

association meetings in orchards, showing the members how to pack and ship their fruit. In Ontario also we discovered that there were two or three associations that had got together in this way and determined to work along these lines.

The first year, at our meeting in Leamington, we got a man from Ohio to address the convention. He came and gave a good address. As soon as the meeting was over a committee was appointed, representing the various districts, to talk this matter over. We organized about five of these associations the first year, including the three already in existence. It was a small start. That is three years ago. This last year there were some 40 strong associations, banded together in the province, shipping their fruit in this manner. The growth has been at the start wonderful, and so far there seems to be no chance of these associations breaking up, and we think we have struck the source of success.

Now you may say we have not exactly accomplished our end. The aims of the Fruit Growers' Association are largely educational. The Provincial Association sends out lecturers, who deliver addresses on the methods of marketing, etc., and in this way the educational side is kept up. Not only that, but since the farmers began to receive money from their orchards they begin to take an interest in these things; they begin to pay some attention to their orchards; they subscribe to magazines and consult current literature, so now we think we are working a co-operative scheme and reaching the man both from an educational and commercial side of fruit-growing. As I said, formerly at our annual meetings nothing but purely educational topics were discussed. Now this is all changed. We still endeavor to keep a

number of educational topics on our programme, but the main part of it is given to assisting this co-operative shipping association. We believe the fruit-growing industry in this province can be revolutionized through this association. When we started, two or three years ago, from one of these associations in St. Catharines there was one carload of fruit shipped to the West. That carload went as an experimental shipment. Last year there were 60 carloads sent to Winnipeg from that one association, and 160 carloads went to different parts of the province.

Now it seems to me that the substance of all this is that there must be some commercial aim to hold you men together in this Association. I notice in the last reports of the Ontario Beekeepers' Association that there was considerable discussion as to whether the number of these local associations should be increased, and whether the number of members should be increased. The idea was that if the membership was increased to a greater extent than it has been that the industry would boom, and there might be an over-production. The same could have been said of the fruit industry five years ago. The markets in Ontario were glutted. The method of shipping to the Old Country markets, up to two or three years ago, has not been at all satisfactory. Since the Co-Operative Associations have been organized the large English firms have been sending buyers to Ontario and buying the fruit right at the station.

Now, why I mentioned these orchard meetings. This is one plan whereby greater interest could be aroused in the bee-keeping industry. When the orchard meetings were started a number of years ago, we would advertise that on a certain date, in a certain

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