

# Vegetable Growers Hold Their Annual Conference

**T**HE ninth annual convention of the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association, held in the Parliament Buildings, Toronto, Nov. 19th, was attended by a strong representation of enthusiastic and wideawake members of the Association. The members seemed to have attended with the intention of imparting and receiving as much helpful knowledge as possible in the limited period of time available. Cooperation was the strong point emphasized.

President C. W. Baker, London, Ont., gave the members a hearty welcome. His outlook on the future of the Association was most optimistic. "Get your hand out," he said, "and let's get better acquainted. Let's have a real heart to heart talk. It is our privilege, our duty and our opportunity. Let us dream dreams of the garden of Canada and its future. We can best keep up-to-date by being members of the Vegetable Growers Association. Individualism is a back number." Mr. Baker recommended the following work for the ensuing year: The organization of new branches, following up the proposed legislation dealing with weights and measures by the Dominion Government, the encouragement of the branches to increase their membership, and buying and selling cooperatively. He also suggested having a trade paper, or a page in some farm paper devoted to this work.

Mr. J. Lockie Wilson, secretary-treasurer, reported splendid work by the Association in the past year. He emphasized the fact that the market end of farming is where emphasis should be laid. Brain as well as muscle, he said, has to enter into this work. We can win out if we have cooperation. Mr. Wilson discussed the advisability of having a trade paper for the Association. He was opposed to an organization of this kind having an official organ but favored the idea of the executive getting in touch with a number of the leading papers so that the association might from time to time send in information of interest to vegetable growers. He believed there would be no difficulty in getting a score of papers to take up this line of work.

"Irrigation and its practical results," was the subject on which Mr. J. J. Davis of London, Ont., based his remarks. He said that the first time he used water for his crop was on a large patch of pickling cucumbers. Although he had a very crude system, it opened his eyes to the advantages of irrigation and as a result he installed what is known as the Skinner method of irrigation. "I believe," he said, "that if it wasn't for the water I would go out of the gardening business." He estimated the cost of his equipment at about one thousand dollars.

The members were greatly interested in his address at the close of which considerable discussion took place.

Hon. J. S. Duff, Minister of Agriculture, congratulated the Association on its success from year to year. "You have branched out," he said, "and your sphere of work has its ramifications in every portion of this great province. We are coming to a time when truck farming will be more and more a speciality."

A problem of great moment to vegetable as well as fruit growers is the transportation problem. Robert Thompson of St. Catharines, dealt with this subject. He strongly favored the shipping of produce by freight rather than by express. Shipping by freight enables those sending off the shipments to load the cars themselves and in this way prevent many broken packages and damaged produce.

An address on "Cooperation in the Purchase of Supplies and Marketing of Produce," by Mr. W. J. Kerr, Woodroffe, showed that he was working with the best interests of the Association at heart. Mr. Kerr was last year appointed purchasing agent for the association and his seed price list indicated that a large percentage of the profits go into the hands of the members who purchase from him. Several of the members gave him their orders for seeds for next year.

Prof. A. H. MacLennan, of Guelph, suggested that letters of regret be sent

to Mr. Thomas Delworth, of Weston, and Mr. Jos. Rush, Humber Bay, two worthy members of the Association, who were unable to be present. Mr. Wilson said he would take this matter in hand.

S. C. Johnston, B.S.A., gave some suggestions on suitable types of greenhouses and progressive vegetable culture. He said that vegetable growing under glass is becoming one of the important features of agriculture. Some of the points in building a greenhouse are: Suitable location, ample means of drainage, avoid cold, wet spots, and make exposure an important feature. He also discussed the advantages of various kinds of houses. For the progressive vegetable grower he enumerated methods and appliances that are being adopted by vegetable men in the States, which might be applicable to Ontario vegetable growers.

The report of the delegate to the American Vegetable Growers' Convention was given and it was suggested that this Association be invited to hold their convention in Toronto next year. This matter was left in the hands of the executive.

At the evening session Prof. MacLennan gave an address on "Diseases of Vegetables," dealing particularly with the use of Bordeaux mixture. A lantern talk was also given by Mr. W. R. Cobb, New York, on "Greenhouse Construction and Heating."

## Vegetable Growing Experiments\*

A. H. MacLennan, B.S.A., Guelph, Ont.

**I**N many sections of Ontario it is becoming a problem to obtain the necessary quantity of barnyard manure used in intensive gardening. As the industry grows, this will become more acute as it has in many parts of the United States. On this account it is necessary that we make use of commercial fertilizers.

For the past three years we have been carrying on tests with commercial fertilizers in different combinations in our College. While this work has been very successful, it brings one to the conclusion that if we are to obtain results that will be of value to our commercial growers, we must carry on tests in each district. These tests need not be elaborate, involving a great amount of labor and figures, but can be judged by comparison. They would give us a much more definite idea of how we must combine the different constituents to meet the needs of each particular section and crop.

In talking this fall with a couple of men who represented large commission houses in Ontario, they spoke of the increasing demand for head rather than leaf

\*Extract from a paper read before the recent annual convention in Toronto of the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association.

lettuce. You will remember that this matter was brought up at your last meeting. I have been experimenting for two or three years to find out what conditions are necessary for its growth here in Ontario. We found that in our clay soil sub-irrigation is absolutely essential, but I should think in the sandy soil that many of you have in your greenhouses, the method used in Boston of soaking the soil two or three days ahead of planting, would answer the purpose. I find also that transplanting into two-inch pots before they are placed in the bed helps greatly to obtain a perfect stand.

I have also been growing cauliflower among my third or fourth crop of lettuce. I find a good demand for it at a fair price. We start the seed in late November and carry the plants in two and a half or three inch pots until ready for the bed.

For some years I have been trying to breed a cucumber of the American type with the fruiting habits of the English varieties which will set freely without being pollinated. You all know that in dull weather most of our American varieties refuse to set unless bees are kept in the