

Fruit and Farm Magazine

A Monthly Journal Devoted to the Interests of the Man on the Land.

Vol. VIII.—No. 4

Vancouver, British Columbia

\$1.00 per year
in Advance

British Columbia Fruit Growers' Convention

Mr. Thomas Abriel of Nakusp, Succeeds Mr. W. C. Ricardo as President of the Association—Mr. R. M. Palmer, of Cowichan Bay, Vice-President—Important Changes Considered.

The twenty-sixth annual meeting of the British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association was held in Victoria during March. The new executive was elected as follows: President, Thomas Abriel, of Nakusp; vice-president, Mr. R. M. Palmer, Cowichan Bay; secretary, Mr. R. M. Winslow, Victoria; and Messrs. George Heggie, C. E. Barnes, and J. E. Reekie.

The board of directors was chosen as follows:

Victoria, W. F. Somers, Gordon Head; Duncan-Nanaimo, R. M. Palmer, Cowichan Bay; Gulf Islands, F. Robson, Mayne Island; Lower Mainland, south of Fraser, G. I. Thornton, Sardis; Lower Mainland, north of Fraser, Mission and East, J. Lawrence; Lower Mainland, north of Fraser, west of Mission, J. C. Metcalf, Hammond; Lytton to Kamloops, including Lillooet, C. E. Barnes, Walhachin; Salmon Arm-Armstrong, W. A. Chappel; Vernon, A. T. Howe; Vernon, George Heggie; Okanagan Centre-North Kelowna, J. E. Reekie, Kelowna; Kelowna, South and East, L. E. Taylor; Summerland, R. V. Agur, Balcom; Penticton, E. W. Mutch, Penticton; Similkameen, J. J. Armstrong, Keremos; Kettle River, James Rooke, Grand Forks; Arrow and Sloean Lakes, Thomas Abriel, Nakusp; Nelson and Lower Kootenay, J. Johnstone, Nelson; Creston and Upper Kootenay, J. H. Hoyle; Peachland-Westbank, Geo. Powell.

It was decided to hold the next meeting in Victoria. There will be a midsummer convention in the Interior, however, at which all members will pay their own expenses. It was pointed out that the convention in Victoria cost \$1,200. A proposal to raise the membership fee from \$1 to \$2 was defeated.

Some dissatisfaction was expressed with the present qualifications for membership, representatives of district associations complaining that although they represent often more than 100 members of the smaller associations, their voting power in the provincial association is no greater than that of the private fruit grower who goes to the annual meetings in Victoria. The Okanagan United Growers, Limited, introduced a resolution complaining that "the provisions for voting at the annual general meeting of the B. C. Fruit Growers' Association are very unfair, in that individual members of the association have the same voice in the proceedings as a regularly appointed delegate of an affiliated association or director representing one of the fruit divisions into which the province is divided, with the result that districts, remote from the place in which the annual meeting is held are not properly represented."

The Goldstream Fruit Growers' Association also introduced a resolution to the same general effect.

Change in Representation.

The rights of the individual growers were vigorously upheld by those who claimed it would be undemocratic to rob them of their franchise in these annual meetings. The matter was left to a special committee who reported in favor of the abolition of the affiliated associations and recommended the formation of district branches, each of which shall nominate a director to represent it.

The resolution which was passed affecting the change reads:

"Your committee would recommend that the system of affiliated associations be abolished; that local branches be formed to correspond with the districts as they now exist, or as they may be altered by the directors as provided in the constitution;

"That each branch of the association representing a district shall have the right annually to nominate a director or directors for that district;

"That where a district is entitled to more than one director, the directors for that district shall be nominated from at large by the members of that particular branch of the association;

"That the two separate districts now existing in each case in Vernon and Kelowna be consolidated into two districts to be known as Vernon and Kelowna districts, each of which shall have the right to nominate two directors;"

Through the change involved in the foregoing it was explained that individual members of the association attending the conventions shall suffer no curtailment of their voting powers.

The question of greater self-reliance was discussed, it being pointed out that the membership is getting sufficiently large so that it will not be necessary to depend on government aid. The opinion was expressed that the fruit growers owed it to the country to help themselves now more than they have been doing. The president, in his annual address, pointed out that the organization was well established and must help themselves more. He said in part:

"Especially must this be true at this time when governments, like individuals, are called upon by stress of the times we are passing through to employ every means to economize and contract expenditure. I am also confident that we can more readily approach the government for our needs if we can show that we, as growers, are doing all we can to help ourselves and our indus-

try. I commend this to your consideration."

By resolution the convention went on record as approving of the government's policy of giving aid to agriculturists under the Agricultural Act of last year. The resolution read:

"Resolved that this convention communicate to the government of British Columbia its appreciation of the great benefit of fruit growers, farmers and the people of the province generally, that may be expected from the operation of the Agricultural Act of 1915, and urge the importance of making this valuable legislation effective as soon as possible."

Protection Against Fraud.

There was much discussion over the advisability of appointing government agents throughout the Northwest centres to protect the British Columbia fruit shippers from fraud on the part of buyers. It was said that in many cases buyers claim that fruit is received in imperfect condition and offer a much-reduced price for it. The fruit growers here say they have no means of knowing the exact condition of their fruit when it reaches the market and have to take the word of the buyer.

It was finally suggested that the express companies be approached to see whether any arrangement could be made with them as to inspecting fruit before delivering it to the consignee. The possibility of the fruit growers' district associations having their own representatives in the prairie cities was also advanced. One grower said that he had sent ninety boxes of apples in perfect condition to a city in the middle west, and had been able to realize only \$8.50 on the lot, as the buyer claimed the fruit was not received in good condition and the buyer's word had to be accepted.

In his annual address President Ricardo of Vernon, said in part:

"Two important matters stand out to my mind clearly. One is that we should endeavor, with all the means in our power, to give publicity to the consumer what the producer or grower sells his produce for; to enable the consumer to join hands with the producer to help regulate the spread between the producer and the consumer, so that the distributor of our product should reach a reasonable profit for his labor and no more.

"The other point is that we should ask the provincial government to initiate at once a technical survey of the cost of production for a box of apples in British Columbia, covering a period of not less than three years and over an average number of