

APPENDIX II.

REPORTS FROM AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS, 1892.

BURLINGTON HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.

We have to report a fairly satisfactory year for the Society. Several new members have been added, the interest is sustained, and our work is having a decidedly beneficial effect upon the members. Instead of working at random as is largely the case when an individual relies entirely upon his own resources, the collective information of the entire society becomes his property with useful and practical results. We find that personal inquiry is stimulated, new zest given to our efforts in growing fruit, we are enabled to work more intelligently and methodically, and are better able to explain the reason of a given line of action. It is difficult to place a money value on the benefits derived from such an association, but there is a financial gain which more than amply repays our time and efforts.

At the instance of the Superintendent of Fruit for Ontario, Mr. A. H. Pettit of Grimsby, several members of the Association shipped to him baskets and kegs of choice fruit for the Columbian Exposition at Chicago. It might also be mentioned that this Association was awarded first prize on the best display of fruits at the Toronto Exhibition.

For the past three years the members of the Association have made a practice of taking an annual outing, early in the month of September. The fruit plantations in the neighborhood of Burlington were the first visited, then those of the Grimsby district, and this year, the orchards of Oakville and Lockport, N. Y. We find these outings interesting, exhilarating, instructive and certainly useful.

The following is a brief synopsis of some of the papers and addresses delivered at the meetings of the Association: "Soils and situations for the larger fruits," by the Secretary, Mr. A. W. PEART. He is of the opinion that deep loams of clay or sand, with a clay or shale sub-soil are the best adapted for fruits. Light, sandy soils, as well as heavy clay are not suitable, the former are too porous, while the latter are too adhesive. Shallow soils resting on rock are also unsuitable, as well as alluvial deposits, which give a rank but tender growth of wood. Soils for fruit purposes should be well drained, if not naturally, by artificial means. Trees, vines and plants on wet soils do not thrive, the former are stunted, immature, and soon die, while the latter are continually cut down by late spring frosts. This district is highly favoured, the lake modifies our climate, while the mountain on the west and north-west sides is a valuable protection. In pears and grapes, especially, we should produce an article superfine in quality.

A supplement to this paper was given by Mr. JOS. LINDLEY, "Soils and situations for small fruits." For gooseberries and red currants he prefers a sandy loam, but considers alluvial deposits or clay loams also good. For strawberries heavy sandy loam, inclined to be damp, but not wet; blackberries, also, require a similar soil.

Mr. W. V. HOPKINS gave a paper on "Soil Fertilizers." He thinks that stable manure well decomposed is the best, it being a perfect manure. He has tried land plaster on manure heaps and found that it prevented the escape of ammonia. Phosphoric acid and potash are very necessary for fruits and may be applied, either in the form of unleached hard wood ashes or phosphates. One of the very best fertilizers, however, lies in thoroughly cultivating plants, vines and trees, and thus make use of the food elements that nature has placed in the soil.