

FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The thirty-first annual convention of this Association opened at Whitby on December 5th, 1899.

W. M. ORR, Vice-President, said: Gentlemen,—In the absence of our efficient President, Mr. Wellington, who is in Europe, it becomes my duty to take the chair and call this meeting to order. I am glad to see so many directors present with us, but very sorry indeed that we miss some old familiar faces, unfortunately through sickness. You will see by the programme there is very important business to come before us. The question of the San Jose scale, the fraudulent packing of apples, and many other topics of interest are on the programme. I am sure they will have your very best consideration. I will ask the Secretary to read some correspondence.

Secretary WOOLVERTON: In addition to the letters that were read last night at the meeting of the Board of Directors explaining the absence of some of our directors—Mr. T. H. Race, of Mitchell, A. M. Smith, of St. Catharines, and two or three others who could not come on account of illness, I have also a letter from the Minister of Agriculture for the Dominion in response to a resolution that was passed by this Association a year ago asking that Mr. Orr be added to the staff of representatives at the Paris Exposition to assist in seeing after the interests of Canadian fruit growers. I have also a letter from Auguste Dupuis regarding fruit for the Paris Exposition. I have a letter from W. W. Dunlop, Secretary of the Montreal Horticultural Society, and one from A. McD. Allan, regretting his inability to attend this meeting of our Association.

Mr. POWELL, Ghent, was introduced and said: It certainly gives me pleasure to meet with you at this time and to bring greeting to you from the fruit growers of New York State. I feel that certainly we have a very common interest when we come to consider the extent and the magnitude of the work of horticulture, and I am always delighted to meet with those who are making horticulture their study and their life work. It represents to us I think the very best line of work. It represents to us I think the very highest of promise for the reason that it is attended by so many difficulties; and I find that any business that is attended by great difficulties calls out the very best that there is in men. You are not the men who give up to difficulties, but you meet them and are determined to solve them; and that is why I say that the future promises to fruit growers and to horticulturists so much, because of the determination to surmount difficulties. For that reason the future promises great in fruit culture, for the demand is for the finer and finer product continually. We all know from our own personal experience that when we go into the markets of the world to-day, or even into our home markets, there is a steady growing demand for a finer product; and that calls for special effort and for particular study on our part to overcome the difficulties of learning fruit culture in the control of injurious insects, in the control of all the fungus life that is making such inroads upon the value of our fruits; it calls for constant study and application of scientific knowledge and principle in our work in order to bring it to the highest standard of quality that is this day required. So it gives me very special pleasure to meet with this body to-day represented in your Association, because I know that you are men who are at the front in the study, and also are aiming at good practice in your work. It will certainly give me very much pleasure to meet with you through all the sessions of your meetings as far as time will possibly admit. (Applause.)