

FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO.

The annual meeting was held in Court House, St. Catharines, on December 1st and 2nd, 1898.

The President, Mr. W. E. Wellington, took the chair, after which the following committees were duly appointed :

Fruit Exhibit : Messrs A. H. Pettit, A. M. Smith and Edward Morris.

Resolutions : Messrs. M. Burrell and Thos. Beall.

New Fruits : Profs. H. L. Hutt, W. T. Macoun, the President and the Secretary.

Nominations : Messrs. Alex. McNeill and T. H. Race (by the President), and Messrs. Murray Pettit, R. B. Whyte and G. C. Oaston (by the Association).

FRAUDS IN FRUITS AT FAIRS.

By A. M. SMITH, ST. CATHARINES.

It has always been the mission and aim of this Association to advance the interests of fruit growing and to encourage any object or project calculated to benefit the fruit grower; and the work that it has done in the past gives ample evidence that its mission has not been in vain. When we compare fruit growing of to-day with what it was forty years ago in this Canada of ours, and see what rapid advancement it has made, and realize that it has largely been accomplished by the efforts of this Association in introducing varieties adapted to our country, and new methods of cultivation, fertilization and combatting insect enemies and diseases affecting fruit, and devising better methods of packing, transporting and marketing, we can but wonder it has done so much; indeed we almost wonder if it can do any more, until we take up the programme before us to-day and see on it such questions as "How can we prevent fraudulent packing?" "How can we punish the dishonest packer?" and the subject assigned to me: "Frauds in Fruits at Fairs." All this suggests that there is a moral side to this business that has not been sufficiently cultivated, and which needs attention. I believe it is just as much the duty of this Association to introduce good *morals* among fruit growers and assist in their cultivation as it is to develop good *fruit*, and it is as much their duty to point out and warn the public of the evils of fraud and deception in packing, marketing and exhibiting fruit and trying to prevent it as it is to warn the public of the danger from insect pests and fungoid diseases and how to exterminate them. If we could devise some effectual means of exterminating these evils we would confer a greater good upon the public at large as well as on fruit growers, than we have by any act in the past. I shall not attempt to answer the questions regarding dishonest packing, but would simply remark that a man who would show fruit at a fair as his own that his neighbor grew, would be able, perhaps, to throw some light on the question if so disposed, or at least be well acquainted with the business.

Although the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario does not give prizes at horticultural exhibitions and fairs, it always takes a deep interest in them, believing if they are rightly conducted they are a great means of educating the people in fruit growing and they have taken great pains in formulating and publishing tables giving the relative value of fruits for the guidance of judges at fairs; and they have often recommended to directors of fairs suitable persons to act as judges, and it is with chagrin they see anything on