

The premiums offered by the Association have given good satisfaction, are of good value, and of use to people interested in fruit growing. We have endeavored to send out the very best of stock, and something that was new and desirable to test. As a result, we have had no complaints from our large membership, which is well worth noting.

The expenditure during the year, for the distribution of plants, amounted to \$344.08, and the following is the list of plants distributed:—

422 new Japanese Lilacs.
1,100 bulbs (*Speciosum Rubrum*).
1,468 plants, Conrath Raspberry (two plants in each package).
791 Dempsey Pear Trees.

Usually, the premiums to be given the following spring have been decided upon so late in the winter as to serve little purpose in securing new subscribers. Your Executive, therefore, have made up the list of premiums for the coming season at a much earlier date, and we believe the result will be to materially increase our subscription list.

Our list for 1898, decided upon, is as follows: (a) Improved Pæony. (b) Crimson Rambler Rose. (c) Gault Raspberry. (d) New Victoria Black Currant. (e) Wickson Plum.

A circular has been issued containing this list, with description of the different varieties, in order that the work in obtaining subscriptions may go forward in advance for the coming year.

One of the most important features of the work of our Association during the last year or two has been the encouragement of the formation of affiliated horticultural societies. These societies are formed under the Agriculture and Arts Act in incorporated towns and villages, and where they have a membership of fifty or over, receive a grant from the Department of Agriculture. They are allowed to spend their money in securing lecturers on horticultural topics, in distributing floral treasures among their members, and also in distributing horticultural literature. Under the latter head they are able to give each of their members the *Canadian Horticulturist*. Our association undertakes to send a lecturer to each society at some time during the year.

There are now twenty-seven of these societies, and several more are being formed, which are likely to unite with us during the coming year. A great increase in our subscription list may confidently be looked forward to, in this direction.

It is very gratifying to myself and your directors to find, at the end of this year, that we have a surplus in hand. It means, with the large expenditure and improvement in our journal, that it has all been done judiciously, and after careful thought, and without any extravagance. It means that we shall be able to prosecute our work without borrowing as much money from the bank as we have found it necessary to do during the last few years, and it shows an onward movement, as era of prosperity in the history of our Association which means a largely increased benefit to every member.

I believe that the Society in its present prosperous condition is one of the strongest factors for the benefit and good of the fruit grower in the land, and that worked on the lines at present adopted it will still further advance the interests of the fruit grower.

The small grant by the Legislature, I believe, is one of the best, and productive of as great good, as any expenditure which the Legislature may make.

In conclusion, I would urge upon the members of the Association, united action in the development of outside markets, united action working towards the reduction of the cost in transportation; united action to be taken to regulate the packing of fruit, the packages in which it is packed, and the appointing reliable and intelligent agents to sell the fruit, so that the fruit grower may get the full benefit of his labor, and lastly, *imme-*

diate action
being put
further sp

I hav
tion they
tion of the

Secret
Auditors a

Membership
Government
Advertiseme
Back number
Binding and

We ha
they agree

GRIMSBY, 9

To the Boar

We, th
examined al
them to sho
made in the
increase in r
than in any
systematic m