

culture contained in the report I now have the honour to submit, will be found to be well worthy the attention of fruit culturists throughout the Province.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

D. W. BEADLE,

Secretary of the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario.

PROCEEDINGS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting was held in the Court House, in the City of Hamilton, on Tuesday evening, the 19th of September, 1876.

The President took the Chair, and called the meeting to order.

The Secretary read the minutes of the last annual meeting.

The Directors' Report was then read, which was as follows:—

DIRECTORS' REPORT.

Your Directors, in submitting their usual annual Report, have the gratification of being able to say that your Society has continued its work of collecting and disseminating information in regard to the cultivation of fruit during the past year with a good degree of success. The Report for this year will contain a large amount of valuable information, and will, no doubt, be prized by all who are interested in these matters, as have those which have been issued heretofore. We expect to be able to give you a coloured lithograph of that already famous new grape, raised by one of our eminent hybridists, P. C. Dempsey, and known by you as the BURNET Grape, as an illustration for our forthcoming Report. As you are already aware, arrangements have been made to distribute this beautiful and excellent grape to all the then members as soon as Mr. Dempsey can furnish a sufficient quantity of the vines.

The meetings which have been held during the year have been well attended. The winter meeting was again held in Hamilton, the summer meeting in London, and the fall meeting is appointed to be held in Simcoe. Norfolk County is well adapted to fruit raising, and we look for a meeting of considerable interest, and to see a display of fine fruit.

After considerable negotiations, your Directors received from the Ontario Government the sum named by your Directors in their last annual Report as the amount that would be required for the purpose of making a display of our fruits at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia. Unfortunately, the grant was not made until just before the July meeting, so that but very little time remained in which to make preparation, and fruit growers did not have that timely notice which was requisite to enable them to grow their fruit specially for this purpose. Your Directors, however, did what they could, according to their best judgment, to collect and exhibit the fruits of the Province. They made a short exhibit of summer fruits in July, including late cherries, currants, gooseberries, and a few raspberries. This prepared the way for the later exhibit in September, which comprised all the fruits then in season. Of these exhibits, it hardly becomes your Directors to say more than that in their opinion they were highly creditable to us, and to refer you to the published expressions of the judges and other distinguished pomologists, in which our fruits are mentioned in terms of high commendation.

We are called to deplore the removal by death of one of our most enthusiastic growers of fruit, who had also served this Association for some years as one of its Directors. Mr. A. B. Bennett was suddenly called away very early in the year, and at the winter meeting the