

Horticulturists in Convention

The twelfth annual convention of the Western Horticultural Society met at the Agricultural College, Winnipeg, on Thursday and Friday of last week. The attendance was not as large as the nature of the discussions warranted, but those present entered enthusiastically upon the furthering of Horticultural work.

The president of the society, Mr. A. P. Stevenson of Nelson, Manitoba, officiated at the opening session and quickly disposed of routine business.

Prof. Baird moved that the society follow up its investigation work in connection with the establishment of trial stations and that an appropriation be made to cover the cost of furnishing material.

Mr. G. H. Greig called attention to the fact that the Winnipeg Exhibition Board is offering prizes for the best-appearing school and school grounds as illustrated by photographs. The 1st prize is a \$25.00 library and the 2nd a \$10.00 library.

NEW BUSINESS

When the convention got down to new business, the first suggestion was a discussion of the advisability of changing the name of the society. Mr. Ross of Indian Head, suggested that some arrangement be made with the Saskatchewan and Alberta governments to assist in financing the society, as it now exists. He did not think the time was ripe, nor was it practicable, to organize horticultural societies in the new provinces. What the horticultural interests most require at present is more financial strength, and the way to get that strength, he thought, was to develop interest in the western provinces. Other speakers followed, endorsing the above statements, but finally, it was decided to appoint a special committee to suggest a method of extending the usefulness of the society, by enlisting the support of those interested in horticulture in the western provinces.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Prof. Brodrick, who has been secretary of the society for the past two years reviewed the work of the organization during the past year. The most notable effort was the holding of a show in September, to defray the expenses of which the provincial government made a special appropriation of \$500.00. The secretary is also the treasurer and reported in this capacity as follows:—

Balance on hand January 1st from 1907 ..	\$ 94.45
Fees for regular membership, 1908	145.00
Fees for special membership	15.00
Provincial government grant	200.00
Sundries	16.70
	\$472.15

DISBURSEMENTS

Printing and advertising	\$ 50.49
Plant premiums	30.40
Typewriting	33.53
Expenses of delegate to Minnesota convention	25.00
Expenses of Prof. Robertson to convention	7.70
Judging competitions at Virden and Gilbert Plains	17.00
Postage	50.00
Sundries	6.15
Balance	
	\$251.88

RECEIPTS FOR 1909

Balance from 1908	\$251.88
Membership fees	14.00
	\$265.88

DISBURSEMENTS

Typewriting	3.35
Stamps	8.00
Printing annual report	243.45
Balance in Bank	11.08
	\$265.88

Dr. Speechly of Pilot Mound gave a report of his visit to the Minnesota Horticulturists' Convention and gave many useful hints from the visit.

HORTICULTURAL WORK ON THE EXPERIMENTAL FARM AT BRANDON

This was the subject of a short report by Mr. Murray, the superintendent. The season of 1908 was not remarkable for the growth of flowers, fruits and trees, but the production of vegetables was quite satisfactory. The assortment of vegetables grown includes, asparagus, beets, beans, carrots, cauliflower, corn, celery, cabbage, cucumbers, lettuce, peas, radishes, squash, pumpkins, musk-melons, parsnips, salsify and tomatoes.

Several varieties of sweet corn including Devitt's Earliest sugar, Hiawatha, and Burpee's Golden Bantam were matured for table use from August 16th until October.

Celery made a satisfactory growth. Musk-melons were also grown satisfactorily in hotbeds. 1908 was a bad season in the apple orchard, owing largely to a

blight which appeared in 1906. This blight is different to many other forms, in that it is a bacterial, rather than a fungus, growth. The blight is developed within the tree and no method of treatment seems to be successful. In the past two years, upwards of 500 trees have succumbed to this blight. The variety most immune is a hybrid called Carlton. Several new varieties fruited and some show quite satisfactory promise. Several native plum trees fruited, and of the lot, some have proved quite promising.

A number of sugar maples planted in 1907 are still living and have suffered little, or not at all, from frost. Many years ago a plantation of sugar maple was set out, but they have not grown well. It is just possible, however, that a more hardy strain has been secured.

Mr. Schultz of Minnesota, said that although the source of blight was not known, they, in his state, have found that it is usually associated with the Transcendent and they had, therefore, cut out all Transcendents.

A report upon home grounds improvement was read by Mr. George Monteith, which outlined the work done by a local association at Killarney. The chief line of work was with the school board, with the result that soon every school now had its garden. Another line was a sweet pea contest among children, giving each child a half-ounce of seed. At a flower show later, every child that had flowers scoring above a certain percentage was given a prize in bulbs. About 140 children received packages and 17 exhibited. A home grounds contest was also held, including classes for well-kept lawns, improvement in new lawns and vegetable gardens. The flower show was held in August and did much to stimulate interest and illustrated the keenness of the sentiment that had developed.

GARDEN SEEDS FROM A SEEDSMAN'S POINT OF VIEW

This was the subject of a paper by Mr. Turnbull, of the Steele, Briggs Company, who said, in part: "To begin with, the conscientious seedsman looks for the highest vitality with the best varieties. Vitality in practically all varieties of garden seeds is as strong the second year as the first, but every one wants fresh seed. This being the case, it is necessary to insure against a shortage of supply by holding over a small amount of high seed. A high percentage of germination, however, is the first concern of the progressive seedsman and to this end he bends every energy."

NON-WARRANTY CLAUSE

"Everyone is aware of the non-warranty clause in seedsmen's contracts and while this may appear to somewhat facilitate dishonest practices, still, there are so many vicissitudes that the seedsman cannot undertake to protect the planter against natural pests and adverse conditions as well as the whims of the grower. There are so many things that might enter into a failure, that Canadian seedsmen have never considered that they could warrant their seeds to produce a clean crop. So far, the courts have not decided to what extent seedsmen are responsible for the seeds they supply, but in the case of complaints from the planters, the seed merchants usually try to make a satisfactory settlement. It is expected, however, that the courts will soon decide where the responsibility of the seedsman ceases."

FLOWERS THAT A FARMER'S WIFE CAN GROW

This was the subject of a paper read by Mr. Thos. Jackson, florist, at the agricultural college. Mr. Jackson's paper was written for the novice and was directed to those who have the most primitive facilities for growing flowers. The class recommended was the annuals, some of which require transplanting and others do not. The list that does not require transplanting includes sweet pea, mignonette, nasturtium, and sweet alvium. Those to be transplanted are the sunflower, tobacco plant, snapdragon, stalks, marigolds, petunias, and verbenas. Methods of handling each variety were described by Mr. Jackson. In discussion, a delegate suggested that to protect seeds on the open prairie, it was a good idea to build a sod wall.

HEDGES

At the opening of the afternoon session, Professor Bedford took up the subject of hedges for country and city. In part, Mr. Bedford said:

"These can generally be classed under two heads, the low hedge for the ornament, and the tall one for a windbreak. The former is adapted to city uses, the latter gives the best satisfaction on the farm."

"Whether the hedge be high or low, care should be taken to select the right tree or shrub for the purpose, as some plants do not readily adapt themselves to the requirements of a hedge."

"All stately trees, like the elm, are not naturally hedge plants, while low-growing and shrubby trees, like the ash-leaf maple, readily take the shape required for a hedge."

"For the best results, a hedge plant should stand pruning, and naturally branch closer to the ground, otherwise the hedge will look thin and bare. Trees

with coarse, open branches, such as poplars or cottonwoods, are unsuitable for this purpose, and no amount of pruning will make them attractive.

"On the average prairie farm, shelter is necessary, in fact, until our fierce winds are somewhat checked by trees in one shape or another, it is almost impossible to have a good vegetable or flower garden on the farm, and in winter the barnyards are so filled with snow that it is difficult to move around, and any article left outside is soon buried under several feet of snow."

"While a windbreak made of several rows of trees does good service for this purpose, a good many trees are required and the snow is apt to break them down. In my opinion, a cheaper and better windbreak can be formed by planting the trees in the shape of a hedge, for this purpose it is best to have two hedges, the other being one hundred feet from the buildings. This should be made of willow, either sharp leaved or Russian golden. Willow will bend when loaded with snow, whilst most other trees will break, this tree can be grown from cuttings, and makes a rapid and cheap hedge. When planting, only leave one bud out of the ground, otherwise they will dry out and fail to grow. The trees should be about two feet apart, and a single row is as good as a double one. After the first year, very little pruning will be required for this kind of a hedge."

"Inside the willow hedge, and about twenty-five feet distant from it, a row of seedling maples should be planted. They can be set out from two to three feet apart and in a single row. A slight pruning should be given this hedge each year until it gets beyond reach, when it will do well without pruning."

"In the twenty-five feet of space between the two hedges, small fruits, such as raspberries, can be planted, and abundant crops of excellent fruit obtained every year. The hedges provide shelter, and the high banks of snow that always gather there furnish moisture that lasts all through the fruiting season."

"There are a number of other trees suitable for farm hedges, but I think these two suit the purpose, and both are cheap and easily procured."

NURSERY WORK

A most interesting address was given by Mr. N. M. Ross on the growing of nursery supplies of conifers. The address was also illustrated with lantern slides from photos taken on the forestry farm at Indian Head, and on nurseries of evergreens in Europe. Pine and spruce were the principle sorts discussed, and it was evident from the large numbers grown and the few gaps in the nursery plots that these conifers are not difficult to propagate in Saskatchewan.

Mr. John Caldwell gave his observations of forestry work in Saskatchewan, and paid a glowing tribute to the work of Mr. Ross and the forestry station at Indian Head.

A paper on birds, by J. J. Golden, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, brought the twelfth annual convention to a close, after which the following officers were elected: President, John Caldwell, Virden; 1st Vice-President, Dr. Speechly, Pilot Mound; 2nd Vice-President, J. J. Ring, Crystal City; Secretary-Treasurer, Prof. F. W. Broderick; Directors, D. W. Buchanan, St. Charles; Dr. Thompson, St. James; Robert Aitkin, Elmwood; F. S. Jacobs, Dr. Baird, George Batho, W. G. Scott, Winnipeg, and A. M. High, Killarney.

Saskatchewan Grain Grower's Convention

The eighth annual convention of Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, which was opened at Weyburn on Wednesday morning and continued steadily at work for three days was the largest attended and most enthusiastic in its history, the many questions brought forward being ably discussed. After the president had extended privileges to the Manitoba and Alberta delegates he read his report. In his address the president said, in part:

"The past season has been one of the most profitable in our history, although not as abundant as many of the preceding ones. With the increased acreage under cultivation, we produced more grain than in any year of our previous history the exact amount being 105,589,543 bushels. Of this amount 50,500,000 bushels were wheat, being an increase over last year of 23,000,000 bushels. There have been in all of the different statistical districts some very heavy yields reported. This would lead us to believe, 'That improved methods of cultivation would greatly increase the average yield.' The quality on the whole has been excellent and the price has been above the average, which leaves a good margin of profit to the producer."

The summer and fall were ideal for preparing the land for seed for the coming year, and all are looking forward to the year before us with renewed confidence. The harvest being early and the weather favorable for moving the crop, the annual car shortage was of short duration.

Regret was expressed that the provincial government had decided to abandon hail insurance, but a more hopeful note was sounded in reference to the new flour and oat meal mill recently opened at Moose Jaw.

Reference was made to the death of Mr. R. S. Cook of Prince Albert, one of the 1908 directors.