

THE WINTER MEETING.

OUR Meeting at Windsor on the 11th and 12th of December, was one of great profit, and will no doubt do much toward interesting the farmers of the County of Essex in fruit culture. The dark, rich land of that section of country seems to be peculiarly adapted to the culture of the grape, and already some very extensive vineyards have been planted, which give enormous crops of fruit.

The officers of the Association were taken out in carriages to Walkerville, to see the extensive industries which are being opened up in this suburb of Windsor, through the judicious expenditure of his wealth by Mr. Hiram Walker. As fruit growers, we were much interested in a visit to the Walkerville basket factory, where fruit packages of every style are being turned out in great quantities.

Few changes were made in the Directorate, except that A. M. Smith, of St. Catharines, was made President; J. A. Morton, of Wingham, Vice-President; D. Nichol, Cararaqui, Director for Agricultural Division No. 3; T. H. Race, of Mitchell, for Division No. 11; and N. J. Clinton, Windsor, for Division No. 12.

The town of Windsor rendered every courtesy, through the Mayor extending a hearty public welcome to our Association, and providing an excellent programme of music to enliven the evening sessions.

A novel feature of the Windsor meeting was the practical illustration of the renewal system of grape pruning, by Mr. O'Neill, of Windsor, for which a trellis and vines were brought upon the platform, and pruned in illustration of the principles laid down.

One of the most important tasks which the Association has yet undertaken is the preparation, by a committee consisting of Messrs. Beall, Allan, Dempsey and Bucke, of an ONTARIO FRUIT CATALOGUE, so arranged as to show (1) a list of the varieties grown in the Province, and (2) lists showing the varieties best suited to the climate, elevation, soil, etc., for every district and locality. These lists are to be so arranged as to enable judges at competition exhibitions of fruits, to intelligently estimate the true comparative value of any fruit of exhibition, and thereby secure a uniformity and fairness in judging fruits at such exhibitions.

The plan of rating supposes each variety to be a perfect specimen of its kind, and the maximum which any variety may have under each heading is 10 points. Frequently, of course, imperfect specimens are exhibited, in which case the values assigned must be reduced one or more points for each of such defects, as (1) under size, (2) unevenness of size on the plate, (3) wormy, scabby, or ill-shapen samples, (4) lack of stem or calyx, (5) bloom polished off, or for anything which tends to change the natural color of the fruit. The