

NORFOLK COUNTY FAIR.

The fair at Simcoe on the 13th, 14th and 15th of October was well worthy of the compliment paid it by Mr. Alex. McNeil, Dominion Fruit Inspector, when he remarked to the secretary, "There are but two fairs in Ontario, this and the Industrial!" The grounds are very well laid out; the old "Crystal Palace" was, fortunately perhaps, recently burned down, and its place taken by several tents and smaller single floor buildings. One of these, which was devoted to art exhibits and ladies' work, had three aisles the whole length, with partitions on which the exhibits showed to excellent advantage, while the whole was painted a suitable tint of green. The grounds were in part elevated, and well planted with shade trees, so that altogether the place was attractive to visitors.

Another feature of this fair was the means adopted to interest the officials in the success of the Fair which was continued for three days. On the evening of the second day all the officers, judges, visitors and others were invited to an informal gathering at the Battersby House, where after social converse and light refreshments, brief addresses were given on subjects pertaining to the various exhibits, followed by a free discussion.

THE EXECUTIVE.

Our old-time friend, Mr. H. H. Groff, is the president of the society, and conducts a meeting in a most happy manner. A banker by vocation, but a successful horticulturist and plant breeder by practice and from love of it, Mr. Groff has advanced from being an amateur to the enviable position of a scientific horticulturist, whose contributions to the beautiful in his specialty, the gladiolus, has brought him a world-wide reputation. The superintendent is Mr. W. F. Kydd, successful farmer and horse breeder, whose ad-



FIG. 2668. MR. H. H. GROFF, SIMCOE.

resses before the Farmers' Institutes have been much appreciated. He is an energetic Scotchman, and is as deeply interested in the success of the fair as if it were his own private business. But the man to whom, of all others, the working out of this excellent model fair at Simcoe is due, is Mr. Thomas Murphy, the secretary, whose distinguished ability in conducting the Simcoe Fair to such magnificent success, has led to his appointment as President of the Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions.

A GREAT SUCCESS.

The Norfolk County fair at Simcoe although by no means perfect, may well be called a model fair, for, not only in point of exhibits, but also in point of attendance it was most exceptional. Fakirs were not allowed on the grounds, but instead there were interesting and instructive addresses by experts. In one tent Miss Mills, of Guelph, and Miss Smith, of Hamilton, gave demon-