

was endorsed by the convention. Mr. Pettit is strongly in favor of taking prompt action of some kind to stamp out dishonesty in packing, and recommended the appointment of inspectors by the Government, who might be called in to inspect apples before shipping, and to put a brand on them designating their quality. This would give the shipper a recognized standard, upon which basis he could ship and sell his fruit.

Wednesday evening session was somewhat given up to music and addresses of a more or less entertaining character. The executive committee's report showed that the increase in membership during the year was 400, and that the number of affiliated societies was 42. The *Horticulturalist*, the official organ of the association, had been enlarged. The committee made strong recommendations regarding dishonest packing and the San José scale. Grapes had been sent to Manchester, and fruit was being prepared for the Paris Exposition. The committee had asked the Government that Mr. W. M. Orr be sent to Paris in charge of Ontario fruits.

Dr. Harrison, Keene, Ont., gave an interesting address on conservatories in our homes at small cost. He was followed by Prof. Hutt, who read a valuable paper on beautifying country homes. In this he pointed out that the most beautiful scenes are as a rule more or less natural. The natural materials for landscape gardening are ground, grass, trees, shrubs, vines, herbaceous plants, animals, rocks, etc. The artificial are trees, shrubs, geometrical beds of improved flowers, terraces, walks, drives, buildings, fountains, statuary, etc. The skill of the landscape gardener consists in the judicious use of materials. The contour of the surface is an important feature in making lawns, a little crown helps the appearance. Buildings should be on highest elevation and ground made to slope away. Green sward can be obtained by sodding or seeding. Coarse grass such as timothy does not do for lawns. A good lawn mixture is equal parts of Kentucky blue grass, red top grass and white Dutch clover sown three or four bushels to the acre. The lawns should be cut frequently, and on farms where the grounds are large the ordinary mower might be used to advantage by lowering cutter bar and sharpening the knives. Lawn should receive top dressing of barn-yard manure in the fall. Suitable trees are the maples, elm, birch, pines and spruces. In arrangement of trees, nature should be followed as much as possible; only don't shut off the front view. The walks and drives should be as few as possible. Too many fences are not good. Their necessity is often imaginary. They serve often to advertise slovenly farms. The best plan is to dispense with roadside fences and to fence in one's own stock instead of that of one's neighbors.

Mr. J. E. Farewell gave an interesting address in which he emphasized the importance of substituting the teaching of agricultural subjects for Latin, Greek, etc., in high schools. Mr. Powell strongly supported the sentiments expressed at the convention in regard to the destruction of the San José scale. The losses in New York state from pests amounted to \$26,000,000 annually.

Wednesday morning session opened with an address by W. H. Bunting, St. Catharines, on ocean and railway transportation. His remarks were confined chiefly to presenting the report of a committee appointed to confer with the General Traffic Associations on this subject. Very little had been accomplished so far. The railway companies were loth to make any definite promise of reduced rates because of the irregularity in the shipments of fruit. If fruit growers would co-operate and ship together from central points, their demands might be granted. The committee's efforts had been directed towards obtaining a different classification of freights for fruit. At present fresh fruit, under car lots, rank as first-class, while car lots ranked as third-class. They had been successful in getting a different classification for grapes. While refrigerator car service had been provided, it was not all that could be desired. One of the great needs in this respect was that of ventilation in the cars and on board steamships. A committee was appointed to continue the work.

COMMERCE IN LARGE FRUITS.

This formed the topic of a very valuable address by Prof. J. W. Robertson, Agricultural and Dairy Commissioner, Ottawa. He explained the function of commerce and the importance of having good quality in products and of obtaining a market for them. The transportation formed an important part of every transaction. Fruit growing has been adopted by many who have not taken the trouble to perfect themselves in its culture. They have been growing trees in the easiest way and have varieties of trees and fruit that hit no market in particular. Growers should have a few specific large fruits for which there was a good market. In Canada even, during most of the season, our markets were supplied by American fruit, chiefly because it was more uniform in appearance and all good. It had good keeping qualities. The flavor of Canadian fruit was good. Every Canadian town would take more fruit if the quality were good. In Manitoba, merchants had tried Ontario fruit and found it wanting and not uniform. The local market was as important as the export trade to the grower. For the export market what was wanted in fruit was: (1) soundness and good keeping; (2) size; (3) appearance; (4) good quality. The Keiffer pear, though not considered a good variety in this country, was giving satisfaction in the Old Country because of its good keeping qualities.

He read extracts from account sales of fruit shipments made under the direction of his department. 127 cases of peaches were sent over, and netted at point of shipment here, prices ranging from 91 cents to \$2.31 per case. The "Alberta" peach gave good satisfaction. 3,746 cases of pears were shipped. Some landed too ripe and others too green. Pears for export should be picked when the pips were just turning brown. These netted at point of shipment prices ranging from 54 cents to \$1.54 per case of 16 to 18 lbs. The high price was for Bartlett pears. Large size pears bring better prices than small ones, and large lots sell better than smaller ones. Most of the fruit offered was small. It must be large to sell well; 60 or 70 pears in a case instead of 100 to 120. Nearly all the Government shipments of apples landed in good condition, but the packages were too small. They netted from 5 cents to 25 cents and 30 cents for 15 lb. cases. What are wanted are 40 to 50-lb. cases. As much as 4s. 9d. to 9s. was received for 40 lb. packages, which would net, on an average, \$1.25 at Grimsby for a little over a bushel.

Improvements required in the export trade were large lots of one sort and variety, fine quality, large, uniform and sound. It will pay growers to send only these and utilize other quality in some other way. Orchards should be large so as to get a large quantity of one variety. If not this, then growers should co-operate and ship together from some central point. Fruit must be of a uniform standard quality. The facilities on ocean vessels were not suitable for the transportation of apples or tender fruits. Next season the Government had made arrangements to have a number of small chambers on vessels holding from 1 to 2 carloads where temperature can be controlled with ventilating holes for apples. Where Government provided facilities the growers should utilize them. The individual grower must look after his own fruit. Some of the main causes of the unsatisfactory condition of the trade are damage to the apples and lack of skill in packing. The packer must be trained for the work. There was a want of care and gross dishonesty. In order to get some definite information in regard to the condition of the fruit when shipped, the Government had employed two inspectors to examine shipments at Montreal, Halifax and St. John, during September and October. The reports on lots examined showed that there were many shipments in which the apples were damp, barrels wet, small apples, loose packing, badly spotted and rotten apples, many barrels were poor. Inspectors could not disturb fruit sufficiently to detect dishonesty. At Halifax considerable rough handling of the fruit was reported. Nova Scotia fruit is not sold as Canadian. The percentage of wets and slacks in N.S. apples was only 6,