

Maine Fruit-growers in Session.

The thirty-third annual meeting of the Maine State Pomological Society was held at Harrison, Nov. 13th to 15th. Hon. Z. A. Gilbert, its president, occupied the chair. First, reviewing briefly the history of the Society, he said that but three of the pioneers in pomological work were alive at the present day. The \$1,000 annually appropriated was judiciously used, and the Society was enabled to carry on its work. The apple industry had developed from limited production thirty-three years ago, to a million and a half barrels a season of market apples. The attention given the instruction of the Society was manifested by the greater number of orchards under cultivation, the increased yields of the bearing trees in all parts of the State, and the fact that making the orchard a leading feature of the farm, instead of a side adjunct, would materially increase the farmer's income. The brown-tail moth and gypsy-moth situation continued about the same as last year. He advised continued activity against their encroachments, and commended the work of Commissioner Gilman.

Secretary Knowlton called attention to a box of apples from Hood River, Oregon, procured for an object-lesson in packing and grading, and to the collection of injurious insects, mounted and named, exhibited by Miss Bernice Watson, and specimen mounts of brown-tail and gypsy moths which told the life-history of the pests, by Prof. Wm. Powers.

In order to make the meetings and exhibits of the Society of the greatest educational value, E. L. White, of Bowdoinham, would extend the educational work into the State, rather than confine it to the meetings. In giving premiums, he would like to see fruit judged by a standard of perfection, and would give the preference to fruit from well-pruned trees that was free from scab or worm-holes. He was in favor of a standard package.

That one should always be trying to find something better, was the idea of J. W. True, of New Gloucester. He was looking for a better apple than the Baldwin.

Several speakers declared in favor of more State funds to advance the fruit interests.

"Worn-out and Abandoned Farms in Maine," was a paper written by Prof. Munson. An extended trip in the West had only confirmed his faith in Maine as an orchard State. Abandoned farms in New England became numerous because of the opening up of the West, the selection of sites that proved unsuited to agricultural purposes, or the unfitness for the business of the person running it. These abandoned holdings were not worn out; there was plenty of plant food, if properly treated. Lack of humus, lack of plant food, acidity, need of tillage, need of drainage, were assigned as reasons for land being worn out.

The ladies of Lakeside Grange held a banquet Wednesday evening, attended by nearly all the pomologists.

In the election of officers, the only change made was the choice of C. D. Wheeler, Chester-ville, as member of the Executive Committee, in the place of C. A. Arnold. E. L. Lincoln reported \$700 in the treasury.

D. H. Knowlton, secretary, spoke of the high prices of apples kept in storage, and the general increase of the apple industry.

The subject of a standard packing-box came in for discussion. Mr. Lincoln recommended one 10 x 11 inches and 20 inches deep, which would hold about 44 pounds. The President questioned if the growers were ready yet to perform the extra work necessary to grade and pack, and the question was tabled.

The President, Secretary and Executive Committee were appointed a committee to confer with representatives from other societies to bring before the Legislature a request that money be appropriated to purchase a farm for experimental orchard work and the raising of corn.

Dr. G. M. Twitchell had charge of the matter relative to securing a fruit marks act similar to that of Canada. Agitation of the matter in different States had strengthened his opinion that the move was needed; more education was necessary before any decisive action could hope to secure hearty co-operation, and the same committee was continued.

Prof. Alfred G. Gulley, who had practiced in five States, advocated spraying with power, rather than the hand-pump, recommending the gas sprayer recently introduced, and did not think the work was kept up long enough; he predicted the entrance of the San Jose scale unless rigid watch were kept, as it is a most insidious pest; he did not think our climate cold enough to act as a preventive of its introduction. Experiments in thinning had shown that efforts to change the bearing year of the Baldwin, or to make it an annual bearer, had been unsuccessful; with the Nonsuch the result was fairly satisfactory, and the Fall Pippin had been made to change its bearing year. He advocated thinning from a financial standpoint. The characteristics of the tree upon which grafts were placed did not in any

way affect the individuality of the fruit. In setting an orchard, Prof. Gulley advocated nursery rows, resetting every two years until the tree was ten years old, when it should be placed in its permanent position. As "fillers" for the orchard, he would use the McIntosh Red or the Wealthy, never peaches or plums. The trees could easily be reset, rather than cut out, or he would lop off a limb at a time as it interfered with the growth of the permanent tree. He believed in boxed fruit as a money-maker.

"The Massachusetts Man on a Maine Farm," W. O. Breed, praised the outlook for Maine fruit-raising, especially for the young. Apples and grass cannot grow together on the same land. The best apples come from orchards where hogs work. Windfalls must be destroyed, else trypeta will infest the fruit. If no hogs are pastured in the orchard, the land should be cultivated.

"Why Not Grow More and Better Fruit in Maine?" was answered by William Craig. Much land well adapted to growing apples was running to waste, and trees already set were not properly cared for. He wondered why, in view of the fact of liberal financial returns for the work necessary, and advocated missionary work among the young to increase the orchard area in Maine.

Dr. Twitchell had for his topic, "What a Tree Told Me." First, that it was hungry; second, overtaxed; and third, lonesome. Feed it, thin its load of fruit, and give it hogs for company—not too many; it will bear well, and store up vitality for future growth and production.

Prof. M. J. Dorsey, of Maine University Chair of Horticulture, handled the cold-storage problem. By figures from personally-conducted experiments, he showed the better keeping of cold-storage as compared with the cellar; set forth the advantages of not having to market when the "glut" is on, the lengthening of the consumption period, and the special adaptability of the apple to cold storage. He showed that delay in storing after fruit was gathered, and delay in picking after it was ripe, entailed great loss, as did also carting long distances, and pouring into boxes or barrels. Another point in its favor was that fruit could be put in temporary receptacles, and sorted and graded at the time of sale. It had been demonstrated that co-operation in building and maintaining cold storage was feasible in other States, and he recommended it for Maine.

The evening was devoted to the ladies, the subjects considered being Nature Studies, Growing Choice Dahlias in Maine, and Home Industries for the Farmers' Daughters. The latter paper was designed to help the girls become self-supporting, and the lines suggested were, greenhouse work, raising small fruits, poultry-raising, and putting up jellies, fruits and pickles.

The fruit exhibit was better and better arranged than that of last year. There were over 100 competitors in all departments, and over 400 plates. Three competed for State exhibits, the first prize falling to S. H. Dawes, Harrison, 45 plates; the second to C. A. Arnold, 20 plates. Over 200 specimens in jellies, preserves and pickles were shown. Besides his apple exhibit, Mr. Dawes showed 21 plates pears, 10 of grapes, 2 of plums, 1 of peaches, and 1 of English walnuts.

Horticultural Progress.

TWO USEFUL HORTICULTURAL REPORTS.

Owing to the change in the date of closing the fiscal year and the early session of Parliament, it became necessary to prepare an interim report of the Experimental Farms. This report has just been published, and contains very valuable information, being, in a large measure, a summary, by the director and officers, of the work done in the different departments, and of the results of experiments since the experimental farms system was organized, about twenty years ago, until the present time. The report of the Horticulturist, Mr. W. T. Macoun, occupies 21 pages, in which are included an account of the experiments which have been conducted with fruits, vegetables, forest trees, and ornamental plants, with the results obtained and the conclusions reached. This report should prove very useful for reference, as the experiments cover a wide field, and touch upon many of the problems met with in horticultural practice. The lists of varieties of fruits and vegetables recommended will be of considerable aid to intending planters.

The annual report of the Chief of the Fruit Division, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Mr. Alex. McNeill, is included in the report of the 1906, which has recently been published. Mr. McNeill's report is one of the best expositions of industry in Canada that has ever been published. The varied conditions which prevail in the different fruit centers from the Atlantic to the Pacific are vividly described in connection with the work of the fruit inspectors, and when the report has been read one realizes over what a vast area fruit is grown in Canada, and how by the judicious enactment and enforcement of laws, fruit

in the extreme East and West must now be packed according to the same standard of quality and shipped in packages of uniform size, and, while the convictions which were made last year are 50 in number, showing that Canadian fruit-packing is not yet perfect, there is good evidence to prove that it is rapidly improving. Some of the most important chapters in this report are: "Method of Inspection," "Statistics of Inspection," "Transshipment from Cars to Steamships," "Barrels," "Boxes," "Marking," "Overpressing," "Grading," "Storehouses," "Co-operative Handling of Apples," "Local Inspection," "Convictions and Fruit-crop Reports."

The Fruit-growers' Meeting.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I was very much pleased with your very full and accurate report of the meeting of the Fruit-growers' Association of Ontario, in your issue of Nov. 15th. The only point that I take exception to is that in reference to the effect of the recent amendments to the Constitution.

You state that the amendment placing the financial year at Dec. 31st will tend to make the Association a closer corporation than before. Our reasons for asking for this change were, we considered, sufficiently strong to warrant the change. The directors have, in the past, held but one meeting during the year, viz., at the time of the annual meeting in the fall; consequently, not only had they then to close up one year's work, but also to plan for the entire year following. This is practically an impossibility at such a busy time, and, as a result, almost the entire work of the Association has fallen on the Executive, which is not as it should be. Again, the finances of the Association are falsely represented by the statement presented at this season of the year, as the heaviest expenditure is now incurred immediately following the annual meeting and the fruit show. A large balance has to be held over to meet this outlay, and the finances of the Association then seem to be in an exceedingly flourishing condition, while really we have not the funds to carry on the work that we consider necessary.

The intention of this revision was not to do away with the fall business meeting, but to have an additional directors' business meeting in January, when the work for a new year can be properly planned. At the full Association meeting in the fall the reports of the committees will be presented as usual. The President will deliver his annual address on the work of the year, and all other usual business will be transacted as in the past. But the books of the Treasurer will not be audited by the expert auditor appointed by the Minister of Agriculture until December 31st, so that the new Board, at its first meeting, will be in a position to know the exact financial condition of the funds of the Association, and plan their work accordingly.

I trust that this explanation will clear matters.

P. W. HODGETTS, Secretary.

THE FARM BULLETIN.

Montreal's 1906 Trade.

By Our Montreal Market Correspondent.

The season of navigation has now closed, and the last ship has gone. The records compare favorably, in some respects, and unfavorably in others, with those of previous years. Exact returns of shipments from port are not yet fully available, but the results shown below are within a very short distance of the mark. It will be observed that cheese shipments are considerably larger than hitherto, and that butter shows a falling off, as compared with last year. Wheat and flaxseed show large increases, but there is a marked decrease in barley. The number of ocean-going ships entering port was 815, against 833 the previous season, but the tonnage was 1,962,694 against 1,940,056. On the whole, the port makes a good showing, but it has not much to spare when compared with the previous season. The following approximately represents the shipments, as compiled to date by the Montreal Board of Trade:

	1906.	1905.	1904.
Wheat, bushels	13,410,218	9,916,687	7,507,266
Corn, bushels	4,210,504	5,883,842	3,721,582
Pears, bushels	78,539	47,996	173,869
Oats, bushels	3,303,763	2,623,767	1,206,307
Barley, bushels	762,721	2,424,324	816,882
Rye, bushels	134,287	121,021	2,105
Buckwheat, bushels	169,006	83,770	112,997
Flaxseed, bushels	3,015,174	270,453	
Flour, barrels	638,189	538,307	840,005
Meal, barrels	56,634	49,592	125,669
Eggs, cases	55,065	79,227	80,117
Butter, kegs	355,758	656,041	525,281
Cheese, boxes	2,104,855	2,083,715	2,069,089
Hams and bacon, pkgs.	223,294	334,071	221,046
Leather, rolls	13,983	15,414	10,095
Tobacco, packages	367	1,531	510
Apples, barrels	306,412	540,234	348,907
Hay, bales	438,178	507,913	
Cattle	420,127	115,180	112,147