

B. C. FRUIT GROWERS

Annual meeting of the Association Opened This Morning at the City Hall.

Amendments to the Constitution Decided Upon—The Cup Won at Spokane.

Address by the President Read at This Afternoon's Session.

The B. C. Fruit Growers' Association met this morning in the city hall with the president, Mr. T. G. Earl, of Lytton, in the chair. As the islander did not make a trip yesterday from the Mainland the Mainland delegation, the secretary, Mr. McGowan, being among them, was not present, but will probably be here for the afternoon session. Mr. Hadwen acted as secretary in the meantime.

Mr. R. M. Palmer reported on the meeting of the committee on the constitution, which met at New Westminster. This was taken up clause by clause by the meeting.

Clause 1 was amended by the name being changed to the British Columbia Fruit Growers and Horticultural Society.

Clause two, which deals with the object of the society, was amended so that the profitable marketing of fruit and transportation facilities be also an object.

Clause five was changed so that the meetings of the association will be held in January, April, July and October, instead of in January, May, August and November as heretofore.

Clause nine was amended so that the secretary-treasurer shall have the sum being limited to over \$25, as in the original clause.

Clause ten was amended so that the exhibitions were left to the discretion of the board.

Clause eleven so that the membership fee be reduced from \$2 to \$1 per year.

Clause thirteen was amended so that the financial year ends on December 31 instead of November 30 as before.

Clause eighteen was amended so that it reads that neither the constitution nor by-laws be changed except by a two-thirds vote of all members present at a regular meeting of the society. Notice of the proposed changes having been given at a previous meeting.

The other clauses remain unchanged. The cup won by the association at the Spokane fair last summer was exhibited, and the president made a few remarks on the winning of the cup. He said it showed that the fruit growers of British Columbia could hold their own with the three fruit growing States of Washington, Idaho and Oregon.

The main bulk of British Columbia's fruit did not get there in time, but if it had they might have had prizes to exhibit. It shows that British Columbians can do, and the cup is an honor to the whole of British Columbia. Mr. Hutcherson, he said, was over with the exhibit to Spokane, and great credit was due to him for his work in that connection. In conclusion he proposed a standing vote of thanks to Mr. Hutcherson, which was given.

Mr. E. Hutcherson expressed his thanks, but said he thought they had gone too far. He did not want to turn this into a mutual admiration society, but it was Mr. Earl who deserved the credit, for it was his fruit that had won the prizes. The fruit that Mr. Earl had sent to Spokane was a credit to the province, and all Canadians who were at that fair were very proud of him.

Mr. Sharpe, of the Dominion Experimental farm, sent down several samples of apples of the following varieties: Salome, Stark, Sutton's beauty and the York Imperial. These were exhibited at the meeting, as well as samples of Vancouver and Ben Davis apples brought down by Mr. Earl.

Mr. Earl before adjournment said that the society should endeavor to secure more members and extend the society from one end of the province to the other. The society had done a great deal of good for British Columbia; it had succeeded in getting freight rates reduced and sending carloads of produce into the footstep country, which was enriching the province. He hoped that the membership of the society would be trebled before the next annual meeting.

An adjournment was then taken until two o'clock this afternoon.

The afternoon session was opened by the reading of the president's address, which follows:

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS. Gentlemen: This is the eighth year of our organization and I regret to say it has not been a prosperous one for the fruit grower. Owing to the cold late spring the crop of fruit on the lower Fraser and islands was a partial failure, whilst in the interior we have had good crops—never better, I am certain. Now, to offset all this, we

had a very sudden cold snap commencing November 9th, and lasting the balance of the month. When the cold wave struck us the sap was all up, and there had been no frosts sufficient to send the sap down and prepare the tree for winter. The thermometer in a few days dropped at Lytton to 16 and at Kamloops to 22 degrees below zero. Now, under these conditions thousands of trees in the interior have been winter killed, mostly of the winter varieties; while on the lower Fraser and coast I believe the loss is trifling. In 1875, just twenty-two years ago, we lost large numbers of trees by a cold snap similar to the one that occurred this year. With these undeniable facts before us I think it is our duty to let it be said by no one that we are not doing all we can guard against such failures in future. Certainly no one will deny the fact that we can grow as nice fruit as can be grown anywhere.

With past experience to it not better to grow varieties that we know will stand the sudden changes, instead of going in for so many fancy varieties? I find that for summer the Yellow Transparent, the Duchess, the Duke and Mrs. Favorite usually come out well for early autumn Alexander and Wealthy come through safely. For early winter the New York Vanderveer and the Duchess are the best, and in general appearance resembles the Wealthy. The Blue Pearl-main is a large dark red apple but not as good as the Vanderveer; these two some have had to give up until after New Year's, and I have kept them until May. The Red Streak or twenty-ounce pippin and Waxen will also stand well until New Year's or later.

Had for late winter three varieties do well, namely, Ben Davis, Talman Sweeting and Ribstone Pippin; all the above mentioned apples I am certain will stand under most any condition.

Of years only Early Summer and Bartlett have endured the severe cold, while cherries, plums, prunes and peaches are a total loss; but as they come into bearing in a few years we can afford to replace them.

Now, gentlemen, I am in hopes that the fruit trees in the interior above Kamloops are safe, as the frost sets in early this is not only an individual loss but a loss to the whole province. It is especially deplorable just now, as the mining resources of this province are becoming so well known as the richest and greater extent than any heretofore discovered. I venture to say there is not a day but what new lodes and mines are discovered. When we take into account the many millions of dollars of capital which is being poured into this province, let us pause and consider the glorious future of British Columbia. Many thousands of miners and prospectors come to the province, and we may certainly calculate by 1900 to have a population of at least 300,000. This is where the fruit grower and farmer comes in. What a market they will have, if it is to be estimated by the vast amount of money these industries will retain in the province, which, I am sorry to say, in the past, has gone out of it. Here let me say the horticultural and fruit raising industry in this province has not been appreciated as they should have been.

Let us see which is best for the province—agriculture or the lumber and fishing industries. They are on the coast and most of their supplies are obtained from the American side; ships come to our ports and take all of their wealth out of the province. And what do we retain of all this vast wealth? You will all say a very small proportion in comparison to what is taken away.

On the other hand, our mines are all over the province, mostly in the interior, and as has been said before, here is where the horticultural and other interests are; they are the backbone of the country. The miners are like the lumbermen and fishermen, for they take away all their wealth while the agriculturist is a bona fide settler, and what he produces is retained in the province. What he raises grain, roots or fruit he will sell to the miner, and we may reasonably expect a ready market for all we can raise. Now, certainly we have the very finest land in the world, and if we have a ready market for all we can grow there will soon be no farmers where we are now. If we can only supply the demand the producers as well as the consumers will soon be prosperous and soon every available piece of land will be occupied by a happy and prosperous people, and the horticultural and agricultural interests generally will be more fully developed and appreciated than they have been. Most farmers grow some fruit; even if they do not, they should consider that the association is working for the interests of all to the best of its ability and means to work with. The government has been very generous and deserves the thanks of all for the attention that heretofore issued annual reports, but was considered advisable to omit it this year, as we were running behind and we only got our report in February last, I think we can all have enough to do in filling our next report. In fact I am sure no good of going to the expense of getting out a report every year, as it is mostly a repetition of the previous one and costs from \$300 to \$400 and I think the money can be used to better advantage. My friend, Mr. Henry, president and manager of the Fruit Exchange, will tell you that owing to the failure of crops and unforeseen losses the exchange has not been a financial success this year. Let him tell you about the Exchange in his report. It has been suggested that the Fruit Growers' Association help the exchange by donating most of our surplus funds, which in my opinion could not be devoted to a better purpose, as the Exchange is a new institution. The expenses are heavy in starting and reaching out for new markets, which are certain to help the whole province. It is to be hoped that the government will see its way clear to helping it by granting for a few years the sum of \$500 per annum. As we have not yet felt the beneficence of the mining industry, nor can we expect to for a few years yet, as it is most all development work unless it is in the Kootenays, where most of the supplies are obtained from the American side. We have rich mines at Elliot, Cariboo and Kamloops, and in fact all over the interior. There can be no doubt of the future. The Fruit Growers' Association in the first time held the annual meeting in the interior and considering it was the first time we met with fair success. We first had a side meeting at Salmon Arm; we also had meetings at Ar-

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strong and Kelowna, our regular quarterly meeting being held at Vernon. It was considered advisable to have Messrs. Henry and Hutcherson attend, as they are prominent members of the F. G. A. and the Association to pay their actual expenses. I consider no better move could have been made on our first meeting in the interior. Mr. R. M. Palmer attended in his official capacity. There was much good accomplished for the Fruit Exchange in coming in touch with the local exchanges of the interior, but I presume Mr. Henry will speak further on this. As these meetings did not canvass for members. At the annual meeting the secretary had been requested to write to all delinquent members to pay up or their names would be taken off the list of members.

Mr. Hutcherson had very wisely offered a resolution that the constitution be amended so membership fees would be reduced from \$2 to \$1 and our business meeting the resolution will be adopted. When the membership fees are reduced I hope the list will soon comprise at least 100 names or more. I think by vigorous canvassing there should be at least that many at the annual meeting of 1898; at present I am sorry to say there are not over 25 members and then we have over 100 directors or over 75 more that cannot be beaten. It is a very nice idea, and in general appearance resembles the Wealthy. The Blue Pearl-main is a large dark red apple but not as good as the Vanderveer; these two some have had to give up until after New Year's, and I have kept them until May. The Red Streak or twenty-ounce pippin and Waxen will also stand well until New Year's or later.

Had for late winter three varieties do well, namely, Ben Davis, Talman Sweeting and Ribstone Pippin; all the above mentioned apples I am certain will stand under most any condition.

Of years only Early Summer and Bartlett have endured the severe cold, while cherries, plums, prunes and peaches are a total loss; but as they come into bearing in a few years we can afford to replace them.

Now, gentlemen, I am in hopes that the fruit trees in the interior above Kamloops are safe, as the frost sets in early this is not only an individual loss but a loss to the whole province. It is especially deplorable just now, as the mining resources of this province are becoming so well known as the richest and greater extent than any heretofore discovered. I venture to say there is not a day but what new lodes and mines are discovered. When we take into account the many millions of dollars of capital which is being poured into this province, let us pause and consider the glorious future of British Columbia. Many thousands of miners and prospectors come to the province, and we may certainly calculate by 1900 to have a population of at least 300,000. This is where the fruit grower and farmer comes in. What a market they will have, if it is to be estimated by the vast amount of money these industries will retain in the province, which, I am sorry to say, in the past, has gone out of it. Here let me say the horticultural and fruit raising industry in this province has not been appreciated as they should have been.

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members of the Board of Horticulture, as president of the Board of Horticulture I am certainly in a position to know the facts in this case, and I know what I here state is true; the board in no way wishes to interfere with the association but as they are working on the same lines, for the benefit of the province they should work in harmony. The board is bound to try to protect the interests of the fruit grower, and the present time, or the orchards are comparatively free from insect pests, such as the codlin moth, San Jose scale, and in the interior the woolly aphis also. This condition of affairs, for the benefit of the province, are the horticultural interests of this province worth protecting? If they are we must enforce the rules at once and in order to do so the sum of at least \$2000 should be placed in the estimates and the rules strictly enforced for the better protection of the fruit grower. If this is not done at once we may soon expect to have our clean orchards infested with all the dirt fruit trees that are found in California and the east.

Gentlemen, in conclusion, I would say that I have had letters from C. B. Harris, of Salmon Arm. This gentleman assures me that he has with Mr. J. Palmer inspected quite a number of orchards in his vicinity and they are all right. I also have a letter from Donald Graham, of P. P. This gentleman tells me the trees came through all right. I also wrote to Mr. Ricardo, Vernon, and James Crosier, of Kelowna. I have had no reply, so I think their trees are all right. All this goes to prove that in the great valleys of the Shuswap, Spallumcheen and Okanagan, where the frost comes early and prepares the trees for winter, the trees are all right. If the fruit grower, where good mines are being discovered every day. I consider this is the safety belt. And here is where there are vast quantities of the best kinds of fruit can be grown. Now, gentlemen, I thank you for your very kind attention.

At yesterday afternoon's session of the Fruit Growers' Association, on a motion by Mr. Hutcherson, the president's report was taken up and discussed. Mr. R. Baker said it was a very interesting report, and he considered that if every director were given a small book of tickets he could get members for the association and send their fees to the secretary.

Mr. Hutcherson said there was a reason why the membership of the society was low. There were local societies at various points in the interior, one at Chilliwack, one at Fraser Valley and one at Mission City. The Fruit Exchange had been occupying the attention of the fruit growers. It was hardly fair to ask a man to contribute to the local societies, the Exchange and the Fruit Growers' Association.

Mr. Hutcherson wanted to know if the Fruit Growers' Association was to be absorbed by the Fruit Exchange, or were they two separate organizations.