

Vegetable Problems Discussed by Practical Growers

THE sixth annual convention of the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association was held in London, Ont., September 14th. Mr. Thomas Delworth, of Weston, the president, occupied the chair. In his opening remarks Mr. Delworth stated that during the past year the association had taken up two lines of new work. One was the issuing of a monthly crop report which had given general satisfaction. Printed forms were sent out and the members were particularly requested to make their report in accordance with the form. The other particular line of work was the sending of seed to the Government's Experimental Farm at Monteith, New Ontario. The result had been exceedingly satisfactory. The potatoes grown in that district were of a particularly good size, smooth and very good looking, and he thought that in the future Ontario would derive great benefit not only from the fact that the growers in older parts of Ontario would be able to secure a supply of northern grown potatoes, but that as new Ontario became settled its growers would be able to supply the larger cities of Old Ontario with all the potatoes they required and cut out the potatoes that are now being shipped in from New Brunswick.

Mr. Delworth thought that a further amendment should be made to the Seed Control Act making seed merchants responsible for the variety of seed that they sell. He said that it was very hard on market gardeners to plant a supply of onion seed and find after they had matured that they were not true to the variety.

The matter of irrigation was a burning question with the vegetable growers of Ontario and he thought that the Ontario Government should put in a plant at the Jordan Experimental Station to demonstrate the practicability of the overhead system for market gardeners. He also thought that the Dominion Government should amend the statute fixing the weight of certain vegetables. He instanced a case where a gardener near Toronto had sold parsnips at so much per bushel and on delivery the purchaser insisted on sixty pounds to the bushel, making a loss to the gardener of fourteen pounds of parsnips to each measured bushel. He thought that the new standards should be as follows: Parsnips, forty-five pounds; carrots, fifty pounds; beets, fifty pounds; artichokes, fifty-six pounds per bushel. The present rate is sixty pounds a bushel in each instance.

The President's address was ably discussed by C. W. Baker, of London, Ont. He thought that every member of the Association should put his shoulder to

the wheel and back up the president and other officers in their efforts to keep vegetable growing to the front. The convention approved of the president's recommendations, and the executive committee was instructed to bring the question of standard weights to the attention of the government. It was also decided to ask that seventy-five pounds be the lawful weight for a bag of potatoes, so that sugar sacks may be used.

Mr. Kerr, of Ottawa, spoke of the benefits of irrigation. He told of a gardener near Ottawa who had a celery patch on a hill and during the dry weather he irrigated it with water pumped by a wind mill, and the plants that were so watered on the hillside were much better than those in the valley where they did not receive irrigation.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. J. Lockie Wilson, Secretary, in his annual report, announced that there had been gains in membership and a healthy condition. The St. Thomas branch showed the greatest percentage of gain in membership, 396 per cent. and Tecumseh second with an increase of 100 per cent. Woodstock showed twenty-five per cent. and Toronto twelve per cent. Mr. Wilson had something to say about New Ontario and the potato growing at Monteith and about his trip to the Old Country and the wonderful work that was being done by the farmers in England, France and Belgium. While in England he had seen one hundred acres of strawberries and one thousand acres of potatoes on one farm. It was his opinion that Ontario grown tomatoes could be shipped to English markets with profit and he was going to induce the Ontario Government to make a shipment during the present season. From one of the small Canary Islands there have for years been shipped into England, packed in sawdust and peat, over \$1,000,000 worth of tomatoes annually.

Mr. F. F. Reeves, of Humber Bay, gave a very interesting address on Early Potato Growing, which will be published later.

SMALL FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Professor Crow, O.A.C., Guelph, dealt with the subject of Small Fruits in Connection with Vegetable Growing. He thought market gardeners could grow small fruits to great advantage, particularly strawberries. Their land being well fertilized, they could secure a heavy yield of berries. He had his doubts as to whether any land could be too rich for strawberries and he thought it would pay to irrigate a strawberry patch during the hot days of the summer months. They had worked 110 feet of strawberries with the Skinner System and it had

given splendid results. He did not think 5,000 boxes of strawberries to the acre would pay, from one acre at the Experimental Farm they had picked 14,000 boxes.

His practice of mulching was to apply a fair covering of manure in the fall. Just put enough to prevent the tops from freezing and to prevent the heaving of the ground. He would apply the balance of the mulch in the spring after the ground was thawed out; then he would put it on good and thick. He preferred something finer than long straw, straw two or three inches long and about two or three inches thick put on between the rows and in the rows as well. The coarse part of the mulch should be raked off in the spring into the spaces between the rows. If the soil was light he would not run the scuffer through in the spring but if the soil was packed it would be well to run the scuffer through, but not too deep.

He advocated the matted row system, the rows being three and a half to four feet. The plants should be started two and a half or three feet apart in the row and put out as early in the spring as possible. A great many growers cultivate both ways for a considerable time before allowing any runners to start; they then allow the runners to fill up one way and discontinue cultivating one way and in this manner they soon secure a matted row. The runners are not allowed to form until July. If labor could be secured at a reasonable price it would pay to send a man over the patch to space the runners. Strawberry plants should not stand closer together than four inches. If the soil is very rich the rows might be 15 or 18 inches wide.

For strictly fancy trade he would recommend the Glen Mary, Sample, Beltz and Uncle Jim. The Williams was most generally grown for market purposes and the Wilson for shipping purposes. Parsons Beauty had given good results at the Experimental Farm.

He made a strong plea for the cultivation of gooseberries. The canning factories were paying big prices and they were easily grown.

JORDAN STATION REPORT

There was a very interesting report from the Jordan Experimental Station, at Monteith. They tried the experiment of growing certain strains of tomatoes under glass cultivation, but they did not succeed except with one variety called the Ferguson O. K., and that yielded over eight pounds of fruit per vine. About thirty varieties of musk melon were started in the greenhouse, and they succeeded very well with the experiment. Fifty-nine varieties of peas were tested for yield. They found that growing the