

assn. has been managed somewhat as a "close corporation." This feeling has been general, not only among the members of the assn., but also among the larger body of fruit growers in the province. In another column we publish in full the clauses that have been amended. The following 13 directors for the various divisions, as numbered, were elected by ballot: 1, A. D. Harkness, Irena; 2, A. A. Wright, M.P., Renfrew; 3, Harold Jones, Maitland; 4, W. H. Dempsey, Trenton; 5, W. Rickard, Newcastle; 6, Elmer Lick, Oshawa; 7, A. W. Peart, Burlington; 8, Geo. A. Robertson, St. Catharines; 9, H. H. Groff, Simcoe; 10, A. E. Sherrington, Walkerton; 11, A. O. Telfer, Ilderton; 12, D. Johnston, Forest; 13, C. L. Stephens, Orillia.

According to the new arrangements, the assn. in future will finish its financial year on Dec. 31. An extra business meeting will be held each year in Jan., when the newly-elected board of directors will take office and appoint from among themselves a pres. and vice-pres., and from among themselves, or otherwise, a sec.-treas.

#### THE DOMINION CONFERENCE

The immediate results and the possibilities of the Dominion Conference of fruit growers were discussed respectively by W. H. Bunting, St. Catharines, and A. W. Peart, Burlington. In the course of Mr. Bunting's remarks he graciously referred to the work of Mr. Alex. McNeill in bringing about the conference. By his efforts in this direction, Mr. McNeill has brought about a feeling of harmony between fruit growers in the various provinces. Among the results of the conference, Mr. Bunting mentioned that the discussion there on fruit statistics, while excellently presented by Mr. Peart, went to show the need of more accurate data in that respect. The establishment of a definition for No. 2 apples, and of a new grade "Fancy," were important changes in the Fruit Marks Act. The feeling of the conference regarding pure food products has been the means of doing good. The discussion on fruit packages and the proposals made have gone a long way towards bringing about uniformity. The express companies operating in Canada have been placed under control of the Railway Commission.

When discussing the value and possibilities of the Dominion fruit conference, Mr. Peart also said that it tended to break down provincial prejudice and to make the fruit men more united. Many important matters were discussed, among them the question of transportation in various phases, such as, putting the express companies under the Railway Commission, railway facilities, ocean transportation, and cold storage for tender products. Mr. Peart referred also to "markets and marketing and to insect and fungous pests, as discussed at the conference.

When speaking of Dominion fruit statistics, Mr. Peart said: "The value of our fruits and vegetables are lumped at \$12,994,900 for 1901. In acreage all orchards are lumped together. Vegetables and small fruits are lumped also. Vineyards are separate. The Ont. statistics gives information on fruit as follows: (1) Acreage of orchards and gardens lumped by counties and province; (2) acreage of vineyards by counties and province; (3) number of apple trees 15 years old and over, number under 15 years, and bushels per tree by counties and province. I would suggest that Ont. be asked to give further fruit details as follows: Acres of apple, pear, plum, and peach orchards; acres of other tree fruits, of small fruits and of vineyard, all by counties and province; also, acres of garden truck, such as tomatoes and so on, by counties and province. It would be well, also, to continue to give the number of apple trees by counties and province, and the average yield per tree by counties and province."

#### FRUIT STATISTICS

The question of fruit statistics was discussed, also, by Mr. C. C. James, Ont. Dep. Min. of Agr. He spoke of the difficulty and cost of compiling accurate and extensive statistics. The dept. finds it hard to secure reliable estimates of the

crop yield. The yield per acre of farm crops can readily be estimated, but it is a different matter in the case of fruits. So many influences come to bear on the crop between the time of blossoming and the harvest, that it is practically impossible to state at any one time what the crop will be when matured.

In Ontario there are about 7,000,000 apple trees in bearing according to the census of 1901. When one estimates the probable yield of these trees in a normal season, and then notices the number of barrels that are actually marketed, it is surprising to contemplate the tremendous waste and loss to the farmers in this country that occurs. An interesting discussion followed Mr. James' remarks.

It was suggested that crop statistics could be secured by the assessors. Others thought that the information could be secured from school teachers and pupils. Professor Parrot, of the Geneva Exp. Sta., said that crop estimates and values made before maturity are only approximate at the best. A knowledge of the crop outlook in one province or state is of little value without similar information regarding the conditions in others. The opinion was general that even accurate information regarding crop conditions in Ontario and in Canada is of small value unless a knowledge of the crops in the U.S. and in Europe is also known.

#### REPORT ON NEW FRUITS

In a report on new fruits, Mr. W. T. Macoun said: "There were fewer good, new fruits brought to our notice this year than usual, but some interesting and promising seedlings have fruited at the Cen. Exp. Farm, most of them for the first time. The cry from the colder parts of the province of Ont. for a winter apple with high quality and fine appearance may still go on unsatisfied, but we believe that it will not now be long before we shall have an apple which will fill this long felt want. The extremely severe winter of 1903-4 killed out many varieties of apples at Ottawa, but the lessons learned from that winter have been of the utmost value, and should save many thousands of dollars to those who are planting apple trees in those parts of the country where the climate is similar to what it is at Ottawa.

"One of the facts that was brought especially to our notice after that winter was that it was the trees of the varieties which ripened their wood early which came through in the best condition. An early ripening tree means, in our experience, a tree which ripens its fruit early, hence most of the hardy varieties prove to be summer and fall sorts, but there are exceptions, and we found that in some cases the trees mature early and the fruit is in condition for eating in late fall or early winter, yet the fruit will keep practically all winter. In other words, the texture of some apples does not break down as soon as others, even though they become fit to eat at the same time. It is this early maturing but long-keeping apple which will give us the tree hardy enough to withstand a test winter. Some varieties of this character which withstood the test winter at Ottawa are Winter Rose, Stone, Calumet, Scott's Winter, Milwaukee, La Victoire, and Baxter. The Winter Rose is an apple of good size, of fair appearance and good quality, but has not sufficient acidity for a winter apple. The Stone is of much the same character. The Calumet is an attractive looking apple, but not even enough in size nor quite good enough in quality. The La Victoire comes nearest being an apple of the desired type, but lacks juiciness. The Baxter is a very large, handsome apple, but somewhat coarse. Since the winter of 1904, however, when it proved so hardy, we consider it a desirable apple for planting in the North.

"As was stated last year, we have at Ottawa a collection of very promising seedlings which have been sent in by persons who have originated them. As these are being tested as standard trees rather than top grafts, they are longer coming into bearing, but our own seedlings, raised from the best apples fruited at Ottawa, are

not fruiting in considerable numbers. Out of 84 which we have described, consisting of seedlings of Fameuse, McIntosh, Swazie, Wealthy, Scott's Winter, Winter St. Lawrence, and Dorkham Russett, 21 have been considered sufficiently promising to propagate for further trial, so that if this proportion, which is 25% of promising apples, is maintained through the 2,000 apple seedlings which are being grown, we should have about 500 promising varieties to select from.

"A number of promising crosses have fruited, and many Russian seedlings also. There is a temptation to disseminate some of the best of these, but we believe that even though it takes a long time it is best to thoroughly test a variety before recommending it, as there are too many kinds on the market already. It is interesting to note among the seedlings which have fruited, the more or less resemblance in most cases to the female parent and to the probable male or the tree growing near that from which the fruit was taken in the orchard. This is particularly the case in regard to the seedlings of Wealthy and Swazie Pomme Grise. Near the original tree of Swazie seedlings and the large dots on the skin show the Baxter blood, and in one instance a large Swazie seedling looked very much like Baxter in outward appearance. The Wealthy seedlings nearly all have that smooth, symmetrical surface peculiar to the parent, and in some instances the seedlings have been quite crab-like, showing the crab origin of the Wealthy as claimed by Peter Gideon, the originator.

"Some good grape seedlings fruited this year, the seedlings of Brighton being particularly promising. One of these, a black seedling, almost identical with Brighton in flavor, but a finer grape, will, we believe, be an acquisition.

"There are 2 new apples which have been fruiting at Ottawa for several years which we would like to draw your attention to. These are the Walter and the Hoadly. They are both about the season of the Wealthy, but have proved very hardy and have merits of their own.

"WALTER.—Originated by the late P. C. Dempsey. Fruit, roundish, rather irregular, very large; cavity, deep, open, medium width; stem, short, moderately stout; basin, deep, medium to open, almost smooth to moderately wrinkled; color, greenish yellow, splashed and streaked with red, with dots, few, small, white, distinct; skin, moderately thick, moderately tender; core, small; flesh, yellow, rather coarse, juicy, melting, sub-acid; flavor, pleasant, high; quality, good; season, October.

"HOADLY.—Originated in Wisconsin. Fruit, oblate; size, above medium; cavity, deep, moderately open, slightly russeted; stem, short, slender; basin, medium depth and width, almost smooth to slightly wrinkled; calyx, open; color, yellow, splashed and streaked with carmine, with dots, few, yellow, indistinct; core, medium; quality, above medium; season, Oct. Tree, an upright grower, hardy and productive. Sections obtained from the late J. L. Budd, Ames, Iowa."

In the report by Prof. H. L. Hutt, O.A.C., which was a verbal one, he mentioned the work that is being done at the college in developing new varieties by plant breeding. They had 125 varieties of strawberries and 100 varieties of raspberries fruiting this year, many of which appear to be quite promising. They do not intend to give any of them names or disseminate them for cultivation until they have been given a more thorough trial, as they do not wish to send out any new varieties until they are satisfied, after thorough trial, that they are in some way superior to those already in general cultivation.

Among the promising new fruits which are not much grown in this country, Prof. Hutt referred to Cox's Orange Pippin, one of the most popular apples in the Old Country, because of its excellent quality. Where it has been fruiting here, it has borne heavily, but the fruit is apparently subject to rot, and probably would not prove valuable for shipping. It is, however,