

they deserve every encouragement at our hands.

As to the question of the Government assuming the direction and control of this association, I have only to endorse the conclusive arguments of my colleague, Mr. Christie, against any such course. I think it would be extremely injudicious for the Government to interfere in that way, and cannot see that any possible good would result from it; in fact, I would strongly deprecate any action on their part in that way. In the department of arts and manufactures I am glad to see that the progress is commensurate with the requirements of the country. Every branch has been fully and more than fairly represented, and we may well feel proud that Canada can boast of possessing such a body of artisans and mechanics as those who have contributed specimens of their handiwork at this exhibition. This is particularly noticeable in the department of agricultural implements, a trade which is rapidly assuming vast proportions, raising up huge factories, and giving employment to large numbers of our people. The labour question, always one of great difficulty, has lately so shaped itself as to tax all the ingenuity of our inventors and mechanics to devise expedients to enable the farmer who does not possess the necessary help within himself at all successfully to carry on his business. Immediately that a really good labour saving machine makes its appearance in the market, the demand exceeds the supply, and thus two classes are benefitted, without the third, the labouring class, being in the least degree injured. In all the other manufactures of the country we find the same healthy tone. New industries are continually springing up, with our immense facilities for manufacturing—such as water-power, of which we possess an inexhaustible supply—and the rest being more and more developed. Our position in the geographical situation of the earth seems to point us out as a large manufacturing people, and by uniting the two branches of agriculture and arts gives us a sure pledge for the future.

You will unite with me, Gentlemen, in reverentially thanking a beneficent Providence for His many mercies towards us during the past year. Our fields have literally, when tickled with the plough, laughed into the harvest. We may safely call this a good year, and following upon a comparatively poor one, it is all the more acceptable. In the section of the country which I more peculiarly represented, last season was an unusually dry one, and in the month of August, 1870, a disastrous fire swept over a large area, consuming everything before, and leaving behind but a weary waste of blackened stumps and charred cinders to point where the hard-won home of the forest pioneer had once stood. Houses, barns, fences and crops, and in a few instances human life, in a short hour or two, all passed away as though they had never been. The sufferings of the people, now made outcasts, was something terrible. Deprived of their little all they knew not what to do; but the hand of charity of their fellow-citizens was an open one, and almost immediately subscriptions came pouring in until they reached something over \$70,000, the Government of the Province voting \$25,000, and that of Quebec \$3,000. The whole of the amount has been distributed to the sufferers as appears by the report of the committee, a copy of which has been sent to each subscriber. The report speaks for itself, but I may add that, thanks to those liberal donations, to the recuperative farmers, to the people themselves, the burnt district has recovered from the blow, and

out of evil much good has come. We may congratulate ourselves, gentlemen, upon the results of this year's exhibition, and point to it as an indication of the generally healthy state of the country. It is said that Kingston is too far east for the holding of a completely successful exhibition, but certainly that statement has not been sustained by what we have seen during the past few days. But even if it were true that would be no reason to abandon our present system. Our exhibitions are intended to be, so to speak, camps of instructions designed to show to the farmers and mechanics of every section of the Province all that was best in the several branches of industry. To do that effectually, and really to carry out the spirit of our organization we should as far as possible bring our exhibition within the reach of all. As a rule it is more equitable to require the exhibitors and prospective prize takers to follow our exhibition, than to expect the mere spectator to do so. That question, however, is in your hands and it is for you to express an opinion.

Gentlemen, farmers and mechanics of Canada, blessed with free institutions, living under the freest constitution in the world, the destinies of your country are in your own hands. Yours is the task under Divine Providence of raising her to the level of the highest, or sinking her to the lowest ranks of civilization. Nature has endowed her with all the necessary requisites. Let art step in, and complete the picture of a prosperous, happy, and God-fearing people in a peaceful and plentiful land. Fill up the vacant gaps in your own sections and then when the proper time comes the rich broad plains of the western prairies lie waiting to absorb your surplus population—a place where under the broad aegis of the old-time flag your sons and daughters may perpetuate British pluck, energy and institutions, and form a connecting link in that chain of peoples who, hailing from the glorious trio of sea girt islands, have always pushed to the front wherever the rights of liberty, justice and equality were imperilled.

Fruit Growers' Association.

The following address of the President of the Fruit Growers' Association, Rev. Mr. Barnett, was read at the annual meeting at Kingston, by the secretary Mr. D. W. Beadle, in the absence of the President:—

Another Horticultural year has terminated, and finds the members of the Fruit Growers' Association assembled in annual meeting. Provision has been made that your President should deliver the usual address, and present some subjects of interest that may have engaged attention during the past season. Allow me, at the outset to tender to the members, present and absent, my sincere and hearty thanks for having placed me in this chair, and for the uniform urbanity and kindness which have marked all their conduct towards me during my presidency, and to assure them of the feelings of gratitude and satisfaction with which I shall ever look back to the friendly and interesting intercourse which has existed during the whole period of our official connection. The past season has been one of great interest to the fruit grower in many ways. Exceptional in point of weather, it has been productive of many important lessons to the Horticulturist. The extreme drought has tested many of our choice varieties of fruits, and has been the means of affording criteria of rare value in regard to sorts of which we

had not much information, and which it was needful to have tried by extremes in the weather. The advancement of our Association in membership, activity, and substantial progress has been all that could be desired. Indeed, the means employed for the good of the Association have been singularly beneficial in their results. The dissemination of the fruit reports, discussions and essays have created an interest in the public mind which begins to render our contemplated objects second only to the agricultural interests of our Province.

The systematic and admirable report of the Entomological Society which was presented to the Bureau of Agriculture has made an impression on the general public, and on fruit growers in particular, which has given a mighty impulse to our special cultivation. I have only to utter the heartfelt wish, that the very intimate and close relationship at present subsisting between the members of that society and our own may be perpetual and that our only rivalry may be to advance our common interests to the best of our ability.

The plan of making the whole Province an experimental garden for the test of old and new fruits has been followed by the most happy results. It has not only been the means of creating more than usual interest among the members, furnishing important data as to the capabilities of soil, and the variations of climate, but has nearly doubled the membership. Such beneficial results could scarcely have been anticipated, and they surely indicate a road to further advancement in the same direction. If we mistake not the true interests of our association, and discern the best mode for their accomplishment, we would say, let us continue in this path on which we have so auspiciously entered. We are vain enough to believe that we wisely suggested the use of another important lever to effect our purposes, when proposing recently to our Directors that Secretary Beadle's work on Horticulture should be sown broad-cast among our members by the Association during the coming year. It would crown the work already begun in the distribution of plants, give an impetus to fruit culture, and, on account of its Canadian origin and adaptation to our wants, supply at present a hiatus in fruit and vegetable growing which is patent to all lovers of our associated interests. The different local meetings throughout the year have been well attended, and have not lacked in interest—indeed the interest in fruit growing has been deeper and more felt than ever before. At Goderich, the display of fruit was something wonderful, and that district of country, at no distant day, is destined to take an important place among fruit growers. The plums, grapes, and apples grown in that locality startled members unacquainted with its capabilities. The benefits accruing to the Association from various local meetings throughout the Province ought not to be lost sight of. I could personally testify, were it needful,—and the members present could add their testimony to mine,—of the interest thereby created in many minds, and of plans formed for the cultivation of fruit: interest and plans which would never have had existence but for the presence of the association. Among all the interests, however, which the members of our association are banded together to further, there is none at present so important, and in the future will be so profitable to the fruit culturist, as grape growing. It needs not much discrimination to perceive that this culture is to prove of immense benefit to large tracts of our country. The soil, aspect,