

FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

Interesting Reports--Important Discussion

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND OTHER BUSINESS.

The annual meeting of the Fruit Growers' Association of P. E. Island was held yesterday in the Benevolent Irish Society's Hall.

After the reading of the minutes the report of the president and directors was read as follows:

DIRECTORS' REPORT.

The officers and directors of the Fruit Growers' Association of Prince Edward Island report that the names of the following persons appear upon the member list as members of the Association:

The annual meeting of the Association for the year 1898, was held on the eighth day of March in the Governor's office, and was adjourned and held in the Kindergarten Hall in Charlottetown on the 19th day of April last.

That in accordance with the said resolution 35 bbls of apples were packed by the Hon. Donald Ferguson and sent to London, and 47 bbls packed by D. A. Sharpe, Esq., and 26 bbls by John Robertson Esq., and sent to Liverpool.

The prices realized here, after all expenses on both sides had been deducted, are as follows: First in the shipment to Liverpool, Alexanders, \$3.05; Wealthys, \$2.07; Wolf River, Bethel, St. Lawrence, Fameuse and Nonpareil, \$1.72; Ribstons, \$2.07.

As to the shipment to London your Directors think as they have not obtained from the Hon. Donald Ferguson an account of the expenses incurred on this side of the Atlantic, it has been impossible for them to arrive at the exact sum realized, but allowing that the charges per barrel were the same as in the shipment to Liverpool, the amounts obtained here after all expenses had been satisfied would be \$2.32 for Kings, \$2.10 for Spys, \$2.34 for Golden Russets,

\$1.63 for Ribstons and \$1.74 for Baldwins.

Your directors would wish to point out that the charges on this side, viz., 76 cents per barrel, seem to them large, and in future shipments to be made by private shippers could no doubt be much reduced.

A detailed statement of the prices realized by the sale of the apples sent to Liverpool, and the costs and charges upon the same, the account sales, the letters received from the auctioneers in Liverpool, and the account sales of the apples sent to London, will be found annexed to this report.

Your Directors also report that the Association has received a communication from L. Woodnorton, Esq., the Secretary of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, which letter is also annexed to this report, and requesting our Association to pass resolutions as to the inspecting and branding of fruit at shipping ports.

EDWARD BAYFIELD, President F.G.A. JOHN ROBERTSON, Vice President, JOHN H. GILL, A. E. BURKE.

The treasurer's report was then read showing receipts \$174.44; expenditures, \$95.65; balance in hand, \$78.79.

On motion, Messrs. C. R. Dickie and John H. Gill were elected auditors, and the accounts having been referred to them were "reported correct."

Mr. F. G. Bovyer then submitted the report of Hon. D. Ferguson, of the committee appointed at the last meeting, respecting trial shipment of apples. This report appeared in THE EXAMINER yesterday. After some discussion, it was, on motion, ordered that it do lie upon the table.

The President delivered his address as follows:--

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

GENTLEMEN:-- According to the order of business of this meeting the time has now arrived for the President to make his annual address. It will only be a few words, however, as to our part during the previous year, with perhaps a few observations as to our future work.

Now, you all know that since our last annual meeting we have succeeded in demonstrating and proving to the whole Province, by actual shipment, the most important fact that Island-grown apples can take their place in the front rank of that market of the world, Great Britain.

Mr. John Robertson then submitted a statement showing the results of apple shipments last fall, quoting prices, etc., and raising questions as to conditions of transit on board steamship.

Mr. Wise explained the manner in which apples are assorted for a sale in England--those which come out of the ship "dry" and those which have "sweated" or "decayed" being graded and marked before they are offered at auction.

Mr. John Robertson then opened a discussion as to the best variety of apple trees to be planted and cultivated on this Island for commercial purposes.

yourself, select your trees, plant your orchard, cultivate, spray, prune and fertilize the young trees; and in a few years,--you will be astonished how quickly they will pass,--you will possess a thing of beauty as well as a source of profit.

To return to the work of the Association. During the past year, you will agree with me that several other good steps in a forward direction have been taken.

Still, though we may comfort ourselves with the thought that "well begun is half done," there remains much for us to do, and it appears to me that in the "order of business" for this meeting there is no more important item than the question, "what varieties of apple trees to plant?"

You will also note, in the "order of business," that we are called upon at this meeting to discuss the questions of inspection and branding of fruit at the shipping ports, and you have already heard by our Society has received a communication from the Secretary of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association on this subject.

And, gentlemen, although our society has increased since its formation, like all other undertakings of a like nature, it has done so rather slowly, and as I think we all believe that we have engaged ourselves in a great and good work for the benefit of all persons on this Island, we must not forget to further the interests of our Association by every means in our power.

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quotations from reports of English prices current, showing a number of varieties of apples for which good prices were paid although not of the most notable kinds, simply because they were put on the market properly.

Hon. D. Farquharson said that the Government was in sympathy with the Association, and desired to assist its efforts towards the improvement of fruit-growing throughout the province.

Mr. F. Bovyer then read a lively and interesting paper on fruit-growing and our schools;--this, also, we are compelled to hold over.

On motion of Rev. Father Burke a committee was appointed to nominate the officers for the ensuing year.

Mr. Bovyer said that the Ribston, had proved to be a poor bearer in this Province, and for this reason, though a nice apple, it is not to be recommended for planting here.

Mr. F. B. McKee said that if an apple tree won't bear here it is not worth cultivating. But he thought that some of the better shy-bearing varieties of apples might be cultivated with success by means of top-grafting.

Mr. John A. Ferguson, said that the Ribston Pippin, also, had been successfully grown by means of top-grafting.

Mr. Robert Carruthers, Cape Traverse, upon being questioned, stated the varieties that he had grown most successfully in his orchard were the Wealthy, Ben Davis and Duchess.

Mr. Peter Robertson asked if anyone knew anything about "William's Favorite," as a commercial apple?

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Mr. Dickie said that "King" is a favorite apple in the English market. Highly colored fruit is desirable. He made the following quotations from a report of October, 1897:--

American Fruit.--Baldwins, 14s to 22s; Greenings, 14s 9d to 20s 6d; Ben Davis 20s to 23s; Kings, 20s to 25s; Newton Pippins, 17s to 25s; Golden Russets, 19s to 20s; various, 20s to 23s.

Canadian fruit, (same date)--Greenings 11s to 22s; Kings 32s 6d to 35s; Northern Spy, 24s; Saw 12s to 18s; various 15s 9d to 24s.

Mr. John A. Ferguson asked about the McIntosh Red.

Upon assembling at 8.50 o'clock, a committee consisting of Rev. A. E. Burke and Messrs. John Robertson and D. P. Irving was appointed to select from the varieties

that had been recommended those most suitable for cultivation and the market.

After some time the committee reported as follows:--

"Your committee on varieties beg to recommend the following as the best apple-trees to plant in this Province:--

"For the home market--Gravensteins and Duchess, autumn varieties; Wealthy, Baldwin and Ben Davis, winter and late keepers.

"For export.--(1) Alexander, (2) Ben Davis, (3) Wealthy, (4) King, (5) Golden Russet, (6) Ribston Pippin, (7) Nonpareil, (8) Mann, in the order named.

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE.

Mr. H. A. Stewart, of Hamilton, referred to the fact that the Premier had hinted that the Government was willing to assist in the development of fruit-growing, and the question was whether it would not be well to suggest the establishment of experimental stations at which the best varieties of trees would be cultivated in the most approved way, so that farmers might have good examples before them. The results might be reported to the Association.

Mr. F. G. Bovyer said that he had very little use for the Government as a help for farmers. The dairy industry had been established here not by Government Experimental Farms, but by an official of the Government. Except the reports of the chemist, he saw very little good in the Dominion Experimental Farms Prizes awarded to the men who produce the best fruit as a result of good cultivation, would, he believed, do much more good, so far as fruit-growing in this province is concerned. Our farmers ought not to depend upon the favors from any Government. The Government should rather depend upon their favor. Competing for prizes creates in the community a wholesome spirit of emulation which has an effect on great numbers, awakening a desire for more knowledge and more skill and fostering a truly British feeling of independence, the reverse of the cringing beggarly habit of looking to government for assistance of a direct nature.

The President said that his idea was to have orcharding begun on the part of Government Farm and put a good man in charge, and let him take the advice of the Association as to what varieties to cultivate.

Mr. George E. Goff thought it would be a good idea to have an experimental station as suggested, and perhaps a better place could be found than the Government Stock Farm. Certainly there must be a good orchardist to look after it--one must be imported if necessary.

Mr. John Robertson referred to the fact that while the Government Farm is sinking money, the Government is buying milk and meat for asylum patients from outsiders. If they cannot grow beef and pork, they may not be able to grow apples either.

Mr. John A. Ferguson thought that it would not be wise to apply for an experimental station. It would be better to get men to go round and show the people how to graft and prune, etc.

After some further discussion, Rev. Father Burke asked if there were any balances in favor of the Society, not yet accounted for to the treasurer.

The Secretary replied that there were the returns for the fruit sold.

The President said that he had the money which together with the amount in the hands of the treasurer would make up \$130.

Rev. A. E. Burke thought that this money could not be better applied than top grafting with the best varieties in the orchards throughout the province.

This suggestion was discussed, and finally it was decided to pay the secretary \$25 and to expend the balance in the employment of competent men to visit the orchards throughout the Province, and topgraft the most approved varieties, payment being taken for the scions.

Mr. C. R. Dickie then delivered a very interesting and instructive address on cranberry culture--a report of which we are compelled to hold over.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Rev. A. E. Burke from the nominating committee reported as follows:--

Patron--Governor Howlan. President--Senator Ferguson. Vice President--H. A. Stewart, Hamilton.

Secretary--P. McCourt, Charlottetown. Treasurer--J. Wise, Milton.

DIRECTORS.

Prince County--Rev. A. E. Burke, Alberton; C. R. Dickie, Muddy Creek; R. Carruthers, Cape Traverse.

Queen's County:--J. H. Gill, Little York; John Johnston, Long River; J. G. McCullum, Brackley Point.

King's County:--John Robertson, Inkerman; J. D. Stewart, Lower Montague; G. E. Goff, Woodville.

The report was, on motion, adopted.

On motion of Rev. A. E. Burke, the thanks of the Association were conveyed to the retiring President, Edward Bayfield, Esq.

Mr. Bayfield replied in a few words expressive of his interest in the development of fruit growing and the welfare of the Association. Meeting adjourned.

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