

SECOND DAY.

The SECRETARY read a letter from the honorable the Minister of Education, referring to resolution passed by this association at Ottawa respecting the study of horticulture in public schools :

HORTICULTURE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The Secretary read several letters, received since the last session, among which was the following from the Minister of Education :—

MY DEAR SIR.—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of certain resolutions adopted by the Directors of the Fruit Grower's Association of Ontario, respecting the study of Horticulture in our Public Schools. In the new text-book on Agriculture, which is in course of preparation by Principal Mills, of the Model Farm, I expect that the subject of Horticulture will be discussed, and as the book is intended for the Public Schools, the study of this subject will be systematically taken up throughout the Province. By means of "Arbor Day" established three years ago, we are cultivating native plants and ornamental trees in all the school grounds. From the reports received by my Department we have planted already 73,000 trees. I shall consider what is prudent to do in regard to the question respecting first class teachers.

Yours truly,

GEO. W. ROSS.

L. WOOLVERTON, Esq.,
Secretary Fruit Growers' Association, Grimsby.

THE RUSSIAN APRICOT.

Q—Would some one give his experience in regard to the fruiting of the Russian apricot?

MR. WELLINGTON—The apricot is one of the handsomest lawn trees that has ever been put out. It is perfectly hardy, as I know from experiment. Some of the seedlings that have been put out have borne good fruit. Nurserymen are offering some half dozen varieties that have been tested, and that really bear good fruit. One is named after Prof. Budd; and people who know him know that he would not countenance anything that was not reliable. You cannot depend on the seedlings any more than you can on the seedlings of any other fruit; but if a man does not get good fruit from a seedling apricot he has certainly got a very fine ornamental tree, and one that will stand this climate well.

WANT OF A TASTE FOR AND KNOWLEDGE OF HORTICULTURE AMONG FARMERS.

Mr. A. M. SMITH read the following paper :

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN.—One would naturally suppose that if there was one class above another that would be interested in horticulture and its pursuits it would be the tillers of the soil—our farmers—surrounded as they are by the beauties of nature, trees, plants, fruits and flowers; that these would be a constant study for them and that they would seek to develop them and bring out all of their beauty and utility. But I am sorry to say that any one familiar with Canadian farming will have to acknowledge that this is not the case—but that Canadian farmers as a rule (I know there are some honorable exceptions) are far behind our professional men and even our tradesmen or