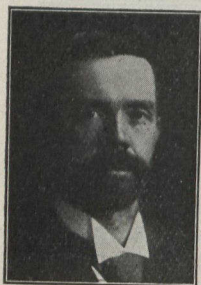


Ontario Vegetable Growers' Convention

IN opening the fifth annual convention of the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association, that was held in Toronto on November 11th, the president, Mr. T. Delworth, Weston, in his address, dwelt on the importance of getting the best seed possible, and on the difficulties in securing the same. He said that in the United States, there has been considerable agitation in the direction of controlling the purity of seed, but there are difficulties in the way of getting satisfactory legislation. In reference to the



President Delworth

the testing of onion seed, the speaker stated that with one exception, California grown seed is the best. The exception was in Essex county, Ont., where the season was the longest. The president spoke of methods of marketing in vogue in parts of the United States which might be copied to some extent here so as to return our growers a greater profit instead of the middleman securing all the advantages.

The report of the secretary-treasurer, Mr. J. Lockie Wilson, dwelt on the prosperous year that the association has experienced. The branches are increasing their membership, Kingston showing 125 per cent. of increase; London, 110 per cent., and Sarnia, 76 per cent. Strong new branches have been organized at Woodstock, St. Thomas and Dunnville. In the prize competition for the largest comparative percentage of increase in membership during 1908, London stood first and Sarnia second. Similar prizes are offered this year. Prizes to the amount of \$35.00 are being offered at the Ontario Horticultural Exhibition by the Association for canned vegetables in quart sealers to be competed for by wives and daughters of the members. The finances of the association are in a satisfactory condition.

CABBAGE AND CAULIFLOWER GROWING

Mr. A. McMeans, O. A. C., Guelph, made a report on his investigation on cabbage and cauliflower growing in the United States. The average price to growers the past few years, who have not contracted, was \$5.50 a ton. Owing to the bad season this year the price went up to \$40.00 a ton. Planting is done with a special machine, two boys planting alternately; the machine waters the place where the plants are planted and then covers the wet spot with dry earth.

The large growers in the United States reduce expenses by conveniences in storage and shipping. Where possible, railway sidings are run alongside storage buildings. Shrinkage in cabbage stored

is as much as twenty-five per cent. up to April 1st. The wetter the season of growth, the greater the shrinkage. In the shelf method of storage, cabbages are put one deep, stump down, in rack. A large quantity of cabbage is used in the manufacture of sauer-kraut, the consumption of which is not confined to the German element. At Saginaw, the average crop is ten to twelve tons an acre, and prices from \$6.00 to \$10.00.

THE JORDAN STATION

A report on vegetable growing at the Jordan Experimental Station was made by Mr. H. S. Peart, the director. There was a number of varieties and fertilizers tested including varieties of corn, squash, melons, carrots, beets, tomatoes and potatoes. Over 4,000 cross-bred tomatoes were fruited and two at least give promise of future usefulness. Fertilizers caused a decided increase in yield of tomatoes and cabbage, where a complete fertilizer was used. In potatoes no decided results were evident. In corn, potash and phosphoric acid gave largest yield of ear. For onions, potash gave best and heaviest bulbs.

FORCING VEGETABLES

Mr. W. C. Waid, New Carlisle, Ohio, gave an address on "Greenhouse Growing of Vegetables." Development in this line has taken place during the last twenty-five years. As a rule, vegetable growing under glass has been remunerative. Mostly lettuce, cucumbers and tomatoes are thus grown. An increase in the number of the vegetables forced is probable.

The soil in the forcing houses is seldom renewed, but well-rotted manure is added each year. The speaker spreads manure over the soil and uses a sprinkler system of watering in order to extract the fertility for the use of the plants. Sterilizing the soil is sometimes necessary when disease has been present the previous season. The overhead system of watering is the best, but sub-irrigation has given good results with lettuce and radishes. The higher the temperature, other things being equal, the more rapid the growth, but the greater the risk of disease. Good ventilation is a requisite.

ADDRESS BY SEED COMMISSIONER

Mr. G. H. Clark, Seed Commissioner, Ottawa, gave an interesting address on matters relating to seeds in Europe and Great Britain, prefacing his remarks with a resume of the work done at Ottawa in connection with seeds. Already many of the evils in connection with clover and grass seeds have been remedied by legislation as a result of the work. It is a hard thing to control the seed question so long as seeds are brought in from abroad. When home-grown seed is used exclusively, then control will become possible.

The reports of the inspectors of the experimental plots were put in. In many sections the late spring prevented the results being conclusive. In Toronto and Ojibway sections, the crops were the best. The English-grown seed did not give satisfactory returns in many districts. California-grown seed seemed to be the best.

Mr. C. W. Baker, Byron, made suggestions as to the best method of increasing membership and furthering the interests of the association. Enthusiasm is needed in the individual to get out and secure members. The vegetable grower must be intelligent and up-to-date, and he can be helped by joining the association and the increased membership helps the association and gives it weight, as for instance, when approaching the government on tariff matters. The membership can and should be doubled. The speaker mentioned how in his branch they had secured reduced prices on boxes, crates, etc., on account of having a good membership. Advertise the meetings well. The newspapers are always ready to aid. Socials and picnics also help.

POTATO CULTURE

"Potato Culture, with Special Reference to Using Seed of Strong Vitality," was the subject of an excellent address by Mr. W. T. Macoun of the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. In a test at Ottawa with home seed and with seed from Nappan, N. S., the latter yielded five times as much and more per acre. In England, seed from the south of England yielded less than seed from Scotland or Ireland. The reason is that the farther north the tubers are grown, maturity is not so hurried and the potato has more time to develop. Immature potato seed yielded more than seed from matured. Immature potatoes must not be confounded with prematurely ripe ones. Immature ones are those whose tops may have been cut off by frost before being ripened. This address will be reported at greater length in a later issue.

A MESSAGE FROM QUEBEC

Mr. Emile Planto, a representative of the Quebec Department of Agriculture, expressed his pleasure at being present. He had learned much at these meetings. It is through education that progress is made in agriculture and he was in thorough sympathy with the idea of educating the children in agricultural subjects.

SMALL FRUITS

"Small Fruits in Connection with Vegetable Growing," was ably dwelt on by Mr. W. C. McCalla, St. Catharines. In a bad season a variety of crops is desirable, because loss is minimised; if one fails, another succeeds. There is room for development of local small fruit markets. The market gar-