

cannot at this time, at the close of an eventful struggle for Ontario's supremacy in the horticultural field, but express my most unbounded satisfaction, with the hearty and unanimous manner in which my every effort in that direction has been supported, first to the Ontario Commissioner, Mr. Nicholas Awray, for his wise and willing counsel at all times freely given to the Fruit Growers of Ontario, who so promptly and generously contributed to the desired object; to Chief J. M. Samuels, of the Horticultural Department, for his kindness and courtesy at all times; to the express companies and customs officials who used every effort to have our goods promptly delivered; to Mr. W. M. Orr, whose interesting efforts and happy manner rendered good service in the cause, and to Mr. James Brodie, who during the past two seasons has rendered valuable assistance in the work.

A WELCOME.

Mr. E. B. EDWARDS, of Peterborough, welcomed the Association. He said: We have done what we could to get the farmers here, and I expect to see them gathering in. I have much pleasure in introducing Mr. Anderson, the Warden of our County, who has come in to show the interest that he takes in the Association, and I will ask him to express a word of welcome to the Association.

MR. W. ANDERSON welcomed the Association, and hoped that their visit would be a benefit to the locality. For himself, he had come to listen and to learn, and he expected personally to profit by the discussions.

MR. D. W. DUMBLE, Police Magistrate, said: There is no part of the country that needs the presence of this Association more than the County of Peterborough. My enthusiastic friend, Mr. Edwards, says there are any amount of latent capabilities here. They have not been developed to the extent that I think is possible, and I incline to think that the reason has been that the varieties grown here have not been suited, and those that were suitable have been too widely scattered to make a marketable commodity. Our people, in order to make fruit growing profitable, want just such instructions as you are going to give; and I am sure your meeting will be successful in every way. We shall be glad to get all the information we can.

The PRESIDENT: We all appreciate the words of welcome extended to this Association. Last year, when we decided to come to Peterborough to hold this meeting, we felt that we were coming to one of the finest sections in the province of Ontario. We knew it was a wonderful cheese-producing, and to a certain extent fruit-producing section; and we expect by coming here to gain from you, gentlemen, and the farmers and fruit-growers of this section of the country, a great deal of information. We also expect, having present, as you will see around this room, representative fruit men from almost every part of our province, to be able possibly to give a little information. Of course if we are not receiving information and gaining every day we must be going back; therefore we expect to get information, and hope to be able to impart it. I do not know very much of the extent of the fruit interest in this section, but I have no doubt, from the appearance of the country, that there is room for a great advancement in that respect. In some branches of agriculture—in wheat growing, for instance—we seem to be producing almost more than the requirements of the people. Possibly we might increase our fruit production and decrease our wheat production with advantage to all concerned. We would be glad to see you all members of our Association; but whether members or not, we want you to take an active part in the discussion, and assist in advancing that great interest we are endeavoring to promote in every possible way. I may add that those becoming members receive the *Horticulturist* through the year, and also get the annual report as well as share in the distribution of plants and shrubs, and different kinds of new things coming in. Mr. James, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, is present, and he is preparing some statistics of fruits produced in our country. I will now call upon him to address you.

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