

NOTES FROM THE PROVINCES

British Columbia

W. J. Brandrith

The regular quarterly meeting of the British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association was held in Chilliwack on April 3. The attendance was large and a good deal of interest was manifested in the proceedings. After routine, Mr. W. J. Brandrith was unanimously elected delegate to the American Pomological Society's annual meeting. A resolution, calling for local inspection of fruit and orchards by the provincial board of horticulture, was also passed. The first secretary of the association, Mr. A. H. B. Magowan, was voted a life membership in view of his services at the inception of the association 20 years ago.

Mr. Tom Wilson read a paper on "Polonization." President Puckle gave a short address on "Co-operation." Mr. J. C. Metcalfe, one of the old war horses of the association, gave an excellent address on "The Cultivation of Small Fruits." Mr. Maxwell Smith, Dominion Fruit Inspector, gave a rousing address on "The Commercial Aspect of Fruit Growing." The next quarterly meeting place was fixed for Kelowna and the October quarterly for Creston.

British Columbia Legislation

Edgar W. Dynes

The session of the British Columbia Legislature which closed a few weeks ago has been very fruitful of legislation benefitting the horticultural and agricultural interests of the province. Two very important measures were put through,—one known as the Fruit Depots Act, and the other, some very important amendments to the Water Clauses Act.

In respect of the latter the government sought to eliminate some of the existing abuses in the matter of water rights. It was found that many individuals had staked large quantities of water for speculative purposes and which they could not use. This had the effect of retarding the progress of districts where irrigation is absolutely necessary. To illustrate, in a certain district there might be 3,000 acres of land, arid or semi-arid, and wholly dependent on water from a certain creek. But, supposing that some enterprising individual, who owned not more than 1,000 acres of land, had located all the water in the creek. The other owners would either have to do without water or be at his mercy.

Under the new law, all this water becomes the common property of the land owners in the immediate vicinity who need this water. A man can no longer hold water for speculative purposes. The province has been divided into six districts for the purpose of the Act and in each district a commissioner will be appointed with full power to act in the matter of the adjustment of the water rights. It is a statesman-like piece of legislation and will be of immediate and untold benefit to the sections in the province where irrigation is necessary.

The Fruit Depots Act provides for aid to depots or stations to be established for the sorting, cooling and packing of fruit, and the government to assist the building of

such in much the same manner as aid is granted to creameries and cheese factories. The Act gives power to the provincial board of horticulture to license depots or warehouses for the purpose named upon conditions whereby the licensee is eligible to apply for a loan of not exceeding three-fifths of the value of the plant and not more than \$3,000 in any one instance. The second clause of the Act provides that such license may be granted to anybody, corporation or association legally instituted to establish, maintain and operate a fruit depot, equipped with appliances for the sorting and colling of fruits and packing them for shipment. The application for license must be accompanied by proper plans and specification, including information as to the number of orchards tributary to the proposed depot.

The fourth clause of the Act provides that such license shall be subject to the conditions that the facilities of the depot shall be without discrimination and at uniform rates and charges to be open to the use of

From All Over Canada

Editor, THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST:—We take pleasure in again complimenting you on the general excellence of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST, and more particularly on its merits as an advertising medium. From almost every part of this wide Dominion, between the Atlantic and Pacific, we receive enquiries as a result of our advertisement in THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST, to which most of the correspondents refer. Every succeeding year brings noticeably greater results, which proves that your paper is progressive in every sense of the word. We think a statement of these facts is due to you, believing that the success of your advertisers is equally encouraging to yourselves.—The Dominion Offices of the Potash Syndicate, B. Leslie Emslie, Manager, Toronto.

all members of any corporation or association so licensed and that all rates and charges made, taken and collected by the licensee, in, about and in connection with the depot, shall at all times be subject to the control and regulations of the provincial board of horticulture. The license is liable to cancellation for any breach of the Act, in which case all money loaned becomes immediately due and payable. The loan is secured by a first mortgage on the depot and lands connected therewith and interest is payable at the rate of five per cent. The immediate plans of the government are understood to include the erection of several of these depots at some of the more important fruit shipping points in the province.

Some concessions have been obtained from the railroad and express companies in the matter of shipping regulations. The minimum weight for carload shipments of fruit has been lowered from 30,000 to 24,000 pounds. It was represented by the growers at a meeting at Victoria that they could not compete with Ontario unless they were given the same rates to Winnipeg as the Ontario growers enjoyed but this was

turned down. Mr. Lanigan, of the C. P. R., made the statement that he had personally canvassed all prominent fruit dealers in Winnipeg and said that he found the main reason why more British Columbia fruit was not marketed on the prairie was that so much second grade fruit was dumped in from Washington and Oregon at tempting prices. This being the case, he concluded that the reduction asked for in this instance would not be of any assistance.

New Brunswick

A. E. McGinley.

The government of New Brunswick is preparing to devote special attention to advertising the advantages of this province in the way of general agriculture and small fruit culture with a view to repopulating the vacant farms and untenanted orchards of the province which, unhappily, are far too numerous. For this purpose, a special official will be appointed to the staff in the person of Mr. A. Duff-Miller, and it will be his duty to circulate literature and otherwise inform the members of Great Britain's farming community what advantages this province offers. Already there is a government agent in St. John who has a list of all farms for sale in the province and has done good work on a small scale. With the appointment of another official in England, who will work in conjunction with the St. John agent, the scope of the work will be very largely increased and good results are expected.

This season has been a particularly good one for the export of Canadian apples to Europe, via the port of St. John. The season will close about May 10, but already the returns show that 38,276 barrels and 3,730 boxes of apples have been sent forward. Most of these have come from Ontario points as the Ontario apple is more popular in the European market than the New Brunswick product. Nova Scotia apples which are also very popular in the Old Country, are principally shipped from Halifax. Facilities at St. John have been vastly improved by the erection here of a large cold storage plant which is expected to prove a great factor in the development of the trade.

Annapolis Valley West, N. S.

R. J. Messenger

The active part of marketing is about over for this year. A few apples are going to our local markets, good apples on the St. John or Halifax markets bringing as high as \$4 and \$5 a barrel. Everybody seems to be happy, the speculator because he has made in most cases enough on this year's operations to more than compensate for his losses last year and the producer is happy because he got his money without being asked for rebates. This reminds me of a case where a pious speculator last year asked for and obtained a rebate of \$200 from a farmer. This year he bought the same farmer's apples when they were 1¢, and after many strong hints generously allowed the farmer a gift of \$200, when he probably made enough to more than replace the \$600.

Orchard work has fairly begun again. Pruning is about all done, except where some have left the work to be done in June. It is unfortunate that we see all kind of mal-practice in this operation. Every farmer has his own ideas as to how, when and where to cut, and surely there is no one system that approximates the best.

Early spring spraying is being practised