

# An Important Fruit Convention

THE control of orchard pests, the regulating by law of the sale of nursery stock and the questions of markets and marketing were among the important problems discussed at the convention of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, held at Toronto in November. While these topics have been dealt with many times in the past, they are always new. Much valuable information in respect to their solution was imparted by a score of authorities at this convention. A representative gathering of fruit growers from all parts of the province was present. The various addresses delivered and the discussions that they incited resulted in the passing of the following resolutions:

"That it is the opinion of this association that the disease known as 'little peach' should be added to the Act respecting 'black knot' and 'yellows,' and that the same regulation that applies to inspectors under the San Jose scale Act shall apply to the inspectors under the aforesaid Act.

"That this association ask the Ontario Government to pass legislation compelling orchardists to spray effectively for the codling moth and that same be incorporated in the present Act that has to do with the control of orchard pests.

"That this association forward its thanks to the Grand Trunk Railway authorities for renovating and enlarging the old Scott Street fruit and freight shed in the City of Toronto, all of which is greatly appreciated.

"That it is the desire of this association that the Dominion Department of Agriculture continue in future its assistance in the matter of arranging for cold storage services on certain steamship lines for the carrying of early and tender fruits to Great Britain, and that same be extended as conditions may warrant.

"Whereas, the announcement of the untimely death of Dr. James Fletcher, entomologist and botanist at the Central Experimental Farm has come as a grievous shock to his many friends, the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, assembled in annual convention at Toronto, begs to convey to his sorrowing family and to Dr. Saunders of the staff of the Central Experimental Farm, this expression of its deep regret and of sympathy with them in the loss which they have sustained, a loss which is common to the whole Dominion throughout which the deceased gentleman was well known and highly esteemed."

The election of directors for the ensuing year resulted as follows: R. B. Whyte, Ottawa; Harold Jones, Maitland; F. S. Wallbridge, Belleville; W. H. Gibson, Newcastle; R. W. Grierson, Oshawa; A. W. Peart, Burlington; E. D. Smith, Winona; G. A. Robertson, St. Catharines; James E. Johnson, Simcoe; D. Johnson, Forest; F. Metcalf, Blythe; C. W. Gurney, Paris, and C. L. Stephens, Orillia. The officers will be elected at a meeting of the directors next January.

## THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

In his opening address, Mr. A. W. Peart, of Burlington, the president, called attention to the ravages of the codling moth in Ontario orchards. "There is great hope among our fruit growers," he said, "that the codling moth may be controlled. In some of the unsprayed orchards this year, the ravages were unprecedented. I saw one orchard of Baldwins where the ground was literally covered with fallen fruit, all the apples being wormy. The weather seemed to be particularly favorable to the pest." During the past season, the association issued hundreds of circulars embodying the

experiences of two or three of the most successful orchardists in the province. Extracts from one of these circulars were published in the March issue of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST. The circulars were sent to apple growers in all parts of the province and resulted in the methods advocated being adopted in a number of cases, the results being satisfactory.

Mr. Peart referred also to the series of fruit institutes that were conducted by the association last winter and spring. It was a departure along the line of practical education. The programs were carefully prepared, embracing subjects that had to do with all branches of fruit culture. The results were satisfactory to the fruit interests of the province. It is expected that similar meetings will be held during the coming winter. All farmers and fruit growers should make it a point to attend the ones that will be held nearest to their places of abode.

Reference was made, also, to the efforts being put forth by the Ontario Department of Agriculture to place Ontario fruit before the public in this country and in Great Britain. Large exhibits were made at Winnipeg, at the Canadian National, Toronto, at the Franco-British Exhibition at London, England, and recently a large consignment of fruit was sent to the exhibition of the Royal Horticultural Society in London. At the conclusion of the latter exhibition, the fruit will be sent to various points in Great Britain so as to demonstrate the capabilities of Ontario in the production of high grade fruit. The greatest exhibition of fruit from an Ontario viewpoint was the one held in Toronto at the same time as the fruit convention. It was a splendid success.

"The weather conditions of the past season," said Mr. Peart, "were unfavorable to the development of fungous diseases but the Greening apple was a noted exception. In some districts, this variety is classed as a winter apple but with me at Burlington, it is a fall apple, being picked immediately after Ribston. After picking, I noted a greyish fungus adjacent to the stem of the Greening, which is an unusual place for it to appear. I packed some in boxes and some in barrels and shipped them to the Old Country. The result was very unsatisfactory, the fungus developing so badly as to almost wipe out the profit. I have been informed that this fungus is a secondary development from the black spot or scab. Whatever it may be, it appears to be a new visitor in the orchard. It is remarkable that the Greening was the only apple affected."

In regard to crops and prices, Mr. Peart pointed out that the apple crop of the past season was light so far as winter varieties were concerned. Pears, plums and peaches were from an average to a good crop. The gross tonnage of grapes was heavy, although the yield per acre was lighter than usual. Small fruits were a fair crop. Prices did not rule as high as last year. On the whole, however, fruit growers have done fairly well. Trade depressions account to some extent for the low prices. It behooves fruit growers to appreciate this depression and to reduce our expenditures to a minimum consistent with economical management.

"In regard to the problems that confront us," remarked Mr. Peart, "I am one of those who believe that fruit growing is still in an experimental stage. The conclusions we reach to-day are subject to revision in the near future as our experience and knowledge increases. One of the problems

that confront us is the question of the soil naturally best adapted to any good fruit. Another problem arises in connection with soil variations in regard to different varieties of the same fruit. The fringe of this question is scarcely touched. Take pears for example. The Kieffer pear produces best on a sandy soil but my experience with other varieties goes to show that a clay soil is the natural home of the pear. There are problems connected with the care and management of orchards. Others have to do with spraying. The problem of co-operation is important, also the problems of sorting, grading, packing and marketing. Altogether, the fruit grower should feel hopeful for the future.

"The ideals of this association," concluded Mr. Peart, "should be based upon integrity, intelligence and industry—three factors, moral, mental and physical. Upon these three principals rests the future success of the fruit growing industry of Ontario."

## CONTROL OF NURSERY STOCK

The legislative control of nursery stock has been under consideration for some time by this association. There is a feeling that nurserymen should be compelled to guarantee stock true to name. During the past year, a committee appointed by the association to investigate the question went into the matter thoroughly, meeting on one occasion in conference with a committee of nurserymen. Its report presented at the convention by Mr. Robt. Thompson, of St. Catharines, took the form of a draft bill which will be published in next issue.

## STRAWBERRY CULTURE

A practical paper on "The Handling of the Strawberry Plantation," was read by Mr. S. H. Rittenhouse of Jordan Harbor. It is published on page 259 of this issue. An interesting discussion followed. Mr. A. E. Sherrington of Walkerton said that he prefers a good clover sod for strawberries. He pointed out that the selection of plants for setting is very important. "Do not allow the rows to get too wide," said Mr. Sherrington. "I take only one crop from the plantation and then plow it down. It is cheaper to plant than to cultivate an old bed. The fruit should be picked when ripe, neither before nor after. Do not pick when the dew is on nor immediately after a rain; pick when dry. Grading the fruit can be done but it is not necessary when the fruit is well grown. Use clean packages. Local conditions have much to do with the success of strawberry culture."

"The preparation of the soil must be thorough," said Mr. W. F. W. Fisher, of Burlington, "and it must be well enriched. Select only the best plants for planting and when marketing, cater to the prevailing demand." Mr. L. A. Hamilton, of Lorne Park, pointed out that strawberries can be grown profitably between trees in young orchards. "Do not make the rows too long. The pickers will work more carefully on short rows. Start them at the end of the patch farthest from the packing shed. I take two crops from my plantation. After picking the first crop, I burn over the vines and cultivate between the rows. In dry seasons, care must be taken when burning or the crowns may be injured. I sprayed my plants this year with Bordeaux mixture and got a superior crop."

## THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT

That the co-operative movement among fruit growers has been satisfactory and is progressing was pointed out in a report by Mr. Jas. E. Johnson of Simcoe. Excellent