

the fruit of the different provinces into competition in the western and British markets of late years in a manner that is forcing our fruit growers to investigate conditions more thoroughly than ever before.

Our leading fruit growers to-day look forward not only to the prospect for the current year's crop, but to the probable production of fruit for the world's markets for years to come. In their survey of conditions apple growers are now taking into consideration the competition that may be expected from the growers of other varieties of fruit, such as oranges and bananas. On one point a unanimous decision has been reached: The markets of the future are going to demand a better quality of fruit, packed strictly according to grade. The sooner the rank and file of our fruit growers recognize the impending change in methods, the better will it be for them and for the fruit industry.

One of the chief elements of success in the work of a horticultural society is enthusiasm. Without exception those horticultural societies in Ontario which are doing the best work are those which are manned by enthusiastic officers. In most cases the enthusiasm is provided in the main by some one individual who has succeeded in grouping around himself other horticulturists who have caught his enthusiasm, and who therefore render willing and ready support. Most of the horticultural societies in Ontario are doing effective and efficient work. Some are not doing as well as they might. Where members or officers of societies feel that they are not doing all that is easily possible they might well, as a first step towards improvement, ask themselves if this little element of enthusiasm is present to the requisite extent.

SOCIETY NOTES

We invite the officers of Horticultural Societies to send in short, pithy reports of work that would interest members of other Horticultural Societies.

Society Work*

H. W. Brown, Berlin, Ont.

I am strongly in favor of horticultural societies holding at least one exhibition each year, and more than one where conditions are right. Societies which omit exhibitions spare themselves a great deal of work (possibly not unknown to themselves) but they lose one of their most potent forces for stimulating interest among their own members for actually increasing their membership, and for creating enthusiasm among the public generally. Healthy competition is an influence for good which must not be thoughtlessly cast to the winds. I would like to see exhibitions, modest or otherwise, made compulsory. The prize lists, of course, must be drafted to suit conditions, but to many new societies, and indeed to some older ones, a circular from the superintendent outlining a model or type of prize list for a small society, with hints as to how and along what lines its value to a society might be increased, would be very welcome, for where a new society is organized, having as one of its members a man really competent to arrange these and other details for his society, ten other societies are not so fortunately situated.

*Extract from a paper read at the last annual convention of the Ontario Horticultural Association

In our city, which is pretty generally regarded as a city of homes and gardens and home-like surroundings, the short three-year period of organized work in horticulture has taught many of us to see to details of grounds and gardening before overlooked, has brought to the front vegetable and flower growers hitherto unknown except to their immediate neighbors, and has produced incipient horticulturalists where before none existed. It is gratifying to know that abundant assistance lies within the reach of every society which shows merit or progress. My plea is not for more and for greater assistance, but for a wider, more direct and more certain distribution of the assistance which is already available, but to some extent not apprehended.

Suggestions for Societies

In the talk he gave at the last annual convention of the Ontario Horticultural Association, a portion of which was published in the March issue of The Canadian Horticulturist. Dr. Frank E. Bennett, the enthusiastic president of the St. Thomas Horticultural Society, gave the following additional suggestions to the officers of societies:

During the winter of 1912-13 we planned a larger and broader lawn and garden competition, giving the working man a class of his own and the man who had a gardener a class of his own. Some good prizes were also offered to the janitors of the public schools and Collegiate Institute for the best kept lawns and floral effects, with wonderful results.

The cooperation of the Board of Trade was secured and a splendid cup offered for the best kept factory ground, while another very popular contest was the school children's contest. Prizes in cash and goods totalling three hundred dollars were awarded, in addition to several valuable medals and cups. The usual monthly flower shows were held during 1913 and at the last show five hundred entries were received, taxing to their utmost two large store windows, and making it almost compulsory to secure larger quarters for the shows of 1914.

The merchants, banks, and factories located on corner lots were especially canvassed and their interest in the beautification of the city secured, with the result that early every corner in the city now has its small boulevard, lawn, and flower bed. Fifty-two public flower beds, most of them twenty feet by four feet, were planted, as many as possible being placed along the route of the street car belt line, where the most people would be able to enjoy the beauty of the flowers. Eight more beds have been added this fall, and have been planted with tulips. Flower beds have been placed at the City Hall, the Public Library and the Post Office, and in each place the lawns have been improved, while the rivalry for the Board of Trade cup has created the keenest possible competition among the factories of the city.

I had almost forgotten one big factor in our success. I refer to the splendid service and support given to the work of the society by the local press. When you have printing to do, don't go round the corner to a cheap shop, give it to your newspaper; even if the price is a little higher, you will reap your reward.

As I have said before, new members are joining by dozens and every old member is renewing his subscription and member-

ship, and with a combined effort we shall reach the 1,200 mark. We'll do it.

I would like to give you a few pointers on your canvassing. Send out enthusiasts, send out workers and not drones. Have several good arguments to offer as to why a citizen should be a member. Then, if all other arguments fail, try this one; I have tried it and I know. Whenever I meet one, I say to him, "Is it worth a dollar to you to have St. Thomas made the finest city in Ontario?" and hardly ever have I any answer but "Yes." At this point pull out a membership card (fill it in, and hand it to him, with a receipt, and wait for the dollar. You will not have to wait long; that inherent civic pride germ works quick, and you have another member.

To conclude and summarize, put out plenty of public flower beds, hold frequent flower shows, arrange lawn, garden, and floral beautification contests; form street improvement societies; give liberal premiums; elect one but workers on the executive—a mere just a word of warning, avoid as much as possible placing semi-professional horticulturists in official or executive positions as it has an unfortunate tendency to dampen the interest and ardor of the entirely amateur. By following these rules you may soon have a society like unto ours..

Shade Trees Suffer

Dr. Fernow says that in "walking along the streets of any city one will find at least from twenty-five to fifty per cent. of the trees in a damaged condition." In the small towns of eastern Canada, it is safe to say that at least seventy-five per cent. of the shade trees need attention, for, unlike the cities, these towns employ no "tree doctors" to guard the health of the trees, and even trimming is done but irregularly, and often carelessly. Yet if the shade trees in many of these towns were destroyed one of their chief attractions would be gone.

There are several reasons why the trees in these old towns require special attention. The chief is probably due to defective crown development, the result of overcrowding. Misshapen and weakened crowns result in excessive windbreak, and ragged brook, if left untrimmed, provide the best possible entrance for fungi and insect pests, so that a great number of these fine old shade trees, which because of their very age are unable, unassisted, to shake off these foes, are slowly dying through neglect.

Mature trees of whatever species should be at least thirty feet apart and the municipal act empower municipal councils to remove trees within this limit without the owner's consent. If this provision were judiciously acted upon in the old towns of eastern Canada, the remaining shade trees would be given a new lease of life. The Forestry Branch of the Department of the Interior, Ottawa, has on its staff a skilled silviculturist, whose services are available to woodlot owners. Municipal shade trees are not, strictly speaking, woodlots, but municipalities so desiring could doubtless secure the advice of this expert regarding the trees requiring removal.

Even if no more trees are planted in British Columbia than are there now, the apple production of the province will be ten times as great as it is at present when immature trees now out come into bearing.—C. J. Thornton, M.P.