

January, 1861, though there was a meeting for show of fruit and discussion of fruit topics in October previous, at which time my connection with this association began. I think I have only been absent from two of its annual and five or six of its other meetings since that time. There were seventeen members at this meeting, quite a show of fruit, and a good display of enthusiasm, besides some rambling discussion, and it was decided to hold a meeting for the election of officers on the 16th of January following, which was accordingly held. At this meeting the late Judge Logie, of Hamilton, was elected president, which office he held till the year 1867, when he was succeeded by the late Wm. H. Mills, of this city. During this period meetings were held two or three times a year, at various places, for show of fruits and discussions upon topics connected with fruit culture, which brought out a great amount of useful information and no doubt helped to lay the foundation of success in fruit culture which followed, though the meetings were often but poorly attended, and the membership of the society had only increased to thirty members. Fruit growing for profit was little thought of in Canada at that time, except by a few persons in the Niagara district, and a few other favored localities. In fact it was a question in many parts of the country, where fruit is now grown largely for market, whether it could be grown at all or not. Many had planted different varieties in many localities on the recommendation of traveling agents which were not adapted to the country and their failure had discouraged them and others from planting. During the year 1868, through the efforts of Mr. Mills and his co-laborers, the society was incorporated under the Society and Arts Act, and became entitled to receive from the public funds a yearly grant of \$350. This enabled us to collate, publish and distribute the information gathered in our society and also adopt a system of sending out plants and trees to the different members in various parts of the province for trial, and this has been productive of a vast amount of good in showing what varieties are and what are not adapted to different localities. From that time forward, our labors have been a continual success. We have held our meetings in nearly every part of the province, thus arousing local interest in the work, and encouraging farmers and others to plant fruit. The Government, seeing our good works, have from time to time increased our grant to enable us to carry out special plans for the advancement of this interest; notably our exhibits of fruit at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia and the Colonial in England, which did more to attract attention to Canadian fruits and place them in the position they now occupy, in the front rank of the best markets of the world, than all other causes combined. In thus attracting attention to Canada as a fruit country it would naturally be suggested that a climate adapted to fruit growing would be a desirable one to live in and thus I have not the least doubt that we have been instrumental in bringing many settlers from other countries to Canada.

Another scheme, which our Government grant has enabled us to carry out, has been the publishing of our *Canadian Horticulturist*, a medium through which a vast fund of useful information is conveyed to our members and many of the general public besides, and under the management of its present efficient editor it is constantly growing better and its usefulness is extending. I need not say this to the members, who all receive it, but to those here who are not members I would say join our association, if for no other reason than in order that you may have the *Canadian Horticulturist*.