

The President, Mr. J. A. Morton of Wingham, delivered his annual address.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

The ever revolving wheel of restless time has added another year, with its varying successes and disasters, to the history of the fruit growers of Ontario, and brings us once again in annual convention, as officers of the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario, to render an account of the trusts and duties required of us, and as individual members to fraternally exchange ideas on subjects of horticulture.

Like members of a devoted family, severed by distance, these annual reunions are looked forward to with pleasurable anticipation, and, as we gather together in friendly intercourse, the feeling comes upon us, that we are once more, *at home*.

It is a source of gratification to find in reviewing the history of the past, that the invariable tone of our discussions has been that of the utmost good fellowship.

In our deliberations, any one who has aught of interest to communicate upon any of the subjects upon our programme, be he sage or novice, professional or amateur, has perfect freedom of speech, and while you may not be able to convince us all of the correctness of your deductions—for some of us are very tenacious of our own opinion—we pledge ourselves that now as in the past the presentation of your views will be received with respect.

We meet on a common level, all touched we hope with the feeling of a common humanity, and, while the opinions of a Dempsey or a Saunders are always received with that deference which views based on extensive experience and wealth of technical education carry with them, the facts and hints collected by the babes in horticulture are no less acceptable. Some of the brightest discoveries in this as in other pursuits have emanated from the observations of the veriest tyros, whose utterances, like crude material fashioned into useful shape by the hands of the skilled workman, have become elaborated by those better informed into information of great economic importance in the realm of science.

And, in this connection, I would call especial attention to an important feature of our meetings—the Question Box. The papers upon our programme generally deal with matters and facts, which are well established; few of us have nerve enough to attempt in a paper the embodiment of our nebulous ideas on matters that are as yet little understood, or are in controversy, or to defend ourselves from the hostile criticism which the promulgation in a set paper of our ideas on such a subject would evoke. The Question Box affords a safer vehicle for the diffusion of such ideas, and is also used as the means for bringing before our gathering any point not in our programme upon which information is desired. Write out your query upon paper and hand it to the secretary; he is our box. Do not be afraid of filling him too full; his receptive faculty is great.

Although the fruits of Canada are favorably known in the Mother Country, they are not so well known as to render useless any further information on the subject. An excellent opportunity was offered for advertising them by exhibition at the International Fruit and Flower Show, held by the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society of Edinburgh, at that city on the 9th, 10th and 11th September, last. That this opportunity was not made use of was no fault of this Association. A kind and pressing request to make an exhibition

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