

We certify that the foregoing is a correct statement of the Fruit Growers' Association Accounts for the year ending September, 1873, as shewn by Treasurer's books, with vouchers for all disbursements.

St. Catharines, October, 1873.

WM. J. MCCALLA, } Auditors.  
W. L. COPELAND. }

#### ANNUAL ADDRESS.

The anniversary of our Fruit Growers' Association has again come round, and we are again met in the City of London, where you at first conferred on me the honoured position of Chairman. Many have been the changes to the individual members of the Association during the interval, both of a sad and happy nature; but only one, and that a steady onward course, has marked the history of the Association during the period. The duty now devolves on your President to pick up the threads of the woof and warp of the past year's doings, and present them in a brief epitome, under the caption of his "Annual Address."

Your Society is rapidly increasing in numbers and influence. The membership at present is a little under three thousand. Such a large increase in so short a time as the period of my official connection with you as President must be highly gratifying to every member of our Society, and is a marked testimony to the patriotic tendency of your aims, and the humanizing influences of your efforts. More interest in fruit growing has, perhaps, been exhibited during the past year throughout the Province than during any single year of the past existence of our Association. Although there are, unfortunately, large sections of our country where the name even of our Fruit Growers' Association is scarcely heard of, or, where heard of, little known, yet our fruit culture is evoking a general and Provincial interest. Parties in the most distant localities of our wide-spread Province are vying with each other, and with the older fruit growing portions of our country in the production of good fruit.

The past season has not been so favourable for fruit cultivation as some which we have seen of late years. In some sections, the weather has been cold; at the commencement of the season it was very dry, and during the summer months, when warm weather might have been expected, it has been remarkably cool, and personally enjoyable.

Apples are scarcely an average crop; Pears are abundant; hardy Grapes will have difficulty in ripening; Plums here and there are a full crop, but generally even they have not been as abundant as usual. The Curculio, in some quarters, have anticipated the ripening of the crop, and secured prematurely the lion's share. Peaches, in the Niagara district, and around Grimsby, suffered severely during the past winter, and only in some highly-favoured localities have they done well. The small fruits have amply repaid the labour of the Horticulturist—Raspberries, Currants, and even Gooseberries having been almost everywhere a prolific crop.

In presenting this summary, I know I may not have been able to set before you all the facts connected with Horticulture in different parts of the Province; but we believe, on the whole, it will be found to give generally a fair resumé of this matter.

I have formerly addressed you on so many kindred topics, and, at times, at such unseasonable length, that for months I have been really at a loss for a subject for my present address. The Constitution has, I think, wisely provided that the President *may* give an address on such an occasion as the present. My subjects are nearly exhausted—dried up; and should my paper lack interest and point, I trust, Gentlemen, that you will impute the cause to its right motive and source—want of knowledge and ability—and not from any want of desire on my part to make it interesting and instructive to you, and a benefit to the Society at large.

I purpose to address you on "*The Recent Progress of Fruit Culture.*" A question sometimes arises, viz., What varieties of Apple is it best to plant? Inasmuch as at our Provincial Exhibition twenty varieties are the limit for which prizes are offered, we venture to name the following twenty as really good, serviceable, marketable sorts:—American Golden Russet, Swayzie Pomme Gris, Baldwin, Rhode Island Greening, Spitzenburg, Swaar, Ribston Pippin, King of Tompkin's County, Gravenstein, Snow, Duchess of Oldenburg, Red Astrachan, Porter, St. Lawrence, Maiden's Blush, Northern Spy, Twenty Ounce Apple, Fall Pippin, Mother and Wagener.

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