

examining our publications during the thirty years of our existence. The disseminating of information we have been trying to do, (1), by means of our journal, and, as this goes out to about twenty-five hundred subscribers every month, the information it contains is well distributed, and I think it is acknowledged that the money spent in that way is well spent; (2) by means of our meetings, which are open to the general public, and are usually full of interest. The reports of these meetings are widely distributed, both by our Association and by the Department of Agriculture, and thus, I am sure, the directors of our society may congratulate themselves that the money placed in their hands by the department, is spent to good advantage for the progress and development of one of the most important industries of our country.

But I am of the opinion that still greater good can be accomplished. We have been trying, by holding our meetings in various places, to reach the farmers and fruit growers in each locality in person, and thus develop as great an interest as possible by bringing to them the best growers we have. But the great difficulty is to get local men to prepare the way for us, for there is no local organisation for us to correspond with.

Too often we hold our summer meeting in a locality where we might expect a good local attendance, and we are disappointed to find that no one in that place has interested himself sufficiently in our coming to make it known among his neighbors, and those who hear of it, suppose that we have some selfish end in view, and that, perhaps, there will be found a collection plate, or a charge at the door to get their hard earned money. This is very disappointing, especially when we have gone to the expense of bringing together a dozen or so of our directors, who have all come ready to give out freely what they have learned by long experience and study, about fruit culture. In speaking thus we must always make one notable exception of the city of Hamilton, for in this city our Association and its work is well known and appreciated. It is a convenient point at which to gather together all the leading fruit growers. It was the birthplace of our Association, and all our best meetings have been held here. To me it seems almost a misfortune that we should ever move our winter meeting to any other point, unless by the special request of some city, or powerful local society, which would undertake to make provision for our suitable reception.

Now I believe it is possible to hold our winter meeting regularly at one place, unless changed for some special reason, and to do the outside work of reaching the farmers who want to be instructed in fruit culture, in various parts of our province, by means of special horticultural institutes. I am not prepared to give a fully detailed plan of operation, that should go under the consideration of a committee appointed by this Association, but I would like to see it worked out somewhat this way:

A local horticultural institute might be formed in any locality where twenty-five or more members could be associated together, each paying into their treasury the sum of \$1.00. Their officers should be the chairman, secretary and treasurer, who would constitute the executive committee. The treasurer should forward to the secretary-treasurer of the provincial F.G.A. a list of the names forming the local society, together with the sum of 80 cents per member, which would entitle each to all the privileges of our Association, and leave a balance of twenty cents for each member, toward local expenses. Meetings of the local society might be held monthly in the evenings, when one or two papers would be read and discussed, and at least once a year, a public horticultural institute should be held, to which all the public would be invited, and at which one or two fruit specialists would be present and take the leading part in the addresses and discussions, somewhat in the same manner as is now done at farmer's institutes by the professors of the Agricultural College. A list of such men and their subjects could be made out, and published in the *Canadian Horticulturist* and from there each institute could select the men and the subjects which were most desirable to be placed upon their programme, and correspond concerning them with the secretary of the Ontario Association, who would endeavor as far as possible to carry out the wishes of the local institute. These meetings might be held in the month of February, or early in March, at a later date than the time of the principal meetings of the farmer's institutes, so as in no way

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