

The Canadian Horticulturist

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H. BRONSON COWAN, Managing Director
A. B. CUTTING, B.S.A., Editor

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6. Articles and Illustrations for publication will be thankfully received by the editor.

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January, 1908.....7,650	January, 1909.....9,456
February, 1908.....7,824	February, 1909.....9,310
March, 1908.....8,056	March, 1909.....9,405
April, 1908.....8,250	April, 1909.....9,482
May, 1908.....8,573	May, 1909.....9,172
June, 1908.....8,840	
July, 1908.....9,015	
August, 1908.....9,070	
September, 1908.....9,121	
October, 1908.....9,215	
November, 1908.....9,323	
December, 1908.....9,400	
Total for the year.....104,337	

Average each issue in 1907, 6,627
Average each issue in 1908, 8,695
(Increased circulation in one year 2,068)

Sworn detailed statements will be mailed upon application.

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EDITORIAL

DISAPPOINTING CONDITIONS

The Session of the Ontario Legislature which closed recently was not a very satisfactory one as far as those who are interested in the work of the horticultural societies of Ontario are concerned. The Legislature failed to increase the grant to Horticultural Societies from \$8,000 to \$10,000 as it had been requested to do by the societies through the Ontario Horticultural Association. Thus, although the membership of the horticultural societies this year will be almost double what it was a couple of years ago, the societies are forced to carry on their work with the old grant which is now so small as to seriously handicap the work of the societies.

In addition, the Legislature failed to pass a small grant of \$100, that was given to the Ontario Horticultural Association by Hon. Mr. Monteith, to assist in carrying on its work. It was understood that this grant was to be continued from year to year. It is true that the grant is a small one, but nevertheless, it is needed by the Association which has to depend on the Government to a considerable extent for its financial support.

Furthermore, the legislature amended the Horticultural Societies' Act so as to limit the grant any society shall receive hereafter, to not over \$800. This amendment will seriously restrict the work of the Ottawa and St. Catharines Horticultural Societies. These are the only two societies that so far have been entitled to such a grant. While \$800 may seem a large grant, the principle involved in this legislation is a bad one. If the Government says that the larger cities shall not receive over \$800, it should be consistent and say that the smaller cities shall not draw over, say, \$600, the towns \$400 and villages \$200.

After a society secures a certain membership it is a very difficult matter for it to obtain additional members. Why then should a society be discouraged from obtaining additional members by the restricting of its grant? A feature of this last amendment, which is most unsatisfactory, is, that it was passed without any intimation being given to the officers of the Ontario Horticultural Association. They should have been given an opportunity to make their views known to the Department.

The officers of the Horticultural Societies of Ontario represent the best classes of citizens in the cities, towns, and villages of the Province. They are public spirited to an unusual degree as they give their services in the cause of horticulture free of cost and often at great inconvenience and under discouraging circumstances. It is unfortunate, therefore, that the Legislature instead of granting the reasonable assistance required to still further encourage the work of the societies has taken action that will tend to discourage and hamper them.

JOURNALISM AT GUELPH

About ninety per cent. of the students that graduate after taking the full four years' course at the Ontario Agricultural College secure positions that demand ability and experience in public speaking or in writing and, in many cases, in both. The nature of the positions that are offered by agricultural colleges and high schools, experiment stations, departments of

agriculture, agricultural publications and by other employers of these experts, requires men not only well informed in their respective branches of the profession, but also able to impart information in a competent and acceptable manner. During the past six or eight years, the Guelph college has given some instruction and practise in public speaking and much good has resulted. In the last annual report of the college the professor of English urges the appointment of an assistant who would be competent to take charge of the public speaking classes and to assist in the other branches of the English department. This recommendation should receive the favorable consideration of the Ontario government, and be acted upon before the college again opens next fall.

As a large number of Guelph graduates are now connected with the agricultural press of Canada and the United States, and as there will always be a demand for men qualified to fill such positions, we would suggest that classes in agricultural journalism be also made a branch of the department of English at the college. There is a wide difference between instruction in ordinary composition, which is invaluable in itself, and in journalism. The former is a necessary part of the education of every student and is of a more or less general nature; the latter embodies the former and includes further instruction of a special character—it is a business and a profession that requires distinctive training. At Guelph, where so many embryo journalists are trained, courses should be given in the history and principles of journalism, newspaper administration, illustration, photography, the libel law, news gathering, reporting, editorial writing and so forth, besides the academic branches of the study. Such instruction would be invaluable not only to students who may become journalists, but also to those who may accept other positions in professional agriculture and, by no means least, to those students who go back to the farms and who should be able to teach others by writing for the press. It would spread the gospel of good agriculture and good horticulture more rapidly. To make our agricultural college graduates even more efficient than they are, it would be in the interests of the college and of the country to have classes in agricultural journalism established at an early date. While this is a question more for the consideration of the college than of the government, it could have an important influence on the character of the appointment suggested by the professor of English.

Each co-operative fruit growers' association in the province should be represented at the annual meeting of the Co-operative Fruit Growers' of Ontario, to be held in Toronto on June 8. This organization is becoming stronger each year and is working in the interests of all persons connected with the co-operative handling of fruits. It should receive liberal and strong support.

We were given an opportunity last month of determining for ourselves whether or not Lake Erie apples are good keepers. Through the kindness of Mr. Jas. E. Johnson, of Simcoe, Ont., we received a basket of Spy apples which were apparently as firm and as beautiful as when picked. The flavor was excellent. As pointed out by Chief McNeill on another page of this issue, Lake Erie apples, properly grown, handled, packed and stored, will keep as well as those grown in any other part of the province.

The third annual report of the Horticultural Societies of Ontario contains much