

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND FRUIT GROWERS.

LAST month we noted the formation of a Fruit Growers' Association in P. E. Island, which had in view the furtherance of the fruit growing industry in that province. Now we have a report of one of the first meetings of the Society, at which the Lieutenant Governor and other distinguished persons were present, and plans were laid for sending a trial shipment of apples to England in cold storage.

Hon. Senator Ferguson expressed his appreciation of the work and importance of the Association and declared it to be his firm conviction that Prince Edward Island is destined to rival Nova Scotia in the production of superior fruit. He had just returned from the Halifax exhibition, whither he had taken some 56 samples of Island apples—30 from his own small orchard; and he had expert authority for the statement that in size and bloom they compared favorably with the apples exhibited in Halifax. He was satisfied that with the adoption of the improved methods of the day as to spraying, we could easily fight the pests which menace our orchards. For the first time he had this year sprayed his own orchard, following closely to the formula laid down in the Experimental Farm's report, and was happy to say with the most favorable results. Senator Ferguson then spoke of the necessity of producing those apples which will best suit the British markets. He said that in Nova Scotia orchardists were narrowing down instead of extending the list of varieties produced; and in effecting this the science of top grafting was being generally called into requisition, thus making use of the growth of trees producing unsuitable fruit. He spoke also of the importance of a proper package in which to ship our apples and the manner of filling these packages, declaring that "slack packed" apples were fatal to success. Color counted for much in the British market, and it was found by grafting on the Red Astracan, a superior bloom could be obtained for the superior varieties.

Mr. Wise, the Treasurer of the Association, having arrived submitted his report. The receipts, he stated, included besides the members' fees a grant of \$150 from the government, which he had taken good care to secure before Mr. Warburton left office.

On motion of Father Burke, seconded by John Robertson, the thanks of the Association was accorded the government for having so far met the prayer of their former petition.

His Honor, Lieutenant Governor Howland expressed his belief, as the result of a long experience, that Prince Edward Island could produce fruit second to none. He was glad that, as the result of judicious advocacy, we now possess a number of first-class orchards and was glad also to note a growing spirit of

healthy emulation among the people of this Province. He had done his best upon every occasion to help the good work along. But the future generations only would reap the benefits of the work the Association has now done. He spoke of his interest in the trial shipment of apples and declared the necessity of making a judicious choice of varieties and of having them marketed in the best possible manner. He said that the British market was now our natural market. But the time might not be far distant when other countries would offer us still better inducements. He disagreed with Senator Ferguson as to the importance of color in the fruit, and said that he had but yesterday conversed with Rev. W. Hennebury, of Tasmania, who declared to him the color went for nothing in their market; but apples of medium size and superior flavor would always be saleable.

Senator Ferguson, Rev. A. E. Burke and others also addressed the Association upon matters connected with fruit production and marketing. The following resolution, moved by Rev. A. E. Burke and seconded by H. A. Stewart, Hamilton, was then put to the meeting and unanimously adopted.

Resolved that the Fruit Growers' Association of P. E. Island make a trial shipment of 100 barrels of apples to England by next trip of the cold storage steamer Lake Winnipeg.

The following report was then received and read:—

Your committee appointed to consider and report on the varieties of apples best adapted for shipment to England submit the following: Wealthy, 25 barrels; Alexanders, 25 barrels; Golden Russets, 25 barrels; and 25 barrels embracing equally Kings and Ribeton Pippins. The above varieties we believe to constitute the best to send in cold storage as a trial shipment of 100 barrels. We would also recommend that the barrels made by Mr. Full, if said barrels are suitable, be procured for the shipment contemplated. We would also suggest that in packing said apples the greatest care should be exercised; supervision of packing by some capable person or persons would be absolutely necessary.

JOHN ROBERTSON,
D. A. SHARP,
RICHARD BURKE.

On motion of Senator Ferguson the following motion was then adopted:

Resolved. That the report be adopted and Northern Spy and Gravenstein be added to the list of apples recommended out of which a selection may be made.

Senator Ferguson, Marshfield; John Robertson, Inkerman; and D. A. Sharp, Summerside, were appointed packers for the Association. All matters in regard to the shipment are to be left in their hands.

We wish our Cousins good success in their efforts to export high grade apples, and would suggest that for fancy soft apples such as Alexanders, it would be better to adopt the package used by the Ontario shippers, which has been figured in Professor Robertson's report.