

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FRUITS.

Mr. President and Gentlemen :—

The season of 1874 was a somewhat remarkable one; the month of March being very mild and warm for this latitude, but during April, May, June and the early part of July, there was a prevalence of cool, damp, cloudy days, with east winds and cold nights. The latter part of August and the first three weeks of September were also cool and cloudy with but little sunshine; but the weather during October and November was exceptionally bright, warm, and pleasant, with no frosts to injure hardy fruits until quite late. The effect of these atmospheric peculiarities was to render all kinds of Fruit from ten to twenty days later in ripening than usual, and also to account, in a measure, for the want of the usual brilliancy of colouring, and the lack of flavour, noticeable in many varieties of Summer and Autumn Fruits.

Notwithstanding all these drawbacks, the Fruit Exhibitions of 1874, have been on the whole quite equal to, if not above, the average of previous years.

STRAWBERRIES.—The cold, damp weather of May and June was unfavourable for the developement of this fine fruit, and most cultivators were disappointed in securing a remunerative crop; and from the information we have been able to collect, we think we may be safe in estimating the crop at one-half the usual quantity per acre.

Wilson's Albany still seems to be the leading market berry, and next to it Triomphe de Gand holds the highest place, closely followed, in the opinion of many, by Jucunda, Jenny Lind and Agriculturist.

CHERRIES.—The crop of this fruit was more than an average one throughout the Kings and Annapolis Valley, but was from eight to ten days later in ripening than usual. In some instances the crop was extensively injured by the curculio; one case being that of a tree of "Early Purple Guigne" that stood near several plumb trees, and matured a fair quantity of fruit, not one of which was perfect; all were bitten and wormy. The lesson to be learned