

Cooperative Fruit Growers Meet

AT the annual convention of the Ontario Cooperative Fruit Growers' Association, held in the offices of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST, Toronto, on June 11 and 12, the name of the organization was changed to The Cooperative Fruit Growers of Ontario. The meeting was attended by representatives from about 20 affiliated associations, and resulted in the transaction of much business of value to the co-operative movement. Those present included: A. E. Sherrington and W. A. Rowand, of Walkerton; D. Johnson, Forest; W. H. Dempsey, Trenton; Robt. Thompson, St. Catharines; W. H. McNeil and H. Wilson, Oakville; Elmer Lick, Oshawa; N. A. Graham, Ivan; W. H. Gibson, Newcastle; A. R. Siple, Burgessville; Wm. Leary, Parkhill; F. J. Barber, Georgetown; J. G. Mitchell, Clarksburg; Adam Brown, Owen Sound; B. J. Hamm, Orono; Chas. F. Miller, Nelson; C. W. Gurney, Paris; J. A. Webster, Sparta; H. B. Cowan, of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST; P. W. Hodgetts, Secretary of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association; and A. B. Cutting, Toronto. The old board of officers was re-elected, as follows: Pres., A. E. Sherrington, Walkerton; 1st vice-pres., D. Johnson, Forest; 2nd vice-pres., W. H. Dempsey, Trenton; 3rd vice-pres., Robt. Thompson, St. Catharines; sec.-treas., A. B. Cutting, Toronto. Mr. Elmer Lick, of Oshawa, was appointed auditor.

Among the important questions discussed was the advisability of placing one or more men in the west to represent all the associations. The strong need for such was pointed out, but it was thought that the organization was not yet sufficiently well established to warrant such action. It was decided to undertake a system of extensive advertising to bring the associations into closer touch with western buyers; also to secure one or two established persons or firms in the west to handle the fruit of those local associations that desire to place a portion of their output in such hands. For the purpose of assisting newly formed and small associations in the disposal of their fruit, one or more persons directly connected with the co-operative movement will be appointed in Ontario as salesmen for those associations that require such services.

A resolution was passed asking the Dominion Government to assist in restoring the German fruit market to Canadian products. Another asked for a third Dominion Fruit Conference in 1908. One was passed regarding various features of the transportation of fruit, including demurrage of cars, stop-over privileges, facilities for shipping and so on, the same to be laid before the Railway Commission. Another resolution dealt with the practice of making vinegar with acids as being detrimental to the business of making apple cider.

The affiliated associations decided to raise funds to carry on the work of the central organization more extensively than was done last year. A uniform brand, to be used by all affiliated associations that pack their fruit in accordance with the standard that is recognized by the central organization, will be adopted. The local brands will not be done away with but will be strengthened by the use of a small uniform brand to indicate affiliation with the provincial association.

A resolution was passed requesting the Dominion Minister of Agriculture to take such steps as may be necessary to insure the fruit packed by the affiliated associations receiving close and frequent inspection at the hands of the inspectors of the department and that the inspectors be authorized to give such assistance and advice as lie within their power to assist in securing uniform packing of fruit and further, when any local association has been convicted for a second time of fraudulent practices, that it be expelled from the association.

A deputation made up of the executive committee of the Cooperative Fruit Growers of

Ontario waited on Hon. Nelson Monteith, Minister of Agriculture, and requested the appointment of instructors in fruit packing, orchard management and organization of co-operative associations. Such an instructor will do much to improve the methods of producing fruit and preparing same for market. The Minister gave assurance of assistance at an early date.

All affiliated associations will receive each week, as they did last year, advices on crop conditions and prices throughout Canada and the United States and, as far as possible, in other countries. This feature of the work alone is well worth the price of membership in the central association. All local associations not yet affiliated are asked to join as soon as possible. The co-operative movement in itself is an important one. The cooperation of co-operative societies is a step still further in advance. Local associations all over the province should take advantage of it. For particulars write to A. B. Cutting, sec.-treas., The Cooperative Fruit Growers of Ontario, 507 Manning Chambers, Toronto.

The Late Robt. Hamilton

In the death of the late Rev. Robt. Hamilton, of Grenville, Que., horticulture in Canada loses one of its most enthusiastic adherents. Over 30 years ago, Mr. Hamilton came to Grenville, as the pastor of St. Fillan's Presbyterian Church. All his life he was a student and practical worker in botany, seed growing and general horticulture. While at Grenville, he continued this work on a small farm which he purchased, and there established what is now one of the finest orchards in the province of Quebec. He gave particular attention to the selection and culture of apples.

When the present Dominion Government extended the system of exhibitions throughout the world, Hon. Mr. Fisher chose Mr. Hamilton as superintendent of Canadian fruit exhibits at the several exhibitions held at Paris, Glasgow, Japan, St. Louis, and at Liege in Belgium. It was at the latter place that the disease which finally terminated his life first manifested itself in the form of neuritis. Gradually the disease progressed until finally acute paralysis ended his life in Montreal. The funeral was largely attended by many friends of the deceased, among whom were Hon. W. A. Weir, Minister of Public Works; John D. Hains of Montreal, and many others from a distance. The late Mr. Hamilton was 69 years of age, and leaves a widow and one daughter to mourn his loss.

Items of Interest

This season the Woodstock Horticultural Society has been active in doing much work of value to that city. The distribution of premiums among the members has been exceptionally heavy, and included 119 fruit trees, 210 rose bushes, 48 lily bulbs, 60 tuberous begonia bulbs, 24 cannas, 25 peonies and a number of other plants. About 250 packages of aster seeds were distributed among the school children.

In June, Wm. Hunt, of the O.A.C., Guelph, visited Stratford, London, Tillsonburg and Port Dover, and addressed about 3,000 school children, as well as the horticultural societies of those places.

The first irrigation convention covering the provinces of Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia will open in Calgary on July 17. Among the questions that will be discussed are: "Forestry as applied to irrigation," "Extension of surveys, in connection with irrigation, having particular reference to gauging of streams and location of reservoir sites,"

"Agricultural and horticultural experiments and the use and duty of water on irrigated farms," "The industrial development following the work of irrigation," "Laws relating to the use of water and the administration thereof." All who are interested in the utilization of the great national resources of Western Canada are invited to attend.

The members of the Toronto Horticultural Society purpose holding their annual excursion to Queen Victoria Park, Niagara Falls, on July 4. Reduced rates have been arranged for and a pleasant outing is anticipated.

The Canadian commercial agent at Manchester, Eng., P. B. McNamara, reports that severe frosts did enormous damage to the Damson trees at Cheshire. Thousands of trees will not bear any fruit, and Cheshire Damsons will therefore be scarce again.

Reports from various commercial centres in England state that British Columbia fruit was well received, and paid for in those markets during the past winter. This is evidence that the effort being made by British Columbia growers to grow and pack fruit of the highest quality is being rewarded.

The British Columbia Fruit and Produce Exchange, that was organized recently, is a step in advance in the fruit industry of that province. It should be of much value in the handling of British Columbia's great fruit products.

The Biological Department of the Macdonald College, St. Anne de Bellevue, Que., purposes carrying on extensive experiments in the study of potato diseases.

The Deputy Attorney-General for Ontario, Mr. R. Cartwright, has notified H. B. Cowan, the secretary of the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association, that the Attorney-General's department has received word that the charges that the Canadian Cannery, Limited, are a combine in restriction of trade, will be investigated before long in connection with the investigation that is now before the courts of the Grocers' Guild at Hamilton. Specific charges were made against the Canadian Cannery, Limited, recently by *The Toronto News*, to the effect that it was a combine in restraint of trade, and that it controlled the prices at which the wholesalers purchased their goods as well as the prices paid the growers for their products. These charges were referred to the branch associations of the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association, which reported in favor of the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association, asking the Attorney-General's department for an investigation. This was done with the foregoing result.

Weeds in Lawns

Ed. THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST: In referring to weeds in lawns you state in your June issue that the only way to get rid of dandelions is by spudding. This was tried by dozens of people here, but had no effect; the roots broke off and the appearance of lawns was destroyed. If there are any practical demonstrations here of your theory would like to run across them.—R. S. Steele, Hamilton.

[NOTE.—It is almost impossible to rid a lawn of old, large-rooted dandelions without injuring the appearance of the turf. For this reason, these weeds should be removed the first fall or following spring after their appearance by spudding, as was suggested in the article referred to. When this has been neglected and the lawn becomes overrun with dandelions, the only practicable thing to do is to renew the entire turf or that portion affected by plowing or digging, fertilizing with commercial fertilizers or very clean manure, and re-seeding with clean grass seed.—Editor.]