

there and to present you with a few examples of earth's abundant fruitage. Before engaging in this pleasing task reference must be made to the condition and prospects of our Association, which is that organization which permits of, and provides for, these pleasant gatherings of fruit growers, and furnishes the machinery for carrying on our good work and for placing the results achieved on permanent record.

Our meetings during the past year have been extremely interesting, and a large proportion of the topics discussed have had a direct practical bearing on the welfare of our people. A vast amount of useful information has been gathered, drawn largely from the accumulated stores of practical men in the localities where our meetings have been held, all of which has been placed before our members in the annual report of the Association, which I have no doubt has already been read by many with interest and profit.

The advantages of membership in our Association is a topic which is presented to you and to the public in some form almost every year, and although it be "an oft-told tale" it will always bear referring to once more. Perhaps with most of you present it is quite unnecessary to occupy time in trying to convince you of what you are already so well assured, that the advantages secured by membership in the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario are great and continuous. Most of you know this, but to-day while appealing to you I am, to some extent, addressing the general public also, and I earnestly desire to impress upon the minds of all those outside our membership who are interested in horticulture that by joining us they would not only be strengthening our Association, an organization in every way worthy of support, but would at the same time secure for themselves benefits in return which would abundantly compensate them for any time or money devoted to this object. What, then, are our conditions of membership? Nothing further than the payment of one dollar per annum. And what are the advantages which members receive in return?

First, the *Canadian Horticulturist*, the monthly organ of our Society, in which our esteemed editor as well as our Directors and members find regular vent for their accumulated stores of horticultural experiences, a handsomely got up journal of twenty-four pages in each number, teeming with practical information and with every issue embellished with a beautiful plate of some new fruit or flower. I have no hesitation in saying that the *Horticulturist* alone is more than a fair equivalent for the member's subscription. Next we have the annual Report, with its full, verbatim account of all the discussions at our meetings, and containing in addition, many valuable reports on new fruits, and papers on a variety of horticultural subjects. Appended to all this is the Report of the Entomological Society of Ontario, which always contains much practical information regarding the insect enemies with which the lovers of horticulture have to contend. Nor is this all. Every year the Directors make choice of several new plants, shrubs, vines, etc., and give the members the privilege of selecting any one of those named. These are sent to the members free of cost to be tested, as to their suitability to the several districts of Ontario, and thus every one is able to secure many good things, which might otherwise escape his notice. Surely this is worth something. Here, then, is an investment offered to the public, where the advantages are largely in favor of the investor, and yet our membership is not so large as we would like to see it. We want all who are in any way interested in growing fruits, flowers, or trees to join us, and share in the advantages and benefits which our Association offers. "Come thou with us and we will do thee good."

#### THE GRAPE.

Of late years, much attention has been paid to grape culture, and since this delicious fruit, in many of its better varieties, can be successfully grown in most of the favoured fruit sections in Ontario, and with the introduction of earlier and hardier sorts, the area suited to grape culture is being rapidly extended, this subject is becoming one of very general interest. No large plot of land is required for this purpose. Space for a few vines may be found in very small gardens; even where there is no special garden plot, they may be planted along a fence or against a shed, or outbuilding, and there made to serve the double purpose of ornament and use.