

Maine State Pomological Society

The above society convened at Canton, Nov. 14th to 16th. Much interest maintained, and a fine exhibit of fruit was made, including many new varieties of apples, besides specimens of pears, plums, peaches, grapes, prunes and cranberries.

The salient point of President Gilbert's address was that a large part of the orchards of the State, especially the trees that have been some time in bearing, were hungry for the food with which to nourish a generous fruitage. The fact that money is made by those who grow fruit in an off-year was emphasized by all who took part in the discussion.

One evening was devoted to the storing of fruit, home and co-operative storage being discussed. F. H. Morse, of Watford, described a house built with dead-air spaces, the temperature of which, once at proper mark, scarcely varied a degree in three months. William Craig spoke of the co-operative plan as carried out in Canada, also the operation of the Fruit Marks Act, which had done so much to raise the standard of Canadian fruit.

"Do you mean to say," asked Prof. Munson, "that co-operative storage is in actual successful operation in Canada?" The reply was in the affirmative.

There was quite a discussion on grading, in which both packers and growers took part. Dr. Twitchell read a letter from Canadian authority defining the standards as set forth in the Fruit Marks Act. The conference resulted in the adoption of the following resolution and the appointment of Dr. Twitchell, as the committee suggested:

Resolved that this society, recognizing the substantial growth of our fruit industry and realizing the necessity for a more critical grading of the stock for the protection of the grower, declares in favor of national legislation looking to a Fruit Marks Act, and authorizes the appointment of a committee whose duty it shall be to correspond with the officers of the Fruit-growers' Associations in the several States, and, if a generous sentiment is found favoring such action, to arrange a conference for the purpose of outlining national legislation, said committee to be authorized to expend a sum not to exceed fifty dollars for postage and necessary printing and expenses, a full report to be made at the next annual session of this society.

The business meeting was held the morning of the second day. Among the observations made by the secretary, we note the following, which will be of general interest: "Not long since an 'apple trust' went into effect in England, under which an association of fruit-auctioneers was formed to bar all buyers from the auction-room who do not join the trust. The first sale of apples made after it went into effect caused a 'slump' of several shillings in the price, and up to this time the prices have hardly returned. The effort of the trust seemed to be to limit competition in the auction-rooms. To what extent this situation may affect the price of our fruit this year one cannot tell, but to me it seems to place the advantage in the buyers' hands. There are English auctioneers who are not in the trust, and so the grower may exercise some choice in the matter. We shall see what we shall see."

Practically the same people remained as head of the society: President, Hon. Z. A. Gilbert, N. Greene; Vice-Presidents, D. P. True, Leeds Ctr.; Edward L. White, Bowdoinham; Secretary, D. H. Knowlton, Farmington; Treasurer, Ellis L. Lincoln, Wayne.

The committee on fruit packages strongly advocated the box, with uniformity of grade and system in packing, although the difficulty of its introduction was admitted. E. L. Lincoln was authorized to confer with other associations of New England and those of New York, and, if possible, reach an agreement upon a standard box.

E. L. White, a young orchardist coming into prominence, had learned from the experience of the former that the expense of profitably conducting an orchard need not be great, while the owner was not obliged to retire into obscurity to carry out the work, but, on the contrary, could maintain an ideal home and ideal surroundings.

The necessity of cultivation and fertilization was strongly emphasized by both Mr. DeCoster and Prof. Munson, who also stated that Baldwins would

bear a crop each year if fed with that end in view. Orchards, properly nourished, had stamina to withstand the rigors of the Maine climate as well as the inroads of disease.

Experiments conducted by the latter showed that growth upon cultivated area was greater than that upon mulched plats, while in the latter case, the gain by the application of fertilizer was more marked than in the former, there being, however, a limit to the growth and productiveness of a tree where cultivation alone is kept up.

The evening session was in the hands of the ladies: Miss Lilla M. Scales, of Temple, relating her experience in the handling of strawberries; Miss Mary Augusta Bass telling the story of the way in which she and her sister conduct extensive orchard operations. Miss Kate B. Ellis, of Fairfield, talked along the lines of beautifying the home. She held the closest attention of her audience, and merited the applause she received.

GOSSIP.

BELL BROS.' SHORTHORNS, CLYDESDALES AND SHROPSHIRE.

Few young Canadian breeders have made more rapid strides along the lines of improvement in breeding, type and individuality than Bell Bros. On their splendid farm, known as The Cedars, two miles west of the town of Bradford, in Simcoe County, Ont., are to be seen 81 head of typical Shorthorns, Scotch and Scotch-topped, Stamfords, Rosebuds and Louisas, headed by the thick, massive, short-legged and mossy-coated bull, Queenston Archer =48898=, sired by Imp. Derby, Dam Veronica (imp.), by that noted winner and sire of winners, Brave Archer. Queenston Archer is a splendid specimen of the modern, up-to-date type of Shorthorn, carrying a wealth of flesh, very evenly put on, and covered with long, silky hair, and is proving a sire that will leave a name long after he is gone.

His predecessor was Heir at Law =34563=, by Prince Arthur, a bull that left a vast improvement on the herd, and is the sire of the bulk of the two and three-year-old heifers of the herd, others being sired by Imp. Gladiator. Among the younger bulls that are for sale is Archer's Lad, a roan yearling, by the stock bull, and out of a Louisa-bred cow. He is a grand good type of youngster, and should prove a useful sire. Another is Simcoe Archer, a red-roan yearling, also got by the stock bull, and out of a Louisa cow, by Ronald. This is a larger animal, and the making of a good one. Then there is a seven-months-old roan, by the same sire, and out of Zephyr Beauty, by the Kinellar Claret bull, Lord George. This youngster is an extra good one, and will make a show bull sure. Another is a nine-months-old roan, by the same bull, and out of Juno, Vol. 15, by Aurora Borealis, a son of Northern Light. He is a Strawberry-bred youngster, and should prove a profitable sire. Among the females are about a dozen heifers, a nice, thick, even lot. The breeding cows are a very larger, well-built lot, carrying an abundance of flesh, many of them being heavy milkers. Anything in the herd will be priced, and will be sold for what they are worth. The Shropshires are mostly Mansell-bred, covered from their nose to their feet. This year's lambs are the get of Miller's 2099, sired by a Mansell-bred ram, and out of a Cooper-bred ewe. For sale there are seven ram lambs and a few ewes and ewe lambs. In Clydesdales there are for sale a pair of mares: Bessie 6977, a bay five-year-old, got by Imp. Brown James, dam Nell 2526, by Imp. Sir Walter, is a big, well-put-up mare, and safe in foal; and Fanny Harmony 7597, by Imp. Harmony, dam Dolly, by Imp. Blamefield Stamp. She is a black two-year-old, the winner of several first prizes, full of quality, and a good one. Write the Bell Bros., to Bradford P. O.

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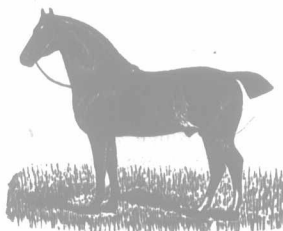


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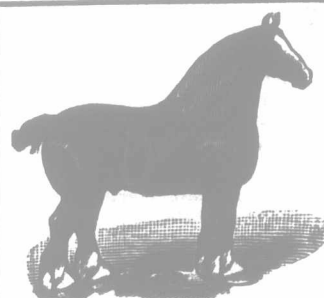
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