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The Ontario Cooperative Fruit Growers' Association

A PROVINCIAL organization of cooperative fruit associations was inaugurated on August 14, in the office of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST. It is to be called The Ontario Cooperative Fruit Growers' Association. The following officers were elected: President, A. E. Sherrington, Walkerton; first vice-president, D. Johnson, Forest; second vice-president, W. H. Dempsey, Trenton; third vice-president, Robt. Thompson, St. Catharines; secretary-treasurer, A. B. Cutting, 507 Manning Chambers, Toronto.

The associations that were represented by delegates are located in various parts of the province; thus the meeting was a representative one. The names of the delegates and of their respective associations are: A. E. Sherrington, Walkerton; W. H. Gibson, Newcastle; W. H. Dempsey, Trenton; Wm. Leary, Parkhill; Robt. Thompson, St. Catharines; W. A. D. Ross, Chatham; D. Johnson, Forest; W. R. Davis and W. H. MacNeil, Oakville; Elmer Lick, Oshawa; J. E. Johnson, Simcoe; and Dr. J. D. Hamill, Meaford. Several associations, not represented, including Ingersoll, Ilderton, Belleville, and Orillia, sent word expressing themselves in hearty accord with the movement. Others present were: P. W. Hodgetts, Sec. Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, Toronto; P. J. Carey, Dominion Fruit Inspector, Toronto, and H. B. Cowan, Toronto, who called and acted as secretary at the meeting.

OBJECTS AND PURPOSE

The objects of the association are of a wholly commercial nature, and are designed to assist the various local cooperative fruit growers' associations:

A.—By acquiring and furnishing reliable information regarding fruit conditions and prospects throughout Canada, the United States and Europe.

B.—By assisting the various local associations to market their fruit to the best possible advantage. 1. By placing agents in the leading local and foreign markets. 2. By bringing the local associations in close touch with leading buyers. 3. By acquiring and disseminating reliable information in regard to prices paid in the case of actual sales. 4. By assisting local associa-

tions to procure satisfactory accommodation for the storage of their fruit, and cars for the shipping of same. 5. By cooperating in the purchase of supplies at the best possible prices.

c.—By cooperating with the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association in the formation of additional local cooperative fruit growers' associations, and in such other educational work as will be in the best interests of the fruit growers of the province.

d.—By taking steps that will tend to bring about more uniform grades in the pack of the fruit of the province. Already, following the purpose of this clause, the Dominion Fruit Division has been petitioned to provide that the local cooperative fruit growers' associations be specially inspected and

fruit houses and give demonstrations in correct packing.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Provincial Association shall be confined to the local cooperative fruit growers' associations of Ontario that have charge of the grading, packing and sale of the fruit of their members. Each affiliated association shall have the right to appoint one representative to act as a director of the Provincial Association. The membership fee shall be \$5.00 a year. In case it be required to meet further obligations of the Provincial Association, a small levy per barrel will be made on the affiliated associations.

HOW IT HAPPENED

The need for united action on the part of the cooperative fruit growers' associations in the province has become apparent during the past few years, and is a result of the great increase in the number of these organizations. The meeting that culminated in the organization of The Ontario Cooperative Fruit Growers' Association was called by THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST. It was the outcome of considerable correspondence on the question between this journal and cooperative associations, in different parts of the province, that resulted from the trip of the representative of THE HORTICULTURIST this summer to Great Britain. The associations desired that our representative should place them in touch with leading and reliable firms in the Old Country willing to handle Canadian fruit. They asked, also, for certain important information relating to the British fruit markets. The idea of calling this meeting met with the enthusiastic approval of such leaders in the movement for the cooperative handling of fruit as Messrs. A. E. Sherrington, of Walkerton; W. A. D. Ross, of Chatham; Robt. Thompson, of St. Catharines, and D. Johnson, of Forest, who have long recognized the fact that the time was coming when the local cooperative associations should be united through a central organization.

The newly-formed Ontario Cooperative Fruit Growers' Association will proceed along conservative lines. Too

A Leader

I am pleased with the great improvement that has been made in THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST. It is one of the leading horticultural journals that comes to my office.—W. N. Hutt, State Horticulturist, Maryland Experiment Station, College Park, Md.

specially protected; it has been requested that a fruit inspector call, at frequent intervals throughout the packing season, at the various cooperative fruit houses, so as to guarantee a high standard of character and pack in the fruit sold by the associations. The Fruit Division has been asked, also, to hold special meetings in those localities where cooperative fruit growers' associations are situated, to demonstrate the best and most approved methods of packing fruit, particularly apples, in boxes and barrels. In reply to these requests, Mr. Alex. McNeill, Chief of the Fruit Division, promises to assist the newly organized association in every way possible; special protection will be afforded and arrangements already have been made for an expert packer to visit the cooperative