

THE ANNUAL MEETING, 1894.

The Annual Meeting of the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario, opened at eight o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, December 4th, in Shaftesbury Hall, Orillia, the President, Mr. T. H. Race, in the chair.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

By T. H. RACE, MITCHELL, ONT.

In rising to deliver, what falls to my lot to-night, the thirty-fourth annual address of the President to the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, I feel deeply impressed with the truth of Solomon's affirmation that there is nothing new under the sun.

After thirty-three of my predecessors have performed annually this task you may well wonder what there is left for me to say that has not already been said.

My immediate predecessor had the advantage of most of us and especially of me in coming, as he did, both before and after the great Columbian Exposition. In his address two years ago he had the great exhibition in anticipation. One year ago he had it all before him in its magnificent fulfilment.

Two years ago this Association had to consider what its duty was in connection with the fruit interests of this province at the great World's Exposition, and how best it could perform that duty. One year ago it need do little but talk of its achievements and the honors that it won there. And it will look back with pride to those achievements for many years to come.

But we are not depending for a justification for our existence on what we have done, nor shall we rest content at what we have accomplished. As an Association, we have steadily developed, and extended our operations and influence since the first organization, over thirty years ago, to the present time. We are bigger and better and stronger to-day than we were last year at this time, and we have a great future before us and a great work yet to do.

The fruit season just closing has had its disappointments, but they are not unmixed ones. Owing partly to the heavy frosts during the latter part of May and partly to the continued heavy rains immediately following, the great promise in the abundant show of blossom was not fulfilled in the crop of fruit; except perhaps in the one item of grapes. But while the apple crop has on the whole been short, prices have ruled high, and we have learned afresh the lesson, which we have hitherto accepted with more or less of doubting, that the Canadian apple of the right sort and quality need never lack for a ready market. It is gratifying to know that the apple grown in Ontario has established for itself a reputation in the markets of the old world that will insure it a sale in any quantities if properly and honestly handled. There is now no need for fear of over-production. The dangers to our apple industry in this province comes not from over-production, but from unsuitable fruit, bad packing and dishonest handling. We have much missionary work to do right here in this connection, and just how to accomplish that work, if Government inspection cannot do it, I am unable to suggest. It is