

Garden and Orchard.

Meeting of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association.

The winter meeting of the above Association was held in Chatham, Feb. 9th and 10th, the President, Mr. A. McD. Allan, in the chair.

Mr. B. Gott, Arkona, read a paper on "The Fruit Garden for Home Use." He said the size of the garden should be compatible with the requirements of the family, and should be surrounded by a picket or wire fence. There should also be a cheap but serviceable greenhouse, and cellars and storehouses free from dampness, frost and vermin. The varieties he recommended were the following:

STRAWBERRIES: Early Canada, Bidwell, Crescent, Ontario, Manchester, Daniel Boone, Wilson and King of the North for early ripening. For medium ripening he recommended Crimson Cluster and Henderson. For late ripening, Prince of Berries, Maggie and Jewell.

RASPBERRIES: For early red varieties, Hansell, Marlboro, Herstine, Turner, Red Antwerp, and Franconia. For late red, Clark and Cuthbert. Early Black, Tyler, Soughagan and Seneca. Late black, Mammoth Cluster, Gregg, and Shaffer's Yellow or White, Caroline and Brinckle's Orange.

BLACKBERRIES: Gainer, Snyder and Kittatiny.

GOOSEBERRIES: Saunders' Pearl, Houghton, Smith's Improved, Downing's, and Industry.

CURRANTS: Fay's Prolific, Cherry, Ruby Castle and Red Dutch. Black: Lee's Prolific and Black Naples. White: White Grape and White Dutch.

GRAPES: Moore's Early, Worden, Concord, Wilder, Roger No. 4, Brighton, Lindley, Delaware, Lady, Jessica, Niagara, Pocklington and Empire State.

Linus Woolverton, Grimsby (Secretary of the Association and Editor of The Horticulturist), regarded Moore's Early, Worden and Concord as the best black grapes for family use, and Niagara and Empire State as the best white varieties. He befriended the Pocklington, but did not consider it to be so hardy as the Niagara. He did not believe in fencing the family garden; it made too much work about the fences, where there was a breeding ground for weeds, vermin, etc. He would employ horse culture in the open field, and long rows were more easily cultivated than short ones. His favorite family strawberries were Cumberland's Triumph, Crescent and Wilson.

P. C. Dempsey advocated long-row horse culture, and added that the garden should be thoroughly protected by wind breaks. The rows should be set in the direction which would cause them to get the most sun. The market should not be endangered by the Champion grape, which was never asked for a second time; the Worden was only 5 or 6 days later. Moore's Early and Lady were shy bearers. The Worden was the best grape in the east.

W. E. Wellington, Fonthill, said that locality was a very important consideration in Canada; each speaker should state his locality and give some idea about the climate. For general use he would select the following varieties:

RASPBERRIES: Cuthbert, Gregg, Shaffer's Colossal, Caroline, Golden Queen and Herstine.

GRAPES: Moore's Early, Jessica, Worden, Empire State, Brighton, Roger No. 4, and Virgennes.

STRAWBERRIES: Manchester, Crescent, Bidwell, Sharpless and Wilson.

CURRANTS: Cherry, White Grape, Fay's Prolific and Moore's Ruby.

GOOSEBERRIES: Downing's, Smith's Improved, and Industry.

Mr. P. P. Lyon, South Haven, Mich., President of the Michigan Horticultural Society, wondered why the Alpha strawberry was not mentioned; it bore a splendid reputation in Michigan. The Gregg raspberry was considered the worst quality grown in his State, but was very productive. He criticised quite a number of other varieties, but those which he recommended did

not differ materially from those in favor amongst our own growers.

M. Pettit, Winona, one of the most extensive grape growers in Canada, recommended the following list for the farmers' fruit garden: Black—Moore's Early (early), Worden (medium), Concord (late). Red—Brighton (early), Delaware (Medium), Lindley (medium, also called Roger No. 4). White—Lady (early), Niagara (medium), Pocklington (late).

HIGH VS. LOW STEMMED TREES.

From the question box, the issue of high vs. low fruit trees was discussed.

L. Woolverton advocated the pruning of trees in such a manner that the trunks would be allowed to grow long before the branches began to spread, contending that an orchard pruned in this way could be cultivated to greater advantage, the teams being able to walk under the branches and closer to the trees.

W. E. Wellington advocated low set trees, the stems thereby not being so much exposed to the sun and inclement weather, which operated to the injury of the trees. He admitted that such an orchard could not be tilled so conveniently, but better specimens of fruit were produced. He considered that a five foot stem was high enough to begin with, which could be trimmed a trifle higher as the tree grew older.

L. Woolverton thought this might do for apple trees, but he found the best results from letting peach trees branch off near the ground.

W. E. Wellington allowed his peach trees to branch off three or four feet from the ground. In spring he never found the bark burst when the stems were short, which occurred on long stemmed trees.

M. Pettit allowed his apple trees to branch off when the stems were four or five feet high.

A speaker said that the trees, when the stems were too high, leaned to the east, caused by the action of the high winds. On low trees the apples could be picked at half the expense.

P. C. Dempsey thought four to five feet was about right. It would not hurt anybody to do a little hoeing under the trees; plowing too closely destroyed many of the roots.

F. W. Wilson, Chatham, thought a good deal depended upon what kind of stock, if any, was allowed to run in the orchard.

W. McKenzie Ross found the best fruit from low trees, and it was more easily gathered; but grass should not be allowed to grow around the stems of the trees, it being a place of refuge for mice and other vermin. In the fall the ground should be hilled up around the stems to keep off the mice. He preferred a short stem; three feet was what he considered short.

PEAR BLIGHT.

A discussion on pear blight took place, in which various remedies, more or less unsatisfactory, were mentioned. The President said the knife was the surest remedy, cutting below the blighted parts—or even below the ground in bad cases. Several members and listeners spoke of instances in which the application of large quantities of barnyard manure had caused blight.

Prof. Pantou, Ontario Agricultural College, explained that, until recently, blight had been attributed to the following causes, which, however, were all theories: (1) the weather; (2) insects; (3) frozen sap, or alternate freezing and thawing; (4) fungoid growths; (5) thunder and lightning. It had now been fully demonstrated that blight was caused by bacteria in the sap. A perfectly sound tree, when inoculated by affected sap, always caught the blight; but by filtering the sap, no injurious effects were produced. The bacteria which caused the blight were related to those which caused the rot. The most rational remedy consisted in working upon the vitality or condition of the tree; the bacteria floated in the air, and the air was beyond our control. Any condition which stimulated or produced a luxuriant growth of wood was favorable to bacterial attack, and this was the explanation of the blight being caused by excessive applications of barnyard manure.

The programme having called for the six best varieties of apples and pears for home and market use, Mr. Woolverton recommended the following:

APPLES for home use—Astrachan, Duchess of Oldenburgh, Fall Pippin, King of Tompkins, Northern Spy and Golden Russet. For market—Astrachan, Duchess of Oldenburgh, Maiden's Blush, King of Tompkins, Roxbury Russet and Golden Russet.

PEARS for home use—Rostiezer, Bartlett, Clapp's Favorite, Sheldon, Angouleme and Anjou. For market—Rostiezer, Bartlett, Clapp's Favorite, Howell, Angouleme and Anjou.

Mr. Allan highly recommended Mr. Dempsey's seedling, and thought it should be called the Dempsey.

Canadian Fruits at the Colonial Exhibition.

Mr. A. McD. Allan, President of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, and Mr. P. C. Dempsey, who were appointed to take charge of our fruit exhibit at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, presented a report to the Fruit Growers' Association, from which we take the following items:

The immense Conservatory of the Royal Horticultural Society was completely filled with our fruits, and there was a surplus of 500 plates of apples which were exhibited at the Edinburgh exhibition. Every Province of the Dominion was represented, and the locations in which the fruit grew were labeled, which dispelled the illusion that Canada was a land of eternal ice and snow, wild Indians, polar bears, etc. British Columbia furnished 180 plates of apples and 54 of pears. At the Guelph Provincial Exhibition, 356 plates of apples, 84 of peaches, 23 of pears, 24 of quinces, 19 of plums, 138 of grapes, being a total of 644 plates, were gathered for the Colonial. The Bay of Quinte Agricultural Society supplied 288 plates of apples, 68 of pears, 2 of quinces and 80 of grapes. The West Huron Agricultural Society furnished 234 plates of apples, 66 of pears, 4 of quinces, 51 of grapes and 13 of plums. Individual growers from Ontario furnished 49 plates of apples, 22 of pears, and 13 of plums and grapes; total number of plates from Ontario, 1,534. The Montreal Horticultural Society supplied 198 plates of apples, 4 of pears, and 1 of cranberries. Abbotsford Horticultural Society furnished 47 plates of apples, and 11 of pears. The Dominion Exhibition held at Sherbrooke, Que., supplied 76 plates of apples, 9 of pears, and 16 of grapes; total for the Province of Quebec, 362 plates. Nova Scotia supplied 334 plates of apples, and 3 of pears; and New Brunswick 144 of apples, and 5 of pears; total for the Dominion, 2,616 plates. Besides this display, there were laid on the table 14 plates of apples, 10 of pears, and 4 of plums from Quebec; 134 of apples, 37 of pears, and 11 of plums from Ontario; and 82 of apples, and 7 of plums from Nova Scotia. Also a display at Edinburgh from the Niagara and London districts (there being no room at the Colonial) of 419 plates of apples, and 9 of pears; 63 of apples from Quebec; 10 of apples from Nova Scotia, and 8 from New Brunswick. Grand total for the Dominion, 3,550 plates. At the close of the Colonial, 500 plates of apples were selected for the Glasgow Industrial Exhibition; a collection from Prince Edward Island arrived too late. Remaining specimens were distributed free in various quarters.

The following varieties of grapes carried perfectly well: Prentiss, Clinton, Telegraph, Rogers' 14 and Arnold's Hybrid. The following carried fairly well: Vergennes, Rogers' 36, 22, and 9, Burnet and Allen's Hybrid. Fairly good bunches were found in each of the following: Delaware, Iona, Diana, and the rest of the Rogers not mentioned. Lady Washington, Concord,