

of our fruits was sent on the 8th June last, by the Edinburgh Society, but unfortunately being evidently not conversant with the location of the principal Horticultural Society of Ontario, they directed their letter to the Ontario Pomological Society, Canada, (rather an indefinite address); this was received by the Gardeners and Florists Club, Ottawa, who endeavored to obtain financial assistance from the Dominion Government to aid them in such an exhibit. They however failed in this and, on the 17th August last, the communication from the Edinburgh Society was forwarded to our Secretary. The request for an exhibit of our fruits, coming to our knowledge at so late a date, precluded any attempt at making a display in keeping with either the reputation of our Association or the importance of our province, and your directorate were compelled to reluctantly abandon the idea, a conclusion with which the Hon. Mr. Dryden, who had been consulted by us in the matter, concurred.

We have still however another exhibition of much greater importance than the one just referred to and one which I think should engage the earnest attention of the Directorate and members of this society. I allude to the Columbian Exhibition and World's Fair to be held in Chicago in 1893. I think I am within the bounds of reasonable probability in predicting that this exhibition of natural and artificial products will be greatly in advance of anything before had on this continent, if not in the world. No one will for a moment dispute the importance of Canada and especially our own province representing her horticultural interests to the best advantage at this Fair. The questions that arise in connection are: How should this be accomplished? How can we as the most important horticultural body in the Dominion best further this object? What immediate action should be taken in the premises? These are important questions which in my opinion should receive your careful consideration.

The object of this Association is the dissemination of horticultural information, and the perambulatory system of our conventions has been adopted as the means best calculated to diffuse such information throughout the province.

Formerly three meetings for the discussion of topics in connection with horticulture were held in the year. With the establishment of farmers' institutes, and the plan of sending out to their meetings speakers qualified to discuss topics of agriculture and kindred pursuits, came the request that this Association would co-operate in the good work by furnishing speakers upon horticultural subjects. With this avenue opened for presenting to the public the aims and objects of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario, in 1888, your directors decided that two meetings in the year would be sufficient. In December last, it was further decided by us that the summer meeting should be withdrawn, and the funds thus saved be used to supplement those of any farmers' institute desirous of securing speakers from our Association at their summer meetings, by bearing a portion of the expenses of such speakers. This has been found to work well, several farmers' institutes have availed themselves of the opportunity and, no doubt, as our willingness to assist them in their work becomes more generally known among the institutes, our reserve of speakers and available funds will be taxed to the utmost. I am decidedly of the opinion that the money which was formerly disbursed in connection with our summer meetings, spent in this way, will be expended to better,