

New Brunswick Fruit-growers' Convention.

The annual meeting of the New Brunswick Fruit-growers' Association was held at Fredericton on January 14th and 15th. President Stephenson, in his opening address, congratulated the members on the good work that had been accomplished during the year in disseminating a wider knowledge of the varieties of fruit most suited to the locality, of the better cultivation and care of orchards, and of the manner of packing and marketing the fruit. It appeared to be pretty well acknowledged that, except in a few favored localities they could not make a commercial success of growing many of the standard winter varieties of apples; they had, therefore, to consider only the varieties they could grow, so that the same might be placed on the market from September onwards. He referred particularly to the advantages offered by the English market, and spoke very strongly in favor of honest packing as a means of establishing a reputation. He strongly advocated greater interest being taken in exhibitions, and contrasted the poor showing made by the Province at the Maritime Winter Fair, Amherst, when compared with Nova Scotia, a fact which was all the more to be regretted when it was borne in mind that the exhibits of New Brunswick on that occasion were in all cases equally as good as, and in many cases better than those from the sister Province. A good deal of knowledge was being obtained from the various illustration orchards established by the Government in the different parts of the Province, and from the meetings which had been held during the summer in various places, when practical lessons in orchard cultivation and practice had been given, and were much appreciated by all who had attended them.

The Secretary, S. B. Hatheway, in his report, referred to the same matter, and spoke of the Association's indebtedness to G. H. Vroom, the Dominion Fruit Inspector, for the able assistance he had rendered.

The treasurer reported a satisfactory balance in hand.

ST. JOHN RIVER VALLEY TO RIVAL ANNAPOLIS.

W. T. Macoun, Horticulturist, of the Experimental Farm, at Ottawa, then gave a short address on the work of his Department, with the main features of which our readers have already kept familiar from year to year. He was satisfied New Brunswick was admirably adapted for growing fruit; in fact, the St. John Valley was in every respect as desirable and suitable place for that purpose as the Annapolis Valley in Nova Scotia. It was, he said, only a question of knowing just what varieties would succeed best, and, when this had been ascertained, he felt sure that the time would come when the St. John Valley apples would be as noted as those of the Annapolis Valley.

SMALL FRUITS ON THE FARM.

A paper on "Small Fruits on the Farm," by W. T. Inch, strongly advocated the farmer having a supply of these fruits for his table all through the summer months. This was possible by having early and late varieties of strawberry, raspberry and blackberry, which would give a continuous supply, from the ripening of the first strawberry until the frost cut off the last blackberry. He advised not undertaking too large a plot, as a small plot well tended would give better returns than a larger one half done, besides needing less labor. With the numerous varieties of fruit now obtainable, no difficulty need be experienced in getting a proper succession.

STRAWBERRY EXPERIENCE.

J. C. Gilman, the first president of the Association, followed, with an address on the same subject. He referred to the troubles experienced by reason of the spring thaws, followed by sharp frosts, and advocated heavy mulching as the only remedy. Where old beds of strawberries are badly winter-killed, it would often be found better to plow them up and start afresh. When all danger of frost had passed, he advised the application of some fertilizer. Ground bone was a good thing for strawberries the first year, but it would not be found to give the best results if applied just before fruiting. Nitrate of soda, with potash in some form, would best meet the needs of the crop at that time.

PICKING AND MARKETING.

A good deal of the value of the fruit, said Mr. Gilman, depended upon the manner of picking. Different growers had their own methods of doing this; most, however, used what was called a stand; a field basket, or picker's basket, which, in most cases, was simply a shallow box, with four legs three or four inches long, and a handle made of anything which would answer the purpose. These stands were made just large enough to hold six boxes. It was necessary to explain

to beginners the difference between picking and pulling; they should be shown that, by picking a berry, it might be placed in the box without harm, whilst, by pulling, the ripe berries were bruised, the stems were broken, and green berries destroyed. Above all things, keep moving amongst the pickers; some new hands would be liable to damage the fruit at first, but, by patiently explaining any difficulties to them, they would soon become expert. In disposing of the crop, however it was done, growers should endeavor to be prompt, to deliver the fruit free from dust and dirt, and in the best possible condition.

HARDINESS IN FRUITS.

Mr. Macoun gave an address on "Hardiness in Fruits," and he defined "hardiness" as "the power of adaptability to environment." Plants and flowers, he said, were much hardier when growing under natural conditions than when under cultivation, the reason being that, in the latter case, conditions were often forced upon them which were not natural. For instance, the wild crab apple was much hardier than the cultivated apple in the orchard. The least hardy trees were those which ripened late in the season. One of the greatest trials the orchardist had to contend with was winter-killing of his trees. A partial preventive was a heavy mulch, though this was not always effectual. Apples which had been grafted onto crab stocks would be found less liable to damage than those on their own roots. The speaker went on to refer to the various other troubles to which the orchard is liable, such as bark-bursting, trunk-splitting, sun-scald, black-heart, and other injuries with which growers are familiar. He strongly advocated thorough cultivation during the early part of the season, as thereby the moisture which was so essential to the welfare of the trees was conserved. Leaving trees neglected in sod was condemned in unmeasured terms. Though the matter of cultivation was not one in which hard-and-fast rules could be laid down, suitable to all localities, the frequent use of the spring-tooth cultivator around the trees would never do any harm; it would keep the surface clean and preserve the moisture.

INSECT FOES.

W. McIntosh, the Curator of the Natural History Museum, at St. John, referred to the great possibilities which lay before the Province in the way of fruit-growing, accompanied, as they were, by such excellent shipping facilities, and regretted that more fruit of No. 1 quality was not being produced. It was a condition of affairs which was very easily remedied. He then went on to speak of the troubles which orchardists had to contend with, and among these troubles were caterpillars and insects. These were of many kinds, but they were most of them easy to get rid of. The tent caterpillar was one of the most common, but, by judicious spraying, it was easily destroyed. The same might be said of the bud moth, the ravages of the caterpillar of which were often ascribed to frost; so with the codling moth. A man who was in the habit of spraying regularly need have no fear; it was only the men who neglected their orchards who would be sufferers. The oyster-shell bark-louse was another pest, but trees properly looked after were usually free from it. Dirty, uncared-for orchards were troubled with this pest, and an application of kerosene emulsion when the young lice were running was the best remedy. The most dreaded pest was, of course, the brown-tail moth, which happily had not yet become common in the Province, though some half dozen specimens had been found in St. John during the summer, all of them, fortunately, males. The caterpillar of this moth was not unlike the tent caterpillar, and might be sometimes mistaken for it, but the brown-tail caterpillar was distinguished by two little red spots on the end of the back, near the tail, which were absent in the tent caterpillar. The address of this speaker was illustrated by large colored drawings of the various insect pests referred to, which added very considerably to the interest of it.

Dr. Hamilton, of the Provincial Normal School, gave an address on the text, "Anything will not do; the best is none too good." On this he founded a most instructive discourse, which applied not only to agriculturists and horticulturists, but to every other walk in life. No man who was satisfied with "anything" these days could ever expect to make much progress. He owes it to himself, his fellows and his country to strive for the best, and in the end it would be found that the best was none too good. Dr. Hamilton gave his hearers something which they could take away and seriously ponder over.

An exhibition of apples was also part of the proceedings, and many of the exhibits were unsurpassable by fruit grown anywhere. A gentleman from Nova Scotia remarked that there were apples staged there that the Annapolis Valley could not touch.

All the retiring officers were re-elected, namely: I. W. Stephenson, President; J. C. Gilman, Vice-President; H. Wilmot, Treasurer; and S. B. Hatheway, of Kingsclear, Fredericton, Secretary.

G. B.

Brown-tail Moth in New York State.

Through the kindness of G. G. Atwood, Chief of the Bureau of Horticulture of the State of New York, it has recently come to the knowledge of the Entomological Division of the Experimental Farm, at Ottawa, that about 75 nests of the young caterpillars of the brown-tail moth have been found on apple, pear and cherry seedlings, and quince stocks, recently received in New York State from France. The nests contained living caterpillars in the usual winter form.

The infested stock, so far as examined, was packed in or near Angiers, France. It would appear that the brown-tail moth has been unusually abundant this year in France, and it is probable that some of the larvae of this terribly-destructive insect may find their way into different parts of Canada, and become established there, unless the utmost care is taken to promptly destroy them.

This insect has already done incalculable damage to orchards and woodlands in some of the Eastern States, where many hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent during the past ten years in the endeavor to exterminate them, with only partial success. The brown-tail moth has recently been found in considerable numbers in parts of Nova Scotia, where constant efforts are being made to destroy them. It would be a great calamity to our fruit industry were this pernicious insect to become established in other important fruit districts, since this would result in a heavy annual loss.

A circular letter has recently been sent out, over the name of Dr. Saunders, Director, Experimental Farm, Ottawa, to all nurserymen in Canada, inquiring whether they have been or will be importing any seedlings or stocks from France this season, and offering, in such case, to send an officer of the Entomological Division to examine such material, and to advise as to precautions to be taken in case any of the insects should be found. It is sincerely to be hoped that this pest may be kept out of other Provinces than Nova Scotia, and speedily eradicated from the latter. The presence of the dread pest in New York State is warrant for the utmost vigilance on the part of all concerned.

Poultrymen Elect Officers.

Officers were elected and business connected with exhibitions for 1909 transacted at the annual meeting of the Eastern Ontario Poultry Association, held in Howick Pavilion, Ottawa, last week. A few changes in the prize-list were made. Golden Polands will be divided into bearded and unbearded classes. Black Wyandottes and Sul-tans were added. It was voted that any exhibitor who paid \$1.00 in entry fees at the poultry show should be considered as a member of the Association.

The new officers are: Hon. Presidents—Hon. Sydney Fisher, Hon. J. S. Duff, and Wm. McNeill, of London. President—Geo. Robertson, Ottawa. Vice-Presidents—Geo. Higman and John Belford, of Ottawa. Directors—W. F. Garland, of Ottawa; A. W. E. Hellyer, of Ottawa South; J. E. Fidler, of Brockville; James C. Cornish, Robert McKinstry, and J. Peaker, of Ottawa. Representative to the Canadian National Exhibition, at Toronto—Geo. Robertson. Representative to Central Canada Exhibition, at Ottawa—John A. Belford. Representative to the Board of Directors of the Fat-stock Show, at Ottawa—Geo. Robertson, Geo. Higman, John Belford, and W. F. Garland. Superintendent—R. E. McKinstry. Judges—Sharpe Butterfield, Windsor; Wm. McNeill, London; Richard Oke, London; L. G. Jarvis, Grimsby; George Robertson, Ottawa; and Chas. Wagner, Toronto.

It was decided that the expenses of the representative to the Toronto Exhibition be paid by the Association.

Short Courses at O. A. College.

The annual short courses in poultry, dairying, and stock and seed judging, have been in session at the O. A. C. this month. Upwards of 50 students in dairying, and twenty in poultry, are registered. The attendance at the stock and seed judging has been 200 during the past two weeks. Prof. G. E. Day, assisted by Dr. Hugo Reed and R. W. Wade, had charge of the stock-judging. They have been ably assisted by leading stockmen. Professor Zavitz and Mr. Buchanan had charge of the seed-judging. Each evening during the course lectures on farm topics were given in Massey Hall. The students seemed exceedingly well pleased with the course, and gave tangible evidence of this by presenting Prof. Day and Prof. Zavitz, each, with a gold-headed ebony cane, and Dr. Reed with a solid-gold watch chain. During the session, a petition, asking the Government to equip the College with Hackney and Standard-bred horses, was adopted. This will be presented to the Government at an early date.