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Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers' Association. Fifteenth annual convention, held at Gaynor-Blackstone Marsh, Tuesday, August 13th, 1901. 1901

Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers Association
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Wisconsin State
Cranberry Growers'
Association.



FIFTEENTH ANNUAL
CONVENTION,

Held at Gaynor-Blackstone Marsh,
Tuesday, August 13th, 1901.

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ST. LOUIS.

PEYCKE BROS. & CHANEY.
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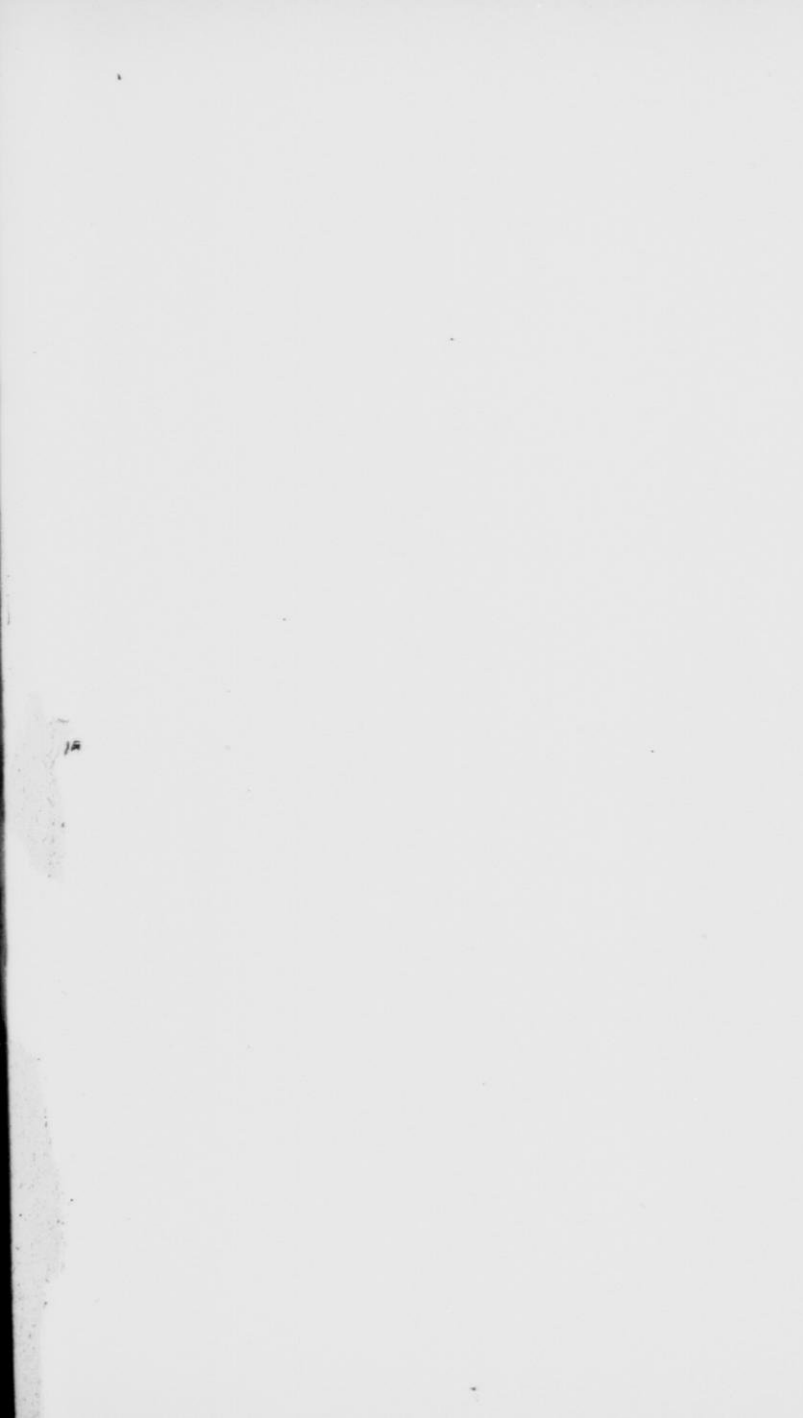
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comparable, picking season 20 Aug
to 20 Oct. Worthy, high cultivation
Bell Bugle and Cherry.

HANK A. LOWRY,
Day, Minn.





Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers' Association.

An organization having for its objects: Improved quality of fruit; better grading and packing; extension of market; increased consumption, by making known wholesome and medicinal virtue of the cranberry, and publication of information of interest and value to all concerned in the industry.

The annual and only fee, fifty cents, [which may be sent in postage stamps] entitles every member to all our reports, bulletins, crop estimates, and a membership it is believed will be of service to those concerned in the industry.

August, 1901, report now ready for distribution and will be sent on receipt of dues by addressing,

W. H. FITCH,

Secretary W. S. C. G. A.

Cranmoor, Wood Co., Wisconsin.



PROCEEDINGS

Of the Annual Convention Held at the Gaynor-Blackstone Marsh, Tuesday, Aug. 13th, 1901.

The hospitable attention of Messrs. Gaynor Bros., the thoughtful care and artistic taste of the ladies, the large attendance and fine weather, contributed to make a red letter day for the fifteenth annual convention of the Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers' Association.

The morning was spent in inspecting the grounds of the experimental station and the following report shows the lines laid down for the testing and propagating of the best varieties.

EXPERIMENT STATION REPORT.

I may not be able to give the time and attention to the Experiment Station in the future that I have in the past, and yet I will feel much disappointed if the station work is ever neglected; for so long as cranberries are grown a systematic effort should be maintained to improve the quality of the fruit. So I will now take the space offered me in this Report to lay down a plan for the future management of the work, in the hope that it will be faithfully carried out by the Association.

The Experiment Station should contain about one-half of an acre, divided into sections ten feet square. These sections should be separated by shallow sanded ditches or paths about 20 inches wide. Only one vine should be planted on a section, and while most vines for this purpose

should be selected on account of the general superiority of the fruit from a commercial standpoint; there should always be at the station two or three vines that would represent in a high degree each of the following desirable characteristics:—size, color, form, early ripening, keeping quality, productiveness, uniformity of the fruit in the above characteristics, and lastly and of the highest importance to the consumer, the flavor or palatableness of the fruit. That is, there should always be at the Station two or three vines to represent each of the above qualities in a remarkably high degree; and these two or three vines should be selected on account of that one quality without regard to any other qualities or defects they might possess. These special vines will be very useful later for the purpose of producing new varieties by cross fertilization.

A record book should be kept showing a plat of the Station with the number of each section, the vine number being the same as that of the section on which it is grown. A full history of each vine should be entered upon the proper section number showing where the vine was found, the name of the giver with his postoffice address, the merits claimed by him for it, when planted; and when it begins to bear there should be noted annually about Sept. 10. the size, color, form, time of ripening, productiveness, uniformity and flavor; and about that time a sample of the fruit should be gathered and exhibited to the growers at the January meeting and the keeping quality noted. And such samples as are superior should be marked on the record book "Propogate."

The seed of all marked "Propogate" should be planted on separate sections at the Experiment Station and the cuttings from that section should be planted at the Nursery and propogated there until four square rods of ground is fully covered by

that variety. Then cuttings from the Nursery should be distributed to Wisconsin growers upon such terms and under such rules and regulations as the Association may prescribe. I have uniformly promised to the giver of a vine one half of the first cuttings taken from the Experiment Station, but I believe all other cuttings distributed to growers should be taken from the Nursery only.

About the 20th of Aug. a letter should be sent to each leading grower in the United States asking him to send to the station a vine that bears the finest fruit to be found on his bogs, and if he has what he claims to be a distinct superior variety he should send to the station a half pint of these berries to be exhibited at the January meeting as his finest fruit. The vine he sends should be propagated for him at the Experiment Station on the usual terms, and the fruit should be kept until spring to test its keeping quality and the seed from this fruit should be planted at the Nursery about May 20. It will come into bearing in about five years and if it should yield a superior variety one vine of that variety should be planted at the Experiment Station to be treated like other vines there. It will pay any cranberry grower to maintain his own nursery on the lines I have indicated. The progress of the age demands it.

This method of selection will insure a steady improvement in the quality of the fruit. Cross fertilization might give more rapid and wonderful results, but we have not at our command the time and talent that such work requires.

JOHN A. GAYNOR.

At noon a sumptuous repast was admirably served after which the meeting was called to order by President Briere.

As minutes of previous meeting had appeared in published report their reading was dispensed with and the secretary next presented his report

as follows:

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Of Daniel Webster, it is reputed, when asked by a young student as to the hardest thing in the practice of the law, replied—"to get at the facts." Of Doctor Agnew, it is related, when asked as to outcome of Garfield's Case, responded, "I know too little to be infallible and that little too imperfectly to be dogmatic." Of Captain Sigsbee, it is reported, when asked who he thought blew up the Maine, remarked, "it is better to know than to think."

From which distinguished authorities, it would seem that ignorance is the stumbling block and knowledge the stepping stone encountered in the way of human progress.

In accord therefore with the purpose and practice of the association I submit the correspondence received since our last meeting.

In answer to inquiry as to the prospect of crop as compared with yield of last year, it appears conditions vary considerably, in different sections. Some reporting a large amount of winter killing, others a favorable season, with good supply of water, and comparatively little loss from frost. But in one thing there seems to be an agreement, namely, the damage by blight, and this fact has been brought out specially by a circular letter of Judge Gaynor asking for careful observation and investigation of the matter.

Among other objects of our organization is that of improved quality of fruit and I have a letter from Wm. B. Clafin, Hopkinton, Mass., in which he says: "I have the largest cranberry yet found, and the most productive. Will send you plants for trial next spring if you will plant them amongst your collection to test their merits."

As this is what many growers are looking for

the acceptance of offer would seem to be advisable.

As to better grading and packing, I believe, as a rule, the Wisconsin berry was satisfactory last year to distributors and it is hoped a high standard will be set and maintained and the reputation of our fruit largely extended and emphasized.

Inviting suggestions as to how the association can be made of the greatest service and welcoming the freest and frankest discussion of matters at issue I am persuaded if everyone will contribute information according to his ability, each will in turn, receive that which will conduce largely to his benefit.

W. H. FITCH, Sec'y.

Mr. Ernest Peycke, of Peycke Bros., Kansas City, Mo., who handled a large quantity of Wisconsin berries last season gave an account of his experience with the stock and said that it had been of a most satisfactory character. He reported Wisconsin berries were gradually gaining favor in the market on account of their superior quality; the late improved methods in packing; and the adoption of the Cape Cod barrel. It was his opinion that, at most, the growers should make but three grades; the smallest grade to be known as "pie berries," medium grade to be known as "standard" and the largest as "Fancy."

Mr. H. E. Vaughan of Middleboro, Mass., in response to an invitation next addressed the growers and called attention to the fact, that their Eastern marshes are much freer from weeds than ours; that they spend considerable time and money in removing the weeds from the young planted bogs and in cutting out the runners after the bog is fully covered with vines. He said further that all their marshes East are sanded before planting.

He approved of the use of the scoop; that he had not found the vines injured thereby nor more berries left on the marsh than by hand pickers.

The vines were prepared for the scoops by cutting out the runners.

Picking commenced about September 1st, later varieties on September 15th.

After getting reports from those present and making estimates on districts not heard from a crop of about 50,000 barrel was indicated for Wisconsin and that the Eastern crop would be larger than last year but not as large as that of 1899.

A resolution was offered by Judge J. A. Gaynor and adopted, recommending to the Agricultural Department of the University the cultivation of the blueberry.

It seemed to be the consensus of opinion that the price paid for picking would be forty cents a box and five cents extra as a bonus to pickers who remained to the end of the picking season, and that if the weather permitted picking would begin on Monday, the second day of September.

The subject of blight was taken up and discussed at some length. An average of the estimates showed that at least seventy-five per cent of the blossoms failed to mature fruit. Various causes were assigned for this excessive amount of blight, but there seemed to be very little agreement of opinion among the growers and no conclusion was reached, the predominating view being that the intense heat was the chief contributing factor.

An interesting and timely letter on the matter of marketing was received from G. H. Bacon, Mather, Wis., and ordered printed as follows:

MATHER, WIS., Aug. 12, 1901.

Mr. W. H. Fitch, Secretary, Cranmoor.—Dear Sir: I had made arrangements to attend the

meeting of the association at your place held tomorrow, but at the last moment find that I am unable to do so, for which I am very sorry.

Mr. Peycke of Kansas City wrote me he would be there and I regret very much not being able to meet him as well as all the cranberry growers. What I wanted to impress upon his mind, as well as other dealers in cranberries who might attend the meeting, was this, that the dealers have made great complaint because Wisconsin growers went to the small dealers and the retail trade to dispose of their crop. Now, the reason for this is well known to the growers of this section and that is, that the large dealers ignored us and went east and bought and filled the market at our doors, early, not appearing or offering to buy our berries until it commenced to freeze up for the winter and then taking the berries in at a very low figure, and by these methods on their part the growers have been compelled for self protection, more and more to look up the retail trade much as they desired to avoid that way of disposing of their crop.

I, for one, will be glad to see a change of front by the larger dealers, giving us a show. Otherwise I, for one, will advocate the building of warehouses and other arrangements for handling and disposing of our fruit by the united action of the growers of Northern Wisconsin possibly through the association.

Respectfully yours,
G. H. BACON.

Other communications were read and referred to Committee on Printing with instructions to incorporate in January report.

Meeting then adjourned.

W. H. FITCH, Secretary.



CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

*Of the Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers' Association
as Amended at the Seventh Annual
Meeting, January 9 and 10, 1894.*

ARTICLE 1. This association shall be known as the Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers' Association.

ARTICLE 2. The object of the association shall be to advance the interest of all engaged in the cultivation of cranberries in this state by obtaining statistics and information of the condition of the crop in this and other states, from time to time; by establishing and taking measures to insure the use of uniform packages for marketing the fruit, so as to secure the confidence of dealers and purchasers by this evidence of fair and honorable dealing; to enlarge the area of the market for this fruit through definite and direct action; and generally, by all legitimate and honorable means to advance the interests of the cranberry cultivator.

ARTICLE 3. The officers of the association shall be a president and vice president; a secretary; a treasurer, who shall give a bond to the amount of \$500.00, with sureties to be approved by the president; a statistician and a corresponding secretary for each of the several cranberry growing sections represented in this convention, and an

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

executive committee, composed of the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and one other, chosen annually by the members. The duties of the president, vice president and secretary shall be such as are usually implied in like offices in similar associations. The duties of the corresponding secretary shall be to gather the statistics of cranberry culture in his particular section, including the name and postoffice address of owner, amount of ground improved and in bearing condition, and the age of such improvements, and to report the probable crop in sight, on or before each annual convention in August, and to report at the annual meeting in January the actual amount of shipments, prices obtained, as far as possible, and to make a weekly report to the secretary, after the August meeting, until September 30.

ARTICLE 4. The duties of the statistician shall be to correspond with, and to receive and collect the information derived from the corresponding secretaries and other sources in and out of the state, for the use of the association, and to report the same at the August and January meetings of each year.

ARTICLE 5. There shall be an annual meeting on the second Tuesday of January of each year, for the election of officers and the transaction of general business.

ARTICLE 6. There shall be held on the first Tuesday after the 12th of August, annually, a convention to receive reports from the statistician, and to adopt a scale of prices for gathering the crop, so far as may seem practicable.

ARTICLE 7. The annual meetings, conventions and special meetings shall be held at such place as may be decided upon by the executive committee.

ARTICLE 8. Any person signing the constitu-

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

tion and paying 50 cents, may be admitted as a member, and the annual dues shall be 50 cents.

ARTICLE 9. This constitution may be amended at any annual meeting or convention, by a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

BY-LAWS.

1. The president shall preside at all meetings and in his absence, the vice president.

2. It shall be the duty of each member to furnish to the statistician or corresponding secretaries, annually, information as to his own and neighboring plantations; the prospective crops, the actual amount when crop is secured, and such other information as may be of interest.

3 Any company of growers may be represented by one or more of its officers.

Order of Business.

1. Reading of minutes.
2. President's address.
3. Report of statistician.
4. Report of standing committees.
5. Report of special committees.
6. Report of treasurer.
7. Election of officers.
8. The best methods of planting and the care of vines after planting.
9. Water supply and the use of water.
10. Construction of ditches, dams and bulk-heads.
11. Implements used by growers.
12. Gathering, cleaning and marketing.
13. Insects injurious to cranberry growing.
14. Plants that interfere with the spread of vines.
15. Frosts.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

16. Fires.
17. Report of the keepers of experimental stations.
18. Production of varieties and the merits of each.
19. Conditions favorable to the formation of fruit buds.
20. Miscellaneous business.





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To Cranberry Growers:

A LIBERAL OFFER!

There can be found on any marsh a vine superior to others for the quantity or superior quality of the berries it bears. If you will send such vine to me I will plant it at the Experimental Station and cultivate it and test its merits, without charge to you, and will give you, at the close of the fifth season, a statement of its merits and one-half of the increase, properly packed and shipped to your order, the balance to remain the property of the W. C. G. A.

If you will accept this offer select the vine with the fruit on it; wrap it in a wet rag or green moss and enclose it in oil paper and mail to me.

JOHN A. GAYNOR,
Grand Rapids, Wisconsin.

**Wood County
National Bank,**

Capital Stock, \$50,000.

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