

HORTICULTURE

Annapolis Valley News

R. J. Messenger, Annapolis Co., N.S.

Nova Scotia fruit is of better quality than for years past. Even the much-abused Gravenstein is growing almost clean in orchards that have not been sprayed. "A great Gravenstein year," says everybody. Weather has been almost ideal for ripening and coloring. The writer has Gravensteins almost as red as Astrachans. Kings have dropped badly and do not seem to be coloring so well, but are clean and of good size. Ribston and Blenheim are smooth and of good size, likewise Baldwins. The same old game is beginning again, the farmer picking a splendid lot of fruit, handing it to the crowd of monopolist vultures who are waiting to fatten on the proceeds and handing back to the producer, a small fraction of what the consumer pays. They are less ready to buy this year but anxious to act as agents for consignors. They have not yet closed their lamentations over the exaggerated losses of last season, but are more than ever ready to take in their com- missions and rebates and any other little steal they can without being found out. A few sales have taken place. Gravensteins have been bought for \$1.00, \$1.25 and a few private lots at as high as \$1.50 for No. 1. Ribstons also were bought at \$1.40 per bbl. The first Gravensteins were shipped to England on the 10th. Another lot of green apples to still further militate against the reputation of Nova Scotia apples. The tree-ruin method of buying apples and the greed of speculators have, in the past two or three years, made a splendid combination to ruin the name of Nova Scotia apples. However, we hope the low prices, clean fruit and few tree-ruin speculators will combine to send only good fruit over this season and help win back our good name.

Ontario Horticultural Association

At a meeting of the executive of the Ontario Horticultural Association held at the time of the Canadian National Exhibition it was decided to recommend that in the division of the Legislative grant no horticultural society be entitled to receive more than \$800 during a year. The following resolutions were passed:

Moved by W. B. Burgoyne, seconded by H. L. Hutt, that in view of the great value of the Ontario Horticultural Association to the individual horticultural societies of Ontario in procuring legislation advantageous to the work of the various societies, and in having been instrumental in securing the printing and circulating among the members of the annual report of the association, with the many valuable papers submitted; that the Superintendent of Horticultural Societies, be requested in his forthcoming circular to societies, to urge them all to affiliate with the association by paying the nominal fee of \$2.00 and sending delegates to the annual meeting.

Moved by W. B. Burgoyne, seconded by R. B. Whyte, that this meeting of the executive committee of the board of directors of the Ontario Horticultural Association, desires to express to the Minister of Agriculture its great satisfaction with the splendid report of the last annual meeting as issued by the Department of Agriculture and trusts that further reports will be maintained at the same high standard.

Moved by H. B. Cowan, that this association, having looked over the data on plants and shrubs grown in Queen Victoria Park, Niagara Falls, including place of origin, height, season of

blooming and color as prepared by Roderick Cameron, as a result of over 20 years' work and recognizing in it a report of exceptional value, the equal of which has not hitherto been published in Canada, be it therefore, resolved that our corresponding secretary request the Minister of Agriculture to arrange for the purchase of same from Mr. Cameron and to publish same in the annual report of the association for the benefit of the amateur florists of the provinces.

The meeting drew up the following program for the annual convention to be held in the City Hall, Toronto on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 10th and 11th:

NOVEMBER 10—AFTERNOON SESSION

2 p.m.—President's Address. 2.30 p.m.—Report of Secretary-Treasurer. 3 p.m.—Report of Superintendent. 3.30 p.m.—"Laying Out and Planting of Small Gardens," (with diagrams), by Roderick Cameron, Assistant Park Commissioner, Toronto. 4.15 p.m.—"Window Boxes, Balconies and Rustic Stands," by Wm. Hunt, O. A. C. Guelph. 4.45 p.m.—"The Best Methods of Keeping Summer-Flowering Bulbs and Tuberoses Plants," by J. McPherson Ross, Toronto.

EVENING SESSION

8 p.m.—"Some Gardens Visited in England and Scotland," by R. E. Whyte, Ottawa. "The Civic Improvement Movement in Ontario" (with lantern slides), by Professor Hutt, O. A. C. Guelph.

NOVEMBER 11—MORNING SESSION

9.30 a.m.—Election of Officers. 10 a.m.—"The Necessity of an Increased Legislative Grant," by Mr. W. Burgoyne, St. Catharines. 10.30 a.m.—Question box, grievances, etc.

11 a.m.—"Results of Distribution of Clover Seeds to School Children," by Mr. C. A. Hesson, St. Catharines.

AFTERNOON SESSION

2 p.m.—"Best Half-Hardy Tub Plants for Ornamentation of Grounds in Summer, and How to Keep Them During Winter," by Roderick Cameron, Toronto.

2.30 p.m.—"Triennial Borders," by Professor Macoun, C. E. F., Ottawa.

3 p.m.—"Labor Saving Tools for Garden Work," by H. Simmers, Toronto.

3.30 p.m.—"Notes on Some New Peonies," by R. B. Whyte, Ottawa.

4 p.m.—"Increasing Membership," by a member of Galt or Brampton Society.

Harvesting Potatoes

H. J. Blundell, Lambton Co., Ont.

Potato harvesting operations are governed entirely by what the crop is intended for—whether for early or late market. For early market, the potatoes should be dug, as soon as they are of good size, with a four-tined potato fork or one of the well-known potato diggers. No more should be dug at a time than can be safely marketed, at the latest, the following day. There is no vegetable that will deteriorate in quality and reduce in price so quickly as an early potato. Late or main crop potatoes in Ontario should be harvested by October 15th of each year.

In storing potatoes, whether for

family use, future market or seed, the grower is entirely governed by circumstances. The handiest method is by putting in bins in a dry, cool cellar before severe frosts set in. If cellar room is not available, the best of all tried methods is to put the potatoes in light, wooden boxes or barrels, holding from five to ten bushels each, nailing on a cover so as not to press on the potatoes. Place the boxes in rows on an elevated piece of ground and cover them on top and sides with a good layer of dry straw, followed by about six inches of earth. Before the severe frosts of winter set in, cover again with stable manure. This last operation will have to be done ac-

cording to the growers' own judgment. Too much manure might injure the potatoes by heating.

When pulling curled dock, it should always be carried off the field. The plant food in the root is sufficient to mature the seed and if thrown down, the work is practically lost.—T. G. Raynor, B.S.A., Seed Dept., Ottawa.

"Will you kindly send me some sample copies and also full particulars for canvassing for your valuable paper. I would like to take advantage of your grand offer."—Mr. A. Clarke, Brant Co., Ont.