

had no conception of the actual capabilities of this province in the way of fruit culture. I then learned, for the first time, that large sections of country, in which I and doubtless many others believed such things to be impossible, were admirably adapted to fruit growing. During the ten years which have elapsed since that time there has been great development of this industry, largely due, I believe, to the efforts of your Association; and we cannot hope to make much substantial progress in this or any other department of our work as agriculturists without associating ourselves together in this way. By associated effort we can do much which we could never do working alone as individuals. Therefore I hail with delight the increasing tendency in these days among the farming class, whether they devote themselves to one branch or another, to unite themselves together for the promotion of their mutual interests. I think it is a good omen which augurs well for the success of agriculture in this country. By combining yourselves together in your Association, there are many things which you can do in this co-operative way. As a farmer I hate the word "combine," but I like the word "co-operation," and by such co-operation you enable yourselves and all whom you influence to improve their productions, to devise better methods and to seek out better markets. I maintain that a man who puts a poor article on the market, and who thinks he is doing a smart thing, deceives no one more than himself. There are some men who imagine that that is a clever thing to do. I say that such men do a grievous injury not only to the purchaser, but to every individual engaged in producing similar commodities, and to the country at large. The extent and profitableness of our markets depend very largely upon our putting forward the very best article we can produce. You cannot hope to establish a very extensive market in the old country, or even in this country, if you are content to put forward an inferior article. If you place upon the market a first-rate quality of mutton or beef, it is evident that the people who consume it will want more of it, and in that way you will increase the demand. Take the case of butter as an illustration. If you sell to your townsmen an inferior quality of butter, what is the result? The family that gets it will sniff at it, but will not use much of it, and so it will last a long time; whereas if you send to them butter of the first quality, it will disappear so rapidly as perhaps to alarm the head of the family. You thus create an active demand for butter. The same rule applies to fruit culture. Now, how can you produce the very best article? By meeting together as you are doing, and suggesting and discussing the best methods. No knowledge is confined exclusively to one man, but by contributing all our individual knowledge to the common fund and comparing notes, we take the course by which the best results are achieved. This Association has done a valuable work in bringing forward and introducing many new varieties of fruit. I was formerly a member of the Association, and I remember that I had some new varieties, some of which have become common property in these later years; and it is marvellous how much has been done in this respect by your association in the past, which I trust may be only an indication of its usefulness in the same direction in the future. I am glad to know that some of the members of your Association intend visiting the different farmers' institutes at their meetings in the month of January, and I am sure that many of our farmers will listen with great pleasure and profit to the instruction which those visitors will be able to give them. I have a strong desire to encourage the farmers everywhere to attend those institutes and participate in them. I am no believer in the theory that governments can enact legislation to make everybody rich, but governments can do a good deal in the way of placing obstacles in our way or removing them. They can also do a great deal in the way of disseminating information for the education of the people, and I propose that my Department shall furnish to the members of those institutes such information as we are able to obtain, by means of the different bulletins and reports published by the department. I am afraid that some of the literature published in the past has failed to reach many of the people most interested, or it has reached them after such a lapse of time as to have lost a great deal of its interest and value, but I am glad to hope that we shall be able gradually to improve matters in these respects, and that we shall be aided in doing so by this Association. Now, ours is but a young country. Our fathers went into the wilderness, and cut down the original forests, and converted it into fertile fields. Perhaps there are some men now living who saw the greater part of this