

gaged in discussing questions of interest connected with fruit-growing. The Council of the Association had met the previous evening, and disposed of a lot of routine and other business, leaving the time of the Annual Meeting free for the discussion of questions of prominent and general interest.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

The President, Dr. C. C. Hamilton, occupied the chair, and delivered a lengthy and very interesting address, referring to the formation, history and progress of the Association, the objects with which it was originally formed, and the mode in which they have been carried out; and he pointed with just and pardonable pride to the improvement in fruit shown at the Exhibition in Somerset in October last, compared with the Exhibitions in Kentville in 1863 and in Bridgetown in 1864, in proof of progress and improvement—a large share of which is undoubtedly due to the Fruit-Growers' Association. In proof that not only had progress been made relatively to the past, but also that our Nova Scotian fruit will bear comparison with what is grown in the best fruit-producing regions, Dr. Hamilton referred to prizes and medals taken by Nova Scotian fruit sent by this Association to the Exhibitions of the Royal Agricultural Society in London; and he gave an intimation that the members of the Association, perhaps individually as well as collectively, would be to the fore, and compete at the Exhibitions to be held in London in 1871. It is well known that scarcely in any way, if indeed any, did Nova Scotia become known, previous to the Confederation discussions, to larger classes of the English public, so much as by the sight of her beautiful and highly cultivated fruit at these London Exhibitions; the conclusion was easy to reach, natural, and irresistible, that the country which could and did produce such fruit in the open air, *must* be, in climate, in soil, and in civilization and progress, a country worthy of attention; and thus the operations of the Fruit-Growers' Association, conveying in this very tangible manner a favorable impression of the country, conferred great and lasting benefit upon the province.

The President also stated that from the leading Pomologists of the United States, such as Downing of New York, Warder of Central Ohio, and the President of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, had most flattering reports been received upon samples of Apples sent them since the October Exhibition; the Ohio man, especially, who has devoted most of a life time to fruit, and published a most valuable work on Pomology, characterized our fruit as "magnificent;" samples had also been sent to Beadle of St. Catharine's, Ontario, Secretary of the Fruit-growers'

Society in that region, from whom similarly favorable reports were received. The letters from these several parties were read to the meeting; they all complained of the condition of the fruit on arrival, owing altogether to the conduct of the Custom House officials at Portland; the fruit was in each case most carefully and closely packed; these gentry deemed it necessary to open the casks, and not willing to believe or trust to their eyes must needs *taste* the fruit, and by removing, to use a milder term than stealing, a portion of the contents, allowed the rest to rattle about and so become bruised and spoiled.

In concluding his address, the President referred to the financial resources of the Association, which had been very much crippled by the reduction of the Government or Legislative grant from \$400 per annum to \$100 last year, thereby throwing a heavy burden upon gentlemen who were already bestowing a great deal of time and labor gratuitously in promoting an object of public utility, and who were thus obliged either to contribute money from their private funds in place of the usual grant, or to see their work abandoned in mid-usefulness; in hope that the reduction was but temporary they had put their shoulders to the wheel, but would expect an increased grant for the present year.

SECRETARY'S REPORT, FINANCE, &c.

At the close of the President's statement, the Secretary read the financial statement which fully corroborated the President's remarks; he also gave us lots of statistics touching Exhibitions held, articles exhibited, the membership in the different counties, &c., &c. Yarmouth, Digby, Annapolis, Kings, Hants, Halifax, Colchester, and Lunenburg, we noticed, were represented on the roll of members.

DISCUSSION.

Referring to the sending of fruit to distant markets, one gentleman present said he had sent in December last, a quantity of fruit of his own raising, several barrels, to parties in England, who had ordered it from him, and his letters just received stated that it had all arrived in prime order; undoubtedly our winter Apples can be readily and safely sent to England if gathered and put up with reasonable care.

I was interested in these communications; but, writing from memory, I am unable to give you a full account of the business done at the meeting.

PROPOSAL RESPECTING THE AMERICAN POMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Among other "Resolves" was one to constitute some leading representative of the Association a life member of the American Pomological Society, the highest Institution of the kind in the United States. Life membership entitles the

party to all the published Transactions of the Society, which are of the most valuable character, and which will thus become the property of the Fruit Growers' Association.

NEXT EXHIBITION AT WOLFVILLE—JULY MEETING AT WINDSOR.

A committee of twelve was appointed to bring the claims of the Association prominently before the individual members of the Legislature, and particularly the members of the Government, and those representing Fruit growing constituencies. Some new arrangements, supposed to be important improvements, were made for the management of Exhibitions. Several gentlemen of Wolfville having guaranteed that a suitable place could be provided free of charge to the Association, it was resolved that the next Exhibition be held there, and continued for ten days. It was determined that utilizing the recently acquired Railway facilities, the July quarterly meeting should be held in Windsor, and should be open to fruit-growers not as yet members of the Association.

A novelty, but a very appropriate thing in its way, was the appointment of a Committee consisting of D. Henry Starr, Esq., Mr. Herbert Harris, of the Richmond Nursery, both of whom were present, and the Secretary Dr. Hea, to invite the offering, by private gentlemen of means and taste, of special prizes for leading articles of fruit, fruit trees, brief essays on cultivation, or such other items as might suggest themselves to the donors as desirable to develop and encourage; this struck me as a capital idea, and one which I doubt not will itself "bear fruit." The object is well worthy the consideration of our leading citizens on the watch for means and opportunities to benefit the budding interests of their country.

The Association, judged by its annual meeting, is a *live Institution*; it is doing good provincial work, and promoting the general welfare, and it is to be hoped that the Local Government, from even the limited means at its disposal, may be induced to return to the former grant of \$400 per annum, to foster and encourage the important and annually increasing interest of the Fruit-Growers of Nova Scotia.

GRAPES—UNDER GLASS.

BY J. E. MITCHELL, ESQ., PHILADELPHIA.

Read before the Penna. Horticultural Society, Nov. 2nd, 1869.

The cultivation of the *Vitis vinifera*, or foreign grape, having been repeatedly tried here as an out-of-door grape, and failed,—its cultivation is now confined to glass structures or "Vineries."

The older books on this subject contain so many details, both as regards the con-