

DIRECTORS' REPORT.

To the Members of the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario:

GENTLEMEN.—In accordance with the rules of our Association and the dictates of our own inclinations, we present to you our report of what has been done during the year that now closes. You were pleased to confide the management to our hands at the annual meeting held in the city of Kingston, on the 19th of September, 1882. The gentleman whom you chose to represent the Seventh District, W. H. Mills, Esq., declined to act, and in accordance with the provisions of the Agricultural and Arts Act, the Hon. the Commissioner of Agriculture appointed C. P. Carpenter, Esq., of Winona, to fill the vacancy.

On the fifteenth of April last the director for the Ninth District was taken from us by death—the venerable Charles Arnold, Esq., and that district has remained without a representative for the rest of the year. This district has lost a most faithful and painstaking director, who, at much cost of personal inconvenience, sought to promote and extend the usefulness of our Association, not only within the bounds of his own division, but throughout the Province. May his mantle fall upon the shoulders of him whom you shall choose for his successor.

The continued growth of our membership, which, during the year, has increased from eighteen hundred and thirty-nine to two thousand and six hundred, we regard as an indication of an increasing interest in the subjects embraced within the scope of this Association, and an evidence that our efforts to obtain and disseminate information on these subjects have not been without benefit to our people.

At the commencement of the year your Directors made arrangements for the publication and illustration of two thousand copies of the *Canadian Horticulturist*, but the increase of membership compelled us at our meeting on the first of February last to order that the January number be reset and stereotyped, and that the February number and some of the subsequent numbers be also stereotyped, in order to be able to supply new members with all the numbers for the current year. It was also necessary to procure copies of the coloured plates for these additional numbers, which of course had to be prepared. These things caused considerable delay, whereby many of our members failed for a time to receive their copy of the *Horticulturist*. The Secretary endeavoured to have all these deficiencies supplied as soon as the requisite copies were obtained, but if any have failed to receive all the numbers, he is now in a position to supply them, and will be most happy to do so upon learning where they are required. In order to enable the directors to make arrangements for the publication of a sufficient number of copies of the *Horticulturist*, it is very important that members send in their annual fee of one dollar before the first day of January next. Of the magazine itself we can only say that every pains has been taken to secure suitable illustrations and such reading matter as would be interesting and useful. We think that if the members would communicate their experience and opinions to the Editor more frequently, for publication in our monthly, they would find it a great benefit to themselves, and thereby increase the popularity and usefulness of the *Canadian Horticulturist*.

The winter meeting was held in Toronto, and the summer meeting in St. Catharines, both of which were well attended, and the discussions at both taken down by an excellent shorthand reporter, for publication in full in the next Annual Report.

The Treasurer's Report shows the financial condition of the Society to be in a very satisfactory condition, the receipts being about sufficient to meet the current expenses.

We trust that members of the Association will avail themselves of the opportunity, which the holding of our annual meeting in Guelph affords, of examining the work of fruit, forest, and ornamental planting which has been begun at the Agricultural College under your direction. We trust that what has been done will meet with your approbation, and we are confident that any suggestions that you may feel inclined to make in regard thereto, will be most gladly received by those who may have this matter under their more immediate charge.

In returning into your hands the trust you have been pleased to commit to our keeping during the past year, we take the liberty of mentioning to you that some complaints