



Upper Canada Fruit Growers' Association.

Fruit-growing is attracting increased attention amongst us; and, thanks in no small measure to the Upper Canada Fruit Growers' Association, whose headquarters are located in perhaps the best fruit growing section of the Province, this branch of industry has made rapid progress. The products of our orchards are beginning to be appreciated, and find a remunerative market in England: and the culture of the grape on an extensive scale which has lately been introduced into the country, promises to become a profitable enterprise. The magnificent display of fruit at the last Provincial Exhibition, still fresh in the memory of us all, was well calculated to produce a favourable impression of the resources of the country in this department of science and skill, and would convince us, did we need conviction, that we occupy no inhospitable portion of the globe; that, on the contrary, this favoured land is peculiarly adapted for a British Province. We believe the climate is fitted for the race, its very rigour only serving to nurse the courage and develop the energies of a hardy and enterprising people.

Among the many useful institutions to which the national spirit has given birth, we accord high rank to the Fruit Growers' Association of Upper Canada the annual meeting of which was held on Wednesday, January 16th, in the Council Chamber of the County Buildings, Hamilton, and was well attended. Among those present, besides the President, Judge Logie, and the Secretary, Mr. Beadle, of St. Catharines, were Messrs. Leslie and Grey, of Toronto, Mr. DeCourtenay, of Cooksville; Mr. Morse, of Hamilton; Mr. Arnold, of Paris; Messrs. Wolverton and Smith, Grimsby; Mr. Bruce, Mr. Goldsmith, Mr. Ellis of the CANADA FARMER, and others. The chair was occupied by the President. The proceedings were opened by the Secretary reading the minutes of the last meeting, held in the Fall, at Grimsby. The Treasurer's report showed a balance to the credit of the Society, this being the first time since its commencement that such a satisfactory statement could be presented. The President, Judge Logie, then delivered his address, in which he adverted to the gratifying progress of the institution, especially within the last two years, to the advance made in fruit-growing in all its branches and particularly to the recent development of grape culture. In only one species of fruit did he think there was not encouraging progress. With regard to the peach he feared that, in the neighbourhood of Hamilton at least, the quality of the produce was deteriorating, and he submitted it as a fit subject of investigation, whether by the process of hybridizing, which has been found so successful in grape culture, some hardy variety of peach might not be produced which would be better adapted to this climate than existing varieties. Mr. Arnold, of Paris, next read a paper on New Hybrid Grapes, commenting principally on seven varieties which had proved highly successful. The first had been described and illustrated in the CANADA FARMER of 1866. The remaining six were all seedlings from the Clinton stock, and had been by competent judges pronounced superior to any grapes introduced since the Concord. He remarked that it required many years to develop the qualities of a new grape. He had observed an irregularity in the time of ripening, for which he could not altogether account, but thought it might be attri-

buted to over-bearing in part, and in part to the varying temperature of the seasons. After the reading of this paper a vote, of thanks to Mr. Arnold, for his report on New Hybrid Grapes, was moved by Mr. Goldsmith and seconded by Mr. Gregg. A few specimens of apples were exhibited, amongst others, a new variety of crab apple sent by Mr. Vidal of Sarnia, and raised by himself.

The meeting next proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year. The result was the choice of W. H. Mill, Esq., President, Messrs. John Gray and A. Morse, Vice Presidents, D. W. Beadle, Secretary and Treasurer.

Fruit Committee Messrs. Geo. Leslie, A. M. Smith, Charles Arnold, John Bruce and W. T. Goldsmith.

Publication Committee—Judge Logie, G. W. Beadle and W. T. Goldsmith.

When the business of election was completed, Judge Logie retired from the chair, and in the absence of the President for the coming year, Mr. Gray, first Vice President, occupied his place.

It was then moved by Mr. Morse, and seconded by Mr. Wolverton, "That the hearty thanks of this meeting be given to his Honour, Judge Logie, for the able and efficient manner in which he has discharged the duties of President of this Association during his incumbency, and that he is hereby requested to favour the Association with a copy of his address read this day, for publication."

Judge Logie, in reply, said it was now six years since he had first become connected with the Society as their President; that he had watched its progress with increasing satisfaction, and should still continue to take the warmest interest in the prosperity of the institution.

The meeting then proceeded to fix the place and time for the next summer and autumn meetings, and it was decided that the summer meeting be held at the County Council Chambers, Hamilton, during the strawberry season, the day to be named in the Secretary's notice, "also," that the autumn meeting be held at the Clair House, Cooksville, at the time of the vintage, the day to be named in the Secretary's notice. The Secretary then suggested for the decision of the meeting, the question of appropriating the surplus funds of the Society towards a prize for the best new variety of fruit introduced. After some discussion, it was thought that the objects of the Society would be better advanced by setting aside the funds for the purpose embodied in the following resolution:—

Moved by Judge Logie, seconded by Mr. Morse, "That the minutes of discussion during the year 1867 be carefully preserved, with a view to publishing them, together with the Society's list of fruits, and such other proceedings as may be deemed advisable, in pamphlet form, for distribution among the members."

The meeting next proceeded to revise the Provincial Prize list in the fruit, vegetable, flower, and wine classes, and to make suggestions in relation thereto to the Board of Agriculture.

The proceedings of the meeting then terminated by passing a resolution moved by Mr. A. M. Smith, seconded by Mr. Leslie—"That the thanks of the Association be given to the County Council of the County of Wentworth for the free use of their comfortable and commodious Council Chambers."

Canadian Apples in the English Market.

Our apples are beginning to find considerable favour in England, and there can be little question that it is only necessary that the products of our orchards should be known in the old country to procure for them a greatly increased demand. The heat of our summers is well adapted to mature some of the finest flavored fruit, which in the temperate climate of England would never attain either their appropriate size or quality. We are glad to find that attention is being directed to this promising branch of export.

Last October, two extensive fruit growers in North Norwich, County of Oxford (Messrs. B. Holmes and J. Sutton), resolved to try the experiment of shipping a quantity of apples to the English market. They accordingly packed 210 barrels of the most suitable kinds to be found in their orchards, and shipped them to Liverpool via Montreal. As yet no sale has

been effected; but the exporters are advised that offers have been made by which Messrs. Holmes & Sutton can realize a profit of seven shillings and six pence over cost of package, freight, insurance, &c.; but even this tender has been declined, in expectation of a higher offer, which their agent is sanguine of obtaining. The kind of apples shipped consisted principally of Greenings and Spitzbergens. The gentlemen named intend to repeat the experiment on a larger scale.

A Monster Sunflower.

E. T. Crane of San Leandro, Alameda county, has exhibited to us a monster sunflower, which measures four and a half feet in circumference and eighteen inches in diameter, and which grew on a stalk fifteen feet high. The ripened seeds are as large as the largest grains of corn. This wonderful plant and flower grew from the seed since the 20th of May last. Mr. Crane planted several acres of sunflowers both for the purpose of obtaining the seed for his poultry and to shield an adjoining orchard from the dust. The latter purpose, by their thickness and height, they serve admirably, while the quantity of seed they yield is so enormous as to suggest the probability that they could be profitably grown for the rich and useful oil they produce, and which could be easily extracted at the Linsed Oil Mill recently established in San Francisco. Mr. Crane informs us that his sunflower crop grew with astonishing rapidity. After the young plants got well rooted and under way, they ran up at the rate of two feet a week, or nearly four inches a day. The flowers generally are of huge proportions. Looking at the one before us, we are inclined to think it would twist its head off trying the feat so poetically alluded to by Thomas Moore in the following well known stanza:

"The heart that has truly loved never forgets,
But as fondly loves on to the close,
As the sunflower turns on her god, when he sets,
The same look which she gave when he rose."

When the sunflower attains a circumference of four and a half feet, it looks fixedly east or west. We will only add that the State Agricultural Society desires to send this floral Brooding-nag to the World's Fair, at Paris, they can procure it at this office. It might look well alongside a section of the big tree *San Francisco Bulletin*.

Remarkable Growth of the Cabbage.

Among the peculiarities of the climate of California, is the fact that it permits the cabbage plant to grow from year to year, until it becomes an ever green tree. The consequence of this is the hardening of the wood of the stem or trunk. Mr. J. H. Benton, of Gold Run, Placer County recently had a cane manufactured from such a cabbage stock, which he took to New York, where it attracted considerable attention. It is finished with a coat of varnish, and is easily mistaken for some rare specimen of real wood. The same preternatural growth of the cabbage occurs in the island of Jersey, and other islands of the British Channel. The practice of manufacturing walking sticks from the stalks is there so common, that unlike the New York phenomenon, it attracts no special attention, except from the visitor and stranger. The writer had lately one of these curious canes in his own possession. During a winters residence in the island of Jersey, he has often walked through a farmer's cabbage garden, between rows of these plants towering above his head. They are grown for the use of the small breed of cattle peculiar to the Island, and known as the Alderney breed. The lower leaves are plucked for this purpose from time to time, and the stem, continuing to shoot up, carries with it as a sort of crown, a tolerably compact looking cabbage. They continue green and slowly growing throughout the mild winter of that climate.

EVERGREENS FOR THE WEST.—The *Prairie Farmer* states that Robert Douglas, of Wankegan, Ill., has commenced the raising of evergreens from seed on a vast scale, with the intention of supplying the demand for timber plantations and screens for the wide West. He has now some 5,000,000 plants or more growing—planted last spring over a thousand pounds of seed, besides 100 pounds of European larch seed, and has transplanted, since the 1st of July, over 200,000 plants. The lath frames used for starting the seed, occupy we are informed, 44,000 square feet of ground, which is about one acre in extent. The kinds of evergreens most largely planted are the Norway Spruce and the American and Scotch Pines.