

that the expense in connection therewith was necessarily heavy, and, perhaps, might hardly be justified, but for the probability that the societies so formed might possess sufficient vitality to become practically self-sustaining after the first year, and if this should prove to be true the organization of such societies would prove to be of the utmost advantage of this Association, and should be continued from year to year until one society at least should be organized in each riding or county in the Province.

As several years have elapsed since this work was begun, and as a considerable sum of money has been expended in this work, it may be well to review what has been accomplished.

In 1895 there were eleven societies in operation, having a membership aggregating 798. The next year seventeen societies were in existence, aggregating 1,197 members; and in 1897 the numbers of societies had increased to twenty-seven, aggregating 2,076 members, making a total membership for three years of 4,071.

To ascertain more clearly, however, if the expenditure referred to had been justified by results, it may be more satisfactory to take the membership of the eleven societies on which the cost of organization had been borne by this Association in 1895 and note the results for the following two years. The total membership of the eleven societies in that year was, as before stated, 798. In 1896 the membership of the same eleven societies amounted to 826, and in 1897 to 899, or a total membership for the three years of 2,923. Now, if the membership of the eleven societies which were in operation in 1895, consisting of 798 persons was sufficient to justify the expenditure on that account, for that one year, (and I understand from the committee that it was) then the success of the undertaking can be understood when it may be observed from the above that these societies during the following two years contributed 1,125 additional membership without any expenditure on the part of this Association, and there seems good reason for believing that not only the eleven but the whole twenty-seven societies will continue to contribute its membership in like proportion for many years to come.

So much may be said respecting the increase of societies and consequently of increased membership. But who may estimate the amount of "encouragement to improved horticulture" in these twenty-seven communities by the monthly distributing therein of upwards of 2,060 copies of the *Canadian Horticulturist*, the same number of bound copies of the Annual Report yearly, and a lecture by an expert horticulturist once a year? And again: Who may estimate the impetus given to "improvement in horticulture" by the enormous quantities of new plants, bulbs, trees, seeds, shrubs, etc., which has been distributed among the members in each year since the organization of these societies. Some faint idea of the enormous supply of the good things distributed may be learned by observing that the Napanee Society—one of the smallest in the Province in point of members—has given to its members, equally, in equal shares, during the past three years, upwards of 15,000 of the newest and most beautiful varieties of plants, bulbs, shrubs, etc., that could be obtained, besides fifteen pounds of the choicest varieties of flower seeds, most of which were more expensive than are usually purchased by ordinary growers.

MR. BEALL, seconded by MR. ORR, moved a resolution of thanks to the mayor and citizens of Waterloo, and to the local Horticultural Society, for assisting in making the convention a success; to the press, and to the speakers and writers of papers, which was heartily adopted.

THE PRESIDENT: It will be impossible for me to convey thanks personally to the different parties mentioned, but I wish to say to Mr. Lockie and the members of this Society that we have enjoyed our visit to Waterloo. We hope that what we have had here will be of interest and profit to the members of your Society and your townspeople generally, and we hope that any interest which you have evinced in the past will be increased in the future.

The President invited the audience to examine the fruit and flowers, and declared the meeting formally closed.