

PROCEEDINGS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting was held in the City Hall, in the City of London, on Tuesday evening, the 25th September, 1877.

The President called the Meeting to order at 8 o'clock.

The Secretary read the minutes of the last annual meeting.

The Directors submitted their Report, which was as follows:—

DIRECTORS' REPORT.

Another year of the history of our Association is closing, and your Directors appear before you with the brief summary of the proceedings of the year. There has been nothing in the management to bring specially before you. We have followed very closely in the usual course of our predecessors, holding our meetings in the manner and about the time observed in former years. These have been attended by the members residing in the vicinity, with a few from more distant points; and the discussions have been animated and interesting. The winter meeting was held in the City of Hamilton, on the 7th of February; the summer meeting at Stratford on the 18th of July; and the autumn meeting is appointed to be held on the 30th of October, at Port Hope.

There was unusual delay in the printing of the Report of 1876, though the manuscript was in the hands of Government in good time, arising from causes over which we had no control, so that it was not mailed to the members until quite into the summer of 1877. It is very desirable that our Report should be distributed as soon after New Years' as possible; and we hope that the efforts which the Department is making to have it printed earlier in future may prove successful. It has been decided to illustrate the next Report with a coloured lithograph of Arnold's new hybrid apple, the "Ontario," a tree of which it is intended to present to all the members in the spring of 1879.

Arrangements have been made to distribute a plant of the "Burnet" grape to each member next spring. We believe that this will prove one of the most valuable grapes ever sent out; and that the hardiness of the vine, size, beauty, and quality of the fruit, and early period of ripening, will place it high in the estimation of our members,—as high as the greatly esteemed and worthy President himself, whose honoured name it bears.

No arrangements have been made for the distribution of any trees or plants beyond the spring of 1879, hence upon our successors will devolve the burden of selecting some promising fruits for dissemination in future years, in time to have them propagated in sufficient quantity for that purpose. Of late years the Directors have recognized the principle of giving preference to fruits of Canadian origin, where their qualities were such as gave promise of adaptation to our climate, and of their becoming a valuable addition to our list of fruits.

Our membership at present is smaller than it has been for several years past, being now but a very little over one thousand. The causes of this falling off have been various. While the hard times has not been without its share in bringing about this diminution, there have been other causes at work, and prominently among them have been disappointment in the trees and plants received through the Association. Some have been disappointed because the articles sent were not of larger size; some because they were not in all respects what they expected; and more because what they did get failed to grow. One great cause of the failure to grow, is to be found in the fact that the trees were often most sadly abused after they arrived at their place of destination. No care was taken to preserve them; perhaps the person to whom the parcel was addressed, opened the bundle, took out his own tree, and left the others exposed to dry up and die, without any care for those belonging to his neighbours. Many instances have been reported to your Secretary of the trees being found in this condition, perhaps yet in the Express Office, sometimes in the corner of some store or grocery, or

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