

ers, such as the changing conditions of trade and markets, transportation, cold storage, co-operation and numerous other questions, render it necessary that we should have a department and chief who could give his time and special attention to the requirements of the industry, having at the same time the direct ear of the minister without the interference of the chief of another department whose sympathies and energies are given more to the department or class of work congenial to his tastes, training and education."

Mr. S. C. Parker, Berwick, N.S., secretary Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association:—"Fruit growers in Nova Scotia are feeling very strongly the injustice of making the fruit department subservient to the dairy branch of the Department of Agriculture."

Constitution Changed

At a general meeting of the Niagara Peninsula United Fruit Growers' Association, held in St. Catharines, Feb. 17, the principal business dealt with was the amendment of the constitution as proposed by a committee at the last regular meeting. After considerable discussion on all clauses of the constitution a few changes were made. It was decided to drop the word "United" from the name of the association. The work and area of the association was extended from Welland and Lincoln counties, as heretofore, to include also the counties of Wentworth and Haldimand. The membership fee in future will be \$1.00 per annum, which sum will include membership not only to the Niagara Peninsula Association, but also to the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, with its many privileges, including a year's subscription to THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.

It was decided to hold a series of meetings at the same points as last year, and on the following dates: Stony Creek, Mon., March 12; Grimsby, Tues., 13; Beamsville, Wed., 14; Jordan Station, Station, Thurs., 15; Queenston, Fri., 16; St. Catharines, Sat., 17.

The association is now in communication with Prof. Craig, of Cornell; Mr. Geo. T. Powell, of Ghent, N.Y.; Prof. Van Deman, Rochester, N.Y., and others, and of these one will be secured to address the meetings. Local practical men also will deliver addresses and lead the discussion.—(A.B.C.)

Dominion Fruit Conference

The Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island Fruit Growers' Associations have appointed the following delegates to attend the Dominion Fruit Conference to be held in Ottawa, March 20, 21, 22. The list of delegates appointed by the British Columbia Association has not been announced yet.

ONTARIO—Harold Jones, E. Lick, W. H. Bunting, Robert Thompson, M. Pettit, A. W. Peart, J. L. Hilborn (?), (W. D. A. Russ), D. Johnson, A. E. Sherrington.

NOVA SCOTIA—Ralph Eaton, R. W. Starr, G. C. Miller, W. H. Sangster, S. C. Parker. One N.S. delegate will have to be left off, and it will probably be Mr. Sangster.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND—Reverend Father Burke, A. E. Dewar, Professor Ready.

QUEBEC—G. Reynaud, La Trappe; J. M. Fisk, Abbotsford; N. E. Jack, Chateaugay Basin; R. W. Shepherd, Comon; Robert Brodie, Westmount.

An Omission.—In the report of the annual meeting of The Horticultural Publishing Co., Limited, published in our last issue, the name of Mr. A. W. Peart, of Burlington, was omitted from the list of directors appointed for 1906.

Please accept my congratulations for the February HORTICULTURIST, which is the first issue I have seen in its new form, and I like it very much indeed. It should be of much more value to its readers.—(Prof. F. C. Sears, Truro, N.S.)

The Horticultural Department at Guelph

THE editorial in the February issue of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST entitled "Improvement Needed at Guelph," and claiming that the horticultural department at the College has not been as valuable to the fruit and vegetable growers of the province as they feel it should have been, has attracted a great deal of attention. One or two letters have been received claiming that the editorial did not do justice to the College, but among the rank and file of the growers the editorial has been generally commended.

The following letter, which is referred to editorially, has been received from a gentleman who is well informed in regard to the work of the horticultural department at the College. This party requested that his name should not be published.

EDITOR THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST:

The editorial in the last issue of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST, in my opinion, does not do justice to the work of the horticultural department at the Guelph College. In the first place, I think your criticism is likely to mislead the public because they are not aware of the nature of the manifold duties devolving upon the horticultural department. Its first duty, of course, is the instruction of students. This part of the work has developed more within the last few years than the public has any idea of. When Prof. Hutt took charge of the department 13 years ago, horticulture was a minor subject on the curriculum, consisting of but a few lectures in fruit growing given to the second year. To-day it is one of the major subjects, embracing fruit growing, vegetable gardening, landscape gardening and floriculture, given throughout the year to the first, second and fourth years, and to the lady students and teachers' classes in attendance at the Macdonald Institute. Thirteen years ago the attendance at the College was less than 300 students; last year the total attendance was over 1,000 students. Yet in this time but one assistant has been added to the teaching staff of this department, and through necessity the florist has been pressed into the work in addition to his regular duties. At the Illinois Agricultural College two professors, two assistant professors and two demonstrators are employed to do the same work that three men are doing at Guelph, and Ontario does not in anyway have to take second place to Illinois in importance of horticultural matters.

Second, the horticultural department, in addition to its teaching, has to maintain a large catering department, furnishing fruits and vegetables to the College boarding-houses, and furnishing flowers and plants for the regular decoration of tables, and almost weekly decoration of other buildings for public receptions and meetings.

This particular work has more than doubled since the addition of the Macdonald Institute. It has also to maintain greenhouses for public display, and to keep over 40 acres of lawn and grounds in a condition to be above criticism from the thousands of visitors who visit the College annually. For all of this work the department has been barely able to get a sufficient grant to employ the labor needed; yet it has received no credit for anything of this kind in the public accounts, and to but a limited extent in the eyes of the general public.

Third, the general public looks to the department to carry on as much investigation work as is done at the Ottawa Experimental Farm, where the members of the staff have their whole time for such work, and are not required to lecture or manage a catering department for the rest of the institution. At many of the American Experiment Stations they have a separate staff for the college and one for experiment station work. It is hardly to be expected that with all the other work devolving upon the staff at the College it can do as much investigation work as where they have nothing to do but investigation work, as has been the case, even in the Experimental Department at Guelph. You will find by referring to last year's report that much more investigation work has been undertaken at Guelph than your editorial would lead the public to believe; in fact, the staff has undertaken as much as the funds at its disposal would allow, for it has never yet had any special grant for this purpose, and what has been done has been squeezed out of the already insufficient labor grant.

An effort has been made to overcome the handicap of climate by developing the co-operative plan of work. This has been done through the Fruit Experiment Stations and through the Experimental Union, both of which the horticultural department was instrumental in organizing. Last year there were over 2,000 experimenters engaged in this work. With a promised increase in the grant for the work this year, the work has been greatly extended, and already over 1,000 applications from experimenters who wish to undertake the work this spring have been filed.

The crying need of the department is for more assistants and more financial support to enable it to undertake the work before it, and it is up to the fruit growers, vegetable growers, florists and horticulturists throughout the Province to see that their department is as liberally sustained as other departments of the College which have a well-organized constituency and good financial support at their back.

A FRIEND OF THE COLLEGE.

Excellent Work of the Toronto Branch

That the monthly meetings held by the members of the Toronto branch of the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association will result in much benefit to the gardeners surrounding Toronto, impresses those present more forcibly at each meeting. On Feb. 3, the executive reported on the progress they had made in securing lower rates by purchasing their supplies as an association. Several firms had been seen, and it was learned that a considerable reduction in prices could be had on boxes, Paris green, etc. The matter of deciding on what firms should be dealt with was left in the hands of the committee. Several members referred to different purchases of seeds and other supplies in which they had been defrauded. It was suggested that in future, if any firm misrepresented its goods to the disadvantage of the grower the matter should be reported to the executive, and the matter be investigated. Judging from the free-

dom with which the discussions were entered into the members are gradually getting away from the idea that the gardener's neighbor is his greatest enemy. Each member seemed anxious to let his brother gardener know all the secrets that he had gained from his experience.

The question of "Forcing Rhubarb" was fully dealt with by Mr. Thos. Delworth, of Weston. He had tried growing this crop from seedlings, but found it difficult to obtain satisfactory results. Better returns could be had if strong, thrifty roots were used.

In discussing celery-growing, Mr. Geo. Syme, Jr., said that it was the most profitable crop a gardener could grow. His experience with three different kinds of soils had shown that sandy loam was best.

At 3 o'clock on March 3, in the Albion Hotel, the following subjects will be discussed: Early Cabbage, by J. Stevens; Celery Growing, by W. Harris; Early Beets, by A. Shuter. The members are requested to bring along any gardeners who may be interested, whether members or not.