

tions the author made a preliminary statement, as true now as it was then, to-wit: "There is probably no part of Rural Economy which combines in so great a degree the agreeable occupation of the mind with active employment, as the cultivation of fruit-trees, with the other branches of an extensive orchard establishment; to the man of wealth and leisure, it offers the means of improving an adorning his estate; the scientific cultivator will find it an inexhaustible source of intellectual occupation; while the practical farmer, whose views are limited to objects of certain profit, will be amply remunerated for every expenditure of labor or money, by the immediate comfort, and eventual emolument, which will be derived from such an establishment." The horizon of this author's views was, of course, limited, but a perusal of his work shows that he had investigated carefully and that he was able to give the fruit industry its proper station in Rural Economy. The same author, however was evidently influenced by his surroundings and environments when he considered the extent of territory over which this industry might be practically and successfully prosecuted, because, says the author, "it has long been the opinion of accurate judges, that the middle states possess a climate eminently favorable to the production of the finer liquor and table apples; it will probably be found, that the Mohawk river in New York, and the James river in Virginia, are the limits of that district of country which produces apples of the due degree of richness and flavor for both purposes."

Great Fruit Producing Regions of the Future.

This work was published nearly fifteen years after President Jefferson purchased Louisiana from France, but at the time when many of the great statesmen of the country believed that a considerable portion of that territory was practically valueless. In the past two decades, however, we have demonstrated that the great fruit producing regions of the future, where the high grade and fancy deciduous fruits will be produced for many centuries, lies in the extreme northwestern part of the country and largely within the states of Washington, Oregon and Idaho, a section of country practically unknown when the first publication relating to the cultivation of fruit trees was issued in this country.

Having demonstrated the adaptability of our soil and of our climate, it would be unwise indeed if we failed to obtain the highest development possible along horticultural lines.

"For many years the National Government has been spending a large sum of money annually for the investigation of every question in any way affecting the prosecution of the fruit industry, from the contents of the soil and the production and growth of the tree to the harvesting and marketing of the fruit. This information is available to any one desiring to obtain the same, but, at the same time the chief part of the lesson must be learned in the school of experience. For that reason these associations are formed, these meetings are held in this and other states, because they bring together those who are working along similar lines, for the purpose of comparing notes, stating experiences and absorbing in-

formation from the experiences and views of others.

"While a good many questions have been outlined for consideration at this series of meetings, every one should be given to understand at the outset that these meetings are not intended to be confined alone to the consideration of the subjects proposed. If information is anywhere desired along horticultural lines, not covered by the questions outlined for discussion, those questions should be made known, because the chances are that every question would be completely answered by the experience or experiences of others present.

If any member of the association has any suggestions to make involving the change of our horticultural laws, or any kick or objection to make with reference to the manner of execution of these laws those objections should be made here and thoroughly considered so that this association may take action and make recommendations in relation thereto.

Campaign Against Orchard Pests.

"I have no hesitation in saying that the fruit industry cannot be successfully prosecuted in this or any other state without the operation of wise horticultural laws passed for the purpose of eradicating diseases and resisting the inroads of insect pests. There is no more possibility of the horticulturist succeeding without the faithful execution of such laws than there is for the stockman to succeed when the range is permitted to be over-run with many horses and with cattle or sheep weighed down with infectious diseases. Thus far the horticultural interests of the state have been at a decided disadvantage, because we have not had a state inspector, authorized and required to devote his whole time and attention to horticultural inspection. A few years ago when the dairy and pure food law was passed, the duties of the pure food commissioner and the sealer of weights and measures were imposed upon the state horticultural inspector, and, as a necessary consequence, a very large part of the time of the inspector has been necessarily devoted to duties imposed by the dairy and pure food law. It is now proposed to segregate, if possible, the two offices and ask the legislature to provide that the state horticultural inspector shall devote his entire time and attention to the duties imposed by the horticultural inspection law. The duties imposed by the law creating the latter office, when properly performed, will require all of the time and all of the energy of the best talent that can be secured therefor. When this question comes before the association, I want to urge upon you the necessity for unanimous action, because the determination of this association at this meeting will be far reaching in its effects. But the action of the legislature is not all that is needed to secure the proper enforcement of wise horticultural laws, because, back of the law itself there must be a sentiment that will demand its execution, and every fruit grower should feel that he is charged with the responsibility of seeing, not only that the law is complied with by his neighbor, but that his own orchards and his own fruits are kept free from the objectionable insects and diseases. There is very little encouragement I can assure you for

the grower of a 20 or a 30 or a 40 acre orchard to spray year after year when the tree is dormant for the scale and to prevent the inroads of fungus diseases when his neighbor, but a short distance away, allows his orchard to become scale infected so that it is hardly possible for a bird to fly from one orchard to the other without carrying with it the objectionable scale. There is but little encouragement for a grower to raise fine and perfect fruit, if others in the same locality are permitted to allow their trees to remain infected, and then place their infected fruit upon the market at such figures as to exclude the perfect fruit therefrom. I am not overdrawn this picture, and the fact that it is not overdrawn furnishes the reason for our most careful consideration of this subject.

Proper Storage Facilities Needed.

Another question, which is proposed for consideration at this meeting, involves proper storage facilities for our apples before they are placed upon the market. For many years the smaller orchardists have been able to pick their apples during the favorable weather of the harvest season and pack them as rapidly as they were picked. Such a course involved no necessity for storage. In fact many of us packed our apples at the tree and loaded them immediately upon the cars. But, as the capacity of our orchards has increased and our methods of packing have been improved, it has already been found impossible to pick all of our fruit at the proper time and at the same time properly pack it as rapidly as it is taken from the trees. As a result of this condition of affairs proper storage must be provided or a large per centage of our crops must be left too late upon the trees. The apples which I lost the past season, on account of my inability to pick them at the proper time for want of suitable storage, would have gone a long way toward paying for sufficient storage for the product of the entire orchard, if I had been able to save it. Nearly all of us apparently must be taught these lessons by experience. I have had my experience, I have missed my opportunity to provide storage from the profit of the apples which were destroyed, but my plans have already been formulated for the construction of a cellar and ventilated storage room over the same sufficient to house and protect my entire crop. And, in this connection I desire to call the attention of this association to a condition of affairs which may possibly confront us in the future, which may make local storage an absolute necessity. For many years the fruit growers of this vicinity have been favored with excellent facilities for the shipment of green fruits. While there have been complaints about the charges for refrigeration, there has been little if any complaint about the promptness of service so far as the question of supplying fruit cars was concerned. In our shipments to eastern markets, either under refrigeration or ventilation, only the best equipment can be safely used. Until the close of the present year what is commonly known as the private car lines have furnished the equipment for the handling of our fruit. This situation is now to be changed by operation of law, and we are already advised that the fruit service is to be supplied by the railroad companies. I have no doubt

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but that the railway companies, if they would form an independent department for the handling of fruit transportation and have the necessary force for the collection of information that the private car lines have had, could give us the same prompt service. But, if we can in any way judge from the experience of other shippers, we cannot expect the same prompt service in the future that has been accorded us in the past. For that reason, if for no other, the grower of fruit must be prepared to hold his fruit in storage after it is packed, as well as to provide storage for it as soon as it is brought from the orchard.

Proper Harvesting and Marketing of Fruit.

Another subject that requires constant agitation involves the harvesting and marketing of the fruit. It matters not what degree of perfection may be obtained in growing fruit if it is not carefully harvested and placed upon the market. This question will be presented by gentlemen who are thoroughly qualified by experience to speak upon it.

"I do not wish here to encroach, either upon the time or the subjects of either of the gentlemen who will discuss these subjects, but I do want to urge upon every fruit grower the necessity of studying the markets and at all times keeping himself advised as to those conditions which usually affect the markets. Every year in the early summer months publications in different portions of the country commence forecasting enormous fruit crops, and consequently low prices. Other publications throughout the growing season, perhaps inclining to the interests of