

## FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

(Continued from Page 3.)

changes in sprays if satisfaction is being obtained, but prices of chemicals for sprays should decrease.

Dr. H. H. Roberts, of the State University of Madison, Wis., who is recognized as one of the foremost authorities in America on fruit culture, was the next speaker; and by means of blackboard questions and lecture discussed fruitfulness. He defined fruitfulness as that condition that causes a tree to form blossoms. The function of a blossom is not to reproduce itself, but to produce fruit. It is how the tree grows, and it uses air, light, heat, water. Large growth, however, does not necessarily mean fruitfulness. Better growth in moderation, as too little or too much growth prevents fruitfulness. The best crops are obtained where trees are 12 to 15 years old, because then there is most of the best wood. After that the tree begins to deteriorate.

Questioned as to the relation of blossoming to bearing, Dr. Roberts gave this as a guide: With 90 per cent. of blossoms you get 30 per cent. of fruit, with 30 per cent. of blossoms you get 80 per cent. of fruit.

Dr. Roberts also dealt with the problem of bringing about proper blossoming. As he closed his address, from all parts of the hall were cries of "Go on, go on."

The evening session opened with an address by L. J. Burrows, of Ottawa, on organization and work done by the Canadian council.

At first, returns from fruit were unsatisfactory, as there were no regulations to standardization of packing nor grading. All changes in the Fruit Marks Act were at the request of the growers themselves. The Act covers grading, marking and all branches of the marketing of fruit. First inspection service dealt only with apples for export, but now covers every phase of the fruit industry, from picking to placing the fruit into the hands of the consumer. The main idea of the Canadian Horticulture Council is to promote the interests of horticulture and allied industries in every way, and to bring about a closer co-operation between the growers and consumers. This council is composed of representatives from all the provinces of Canada, and is in a position to do much for the fruit industry of the country.

Prof. A. B. Balcom, of Acadia University, next spoke on the trend of market conditions. The apple industry is a development of the last 40 years in the Annapolis Valley. This is part of a world movement in the division of industry. The whole world is tied together in an industrial knot. Every large business firm is a complex organization, having to deal with vast problems of supply and demand. With intensive study, it is possible by statistics to closely estimate the exact number of barrels of fruit that can be marketed, say, in Great Britain, with profit. Also the number of barrels which can be produced profitably by the growers can be determined. The present trend of market conditions is a live subject today. What is to come is what we want to know. Periods of expansion and depression in business are normal, they having followed one another regularly ever since the factory system of labor came into effect in England 150 years ago. During the last two months there has been a marked trend in the improvement of economic conditions. If these were normal times it would be easy to predict what would be forthcoming, but these are not settled times. At any time there may come an interruption in steady, normal improvement, either in the political or financial world. It is possible that the storm may blow over and under these conditions we will see a steady upward trend of improvement till at least 1930.

Prof. George Sanders was then called to the platform, and spoke of new methods of preparation of dust, which was to decrease the cost materially, although furnishing an equally good production as that already in use.

The next speaker was Dr. H. H. Roberts who had as his subject the relation of cultural practices to fruitfulness. The problem of cultivation was first dealt with. There is a definite relation between the way you cultivate your orchard and fruitfulness. The way in which trees grow is the essential thing and on this depends the amount of fruit. What does cultivation do? It furnishes nitrogen to the tree. This is usually very marked during the second year by growth. In many cases soil culture is more advisable than cultivation. The treatment varies with the soil moisture. Watch your tree and give the kind of cultivation and fertilizer that gives the best wood growths. Dr. Roberts passed on to the subject of pruning. The effect of pruning is local; it rejuvenates the old wood and if carried on properly gives uniformity in shape of the tree and in the size and color of fruit.

Slides were shown to illustrate some of the points brought out in the talk on pruning. The outside appearance of the tree is a good indication of the fruitfulness of the trees. Trees don't grow alike, although given the same treatment, due to the way trees get started. Individual trees respond best to individual treatment, rather than to any set rules.

Throughout the talk and pictures opportunity was given to ask questions in regard to any phase of tree and fruit improvement. This was freely taken advantage of, and many questions were

asked by the growers present and much useful information gained. Dr. Roberts concluded by emphasizing that where there was unfruitfulness, it was caused by either too little or too much wood.

The final session was held on Thursday morning when the officers for 1923 were elected. A motion was made by Fred Johnson and seconded by J. A. MacDonald, M. P. P., that Vice-President J. Elliott Smith, of Wolfville, be elected president for the ensuing year. The motion was passed unanimously. Other officers were elected as follows:

Vice-President—A. Fitzrandolph,  
Secretary—F. W. Foster,  
Assistant Secretary—F. A. Chipman,  
Treasurer—Prof. Blair.

It was decided that the county vice-presidents stand the same as they were last year. The auditors of last year, J. R. Webster and R. S. Eaton, were re-appointed, as was also last year's executive, Fred Johnson, F. A. Chipman, George Hutchinson and Ray Clarke.

Delegates to the Farmers' Association at Yarmouth, were nominated as follows: Manning K. Ellis, of Port Williams, and B. W. Cleveland, of Kingston, with R. L. Palmer, of Berwick, as substitute. W. S. Rawding, of Waterville, was appointed representative of the Shippers' Association for the ensuing year.

Following the electing of officers, Mr. Smith took the chair and in a few words thanked the association for the honor conferred on him in election him to the office of president.

The financial statement was then called for and was read by Secretary Foster which showed a balance on hand of \$466.88.

A communication from the Dominion Horticulture Council to the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers Association was then read, asking that at their annual meeting they consider and if favorably received, recommend to the Minister of Finance the removal of the Sales Tax on spraying material and fertilizers. This resolution was passed.

Another letter from the Dominion Horticulture Council was read asking the consideration of the association of the removal of duty on fruit and vegetable grading machines, as these machines are not manufactured in Canada, and other farm machinery such as tractors and cream separators are admitted duty free. It was moved and seconded that this recommendation be passed with the addition of repair parts to such machines.

Other communications concerned the Dumping Clause of the Customs Act.

A resolution drawn up by the Dominion Horticulture Council in Ottawa last June for the various Provincial Fruit Growers Associations was considered and passed.

At this stage Mr. Vroom asked for permission to bring a matter before the meeting regarding fruit packing of domestic grade apples. At present the act allows 20 per cent. of so-called wormy apples. Mr. Vroom recommended that this percentage be dropped to ten per cent. The motion was carried and the Dominion Fruit Commissioners.

The following resolutions were then passed as follows:—

Whereas, a 4-5 quart box is a well established commercial package for strawberries; and

Whereas, we believe that any legislation that would make this a non-legal package will prove a hardship to strawberry growers in Nova Scotia;

Resolved, that this Association do recommend the parliament of Canada not to pass any legislation that will make the 4-5 quart box a non-legal package.

Further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Minister of Agriculture and to the Fruit Commissioner at Ottawa and to members of the Federal Parliament from Nova Scotia from counties in which strawberry growing and marketing is an established industry. Moved by Mr. Ellis and seconded by H. S. Shaw.

In connection with this resolution, reports were received and adopted from J. Howe Cox, E. H. Johnson and W. C. Spurr, Nova Scotia delegates to the Dominion Fruit Growers Association.

The next resolution was: Resolved, that we, the N. S. F. G. A., place ourselves on record as approving the action of the Dominion Horticulture Council in asking for the enactment of legislation to reform the Dumping Clause in reference to imported fruits.

Resolved, that it is N. S. F. G. A., assembled in convention at Middleton, Jan. 15-18, 1923, approve the passing of the Dominion Fertilizers Act of 1922, believing that it provides for more than inspection and control, a reduction in the number of brands, and an elimination of the lower grades of manufactured fertilizers offered in the Canadian markets;

But, recommend that those clauses of the act having to do with basic slag be amended with a view to a further control of the fortification of slag with ground rock phosphate and to protect importers from the possibility of having fortified English and continental slags imposed on them, to be specific,

(a) That tags on fortified slag should give information as to the amount of ground rock with which any slag is fortified.

(b) That the tags at least on imported slag should give information as to the percentage of available phosphoric acid under the present recognized official

test.

(c) That the whole matter of permitting fortified slag be given further consideration.

Resolved, owing to the present low price of butter and butter fat and the difficulty in finding suitable markets for our surplus butter;

And whereas, oleomargarine comes into Canada free of duty from the United States and the ingredients used in oleomargarine manufactured in Canada has the most of the duty rebated to the manufacturer, thus putting the dairyman in unfair competition with the oleomargarine interests;

And whereas the United States imposes a duty of eight cents per pound on Canadian butter our home market is therefore restricted by the amount of oleomargarine consumed in Canada;

Therefore resolved that we, the N. S. F. G. A. here convened, again go on record as saying that the interests of the dairy industry and public generally will be best served by not allowing any further extension by the Canadian Government of the importation or manufacture of oleomargarine into or in Canada after Sept. 1 next.

Further resolved that copies of this resolution be placed in the hands of the Nova Scotia federal members of parliament, The Minister of Finance and the Minister of Agriculture. Moved by J. W. Foster, seconded by H. S. Shaw.

Whereas experience has proved the value of ground limestone to maintain and improve soil fertilizer and,

Whereas, it is therefore highly important to promote its more general use and whereas the Government of New Brunswick has made liberal expenditures to aid in the production of ground limestone,

Resolved, that in the judgment of this association the Government of Nova Scotia should in some manner as they deem advisable, give such financial encouragement to the ground limestone industry as may lead to the more extensive use.

Further resolved that copies of this resolution be sent to the Premier, the Hon. George Murray and to the Secretary of Agriculture. Moved by A. E. McMahon and seconded by F. A. Chipman.

Whereas, legislation has been passed at Ottawa standardizing nearly all our farm products with heavy penalties attached for failure to comply with the Act, And whereas, any legislation affecting

manufactured goods, has not, or seldom has been enforced much to the detriment of the consumer.

And whereas, the present situation in the agriculture industry is not due so much to the low prices in farm products as to not having received full value in the purchase of manufactured products;

Therefore resolved that we, the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers Association, now in annual session, urge upon the government to give such attention to this matter as may better protect the consumer of manufactured products. Moved by F. H. Chipman and seconded by P. W. Bishop.

Whereas under the Canada Sales Tax Act farm produce is properly exempt from taxation and

Whereas, the tax upon apple and potato containers adds to the cost of the package by the manufacturer and

Whereas, the apple growers cannot pass along to the consumer the said tax the price of his apples being fixed in England.

Therefore, the said tax upon apple barrels becomes in reality a tax upon the apples—a farm product.

Therefore, we, the fruit growers of Nova Scotia, in annual convention, petition the Federal Government to exempt apple and potato containers from the sales tax. Moved by N. A. Osborne and seconded by E. H. Johnson.

Resolved a vote of thanks be extended to those who so materially have rendered their services for our pleasure and comfort while attending the 57th meeting of our association, especially would we mention the members of the Board of Trade and the Maritime Telegraph and Telephone Company who so considerately placed a telephone for our use free of charge in the building in which we have been in session. Moved by Percy Foote and seconded by H. S. Shaw.

A suitable reply to this was made by the Mayor.

Fred Bishop, delegate to the Dominion Horticulture Council, also elected vice-president of that body, reported for the organization and stated that as this council was now organized it should be supported. On motion this association pledged its support.

In the appreciation of the services of Dr. H. H. Roberts, on motion he was made an honorary member of the association.

The meeting then adjourned.

## HIS HIDDEN IDENTITY

A Scottish tradesman stepped into a barber's shop the other day, and whilst he was being shaved, the barber was wondering if this was a new customer. "Have you ever been here for a shave before?" asked the barber.

"Yes, once," was the reply.

"But I don't remember your face, sir."

"Wheel, I dare say ye don't," said the customer, "ye see, it's healed up noo." —Tit-Bits.

"There is a little matter that some of our subscribers have seemingly forgotten entirely. Some of them have made us many promises, but have not kept them. To us it is a very important matter—it's necessary in our business. We are very modest and don't like to speak about such remissness."

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## Admiral Gennaro Como



Admiral Como's ranch house at Shephard, Alberta.

"SUNNY Alberta," which yields so abundantly to man's efforts, is noted for its interesting farmers. It is the province that boasts of more titled and famous land-owners than any other part of our Dominion. Rear Admiral Gennaro Como, titled Italian gentleman, who for 25 years "plowed" the seas, now "plows" the fields of the favored province on his farm at Shephard, Alta., on the Canadian Pacific, just west of Calgary.

His interest in raising as many bushels of wheat to the acre as the land will yield is interspersed with translating Italian poetry into English free verse or writing opinions on world questions through the medium of the newspapers of America.

To meet Admiral Como is to enjoy the stimulating contrast of old world interests and new world activities—his pictures, his books, his decorations, his old-world treasures, conjure up a cultured past. As the son of the illustrious family from which Isake Como takes its name, his heritage of rich traditions date back to the year 1200.

Coming to Canada in 1900, he purchased large tracts of land in Alberta, and with a keen appreciation of our broad prairies, decided to adopt Canada as his home and at once set about to learn how to farm in the new West.

At the outbreak of war, he immediately offered his services and as senior naval officer of the Italian navy, he was assigned to the Mediterranean along Tripolitania and Cyrenaica. The second war service was as delegate on anti-submarine warfare at Malta.

At his ranch house at Shephard, Alberta, we came upon an array of colored boxes and counted fourteen honor medals, conferred for naval services.

Covered with honors, he returned to Canada with the intention of resuming farm operations to find his fortune dissipated. The war years had brought about very changed conditions and Admiral Como, like a good sport, determined to stay in Canada and work one of his few remaining properties, his ranch at Shephard, and develop his fine horses. He delights in the primitive life. Saying when we visited at his farm: "Yesterday I plowed all day."



Admiral Gennaro Como, once one of Italy's warlike sailors, now a wheat grower in sunny Alberta.

and was contented and happy. I talk to my horses by the hour and they know every word I say—they are so understanding."

"Oh, it is because they cannot talk back that you find them such satisfactory companions," quickly retorted one of our party, but Admiral Como was determined that it was their evident wisdom and appreciation that made them such companions.

True to the traditions of those who follow the sea, who answer to the call of the cultured heart and love the beauty and poetry of the silent places, Admiral Como has continued to develop his literary talent while working on the Alberta plains. His quaint and exquisite poems, his translations and adaptations from Trilussa, as well as the work of D'Annunzio, have been appearing from time to time. The Foreign Press service have become interested in the translation and will put a collection of his poems under permanent covers.

Thus he follows his star but takes the greatest pride in his accomplishments on the land, declaring that raising twenty-two bushels of wheat to the acre on poorly cultivated land is the best thing he ever did and, he adds, "I shall raise thirty bushels next year." So our Canadian priorities "carry the palm" against the honors bestowed by king.

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