

the cheese and butter interests of the provinces, so far as these public associations are concerned, is an accomplished fact. The meetings of the separate associations which are to be held this

month will be the last ones, for in all probability the individual associations will severally ratify the steps towards amalgamation taken by their respective executives.

## THE ONTARIO FRUIT-GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

*Specially reported for FARMING.*

The thirty-seventh annual meetings of this association were held at Kingston on Dec. 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, and were in some respects the most important meetings in the history of the association. By the kindness of the authorities the lecture hall of the Kingston Dairy School was put at the disposal of the fruit-growers, and Superintendent Ruddick extended a cordial invitation to the members present to inspect the dairy operations. The presence of the Hon. Sydney Fisher at a number of the meetings lent additional importance to this year's convention. Amongst others present were the Hon. John Dryden, Dr. Saunders, and Mr. John Craig, from the Central Experimental Farm; Professor Hutt, O.A.C., Guelph; Dr. Grant, Principal of Queen's College, Kingston; Professor Adam Shortt, Professor Fowler, and Professor Knight, all of Queen's College; the Mayor of Kingston, Mr. J. L. Haycock, M.P.P.; Mrs. Wilkinson, President Napanee Horticultural Society; Mr. Murray Pettit, Winona; Messrs. W. E. Wellington, Toronto; E. Morris, Fonthill; Linus Woolverton, Grimsby; W. Boulter, Picton; R. B. Whyte, Ottawa; Geo. Nicol, Cataraqui; Thos. Beall, Lindsay; R. L. Huggard, Whitby; W. M. Orr, Fruitland; A. M. Smith and M. Burrell, St. Catharines; J. S. Scarff, Woodstock; T. H. Race, editor of *Mitchell Recorder*; G. C. Caston, Craighurst; Harold Jones, Maitland; and F. G. H. Patterson, Grimsby. With such a list of names, it goes without saying that the papers and discussions were of a high order of excellence. He must be a dull man or a very wise one, indeed, who did not carry away from these meetings a good many new ideas and much food for thought. With the limited space at our disposal, it will be impossible to give more than a brief summary of the most practical papers.

### "GARDENING IN RELATION TO CIVILIZATION."

Professor Shortt gave an admirable and most suggestive address on "Gardening in Relation to Civilization." Taking for his text the opening sentence of Bacon's essay, "Of Gardens," the speaker gave an interesting historical sketch of the history of gardening, tracing its progress and development from the earliest times in Persia to the present day. It was not until late in the eighteenth century that gardening as an art began to assume a freer form, and throw off the cramping influences of the Dutch and French systems, and the formal methods of mediæval days.

### "CANNAS AND THE GLADIOLUS."

Mr. H. Groff, of Simcoe, read an instructive paper on "Cannas and the Gladiolus." The speaker appeared to be a veritable mine of information as to the latter flower. He had done a vast amount of hybridizing, and his address was stamped with the hallmark of specialism. Cannas, Mr. Groff said, for successful cultivation required a rich soil, lots of moisture, and a warm situation. No finer bedding-plant existed. Dr. Saunders spoke of some experiments carried on at the Central Farm to test the efficacy of sub-irrigating the cannas. Results showed that under this treatment the cannas flowered earlier, had bigger blossoms and the plants gained wonderfully in vigor.

### "SWEET PEA CULTURE" AND "ROSES."

Mr. R. B. Whyte's paper on "Sweet Pea Culture" was much appreciated. A rich but moist clay loam was the best soil. Plant four inches deep, or six inches if soil is sandy. Wire netting five or six feet high is the best trellis. Look out for cutworms and red spiders. Some of the best varieties were America, Blanche Burpee, Primrose, Catherine Tracy, Lottie Eckfort, Firefly, and Ramona.

Mr. O. G. Johnston read a good practical paper on the "Amateur's Rose Garden," and concluded by warmly recommending to every lover of the queen of flowers Dean Hole's book on roses.

### "FERTILIZATION OF FRUIT TREES."

Professor Fowler, of Queen's College, in his address on the "Fertilization of Fruit Trees, and Some Causes of Failure," pointed out the division of all blossoms into two great classes, those fertilized by the agency of the wind, and those fertilized by means of insects. All flowers with bright colors, including fruit blossoms, were fertilized by the work of insects, while all our grains depended on the action of the wind. If, then, during the blossoming time of any of our various grains there should be a marked absence of wind we might expect a poor crop of that grain. And if during the blossoming period of any particular fruit it should be too cold or wet for insects to work, the result would undoubtedly be a short crop of fruit. In the discussion which followed many interesting points were brought out touching the necessity of cross-fertilization, barren orchards, etc. This subject of fertilization is undoubtedly an important one to fruit-growers and will well repay careful study.

### "OVER PLANTING."

Mr. F. G. H. Patterson's paper on "Over-Planting" created a lively discussion and some laughter. It was his deliberate opinion that planting was being overdone, especially with plums and grapes, and he thought it full time a halt was called. He treated his subject in a quasi-humorous way, and considered that we should have a "close" season for planting. There was more than a grain of truth beneath the humor of the paper.

### "DAIRYING AND FRUIT-GROWING."

"Dairying and Fruit-Growing," by Superintendent Ruddick, of the Kingston Dairy School, raised a profitable discussion on the value of apples as a food for milk cows. It was shown that the popular idea as to the "drying up" of cows by the feeding of apples was a sheer fallacy. It was necessary, however, to feed a small quantity at first, gradually increasing the ration to half a bushel a day. It was also better for the apples to be fairly sweet and ripe.

### THE VALUE OF SPRAYING.

Mr. W. M. Orr contributed a valuable paper embodying the results of the spraying operations conducted during 1896. The figures must have convinced the skeptic of the value of spraying. A typical instance may be cited. In an orchard never before sprayed trees of the "Snow