

FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

ADDRESS BY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.

The questioner was opened and a few minutes occupied in consideration of the contents.

Hon. John Dryden, Minister of Agriculture, was then called on and expressed his pleasure at meeting the gentlemen present. He said that whatever the association did in the line of horticulture would in future be distributed to others besides those belonging to the association. In regard to agriculture as well as fruit growing, he thought the reason of so many failures was owing to the lack of adaptation for their particular pursuit on the part of those engaged in farming or fruit-raising. He thought that the numerous associations among the farmers of this country were of great benefit to the members. The Fruit Growers' Association had done useful work in introducing and developing new varieties of fruits. He thought the great need of those engaged in fruit-growing or agriculture was education and information. As the head of that department of the Government, the speaker said everything would be done to disseminate such information. He impressed on those present the necessity for the preparation of a magnificent fruit exhibit from Ontario to the World's Fair in Chicago. (Applause.)

An instructive paper on the subject of "The Commercial Fruit-Grower's Outlook" was read by Mr. D. W. Beadle, of St. Catharines. He thought the increase in the fruit-growing industry of this Province something enormous. He thought, however, that the fruit-eating abilities of the people of Canada had yet to be developed. In the last decade the home consumption of fruit had increased fifty-seven fold, the increase in the value of imports amounting to \$619,519. The urban population of the province had increased 230,701 during the same period and the rural population but 6,956. The exports of fruit from Canada in 1879 amounted to \$157,618. In 1889 it had increased to \$1,617,818, an increase of ten fold. In conclusion the writer thought the outlook for fruit growers was very bright.

Mr. Nicholas Awrey, M. P. P., was then called on. He referred to the prospect of a large fruit market in the Northwest inside of twenty years. He also thought that the whole Canadian market was yearly increasing. He recommended the shipping of nothing but the best qualities of fruit to the British market. Continuing he said: "I have no sympathy with the denizens of cities. They call the farmers hayseeds and think we are inferior to them. But as a matter of fact we are the most respectable class in existence. Farming is the only business not considered derogatory to nobility. The Queen farms, but she wouldn't sell dry goods or groceries. (Laughter.) Well, it's a fact, we are the true nobility. I wish the fruit growers every success in their deliberations."

Hon. Mr. Dryden stated that the annual reports of the association would be printed by the Government, bound in cloth and distributed to the members about January 10th.

Mr. S. D. Willard, of Geneva, N. Y., then read a paper, "Fruit Growing in 1889 and 1890 in Western New York." He reviewed the fruit crops of these two years, finding a large falling off in the majority of fruits for 1890. He recommended several varieties of apples, pears and peaches. Of the latter he thought the Kieffer variety the best paying to raise. One grower of his acquaintance from 214 trees in a little over an acre of ground realized \$3,000 in the past two years, in 1890 the amount realized being \$1,313.30.

Mr. E. D. Smith, of Winona, made a few remarks on the carrying of domestic fruits. He thought that the express companies were liable for the deterioration of about 15 per cent. of the value of fruit through careless handling during transportation.

Mr. Allan corroborated the statements made by the previous speaker. He complained very bitterly of the great loss suffered yearly by the growers and packers of fruit through the pilfering of the attendants of express companies. He thought it much preferable to send fruit by freight, although such occupied two days longer, rather than sending it by express.

The matter was finally left to a special committee to report.

A discussion then ensued regarding the advisability of fruit being put up in uniform packages marked with the quantities contained in them; also as to whether fruit should be sold by the pound or package. In regard to the first question the opinion of the meeting seemed to be that if the consumers did not kick about the difference in the size of baskets, the growers should not do so.

Mr. Allen thought that in regard to the latter question, fruit was plentiful enough in this country to allow of its being sold by the barrel if desired.

The question of asking the Agricultural Department to establish a register of all new fruits which receive the commendation of this association was discussed.

Several members were of the opinion that a fruit grower had as much right to a patent on any species of fruit he originated as the inventor of new machinery; and that the originator should have sole control of the market for that fruit for a term of years.

The question was referred to the Legislative Committee with instructions to carry the matter before the Government.

On the meeting resuming at 8 p. m. Mr. Thos. Beall read an interesting paper on the "Profits of grape growing in Ontario in the near future." The idea that grapes could only be raised in a few favored spots in the Province had long since been exploded. It had now been demonstrated that this delicious fruit could be successfully grown in any of the settled portions of the Province. One of the latest discoveries is that Muskoka District will probably be famous in the near future for the excellence of its vineyards. Ontario as a whole is one of the best grape producing Provinces in the world and the area where grapes can be grown is practically unlimited in extent. The supply so far exceeds the demand, however, that the raising of fruit trees ceased to be remunerative. The only hope of the commercial grape grower must necessarily be in the establishment of wine-making houses at central points. Thousands of acres of good grape-growing lands would then be put in cultivation and become more valuable

than the best wheat lands. This would also necessitate a complete change in the character of the grapes at present raised. The writer suggested that the association take into its consideration the advisability of offering rewards for the production of new varieties of wine-making grapes. He also suggested that the Government be petitioned to offer a reward for the production of a good native Ontario wine.

Other members disagreed with the statement of Mr. Beall regarding Muskoka, as they doubted as to the climate being warm enough to ripen grapes sufficiently for wine purposes.

It was voted to thank Mr. Beall for his paper, and the association will investigate the matter.

We are unable to say, remarked Mr. Dempsey, how far north grapes will flourish, as the farther we go the hotter the summers are and the longer the summer days. Again, laying down the vine and protecting during the winter will hasten the season of ripening, and this may be the case in Muskoka.

Prof. Craig, of the Central Experimental Farm, read an interesting paper on the "Propagation of Fruit Trees," in which he mentioned various methods in common use, expressing the opinion that whole roots should be used in all cases where possible. In the discussion members expressed the idea that the soil used on root stock exerts so great an influence that in a few years the root is entirely changed to the variety used. Willard, of New York, said that the power of the soil over the stock is one of the most wonderful and marvellous things in the propagation of trees. That is constantly remarked. With dwarf pear or quince, in a few years the quince root is entirely transformed into pear root. Mr. Dempsey could not entirely agree with the above view, as he, many years since had grafted a Sweet Bough apple on another sweet apple tree, the fruit of which was so astringent as to be unfit to eat. The Sweet Bough grafts, when come into bearing, bore fruit which also was too pucky to be eaten, being a clear case of the influence which the stock had exerted on the soil.

President Morton read a very able paper on the "Preservation of our Wild Flowers," which was received with close attention by the members. He said: "While we do not belittle the beauty and elegance of many of our imported flora we do, however, charge against the people of Canada that they have passed by unheeded, unacknowledged and unloved as fair and dainty members of the floral realm as ever bloomed in distant climes. It is at the doors of our florist seedsmen and those who affect taste and culture that we lay the blame of this neglect—a disregard arising from no other objection for no other offence than that of being 'Only Canadian wild flowers.' For gentle people of culture and taste, no excuse can be found nor any palliation accorded your offence of permitting the finest members of our indigenous ornamental flora to remain in obscurity and from lack of appreciation to approach so near extinction that they are fast becoming a tradition. In the settled portions of Ontario the prodigal lavishness of beauty with which nature once adorned the country side has sadly vanished. Among the plants mentioned were violets, dicentra, the trailing arbutus, redolent with most delicious fragrance, and is one of the earliest bloomers and a very desirable plant. The anemones contain several deserving members, as the hepaticas, and marigolds in its wealth of golden lustre is an object of delight. The meadow rue, the virgin's bower, with its exuberance of white blossoms and woolly fruit. Aquilegias are graceful and beautiful and the tuliums bear transplanting to the garden, as do the lilies, like Philadelphium and canelusus and many others.

In transplanting to the garden, study the natural situation and give it in its new home, the same conditions as nearly as possible, as regards soil, shade and moisture.

Mr. James Webster, of this city, read an instructive paper on rose culture in which he said that, as a rule, roses will do best if planted in beds by themselves, not too near the walls of a house. Hardy roses are the most satisfactory; the soil should be somewhat heavy, provided that it is well drained, as it is cooler in summer. When sandy the surface may be covered with several mulches of rotted manure; this should be put on as soon as the sun gets hot in June.

April or early May is the best time to plant roses, and if they are large 2-year-olds, set 30 inch apart. October is a good time to replant or to plant old plants.

For protecting the best covering is to mound up the earth about each plant to the height of 10 inches, the plants requiring to be closely pruned when all danger of frost is past in the spring, then remove also the earth mound. In trimming I leave only six or eight inches of wood in strong-growing plants, while weak sorts have less.

Many of the best sorts have stood the test of a quarter of a century and will remain favorites.

The questioner contained several inquiries, among them being one in regard to how Moore's early grape succeeded in heavy soil. This was answered by Mr. Orr, who found the fruit succeeded very well. Another question in regard to the proper time to prune plant trees was answered by Mr. Willard, of Geneva, N. Y. He believed the trees should be pruned in the winter season, rank growers to be set back one third their growth.

The question "Which red grapes has paid the grower best during the season of 1890?" was answered by Messrs. Carpenter and Orr. The former found the Lindley variety paid the best, and the latter the Delaware.

The following questions were then considered: Does it pay the fruit grower to make his own fertilizer with wood ashes at ten cents per barrel? Are wood ashes suitable for all kinds of soil? and what kind of fertilizer should be mixed with wood ashes to make a good general fertilizer? Comprehensive and instructive replies were made to these questions by Prof. C. C. James, of the Guelph Agricultural College. He thought wood ashes suitable for all soils and a splendid fertilizer. There are three demands made upon the soil of the orchard by the tree or vine. The first is for the wood, then the leaves and finally the fruit. He thought the application of hard wood ashes to the soil the most natural food for the production of wood in the tree or vine. The demand for which there is no return to the soil must

necessarily be the fruit. He thought it would pay the fruit grower to make his own fertilizer. The great loss to the ground by the growth of fruit was in nitrogen. He recommended the following ingredients for a fertilizer sufficient for one acre of orchard ground: One hundred pounds of sulphate of ammonia, 40 bushels of wood ashes and 100 pounds of ground bone, the whole costing about \$8.50. Bought in the regular way from the fertilizer manufacturer this would cost \$12.50. This mixture should be applied at least once every other year, in some cases once a year, in slightly smaller quantities. He thought soft wood ashes about four-fifths as good as those from hard woods. The sulphate of ammonia referred to above could be replaced by nitrate of soda.

A question regarding the wisdom of asking the Government to establish a local experimental station, under the charge of the Fruit Growers' Association, for the purpose of testing new fruits, was considered, and the census of opinion was in favor of the scheme.

A brief but interesting paper on the subject "Winter Apples, Still One Other Variety Needed," was read by Mr. D. Nichol (Catsaraqui). He reviewed the good and bad qualities of several of the winter varieties, expressing the opinion that the apple required now was a cross between the Golden Russet and Duchess of Oldenburgh, one which would last until July.

Secretary Woolverton was of the opinion that the variety mentioned in his list of new fruits, as the Renaud seedling, grown on the farm of a Mrs. Renaud, near Grenville, in Quebec, would just about fill the bill. It grew to a large size, striped red in color, sound flesh, and its season was from March to July.

After considerable discussion on the above paper, Mr. Jas. Goldie (Guelph) read a paper on "Hardy Ornamental Trees and Shrubs for the Lawn." The climate and soil of this country prevented the successful growth of Rododendrum, Laurel, Holly and other shrubs so extensively grown in Britain. The writer found the native Yew, commonly called Ground Hemlock, a very pretty shrub, and for lawn trees the Colorado Blue Spruce one of the finest varieties. Very few magnolias stood the hard winters. Lilies were among the best and prettiest of lawn trees.

The committee appointed yesterday to draft a resolution to be presented to the Government in the matter of more careful handling of fruits by the express companies reported the following:

Resolved—That the Ontario Fruit Growers Association, on behalf of the fruit growers and shippers of this province, hereby condemn the action of the Express Companies in their system of handling, sorting and transferring their fruits from the points of loading to the market; that through their unnecessarily rough handling and delays in transferring the fruit, growers are continually sustaining heavy damage for which at present there appears to be no reasonable remedy. We therefore hereby memorialize the Dominion Government to enact such legislation in the premises as will relieve the fruit growers and shippers by providing an enactment that will enable them to recover substantial damages from such Express Companies, and that said Express Companies be compelled to carry such fruits to points of destination upon express train scheduled time.

Mr. E. D. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Pettit, the adoption of the report.—Carried.

The special committee on the inspection of fruits reported the following: Resolved, that we deem it in the best interests of the fruit grower, shipper and consumer, as well as the good name of our country, that a standard of excellence be established for such fruits as are shipped in barrels or other closed packages into the markets of our cities and towns and for exportation to foreign countries, and that this association memorialize the proper authorities to appoint inspectors for that purpose.

This report was also adopted, a special committee being appointed to wait on the Government and present these reports. It was composed of the following: Messrs. A. McO. Allan, E. D. Smith, J. H. McMichael, W. J. Clinton, G. S. Caston, A. H. Pettit, P. C. Dempsey and Secretary Woolverton.

The association resumed at 2 p. m., and after the discussion of the contents of the questioner a few remarks were made by Mr. G. C. Caston, Craighurst; on the subject of hardy apples for the north and for export. He recommended the St. Lawrence, wealthy, golden russet, and Baxter among other hardy varieties.

This was followed by Mr. Geo. Oline, Winona; with a few remarks on "The Fruit Growers' Packing House," illustrating his remarks with drawings and a painting of a model packing house built by himself.

Mr. M. Pettit, Winona; read a paper on the subject of "Grape Growing in Ontario." He referred to the great increase in the amount of grapes grown during the past ten years. In 1881 but 267 tons were raised in the County of Wentworth, while this year from Winona alone over 500 tons were shipped, grown in a radius of a few miles. The great difficulty was to get a market for this fruit. The great necessity, he thought, was for wine making houses and the cultivation of fewer varieties of fruit. Also the encouragement of the manufacture of good native wines in Ontario.

Mr. E. D. Smith and Mr. Patterson made a few remarks on the subject, the latter holding the existence in the trade of good cheap wines would be the best thing for the country even from a temperance standpoint.

Questions regarding the best mode of selling fruit through agents or direct to retailers were considered, also the value of apple orchards per acre at one, ten and twenty years of age. Mr. Dempsey thought that at ten years of age \$1,000 per acre would be a fair valuation in his section, viz., that of Grimsby.

Mr. Springer gave the reason, in his opinion, for the failure of the apple crop. This year the apple crop was fairly good in Huron, Grey, Bruce and Simcoe, though poor in all other sections of the Province. During the spring, while the trees were in bud, a period of unseasonable weather, succeeded immediately by a period of fine weather, was the cause to a great extent of the failure of the crop.

In regard to the best way to prevent the ravages of the scab pest, the Secretary, Mr. Woolverton, thought the fungus should be prevented from living on the tree over winter as it lived on the leaves equally as well as on the fruit. He recommended carbonate of copper in conjunction with Paris green as a good preventive of the fungus. It should be applied three times

in the season, before the buds appear, before the fruit appeared and once afterwards.

Mr. McMichael had experimented with hypochlorite of soda and found it very beneficial in treating many of the pests to the apple crop.

He Took It Literally.

A commercial traveller, representing a prominent Glasgow firm, was compelled by circumstances to stay over Sunday in a small out-of-the-way town in South Lanarkshire. The day was very wet and dispiriting, confining the traveller to his hotel nearly all day, but towards evening the weather cleared up somewhat, and he went for a quiet walk through the place. Just as he was passing the open door of a small church situated on the outskirts of the town the rain suddenly came down in torrents, and the gentleman was glad to seek refuge from the shower inside the church. He went into a pew and sat down, intending to wait until the storm was over. He had not seated many minutes when a clergyman, apparently the pastor of the church, entered it from the other end, and made his way to the pulpit, acting as if about to commence service. This was his intention, for the deserted condition of the church was owing to the ordinary worshippers having had to seek shelter from the violent rain. The minister waited patiently for some time, but as the time for the service to begin was now long past, he decided to go on with it to his congregation of one, concluding that other worshippers would drop in by degrees. He commenced the proceedings by giving out a hymn which ran as follows:

Come, O thou traveller unknown!
Whom still I hold but cannot see;
My company before is gone,
And I am left alone with thee.
With thee all night I mean to stay,
And wrestle till the break of day.

When he had reached this point the alarmed "commercial" lost no time in laying hold of his hat and making a precipitate retreat from the building to his hotel, the drenching rain notwithstanding.

More Polar Excursions.

The year 1892 will be signalized by two more attempts to reach the North Pole. One of these will be made by Dr. Neusen, of Norway, who is now preparing for the trip. He has been in the arctic regions before, and has outlined a plan which, he hopes, will throw new light upon that frigid and desolate part of the world. But the most novel enterprise will be that of two French scientists, Messrs. Besnecq, an aeronaut, and Gustave Hermit, an astronomer, men of fortune, who propose to pass to or over the North Pole in a balloon, starting from Spitzbergen. Their air ship will be specially constructed for the voyage, having an inner and an outer balloon designed to preserve the pure hydrogen gas with which the bags will be filled. A row of 16 small balloons will encircle the large one and carry a reserve of gas. The car will be enclosed and will be equipped with every appliance for observation and comfort.

Suici the Foster.

The Italian faster, who is fasting in New York city, says now that his fast will end Saturday night at eleven minutes past 8 o'clock, but he will take his first dinner Sunday afternoon next. The time between Saturday and Sunday Suici will spend fixing up his stomach with patent beef foods and the like, so that he can eat a hearty meal. Thursday's bulletin was: FORTY-SECOND DAILY SUICCI BULLETIN. Weight, 107 lbs.; at commencement, 157 lbs. Temperature, 98.2. Pulse, 64. Respiration, 20. Dynamometer, 48 kilograms. Spirometer, 1,450 cubic centimetres. Water drunk during the past 24 hours—Croton, 16 oz.; Beltzer, 17 oz.; ice cream, 8 oz.; total, 41 oz. Urinary analysis—Quantity, 10½ oz.; sp. gr., 1.028; reaction, slightly acid. Tongue, clear and steady.

Blanchard's Brain.

Montreal Gazette: The brain of Blanchard, the murderer who was hanged at Sherbrooke on Friday, was forwarded to the McGill University pathological laboratory for examination by Dr. Johnston, the pathologist. He reports it normal in weight, and that its appearance bears out the verdict of death by strangulation rendered by the jury who sat on the case. The upper segments of the vertebral column were also sent in by Dr. McKee, a former graduate of McGill.

Birchall's Remains.

To the Editor of the Mail: Sir—It is useless to say another word about the execution of my half-brother, Reginald Birchall, but in the newspaper reports I never could see any reason for the arrest of his wife. Will not the authorities make reparation to her by allowing her body to be removed to Woodstock cemetery? Yours, etc., OSWALD BIRCHALL, Bisset rectory, Lechlade, Eng., Dec. 5th, 1890.

The man that can't sing and won't sing deserves the sincere thanks of a musical community.

St. Thomas has been called Calamity City, but we think the title is now a misnomer. The other week Mr. Amasa Wood, one of her citizens, announced his intention to present the city with a public hospital free of cost. Another citizen, Mr. A. M. Hutchinson, has intimated his intention to build at his own expense a church which will cost between \$2,500 and \$3,000 and to present it to the Presbyterian body there. Another St. Thomasite will give the site free of cost or its value in cold cash, and the Ladies' Aid and other organizations in connection with the church will assist and furnish the edifice at their own expense.

FOUND IN A CRANE'S CRAW.

Wonderful Plant that is Puzzling the Scientists of Pennsylvania.

A truly wonderful plant is at the Alleghany conservatory, says the Pittsburgh Chronicle. No one knows to what class it belongs or anything about it. It is the subject of much speculation among botanists, and they anxiously await the development of a bud that is forming. Then they say they can place the plant. The botanists have a suspicion that the plant is a tropical one, and Supt. Hamilton is treating it on that supposition.

The history of the plant so far as known is a unique one. During the summer one of a party of gunners brought down a crane. It was a beautiful specimen and the taxidermist of the party set to work to mount it. In the bird's craw were found several seeds. With a view to learning if the seeds were killed by the bird eating it, they were placed in water. In a few days the seeds sprouted. They were planted in loam and kept in a warm room. Edward V. McCandless took charge of it. The plant was an object of interest to Mr. McCandless and his botanist friends and its development was closely watched. Last week it was transferred to the conservatory. The leaves are long and broad and heavy, not unlike a species of palm.

All Over the World.

Boulogne is to winter in Egypt. Paraguay is building many railroads. In Italy 63 persons in 100 cannot read. The Czar is to institute a Ministry of Farming.

Gold is worth \$1.95 premium in Buenos Ayres.

Paris is not to be a "seaport." Rouen influence ruined the project.

A London dealer has for sale, at \$5 each, 4,000 second hand sermons.

Chinese tea cultivation begins to weaken. Growers are raising rice instead.

Italy's ironclads set low. In a recent gale several sailors were washed away and drowned.

A 600-mile narrow-gauge railroad is being built from Mombasa to Victoria Nyanza. Cost, \$5,000,000.

Reading cars, well lighted and well supplied with periodicals, have been put on the St. Petersburg-Warsaw Railroad.

British men-of-war's men at Zanzibar the other day shot an Arab at the helm of a dhow and released 50 slaves hidden under the hatchways.

Along the Austro-Hungarian frontier ranges a gang of outlaws, headed by a "Livesant," who levy taxes on farmers. "Otherwise," they say, "we'll steal your horses."

The Modern Maid in Paris.

To be an intelligent maid now requires more tact, discretion and quick wit than to become a woman doctor or a female lawyer. Between furs, jewels and perfumes suited to occasion and discretion, and the nice knack of knowing just what to prepare for the dinner here or the evening there, not to mention the savoir of under linen and toilet secrets the poor maid must have a long memory and constant drill. No wonder they rule the house and bow only to the caprice of madams.—Paris letter in New York Times.

D. O. M. L. I. 91.

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