

## GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

## Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Meeting.

[Specially reported.]

The thirty-third annual meeting of the N. S. F. G. Association convened in Wolfville, continuing three days. The meetings were the largest ever attended in the history of the Association, every county in the Province being represented by individual fruit growers or delegates from various agricultural societies. The membership roll has been rapidly increasing during the past three years, and now numbers over one thousand, showing an increasing interest each year in the fruit industry. Meetings were held in Assembly Hall, seating over eight hundred at each session. President Bigelow presided. In addition to the regular programme, a fine exhibit was prepared. Over one hundred plates of apples were exhibited, comprising the well-known reliable sorts, as well as a large number of newly-introduced varieties. On either side of the platform were two enormous pyramids of Kings apples, which added to the beauty of the general display. Canned fruits from the Earnscliffe Gardens, Wolfville, demonstrated that success has been attained in that direction. The Horticultural School exhibit comprised two enormous squashes, weighing between 125 and 200 lbs., together with other vegetables; preserved small fruits; injurious insects; charts showing models of nursery and orchard grafting, budding, and pruning; spraying apparatus, etc.; all of which added to the practical side of the exhibit. In addition, horticultural implements, apple packers, cases, etc., were shown by Chas. E. Stair & Son, Wolfville. Fruits from California, shipped by the new wrapper system, could be seen on the tables, presenting a practical idea to shippers of fine brands of fruit. Pears, tomatoes, etc., might thus be shipped to London (Eng.) markets. Floriculture was not forgotten, and a large collection was in the display. The feature was a new and taking one.

President Bigelow's Annual Address was a most cheerful one. In reviewing the past year he noted the increased interest throughout the Province, estimating an export of over 300,000 barrels of apples to foreign markets, in addition to home supply. In spite of the adverse tariff of 20 per cent., over 50,000 barrels of apples, together with a large number of small fruits, had been marketed profitably in the United States. Nova Scotia fruit had received, in every instance where it was properly packed, an advance in prices in the English trade in competition with other countries. "We have the world for a market and do not fear competition." Congratulating the Association upon its extension of the fruit development, he urged, with candor, the necessity of the establishing of local fruit growers' associations in every county of the Province, concluding his address with the following recommendations: "1. The establishment of a chemical cold storage warehouse for the preservation of fruits and all perishable food products, and the same for transportation by rail or steamboat. 2. The necessity of having all railway freight from all the western counties for Halifax delivered at Halifax by rail, instead of at Richmond. 3. The most desirable package for fruit for shipment. 4. The importance of combining fruit culture and dairying, as the most profitable system of farming throughout the Province. 5. The necessity for an experiment fruit station supported by the Dominion Government in connection with the School of Horticulture. All of which will, I hope, have your serious consideration and vigorous support."

"Notes of the Year," by W. C. Archibald, proprietor of Earnscliffe Gardens. He observed that apples and small fruits have had a steady increase during the past year. The canning and evaporating industries were taking their places in Nova Scotia, giving each year more employment to the laboring classes, tending to keep the young men at home. It was possible in the Annapolis Valley to have a continuous orchard from Windsor to Annapolis. The unfavorable influences of the drouth during 1895 had been overcome largely by proper soil culture. The speaker advised cultivation as early in the year as the soil would permit. In Nova Scotia subsoiling was of more importance than irrigation. The excessive pruning of trees was not necessary if they are watched carefully during development. During the past ten years in his orchard only one wagon load of limbs had been removed, and not a diseased tree could be found. It was imperative to use judgment in fertilizing the soil, using such commercial fertilizers as would be a balanced ration tending to the production of fruit buds, increasing the dose as the tree developed. Fruit growers should remember in putting up fruit for market that the reputation of themselves and neighbors were at stake.

"Cold Storage and Trade" was opened up by Wm. Rand, Canning, who said a system of cold storage, both in the fruit warehouse and on the transportation steamers, had become a necessity. Cold storage was the "missing link" of Provincial trade. It would place on the British market our best productions in the best condition. The location of Nova Scotia by the sea made the scheme a most feasible one. Intelligence in all the lines of commerce was the chief factor. A one-sided development in any industry could not succeed.

Prof. John Craig, Dominion Horticulturist, followed with an intelligent address on

"Experimental Cold Storage," treating of the technical parts of refrigeration, explaining the different systems. No cold storage would be a success unless constructed upon correct principles. The aim was to prolong the market season of fruits of all kinds. A number of observations of conducted experiments were cited by the Professor. At a temperature of from 34° to 35° Fahr. poultry may be kept from two to three weeks. Beef is improved by storage the same length of time. Butter will keep from three to four months; eggs, three to eight months; apples, from five to ten months; pears, two to three months; blackberries, cherries, and strawberries, nearly the same period; potatoes, almost indefinitely; squashes, from four to eight months; green corn, oranges, and bananas, two to three months. The principle of the new system was the circulation of pure, cold, dry air. He further advised the construction of fruit cellars in side-hill, being simply caves and constructed with but little expense.

J. H. Huggill, manager of the Furness Line of steamers, assured the Association of their intention to put proper cold storage in their steamers.

A resolution was passed by the Association endorsing the request being made to the Provincial Legislature asking for assistance to construct a cold storage warehouse in Halifax.

"Plums and Plum Culture," was introduced by Prof. Craig. Among the different varieties, he was of the opinion that for favored portions of Nova Scotia the Japan varieties would prove of great value. There were now between 30 and 40 distinct kinds which had come by way of California. He recommended the Burbank, Abundance, and Willard, and was of the opinion that all Japan plums were self-fertile. These plums are marked with vigorous growth, and not as susceptible to fungous attacks as other kinds.

Mr. R. S. Eaton, a prominent fruit grower in Cornwallis, spoke in favor of Japan plums. In 100 plum stocks two years from bud had bloomed and set fruit, picking from one tree 26 plums. This variety has made from six to seven feet of growth in a single season.

In the discussion that followed, early and late fruiting plums were decided to be the best suited for Nova Scotia.

A committee was appointed to prepare a law preventing spread of Black Knot, Peach Yellows, and Pear Blight.

The second day's session was honored with the presence of Honorable Lieutenant-Governor Daly and the members of the Provincial Government—the Legislature having adjourned to attend the Association meeting. The forenoon was taken in visiting the buildings and grounds of the Nova Scotia School of Horticulture. The afternoon session opened with an address by Prof. E. E. Faville, Director of School of Horticulture, on

"Fruit Culture in Nova Scotia." The speaker reviewed carefully his observations during his lecture tour through the Province the past season; noting an increased interest and growth of the fruit industry, especially in districts where fruit growing has been a secondary consideration in the past. A carefully prepared estimate shows over 7,500 acres of apple and plum orchard in full bearing, and 5,000 acres of young orchard. The Professor emphasized the necessity of more thorough cultivation, pruning, and planting in orchards. There was not a county in the Province but what fruits of some description could be grown. In Cape Breton, vegetable culture should be understood and engaged in more extensively. It had become the great tourist resort during the summer, and vegetables could always find a demand in local markets. The cranberry industry was rapidly growing, and thousands of acres were in waiting for capital to develop them. In King's County over 200 acres were under cultivation. He urged upon the fruit growers the necessity of understanding soils adapted to different fruits and proper application of commercial fertilizer. In bearing orchards, potash should be the chief ingredient to supply. In spraying, prevention should be the rule in all instances. The establishing of sub-fruit stations in different counties was recommended, receiving stock from nursery grounds of the School of Horticulture.

The "Address of Welcome" to the distinguished visitors was eloquently given by Dr. Kierstead, Professor of English in Acadia University, welcoming the visiting Legislature on behalf of the town and Association. The response was made by Governor Daly, in which he expressed his appreciation of the good work the School of Horticulture and the Fruit Growers' Association were doing, and would do all in his power to aid the work. He was followed by numerous addresses of various members of the House.

"The Relation of Science to Practical Horticulture," by Edgar F. Higgins, student at the School, set forth the great good science has done for horticulture along the line of fertilizing, hybridizing, grafting, crossing, etc. In the school of experience the tuition is high and the course a long one. The Horticultural School has come as the great educator of fruit culture.

"Our Daughters' Dower" was presented by Mrs. A. N. Johnson, being the only paper given by a lady during the sessions. The paper laid great stress on woman's place in horticulture—not only among the flowers, but fruits as well—pointing out instances of those women who had been factors in building up the fruit industry of the world. It was an intelligent production.

"Relation of Stock Husbandry to Fruit Growing" was ably treated by W. W. Hubbard, Sussex, N. B., Secretary of N. B. Farmers' Association. He was in hopes that the farmers of N. B. would cooperate with the work of the Association, and thus encourage fruit growing in the Province. Sheep were valuable in old orchards in eating fruits dropped on account of codling moth, also to kill couch grass. It was very evident that to the practical farmer there existed a very close relationship between stock husbandry and fruit growing. Soil fertility could be maintained best by stock raising, piecing out with commercial fertilizer.

"Cranberries in Nova Scotia," by Henry Shaw, Waterville, was taken up in a practical way, Mr. Shaw being the pioneer grower of cranberries. The best location was a deep black muck swamp. Some swamps have a surface depth of muck about seven or eight inches, beneath which is sand; in this case all that is necessary is to plow the muck under and turn sand on top. In other cases, sand must be hauled to the bog and placed on top of the muck. It takes four years for a bog to come into bearing. Vines from the wild bogs are best. The best time to get the vines and plant them is in June. An average crop was about fifty barrels per acre. The ordinary cranberry worm can be combated by flooding. Mr. Shaw was of the opinion that cranberry growing could not be overdone. In 1894, King's County shipped over 2,000 barrels. Irrigation was often needed in times of drouth.

"Culls—What shall we do with them?" by Dr. A. P. Reid, Halifax. In the orchard and garden the farmer has any amount of culls not salable. He advised evaporating and drying fruit. His experience had proven the idea as practical. He exhibited samples of evaporated fruits and vegetables. The machinery utilized was portable and cheap.

"The Nova Scotia Apple Barrel" was a topic opened for general discussion. The general opinion was that the barrel should be larger, and of hard wood instead of soft; uniform hoops were preferred. A committee was appointed to report at the spring meeting on size and build of barrels.

"Some Flowers Worthy of General Culture" was set forth in a paper by M. G. De Wolfe, Kentville, in which a plea was made for more flowers in the home and garden. Adapted varieties were enumerated.

Dr. D. E. Witt followed with a paper on "Some Reminiscences fifty, seventy-five, and two hundred years ago, compared with the present," in which it was shown that as early as the 16th century the improved ideas of to-day were advocated and ridiculed. France was the first country to make any decided advance in the early horticulture.

"Our Competitors in the Market," by Col. B. Starrett, emphasized more and more the need of meeting the competitors with better packed fruit and improved barrels and cases.

The last evening was devoted almost entirely to a lecture by Prof. Faville, on "European Horticulture." The speaker gave an idea of the way fruit growing, farming, etc., is carried on in Great Britain and the Continent. The lecture was full of suggestions and ideas concerning proper and best methods of marketing produce from the farm. A description was given of the International Fruit Exhibit in Berlin, where the Association, under direction of the speaker, placed a large exhibit of apples, intending to introduce Nova Scotia fruits into the German market.

Those in attendance at the session pronounced it enthusiastic and instructive, though music was interspersed through the programme.

The following officers were elected:—President, J. W. Bigelow, Wolfville; Vice-President, Dr. Henry Chipman, Grand Pre; Secretary, S. C. Parker, Berwick; Treasurer, G. W. Munroe, Wolfville. Lieutenant-Governor Frazier, New Brunswick, and Lieutenant-Governor Howlan, Prince Edward Island, were made honorary members.

The spring meeting will be held in Middleton, in March.

## Manitoba Horticultural Society.

A year ago a number of the professional florists and gardeners living in the Winnipeg district organized under the above title. Experience, however, soon showed that such a society run exclusively in the interests of the professionals could not be very successful. It has now been reorganized, and opened to all interested, and we can now predict for it a most successful and useful career. Richard Alston is President; G. W. Scott, Treasurer, and D. D. England, Secretary. The membership fee is \$1.00 per annum.

## HOW TO GROW HOUSE PLANTS.

At a recent meeting held in the City Hall, Winnipeg, the President, Mr. Alston, the well-known florist, of Winnipeg, read a very instructive paper on "How to grow house plants," which was made particularly interesting to those present by object lessons presented during the lecture on various important points in caring for house plants.

The most essential features in the successful cultivation of window plants were shown to be sunlight, moisture, proper ventilation, and freedom from dust and insects. A window on the south side of the house would be found most suitable, sunshine being necessary for flowering plants, although such plants as begonias, ferns, etc., would do very well without sunshine. The high temperature of most dwelling houses in this country causes the moisture to evaporate very rapidly from plants, and as the air is so dry it is essential that plenty of moisture be supplied, although it is quite possible to

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