastings and Northumberland with a series of such meetings.

THE NOVA SCOTIA FRUIT-GROWERS.

Berwick, King's Co., has proved one of the best places yet to hold a fruit-growers' meeting. We always look for a full hall on the occasion of the first evening meeting of the conventions, as this is a mass meeting for social and friendly purposes, but the hall at Berwick was well filled at all the meetings on the three days, December 18, 19 and 20, giving an average attendance of some two hundred. The following are the principal points of the opening address of President Donaldson at this forty-third annual meeting:

"The peculiar season of 1907 has emphasized the fact that the fruit-grower must be alert to withstand the disadvantages which each season has in store. This particular season was remarkable for its unusual amount of rainfall, for a cold, backward spring, and for two 'unseasonable' snowstorms—one on May 11th and one October 20th.

GOOD CROP—DECLINING PRICES.

"In spite of this, the crop of 1907 has been one of the best the Province has ever seen, both in quantity and quality. The season opened with record prices, but later on they have suffered an unaccountable drop. Is this due to the stringency of the money market, or to a too low estimate of the general crop?

BROWN-TAIL MOTH.

"Horticultural events of the year: The first and most important was the discovery of the brown-tail moth. This was first discovered in April, and just as soon as it was known to be a fact, men were at once sent out to ascertain the extent of infestation. Bounties were offered to destroy the nests, and after the leaves had come out spray pumps were used more universally than ever before, some being supplied by the Government for the worst infected districts. The Department of Agriculture, under Secretary Cumming, is to be congratulated on the promptness and vigor with which they combated this pest.

"The resignation of Prof. Sears, from the Chair of Horticulture at Truro, was considered a Provincial loss.

"Another step toward the establishment of the long-looked-for experimental fruit station was taken last August, when Dr. Saunders, Director of the Experimental Farms, visited several locations for the purpose of selecting a site for the station.

"Early fruit at the Provincial Exhibition made a fairly good show, but on account of the late season winter fruit had not reached the proper stage of maturity to really represent our best commercial fruit.

EXHIBITIONS, WHERE AND WHEN?

"In all, Nova Scotia has this year held five exhibitions—one provincial, one district, and three county. Personally, I consider it would be much better to have these merged into one, more upon the educational lines of the Winter Fair at Amherst, and held at a time of year when all the products would be mature and available. The district fruit show at Windsor was one of the finest ever held in the Province, and was also successful financially, declaring a surplus of \$300.

"It is pleasing, too, to report that the display of fruit from our Province at the Royal Horticultural Show in England was the best ever sent from this Province.

"Since co-operation is such an important issue now in Canada, it is worthy of note that during the year the Berwick Co-operative Packing Association has been formed in this town."

SULPHATE VS. MURIATE OF POTASH.

Prof. F. C. Sears, formerly of the Agricultural College, Truro, N.S., now of Mass. Ag. Coll., gave an interesting address with charts showing the

results at Mass. College experimental orchard of the use of different kinds of fertilizers. He showed that an orchard in sod, during 18 years' trial, gave better results from the use of sulphate of potash as a source of potassium than the muriate.

LOW HEADING OF FRUIT TREES.

Mr. A. McNeill, in an address on "Pruning," spoke in favor of beginning to head the tree 18 inches to 2 ft. from the ground. The difficulty of cultivating after the tree becomes older, on account of the limbs falling to the ground, was to be obviated by yearly pruning and cutting back, the bud to be left to be always on top of the branch, thus giving the outside of the tree the appearance of an inverted umbrella.

If started right, no tool heavier than the hand pruner need be used. Prune from the outside, taking out small branches to let in sun.

In the discussion that followed, the objection was brought up that after fifteen or twenty years the orchard could not be cultivated, because of the limbs getting in the way. In the meeting there were advocates of all systems—from very severe pruning to not pruning at all—one man claiming to get good crops of fruit without pruning.

In answer to a question as to the benefits of summer pruning, Prof. Waugh, of Amherst College, Mass., advocated pruning at this season to induce greater bearing, if the grower had time to do it.

The social mass meeting on the evening of the 18th was a pleasant mixture of provincial optimism and bombast, supplied principally by Lieut.-Governor Fraser. He spoke of the advantages enjoyed by those living in the apple-producing districts of Nova Scotia. They should be a happy, prosperous people. Steady industry in the spot where fate had placed them will make them strong in character, prosperous in worldly goods, and pillars of their country.

PROF. SEARS SUGGESTS NEW ENGLAND MARKETS.

Prof. Sears gave a very interesting illustrated address on "Fruit-growing in New England." Good fruit, packed well in boxes, brought good prices there, and he did not see why we could not make the shipment of some of our best varieties to those New England cities profitable in spite of the duty. Fruit-growing in New England had not reached as high a state of development as in Nova Scotia. Pruning, cultivation nor spraying was as universally practiced, and in many cases the trees were allowed to grow in sod, and very little done except picking what apples happened to grow.

MR. J. H. HALE PLANTING APPLE ORCHARDS.

In contradistinction to these methods, he gave a number of views, showing the methods of Mr. J. H. Hale, one of the largest fruit-growers in America. He had been a very successful peach grower, and practices the most approved methods in the growing and handling of his crop. Mr. Hale was now, however, planting more apples and fewer peaches.

Prof. Waugh, of Mass. Agricultural College, also gave an interesting illustrated address, showing some of the different methods of marketing in different parts of the world, principally in the Southern States, France and England.

MEMBERSHIP FEE INCREASED.

According to notice given at the last annual meeting, Mr. E. E. Archibald, of Wolfville, moved a resolution that the life membership fee be raised from five to ten dollars. This raised a spirited discussion, but was finally carried, the principal argument in favor of the change being that since the life membership fees were now under by-laws to constitute a fund for investment, the higher fee would give a larger proportion of annual fees for the active funds of the association.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

The election of officers resulted in placing in the president's chair Mr. R. W. Starr, who may be really called the father of the association. In the whole forty-three years of its existence he has only missed one annual meeting. More than this, he has always been one of the most active and progressive members. The other officers were: Vice-President, G. C. Miller; Secretary, S. C. Parker.

Principal Cumming, in giving the results of the Royal Horticultural Society Show at London, spoke of Nova Scotia being second only to British Columbia; that the show from the latter Province was the best ever seen in England.

In the discussion which followed, the trend of opinion seemed to be that the gold medal went to British Columbia:

1st.—Because the soil was better.

2nd.—Because the climate and sun were more genial, coloring the fruit better and giving greater size.

3rd.—Because the men who packed the fruit were more intelligent, enterprising and experienced.

The general opinion was that we continue the exhibit and assist the Department of Agriculture financially and otherwise toward increasing the quality and beauty of the show in subsequent years. Prof. Sears urged more careful selection, and told that the B. C. growers began the selection on the trees in the summer.

Chief McNeill was asked to send an expert next year to give us instructions in box packing.

10c. BOUNTY FOR NESTS OF BROWN-TAIL MOTH.

At this and other sessions the brown-tail moth came in for a good share of discussion. At the meeting on Thursday evening, Principal Cumming announced that the Government of Nova Scotia would henceforth give a bounty of 10c. for every nest found.

The old question of transportation raised a heated discussion. Abuses and losses resulting from delays in shunting, apples being left by one steamer and being laid over two or three weeks for the next, slow passages by fruit-laden steamers, all added to the interest and excitement. Little was done, however, further than the discussion.

A committee from the Halifax Exhibition Commission attended the session, to get the opinion of the fruit-growers regarding any changes to be made in the fruit prize-list. When it was found that the fair would be held from September 2nd to 10th, the commission were asked to drop the prize-list for fruit altogether, since at that early date there would be little fruit mature enough to make a creditable show.

CO-OPERATIVE PACKING AND MARKETING.

The question of co-operative packing and marketing was opened by Messrs. A. McNeill and Frank Bolsor. Mr. McNeill noted several instances where the fruit of individual growers brought much smaller prices than when packed and sold under such an association. The best way to handle apples when packed under such an association brand is to sell f. o. b., since then the apples are under the control of the producer, but if sold under inspection on the other side the former has no redress if a dishonest buyer represents them as being poor.

Such a co-operative association may also save money by making barrels for all the producers, as stock may be purchased at a much lower figure and saving be thus effected.

There are too many middlemen fattening between the producer and consumer. The latter gives a price away beyond what the producer gets, much more than is accounted for by legitimate freights, commissions, etc. Co-operation will eliminate these parasites.

The principal obstacles to successful co-operation are:

1st.—Petty jealousies of individual members and distrust of each other.

2nd.—Opposition of apple operators and middlemen.

3rd.—Packing-houses' hostility.

The speakers Thursday evening were Messrs. P. J. Shaw and F. A. Waugh. The former compared the state of fruit-growing in Western New York with that in our own Province. Much less cultivation is done there; in many cases owners consider that cultivation is injurious to trees. Prof. Waugh gave another illustrated lecture on growing dwarf fruit trees, showing some which were being cut back to 18 inches and two feet.

RESOLUTIONS.

The following resolutions were passed at this convention:

1st.—That the N. S. fruit-growers financially and otherwise assist the Local Government in continuing the exhibit from Nova Scotia to the Royal Horticultural Society.

2nd.—That in view of the losses and abuses to fruit-growers from the existing conditions at Halifax, and during the ocean voyage, that these matters be brought before the Minister of Agriculture for consideration and rectification.

3rd.—That the Commission of the Provincial Exhibition at Halifax be asked to drop from their prize-list the section offering prizes for fruit.

4th.—That the members of this association regret that since the visit of Dr. Saunders, in the summer of 1907, no action has been taken toward the establishment of an experimental fruit farm in Nova Scotia.

5th.—That we place on record our appreciation of Chief McNeill's labors for the advancement of the fruit industry in Canada, and his effective administration of the Fruit Marks Act.

R. J. MESSENGER.

CHRISTMAS NUMBER WORTH SUBSCRIPTION.

Received the knife you sent me as a premium for securing one new subscriber to your valuable paper. It is a dandy, and repaid me well for my trouble. The Christmas number was fine, it alone being worth the subscription price. Wishing the paper many prosperous years.

Simcoe Co., Ont. ROBT. CRAWFORD.