

arrival at their destination. This is substantially the plan pursued by the Australian Colonies to obtain the bulk of the labourers and artisans required to carry out works of public utility, and help to bring under cultivation the agricultural lands, which were sold by the crown to actual settlers only, at £1 per acre; the proceeds to be devoted for a certain time to the encouragement of immigration. They employed well-paid agents at British ports, men of honour and ability, who were careful to see that none but persons of the right stamp were sent out. Half the passage money was paid by the agent, the balance by the passenger. Some such scheme of assisted emigration would be well adapted to the present wants and condition of Canada, and in this way the Government might most profitably expend a portion of the public money.

Notes on the Weather.

February has been colder on the average than January, but is warmer than the average of several years past. There has been an abundance of snow, more than enough and considerably drifted, so that travel is rather impeded than helped. There have been 11 clear days, 17 cloudy days, 14 days on which snow or rain fell. The highest temperature was 49° on the 12th, the lowest 0° on the 27th, the prevailing winds W. and W. S. W. The ground is now covered with snow to an average depth of two feet, and the prospect is that March will prove cold. Spring come in with a sudden and rapid fall, and as the frost has not penetrated deeply into the soil, we may look for an early and favourable spring.

REGISTER OF RURAL AFFAIRS.—We have just received a copy of this favourite annual, published by L. Tacker & Son, of Albany, N.Y., the proprietors of that sterling agricultural journal the *Country Gentleman*. It is the most perfect thing of the kind yet got up, and we wonder how they can afford to give such a neat volume of 326 pages, with 130 engravings, for so small a sum as 39 cents. We have only had time to glance through its pages. The first article, on the "Culture of Wheat," is alone worth double the price of the book, and the next, on the "Management of Hedges," is good and practical. Then there is "Culture of the Potato," "Rural Improvements," "Strawberry Marketing," "Grape Houses," "Packing Grapes for Market," and about thirty other articles on various subjects pertaining to the farm, garden and household, any one of which is worth the price of the book.

In England many farmers support large families on the produce of six English acres of land, besides paying heavy taxes. Many in Germany do even better than this.

Horticulture.

EDITOR—D. W. BEADLE,

CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY, ENGLAND.

General Meeting of the Fruit Growers' Association of Canada.

HELD AT HAMILTON ON THURSDAY, THE Tenth DAY OF FEBRUARY.

The meeting was called to order a few minutes after ten o'clock, a.m., the President, W. H. Mills, Esq., in the chair. There was a very good attendance of members, several from Toronto, London, Paris, St. Catharines, Cayuga, and Niagara, being present.

The minutes of the last meeting, which were held at St. Catharines, were read and approved. The President read a short address touching several matters affecting the interests of the Association, and congratulating the members upon the progress already made, and particularly upon the very valuable and instructive character of the report.

On motion of Mr. John Gray, seconded by Mr. George Leslie, Jr., it was resolved

That Horticultural and County or Electoral Division Agricultural Societies be allowed to affiliate with this Association on payment of two dollars annually, and be allowed to send two delegates to each meeting, and be entitled to two copies of the report of the transactions of this Association."

On motion of Rev. Mr. Burnet, seconded by J. C. Rykert, Esq., it was resolved

That the Secretary be directed to keep in readiness the record of remarks on subjects for discussion at the meetings of the Association, and that he simply enter in the minute book the acts accomplished."

The meeting took up the list of Pears, and proceeded to discuss the merits of the several varieties, with a view to the revision of the list.

BARTLETT: Mr. Burnet, of Hamilton, thought it hardly sufficiently hardy, and would suggest that the *Ananas d'Ere* be cultivated in its place.

Mr. D. Murray, of Hamilton, believed it to do very well about Hamilton, and said it was early, very valuable, and quite as hardy as any other, both on the pear and the quince stock.

Mr. Ball, of Niagara, found it sufficiently hardy, and that if plucked when half grown, and put away in the house, it would ripen well.

ANNANIS D'ERE: Mr. Burnet said it ripened about a week later than the Bartlett, was a superior pear, does not rot at the core, will keep for a considerable length of time, and is a good market pear.

Mr. Leslie, of Toronto, has had better specimens of this variety than of the Bartlett; it is a first class pear, thrifty grower, good bearer, and will stand the climate better than the Bartlett.

Mr. Gray, Toronto, said it was a better pear than the Bartlett, and considered it one of the finest early pears; could not speak of its keeping qualities.

BEURRE GIFFARD: Mr. Leslie, Toronto, thought this the finest early pear, most delicious flavour; has it as a dwarf tree, and it came into bearing at three years of age.

Mr. Gray, Toronto, said this was one of the very best of the early kinds, ripening before the Bartlett; the fruit is of medium size.

Mr. Holton, Hamilton, considered this a fine early pear, ripening two weeks after the Madelaine; it was a very spreading, ugly, slender growing tree, and required very severe pruning.

W. H. Mills, Hamilton, remarked that this was a good pear, of good flavour, a thrifty grower, and bearing young; he had had it as a standard four years, growing in a gravelly loam soil; it was very hardy.

BELLE LUCRATIVE: Mr. Gray—This is the best pear grown. Mr. Ball—is a good bearer and grower, and an excellent eating pear. Mr. Mills—is one of the best. Mr. Burnet—in August, when the winds are high, the long stalk of the fruit is apt to break, and the fruit fall to the ground. It should be grown in a well sheltered position. Mr. Holton—For dwarf culture it is one of the best; is a good permanent pear on the quince; it is a rapid grower, as good as Louise Bonne de Jersey.

BEURRE ROSE: Mr. Burnet said that if pruned in the fall the wood suffered from the winter; it was a good pear to eat, but the tree backward in bearing. Mr. Leslie—it stands and bears well in Toronto; quite hardy there, specimens not large. Dr. Cross said it grew well with him at St. Catharines. Mr. Holton had very little experience with it; it blights with him; had a tree in his grounds for eight years; then it blighted and died. Mr. Beadle thought it quite tender in the north; it is one of the best pears grown, ripens in October, does not come into bearing as young as the Bartlett, will bear at five and six years. Mr. Freed said it was not desirable as a dwarf, did best as a standard, is a good pear. Mr. Arnold had it on trial at Paris many years, but did not succeed with it.

BEURRE SUPERFIN: Mr. Leslie said it was very much like the Beurre d'El, that he could not say much about it. Mr. Freed thinks it a good pear; has tried it, found it not very sweet; a good keeper, had them until the week before Christmas, quality variable. Mr. Burnet—it is a good pear, like Belle Lucrative in shape and colour; tree tender.

BEURRE CLAIROEAU: Mr. Springer, of Hamilton, has fruited it for one year; it is a good pear. Mr. Saunders, of London—it is of good size and appearance; have grown it only a short time. Mr. Leslie—it is very tender, dies out very rapidly. Mr. Burnet—it is a good market pear, very snowy but coarse-grained, comes out of October.