

Society found themselves unable even to offer any prizes, but in the year 1875 paid in prizes the sum of \$463.75, and in 1876 the sum of \$758. The Society for the last four years have paid each year a much larger sum in prizes than they were able to pay during the first three years after my election as secretary. The total receipts of the Society from 1864 to 1873 were \$13,313.67, and the expenditure, \$13,694.44. The receipts from 1874 to 1883 have been \$28,886.89, and the expenditure has been \$27,761.29. The Society still retains its bank stock, and has expended a large sum of money in plant from year to year, so that it is at this moment one of the best equipped societies in America. Very few horticultural societies can show such a record of progress in ten years as the foregoing, and with a careful and prudent administration of its affairs there is no reason why it should not continue to hold its position.

One of the great difficulties in working the society is the collection of the members' fees. A strong membership is the backbone of the society, as by being members, and receiving tickets, they attend the shows, and become interested in its work. The membership this year numbers 894 ordinary, and nine life members, being, as before stated, the largest on record. Of this number 168 are new members, and 18 ceased to subscribe last year. The secretary has to acknowledge assistance received in obtaining new members and retaining old ones from Messrs. Cheney, Benny, Doyle, Bain, Gunning, Latour and Sommerville. The bulk of the work, however, of this nature has been done by Mr. Hamilton and the secretary. From the experience I have had in the working of this society, I am of the opinion that it will be impossible to keep this membership together unless the individual members of the board will devote some time and attention to the matter. People have got to be looked up, and the aims and objects of the Society placed before them in a right light, or they will not subscribe. In support of what I say, I point to the paltry number of sixteen subscribers at \$1 each, as almost the entire number we have had from country districts of this entire Province. This is very different from the manner in which the Ontario Association is supported in the country at large.

It has been suggested by one of the directors that an effort should be made to obtain one or two hundred life members, provided the money so obtained could be invested in the hands of trustees and only the interest used; the suggestion is a good one, and is, no doubt, practicable. Having a certain amount of fixed income would, in a measure, reduce the working expenses, but only by a small percentage.

One of special prizes exhibition such subsidies shall be determined.

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