

Upper Canada Fruit Growers' Association.

The Fall meeting was held in the Town Hall, Grimsby, on Wednesday, the 3rd October. The President, Judge Logie, took the chair at 11 o'clock, a.m. After the reading of minutes of last meeting, and the transaction of some routine business, the meeting proceeded to the discussion of grapes, of which there was an unusually fine show on the tables, comprising many new and exceedingly interesting varieties.

Hartford Prolific.—Mr Mills, of Hamilton, said it was hardy, but the berries drop from the bunch, and as a table fruit it was inferior in quality. It ripened ten days before the Delaware, in a not very favorable locality. Mr. Smith, of Grimsby, considered it valuable because it is early, though it had all the faults that had been mentioned by Mr. Mills. Mr. Arnold of Paris, had heretofore valued it because it was early, but this year he had found the Delaware quite as early. It drops badly and thought it could be dispensed with. Mr. Holton, of Hamilton, values it because it is early and prolific; it usually ripens much earlier than the Delaware—the berries do drop some from the bunch. Mr. De Courtenay, of Clair House, Cooksville, said that its foxiness made it unsuitable for wine. Mr. Haskins, of Hamilton, does not think much of its quality, but considers it valuable because early. Mr. Pawling, of Port Dalhousie, considers it a good early grape. Mr. Murray, of Hamilton, classes it as a valuable early grape, hardy, but falling from the bunch when perfectly ripe. Mr. Kilborne, of Beamsville, prefers the Isabella and the Creveling, particularly the Creveling. Mr. Kitchen, of Grimsby, "they have a bad fault of dropping from the cluster, but I get 15 to 20 cents per pound for them, and shall value it until I get a better." Mr. Beadle, of St. Catharines, expects that in two years we shall have other varieties of grapes as early and so much better that this will cease to be cultivated.

Concord.—Mr. Nixon, of Grimsby, considers it a valuable hardy grape, two weeks later than the Delaware. Mr. Smith, of Grimsby, thought it better than Hartford Prolific, and one of the most healthy varieties and hardy in wood and foliage that we have. Mr. Arnold, of Paris, had found it very hardy, and one of the best of its class. Mr. Holton thinks it will be very valuable for some time yet. Mr. De Courtenay, of Clair House, said that compared with the Hartford Prolific it was a fine grape, but he did not know whether it would be valuable for wine. Mr. Morse, of Smithville, said that he thought very favorably of it. Mr. Murray, of Hamilton, ranks it as one of our best market grapes as yet, it ripens about ten days later than the Delaware. Mr. Kilborne, of Beamsville, finds it very productive, yielding more than most varieties. Mr. Kitchen, of Grimsby, had found it to sell well and is experimenting on its value for wine, thinks it will be good for wine. Mr. Beadle, of St. Catharines, values it very much, has found it hardy, productive and well adapted to our climate.

Diana. Mr. Mills, of Hamilton, said it was a favorite grape with him on account of its peculiar flavor, but it does not ripen evenly on the bunch and is late, two to three weeks later than the Delaware. Mr. Smith, of Grimsby, "some seasons it ripens well, this year it will not ripen." Mr. Arnold, of Paris, has found it subject to rot. Mr. Halton, of Hamilton, "a superior grape when ripe, but is late." Mr. Haskins, of Hamilton, said the lateness of ripening was the great objection to this variety, and in this opinion all the members concurred.

Delaware.—Mr. Mills, of Hamilton, had found no grape comparable to this for wine and for table use. The vine is perfectly hardy. This year, for the first, I have been troubled with the *Thrip*, which little insect injures the foliage. Mr. Smith, of Grimsby, thought as highly of this variety as Mr. Mills, but this year had found serious trouble in the premature dropping of the leaves, they had dropped more than a fortnight ago. Mr. Arnold, of Paris, said it was a nice little grape, but a slender grower. Mr. Halton,

of Hamilton, considered it a very fine grape and at present indispensable. Mr. De Courtenay, of Clair House, Cooksville, thought it one of the best wine grapes, very closely resembling if not identical with the Balsamin, and that the premature dropping of the foliage this year was caused by the excessive cold rains. Mr. Haskins, of Hamilton, said it was the best hardy grape, in which opinion Mr. Murray fully coincided. Mr. Kilborne, of Beamsville, had five years' experience with this grape and values it very highly. Mr. Kitchen, of Grimsby, would plant ninety nine Delawares out of every hundred vines, it is the hardest vine I know, and I have kept the fruit until March. Mr. Beadle, of St. Catharines, said that it is the best grape we have—as yet.

Creveling. Mr. Kilborne, of Beamsville, exhibited two bunches of black grapes which grew on a vine that he obtained direct from Dr. Grant, of Iowa, and remarked that some doubt had been thrown on the genuineness of this grape by gentlemen who said they had grown the Creveling. None of the members present had ripened the Creveling sufficiently to decide whether the specimens shown were the true Creveling. The bunches were less loose, and the berries larger than those usually shown as Creveling. Mr. Kilborne said that he obtained this vine three years ago last spring, that last winter it remained exposed on the trellis and had borne this year 35 clusters of grapes, three of which were awarded the first prize at the Provincial Fair in Toronto for the best three clusters of grapes. The vine had proved thus far in wood and foliage as hardy as the Concord. The grapes were tested by the members who considered them of very good quality and perfectly ripe. Mr. De Courtenay thought it very promising for wine.

Iona.—Mr. Kilborne, of Beamsville, exhibited some clusters of this variety taken from a vine which grew by the side of the Creveling—and was exposed in like manner all last winter; it bore 27 clusters. He remarked that members would perceive that the grapes were not ripe, and yet Dr. Grant said it ripened with the Delaware, which had not been the case in his experience. The Delaware on the same trellis is nearly all ripened and gone—at least two-thirds of the Delaware grapes were fully ripe. Mr. Beadle, of St. Catharines, said that one of his Iona vines had a few grapes on it this year for the first time, but they were not yet ripe, while his Delawares were chiefly ripe.

Isabella.—Mr. Kilborne said he procured this vine and the Iona direct from Dr. Grant. This vine is only two years old, and has three small clusters, that he thought the flavor good, but the berries dropped from the cluster worse than the Hartford Prolific. He here exhibited a handful of grapes, nearly all of which had dropped from the cluster that lay in his hand. The skin was very tough and flavor not equal to the Creveling.

Oporto.—Mr. Kitchen, of Grimsby, exhibited this variety and remarked that he thought it a good wine grape. That he had found the vine vigorous, free from mildew, hardy, yet not very productive. Mr. De Courtenay examined it, and expressed the opinion that it will be a very desirable wine grape. Mr. James Taylor, of St. Catharines, though not able to be personally present sent a large collection of grapes, among which were many of Rogers' Hybrids, and other new grapes. These were examined by the members present and those who had cultivated them gave their opinions. Mr. Arnold, of Paris, said that Rogers' Hybrid No. 15 was his favorite grape, and esteemed by him as one of the best for table. Mr. Kilborne said that this year, comparing it with others, he thought it a very fine grape. It was a strong grower and ripened its wood perfectly. Mr. De Courtenay remarked that it had a muscatel flavour, and that some of the muscatel grapes were valuable for wine.

Rogers' Hybrid No. 33.—Was thought to be a very fine early grape.

Rogers' Hybrid No. 4.—Was pronounced by Mr. De Courtenay to be a promising grape with a great proportion of saccharine matter.

Mr. Arnold, of Paris, exhibited six new hybrid grapes of his own raising, designated by the Nos. 1, 2, 5, 8, 11 and 16. They were not yet perfectly ripe, though fully as much so as the Hartford Prolific, grown on the same trellis. No. 5 was a white grape, the others were black. They had the flesh of the Hamburg grapes, and nothing of the tough pulp of the Isabella.

At this point Mr. De Courtenay was requested to give an account of progress in vine culture and wine-making at Clair House, Cooksville to which he responded by a brief statement of the good success obtained in the culture of the vine on the Italian method of training, by which he obtains this year from that portion of the vineyard that has been longest in cultivation some fifteen tons of grapes per acre. He briefly alluded to the charter recently obtained, and the privileges granted thereby to the Canada Vine Growers Association, and hoped that

the grape growers of Canada would take up the stock now offered for subscription and thus secure the direction in the hands of practical wine dressers. A wine could be manufactured resembling claret which he thought could be afforded at fifty cents per gallon, and a pure brandy manufactured and sold at a price that would compete successfully with the miserable compounds now in our markets. He gave a cordial invitation to the members to visit the vine yards at Clair House during the vintage now approaching, and judge for themselves of the results obtained, adding that if such good success could be had there under all the difficulties of that climate, what must the results be in the more favored climate of the County of Lincoln.

On motion the subject of apples was then taken up to give several members an opportunity to have their apples correctly named. There was a large and very interesting collection of apples, pears and grapes.

Mr. Morse, of Smithville, exhibited an extra large green apple, good for cooking in Nov. and December but the name was unknown to any one present. A large number were brought forward by him and others, some of which were readily named, others were not recognized. Mr. Mills, of Hamilton, exhibited some very fine Plums, of the Columbia, Washington and Jefferson varieties. He is able to raise them abundantly and in great perfection by jarring the trees and killing the curculio. He is not troubled with the Black Knot.

The meeting was one of great interest, and occupied the whole day. The next session will be held in the County Buildings, in the City of Hamilton, on the third Wednesday of January 1867.

Miscellaneous.

An American's Thoughts about the Canadian Exhibition.

Mr. Sanford Howard, Secretary of the Michigan State Board of Agriculture, has written a very full account of the recent Provincial Exhibition, from which we call here and there a few extracts. The communication from which we quote, appeared in the *Country Gentleman*, of Oct. 11th:—

"The fact may have been noticed in your column⁹ before, but if it has there is no harm in keeping it before our people, that the Canada West Provincial Agricultural Association holds its exhibitions at four places, alternately, viz: Toronto, Kingston, Hamilton, and London. This routine of course brings the exhibition at each of these places once in four years. It is obvious that the system possesses important advantages.

"Is not this the right way? Let each of our State associations fix on the number of places at which their annual exhibitions shall be held, and then, with the contributions which can be obtained, proceed to put up the best buildings which their means will allow. In general, it is probable that the people of the various localities would bear the greater part of the expense.

"Another part of the programme of our Canadian neighbors might be adopted by us with advantage: the making of *catalogues* previous to a given day preceding the exhibition. This is also the English plan, and why it should not have been long since adopted by our agricultural associations, is passing strange. It is the only way by which a large exhibition can be properly systematized. There seems to be a reluctance to the adoption of this system on our side, for fear the people will not "come into it." Let it be tried and adhered to strictly, and exhibitors will need but one lesson to secure their cordial co-operation.

"The arrangements for the late exhibition at Toronto were as complete as could reasonably have been expected, and the exhibition would have appeared to excellent advantage, had the weather been favorable.

"In Short-Horn cattle there was a good show. Prominent among the exhibitors were the Hon. David Christie, F. W. Stone, John Snell, and John Miller. Mr. Christie showed no bull except a calf. His famous trio of cows, Placida, Queen of Athelstane, and Pride of Athelstane, constituted a show of themselves, which would well compensate a spectator for a long journey.

"The classes of younger female Short-Horns, from three-year olds down to calves, were well filled, each class comprising several fine specimens, and the calves, ten in number, were an unusually fine lot. The Short-Horn bulls were not, on an average, as good as the cows and heifers. In the class of yearlings, the first prize bull, Nelson, was a remarkably good one. He was by Mr. Christie's Oxford Lad, and was owned by George Wood, of Downie. In the class