

grower in our land is asked to uphold the horticultural banner of this province, not for self, but for the honor of his country. A good name is worth millions to a nation, and gives dignity to a people. Where is the man who does not feel proud to see his country stand at the head in all lines of her products, for they, above all others, speak of the glorious climate of Canada, which is too often associated in the minds of the people of the old land with *ice palaces* and bears; they even go so far as to imagine that we live in danger from the Red-skins, a race, all honour to them, which has always proved true and loyal to their good mother, the Queen.

I ask you to-day as fruit growers of Ontario, seeking, as I trust, by every means in your power to advance the fruit interests of Ontario, that you will display during the coming season that energy, that liberality and that patriotism that has characterized the people of Canada at all times and on all occasions, and leave no stone unturned to place the fruit exhibit of Ontario in its proper place.

Some definite plan of operation as regards shipments will be arranged, whereby our tables will be continuously supplied during the season with fresh fruits. These will be exhibited in the producer's name, while at the same time they will form the Ontario exhibit.

Since last we met one of our most valued members has been called to his reward, our late President and co-worker, P. C. Dempsey of Trenton, one always at his post when duty called, one whose wide knowledge of and skill in the field of horticulture gave courage to many a doubting one, and whose cheerful presence lent a charm to our meetings. He leaves behind him more than one monument to his memory.

The "Dempsey" pear, the "Trenton" apple and many other choice fruits for the nation to enjoy were produced by his skill and attention. Let me here quote his own words when referring to the success of others and at the same time inspiring other young men to follow their example. He said: "And what richer legacy can a man leave to the generations that are to follow him than a fine, delicious fruit which he has originated with his own hand. This will be a living monument to his memory when posterity shall recline beneath the shade of its branches and pluck the precious fruit from the trees which he has left them." Truly I believe not one member in our ranks could these words be more applicable to than our departed comrade, P. C. Dempsey, and spoken by his own lips in honor of other men, may we not pause at the threshold and ask ourselves, is it possible for us to leave some token that others may cherish in remembrance of us?

I will not detain you longer now, but invite you one and all to come to our meetings, which will be in session here during the next two days, and by your presence, by your counsel and experience, help us to carry the horticultural banner on to greater successes. We see our cheese producers with their product standing *par excellence* in the market of the world; we see our butter producers climbing the pedestal to fame, and inscribed upon their banner "Pure as Gold." I ask the fruit growers of Ontario to-day to join our ranks, not as reserves, but as active volunteers in the work, until our system of production, of picking, packing and handling and transporting the fruit products of this favored land, o'er every sea to every land, receives universal approval, and then we may truly inscribe upon our banner something better than *gold*.