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Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers Association
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J. E. Bennett & Son

WISCONSIN STATE
CRANBERRY GROWERS'
ASSOCIATION.



Thirteenth Annual Convention,
1899,

At Gaynor Bros.' Marsh, Tuesday, Aug. 15.

(Extra copies of this report can be had by addressing
the Secretary's office, Cranmoor, Wood County,
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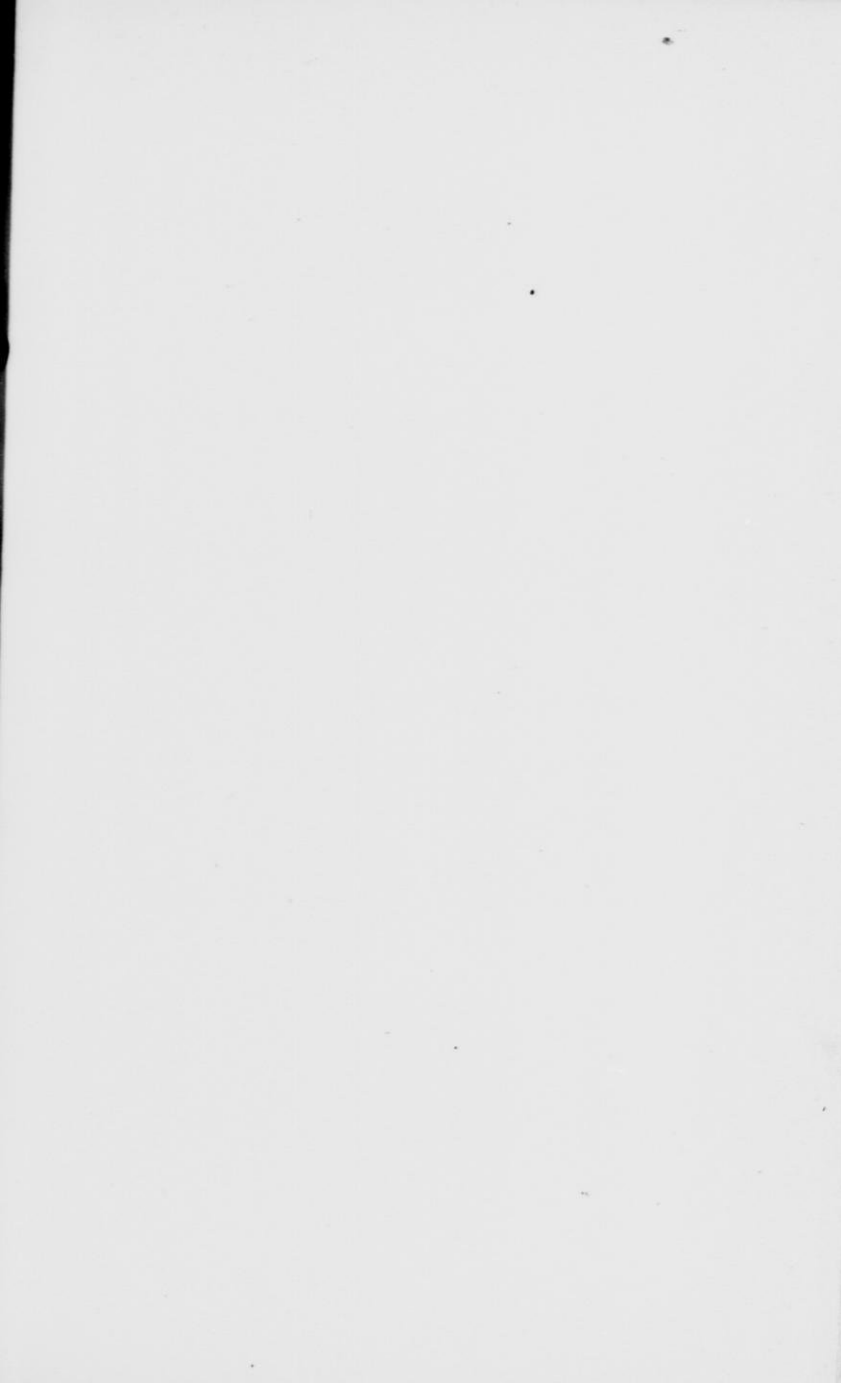
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PROCEEDINGS

Of the Annual Convention Held at Gaynor's Marsh
in August,

GAYNOR BROTHERS' MARSH, Aug. 15, 1899.

A beautiful day, clear and cool, contributed to make the 13th annual convention of the Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers' association a gratifying success.

There was a large attendance, and many letters of regret attested the general interest in the sayings and doings of the organization.

The morning was entirely taken up in inspecting the work done on the two experimental stations in the way of testing and propagating the different varieties of vines.

Regarding the distribution of samples of best varieties it was directed that rules and regulations be fixed and published in January report.

At noon a sumptuous repast both as to quantity and quality was heartily enjoyed.

Floral decorations were not the least attractive features of the occasion, and words of wit and wisdom made it truly a joyous feast of sense and soul.

In the afternoon the business meeting was called to order by President Briere, who read the following address:

Ladies and Gentlemen: It is customary for the president to make an address at each meeting, but I will not take much time on this line, as we have so much other work to do.

I am glad to be able to say that the association is in a prosperous condition, by the effort of our secretary, Mr.

Fitch. Membership was increased by sixty-six, from about twenty-nine in 1898 to over ninety-five this year, and it seems that cranberry men and others interested in the business are having more confidence than ever in the future prospect of cranberry culture.

We had this year $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches of rain fall in the month of May and $11\frac{1}{4}$ in the month of June, and we had only a few days of dry air and wind balance of time, besides the rain was very moist so there is much water left on our bogs at this time.

The experimental station under the present management has proved to be a great success. Mr. John Gaynor exhibited before the agricultural society down at Madison last winter nearly 100 varieties of cranberries, grown on Station No. 1; No. 2 is a nursery for the propagation of vines. I would recommend that we make an effort this fall to have each one of the growers take time and find on his meadow one or more varieties of berries; some for their size, others for their color, shape, and so forth, mail the same to John A. Gaynor, Grand Rapids. He will see that they are properly planted on the experimental station and will be a benefit to the industry in future time.

Mr. Gaynor has interested the experiment station at Madison in planting a few square rods of cranberry vines which will be studied for insects and their diseases. It will be under Prof. Goff's management.

John Gaynor and Andrew Searls succeeded in getting the bill through the legislature, which became a law, in regard to size of barrel and bushel boxes. It was passed as you recommended a year ago with a small amendment. The Wisconsin standard barrel is now 16 inch head, 18 inch bilge and $25\frac{1}{2}$ inches high inside measure, chime $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch. I think nearly every grower used this barrel last fall and it seems to have been satisfactory all through.

I received a letter from the U. S. Commission to the Paris exposition, 1900. We are asked to participate in this exhibit of fruit. They also exhibit photograph views and illustrations. All exhibits will be transported from Washington and installed by the government free of charge. There should be a committee appointed to take charge of this matter.

I will say a few words in regard to the Cranberry Growers' association for the sale of our berries; the selling association, as it is now, has not proved to be satisfactory. I recommend that it be reorganized and try a different method, so it will prove to be more successful. We have to be patient when we start a new enterprise. If we make a success it will be a great benefit to the growers, also to those outside of this association. It will be a good deal like a big trust controlling the price of an article, some one outside of the trust has benefit also.

After the delivery of foregoing the secretary intro-

duced his report, which, as revised by the Committee on Printing, is as follows:

Mr. President, Members of the Association, Ladies and Gentlemen present: Without any disposition or desire to shirk the duties or demands of the office, yet, as the time of the convention is valuable and this report is somewhat voluminous—being to a large extent statistical and in some part disquisitive—I would suggest that its reading be dispensed with, and, instead, be referred to a committee on printing, and if anything in it be found worthy of publication, it can then be incorporated in the report of this meeting and made available for the members at their liking and leisure, while if not, then a tax on your time and temper will have been spared. I wish, however, to take this occasion, my first opportunity, to return thanks for the honor conferred upon me. Coming as it did entirely unexpected and unsolicited, it would be affectation on my part to say that I was not highly pleased, especially in view of the distinguished officers who have preceded me; Mr. Treat, for whose memory all cranberry men hold an admiring respect and affectionate regard, and who did so much for the association in its pioneer stage; and Mr. Arpin who later served so acceptably through the seasons of depression and despondency.

The past season has been almost an ideal one. High water in the spring submerged some of the low marshes, but the trouble was owing more to nescience or neglect, than a matter of necessity, since a scientific construction of ditches and dams would have averted the bad effects. To a cranberry grower a plethora of water, as a servant, is a boon and blessing, but it becomes a bane or burden as master.

To the professional or business man or to a victim of that prevalent American disorder, nervous prostration, there are but few employments where there can be a more honorable, healthy or happier combination of money, mind and muscle than the cranberry business, and when to these material factors are added, inspiration, industry and integrity, it becomes doubly attractive and alluring and a marked extension of the avocation is confidently expected in the near future. The objections of risk and rigors are met by the point of view that to the feeble and faltering should be left the so-called "soft snap," the strong and sturdy considering it a prerogative and permit to obviate obstructions and overcome obstacles.

While primarily and principally the object of our organization is to advance the interest of the cultivator, yet our association being a quasi-public affair it strikes and seems to me that it should be based and built on broad grounds, and that the interest of all concerned should be kept in mind. Certainly an *increased quantity* of an *improved quality* of berry means benefit alike to consumer as well as

the cultivator, the purveyor as well as the planter, the gatherer as well as grower.

As the common carrier is affected by the bulk of the berries to be borne from place to place, so the common chronicler, ye editor, in directing the dissemination of ideas and items of interest, instruction and importance, anent what may be considered a special American product, serves alike the publisher and public. Therefore, upon assuming the duties of office, efforts were immediately made to secure the names of all interested and your servant has been much gratified by the openness and frankness with which inquiries have been met. There being little of that spirit of reticence or secretiveness which beginning in attempts to mislead or mystify others, ends, only too often, in self deception and defeat.

From the mass of the correspondence has been selected items worthy of special attention and is referred to as appearing in another part of this report and fancies as well as figures and facts will be found therein.

Now theories, when carried to their legitimate latitude and confined within their lawful limit, have a beneficent mission, but, like fate without works, are dead if not evolved and evidenced into a thing of virtue or value.

And so, in conclusion, in reference to the thing which brings us together; namely, the cranberry. Although it is found in different parts of the world, in America it seems to have found its most congenial soil and home, and not only in America, but in certain parts of it, and inasmuch as it has come to us here in Wisconsin appealing and asking us for our friendliness and favor, should and shall we not all of us feel it a privilege, and find it a pleasure to give it a good show and send off.

I have the honor of presenting and placing my report for your esteemed commands.

W. H. FITCH, Secretary.

The following extracts are from a few of the many letters received from all known cranberry districts:

No. 76.

Alexander Birss, Prairie, Skagit Co., Wash., June 10th, 1899.—“Prospects for a crop this year are not good. We have had no spring. Vines used to be blossomed by this time; this year they are just beginning to blossom. It has been very cold and wet and everything is backward in growing; of course much depends on what kind of summer we get.”

No. 86.

H. H. Heald, Sandwich, Mass., June 20th, 1899.—“There are a good many bogs in Cape Cod that were damaged very largely by salt water during the heavy gale last winter and some bogs have been entirely destroyed for this season. But on the whole we think the present prospects are for a fair crop, but of course it is too early yet to tell what the crop will be this season.”

No. 93.

R. M. Girwin, Philadelphia, Pa., June 21st, 1899.—“Prices the last two years make cranberry growing a losing business. Let some of your brains be expended in inventing a cranberry picker.”

No. 99.

French & Co., N. Y., June 27th, 1899.—“Yours of the 22nd inst. received; also report of last meeting of W. S. C. G. A. which we find interesting. We note in this report that it was proposed to legalize crates of the size of the New Jersey standard and barrels of the Cape Cod standard. Will you please advise whether such a law was passed? We also note that 32 pounds was suggested as weight for a bushel. We see no objection to using N. J. crate as a standard, although we do not think that it holds a full bushel as usually packed, and doubt if this size, unless exceptionally tight packed, will contain 32 pounds net of the fruit.

“The Cape Cod standard of barrel seems to us all right, and we will be glad to see it come into general use in Wisconsin as well as in N. J. In the latter state however, their legal barrel measures only 15½ inches inside at the heads and contains just three of their standard crates. This barrel looks pretty small and is becoming unpopular. They are still used by Jersey growers. We have heard nothing specially regarding outlook of the eastern crop, except Jersey bogs that we are interested in. From these we continue to get good reports.

“Any information you can give us as to the extent of this industry in your state and the conditions of the marshes that were burned some years ago will be appreciated. When we have anything regarding the outlook in Wisconsin, we will be glad to advise you if desired.”

No. 143.

B. A. Landers, Ilwaco, Wash., July 16th, 1899.—“The rainy weather bothers us a good deal in the fall about picking, and we are bothered with the little fire worm. We will have only half a crop this year on account of them. This year I can flood, and am spraying with oil emulsion. There are very few in the cranberry business on this coast yet, but there are a number starting in on a small scale like myself. I think this coast is all right for growing berries, but it is a bad climate to handle them in.”

No. 178.

A. E. Mason, Medfield, Mass., July 28th, 1899.—“Own about ten acres of wild bog meadow on Charles river. No berries this year on account of river growing up to weeds and is too wet.”

No. 181a.

S. Small, South Harwich, Mass., July 27th, 1899.—“In my judgment there may be an average crop. Later on, when the insect pest is past, we can make a more accurate estimate.”

No. 210.

Ira Young, Mather, Wis., July 28th, 1899.—“The cranberries are practically gone here. The fires have destroyed everything. I have one small patch; I got 20 quarts last year, will get twice as many this year.”

No. 219.

James Flitcroft, Farmingdale, N. J., July 22nd, 1899.—“The most of the bogs look about as last year, but at this time the hot sun like today may blast a good many.”

No. 222.

Mr. Phelps, Berlin, Wis., July 24th, 1899.—“A fair prospect this year at the present time. My berries are Bell and Bugle, and very solid good keepers and always sought after.”

No. 230.

“The Blair marsh at Michigan City, Indiana, is running out, as the rest of the ditches have been cut all around it by outsiders and drained the water away from the marsh. 300 to 400 bushels this year. The rest of the marsh going to weeds.”

No. 233.

E. A. Cahoon, Pleasant Lake, Mass., July 24th, 1899.—“The crop for season of '99 promises 25 per cent. below last season, perhaps less.”

No. 251.

O. Ketchum, Millston, Wis., August 2nd, 1899.—“My berries are looking very fine now, very few worms; few blighted. I think they are larger than I have ever seen them this time of year and very even. I have a sand marsh.”

No. 253.

C. A. Davenport, Berlin, Wis., Aug. 2nd, 1899.—“I have 40 acres, but have the most of our berries on 15 acres. This is dammed by matched lumber driven seven to eight feet with pile driver; can flood this generally about as I wish. There is a good prospect for berries in this locality at the present time. Worms have done some damage in certain places.”

No. 254.

B. S. Hoxie, Evansville, Wis., Aug. 2nd, 1899.—“As a matter of fact there are no cranberries grown in this part of the state, but another fact; I am very much interested in your work and the worth of your society to the state of Wisconsin. I am watching the progress of your experience.”

No. 257.

Russell Case, Norway Ridge, Wis., Aug. 3rd, 1899.—“Crop light, though quite even, too much water. I think 500 barrels will be a good estimate if we get no frosts. I think a part of my crop is backward.”

No. 258.

C. R. Treat, Meadow Valley, Wis., Aug. 2nd, 1899.—
“There will be no berries to speak of at this station.”

No. 259.

W. H. Walker, Jr., Glenn Arbor, Mich., Aug. 1st. 1899.
—“We have about 12 acres in vines; marsh running out on
account of brakes and other causes. Our largest crop in
any one year was over 200 barrels.”

No. 268.

Selser Bros. & Co., Philadelphia, Pa., Aug. 3rd, 1899.—
“Large portion replanted this spring; does not give large
expectations.”

No. 272.

L. Lamberson, Warrens, Minn., Aug. 3rd, 1899.—“No
berries cultivated here this year, good crop of wild berries
in northern Minnesota.”

No. 273.

D. R. Burr, Berlin, Wis., Aug. 4th, 1899.—“The talk
of the growers was, a larger crop than last year. Now
there is some complaint of worms and blast. I do not
think it safe to count on more than last season, and that
is subject to unfavorable conditions.”

No. 274.

E. Baker, Green Bay, Wis., Aug. 3rd, 1899.—“Crop
coming along very unevenly, some bloom yet and almost
full grown berries. Hope to commence picking Sept. 4th,
1899.

No. 275.

Arthur Scott, Warrens Wis., Aug. 4th, 1899.—“This is
the second year to bear cranberries. I think there will be
an indifferent crop this year; the heavy rains of spring
flooded them too late, some in bloom now.”

No. 284.

W. V. Morrison, Bourne, Mass., Aug. 5th, 1899.—“The
cranberry crop in this locality I think fully as good as last
year. Picking will begin about one month from this date.
The annual meeting of the Cape Cod Cranberry Growers'
association will be held Aug. 9th. We shall then have
reports from the growers and can better judge of the size
of the crop.”

No. 285.

Fisher Bros., Mansfield, Mass., Aug. 5th, 1899.—“The
cranberries are very uneven this year on cultivated bogs;
wild bogs are doing better this year.”

No. 292.

Isaac A. Braddock, Haddonfield, N. J., Aug. 4th, 1899.
—“The crop for 1899 is looking fairly well, but the des-
truction by grasshoppers bids fair to be enormous and they
are destroying some now promising marshes.”

No. 293.

Joshua Forsythe, Pemberton, N. J., Aug. 4th, 1899.—
 “The crop here in Pemberton county, N. J., which is the largest producing county in the state, will be about 175,000 bushels this year according to present prospects. The crop in this county was about 250,000 bushels, the largest ever grown here. I cannot give the number of acres of cranberries in this county. The crop will be fully one-third less than last year and may be one-half less.”

No. 296.

John T. Irving, Secretary Atlantic Co., Elwood, N. J.—
 —“Our statement is of very little service in making up statistics from the fact that we had a serious fire three years ago and our bogs are just coming in again. Grasshoppers and scald are beginning operations and promise serious results all through south Jersey.”

No. 297.

M. M. Chew, Cecil, N. J., Aug. 5th, 1899.—“The prospect now is that the crop of this year will be as last year.”

No. 309.

H. H. Heald, Sandwich, Mass., Aug. 4th, 1899.—“Our bogs now look well, but it is too early yet to take much account of it. Insects may do most damage after this.”

No. 310.

N. B. Burgess, Yarmouth Farms, Mass., Aug. 3rd, 1899.—“It is rather early here to know all the mischief likely to be done. The outlook is about the same as last year. The vine worm has destroyed nearly half the bloom and the fruit worm will do more or less mischief.”

No. 311.

H. O. Kruschke, Auroraville, Wis., Aug. 4th, 1899.—
 “The crop in this vicinity will not vary much from last year; while some may get more, others will get less, and it is hard to get an estimate.”

No. 315.

J. A. Atkins, Pleasant Lake, Mass., Aug. 5th, 1899.—
 “As far as I can learn there apparently is an increase of about 25 per cent over last year's crop.”

No. 316.

Wm. Quicksill, Hornerstown, N. J., Aug. 5, 1899.—
 “The present outlook is not over one-half of last year's crop in this section.”

No. 338.

G. J. Borgesius, Musselkamaal, Holland, July 1st, 1899.—
 —“In reply to yours of the 17th of June, I have the pleasure to write you the following. In Holland are only two cranberry meadows of about 20 acres net, including canal, ditches and dike, about 23 acres. A good deal of my plants are Early Blacks and Cape Cod Bell, but I have tested also other varieties.

“We cannot sell a single berry in this country, because

all small fruits here are excellent and cheap, and people therefore will not buy an unknown fruit, therefore we export our crops. I beg you to send me *all* the reports which your association has edited."

No. 341.

Geo. B. Upton, Milton, Mass., Aug. 3rd, 1899.—"I regret that Wisconsin is too distant for me even to think of attending your August convention, but I am much obliged to you for your invitation. Were I thirty or forty years younger, I would go the length of the continent to add to my information of how to make *two* cranberries grow where *none* grew before.

"My agent in New Jersey informs me that we have every prospect on our bogs of having a larger crop of the berries than last year; he is, however, prone to be rather optimistic. I may, however, gather from four to six thousand bushels. I note your good prospects in Wisconsin for a larger crop than last year, and I trust that the crop of turkeys will show a corresponding increase."

No. 346.

B. F. Aumack, Toms River, N. J., Aug. 5, 1899.—"Prospects thus far predict short crops."

No. 354.

Waterville, County of Kings, Nova Scotia, Aug. 7th, 1899.—"The cranberry crop here promises to be very good. The fireworm has made its appearance in Aylsford about ten miles from here, and is making much trouble for the growers. They are spraying with Paris Green, with what success I have not yet learned."

No. 356.

H. A. Lowry, Day, Minn., Aug. 8th, 1899.—"Berries large, sound and healthy. Commence picking 21st inst."

No. 357.

I. W. Budd, Pemberton, N. J., Aug. 7th, 1899.—"It is very wet here now and some of the bogs are flooded, and some little damage is done."

No. 360.

James Flitcroft, Farmingdale, N. J., Aug. 7th, 1899.—"On the 22nd of July the thermometer ran up over 100° and blasted full half of my bog."

No. 361.

W. Maxwell, Rockville, Conn., Aug. 5th, 1899.—"Worms causing some trouble; cannot tell this early."

No. 365.

E. A. Cahoon, Pleasant Lake, Mass., Aug. 7th, 1899.—"At present more favorable than last report (July). Fruit worms eating badly in sections; scald and rot yet to contend with. Estimate crop for '99, 25 per cent less than '98."

No. 369.

H. S. Bergen, Englishtown, N. J., Aug. 8th, 1899.—

"Thus far worms are very bad; would like to know some way of poisoning them as I have tried almost everything."

No. 370.

Chas. A. Haines, Medford, N. J., Aug. 6th, 1899.—"As far as can hear, the crop for this year will be one-third less than last year. Keeps hot suns more than that, as upland bogs scald badly this kind of year. We think to get some money for berries this year."

No. 372.

John Clark, Whitefish Point, Mich., Aug. 8th, 1899.—"Our crop is going to be light, partially owing to the fact that on a portion of our meadows the water drained off during the winter, and on other portions properly flooded the bloom has failed to fertilize or inoculate for some unaccountable reason, which makes the best of them very irregular."

No. 373.

L. H. Read, Rockville, Conn., Aug. 7th, 1899.—"The reason I reported nothing last year and this year, is the fact that my crop has been ruined the past four years by fireworms."

No. 375.

J. D. Holman, Whitesville, N. J., Aug. 8th, 1899.—"All through this county the crop will be 25 per cent short of last year."

No. 377.

Jonathan Godfrey, Bridgeport, Conn., Aug. 1st, 1899.—"Crop in this section looks well."

No. 380.

H. G. O. Ellis, Sandwich, Mass., August 2nd, 1899.—"It seems to be the opinion of growers in Barnstable and Plymouth counties that the crop of '99 will be a little smaller than in '98. Should the berry worm work badly, the crop will be still further reduced but it is a little early to judge their damage."

No. 391.

Martin Haines, Vincentown, N. J., Aug. 7th, 1899.—"From what I can learn the crop in this state will be one-third less than last year."

No. 392.

Geo. H. Holman, Tomas River, N. J., Aug. 4th, 1899.—"So far as I am able to learn the crop in Green county, being this county, counting last year's crop at 100, this year's about 70 per cent of last year's."

No. 396.

S. H. Comings, St. Joe, Mich.—"Bloom very late this year."

No. 397.

J. A. Gaynor, Grand Rapids, Wis., Aug. 6th, 1899.—"I think the percentage of blighted blossoms is larger this

year than usual. I think we have lost 20 per cent of our blossoms that failed to fruit."

No. 398.

G. A. Goodyear, Tomah, Wis., Aug. 2nd, 1899.—"Prospects are said to be good for this year."

No. 404.

B. Field, Brockton, Mass., Aug. 8th, 1899.—"I am now staying a few days in So. Orleans, Mass. I find the bogs that I have visited looking rather better than last year at this time. Prospects seem good for a fair crop."

No. 406.

A. J. Rider, Trenton, N. J., Aug 9th, 1899.—"The crop of N. J. will not exceed two-thirds of last year."

No. 414.

E. L. Brown, Calverton, R. I., Aug. 11th, 1899.—"You are too far away to visit your gathering. I have been in the business nearly a quarter of a century, and have hardly gained any information I would dare to impart as a certainty, and would hardly accept any conclusion of an individual as a sure thing. Places differ—even spots in a single marsh. Varieties differ in a different soil. Do well in one section and not so well in another. Nothing but a trial will prove—and this takes time.

"Hot summer days scald berries here sometimes, which in my mind starts the so called rot. Some varieties will scald where others will not. Some spots will be scalded in any variety while those around them escape—why, I can't say, but sometimes have thought cold underneath was an element helping to produce it, yet have seen scald where it could not be attributed to this. It is inscrutable."

No. 417.

Alonzo Norton, Batsto, N. J., August 12, '99—"I am in receipt of your valued favor of the 9th inst. I greatly appreciate your invitation to attend your annual convention. Rush of business, however, will prevent. Our berries are gathered largely from wild or uncultivated ground; the price for picking, which varies according to conditions, 40c per bushel being the prevailing price for uncultivated fruit. Our crop last year was 2,500 barrels marketed berries.

Crop for this year 20 per cent less, or 2,000 barrels is the estimate from present conditions. Reports reached me of a large falling off from last year. Very large yield of from 25 to 50 per cent for this (Burlington) county."

No. 418.

Leach & Brother, Vineland, N. J., Aug. 11th, 1899.—"From the best reports we can get at present we think there will be a falling off of at least 20 per cent. Our annual convention is usually held about the 25th of August. After the meeting we can report, if you wish, what the estimate of this year's crop is in New Jersey."

No. 419.

Thos. N. Emley, N. J., Aug. 9th, 1899.—“In this immediate section of Burlington county the crop is considered to be nearly as large as last year. In other sections it is much under last year's yield.”

No. 420.

S. S. Aumack, Toms River, N. J., August 10th, 1899.—“The crop of berries in this vicinity is very light; there are a good many bogs, but they are small. The most of them are from eight acres to twenty acres each. Last year we had what we would call a good crop. To average them, it would be about twenty-five bushels per acre. I don't think there will be over one-third this crop this year. Grasshoppers are eating them some.”

SUMMARY CRANBERRY CROP.

[Explanatory—Figures in thousands of barrels—3 bushels to barrel.]

District.	Fore-cast, 1899.	Yield.						U. S.	
		1898	Greatest		Smallest		Avg. 80-95 16 yrs	1893	1884.
			Year.	Bbl	Year	Bbl			
New England	170	140	1893	192	1884	45	97	192	43
New Jersey	70	100	1893	108	1882	26	62	108	42
The West	40	30	1885	88	1895	3	32	33	8
Total	280	270					191	333	93

Figures taken from reports of Secretaries Arpin and Rider, and individual returns.

Regarding the price to be paid for picking it was recommended that forty cents, (40c) be paid where berries are abundant and surroundings favorable with an extra bonus for those who remain to end of season.

The committee on legislation reported that after a great deal of correspondence and conference the following law was secured as to a legal barrel and crate:

CHAPTER 334.

An act to amend section 1668, statutes of Wisconsin of 1898 in relation to the measure and weight of cranberries.

The people of the state of Wisconsin represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Section 1668 of the statutes of Wisconsin, is hereby amended by striking out all of said section after the word “measure” in the eighth line of said section, and inserting in lieu thereof the following: “The cranberry barrel shall be twenty-five and one-half inches high, sixteen inches in diameter at the heads and eighteen inches in diameter at the bilge, inside measure; and the dimensions of cranberry crates shall be twenty-two inches long, twelve inches wide, by seven and one-half inches high inside measure. Every maker of cranberry barrels shall stamp or brand on each of such barrels, his name with

these letters over it: "W. S." Any person selling cranberries in barrels of less capacity than is herein provided for, shall be liable to the purchaser in damages to three times the amount of the shortage therein; and any person who shall stamp or brand a cranberry barrel of less capacity than is herein prescribed with the words aforesaid, shall forfeit to the complainant, not less than five, nor more than twenty-five dollars for each offense. A contract for berries by the barrel or the crate, unless it is otherwise specially stipulated, shall be construed to mean barrels or crates of the dimensions herein prescribed, so that said section when amended shall read as follows: Section 1668. A barrel shall contain thirty-one and one-half gallons and the hogshead, two barrels. A dry gallon shall contain two hundred eighty-two cubic inches; the liquid gallon two hundred thirty-one cubic inches. A barrel of flour measured by weight shall contain one hundred ninety-six pounds; a barrel of potatoes, one hundred seventy-two pounds; a barrel of unslacked lime, two hundred pounds. A barrel of apples or pears shall represent a quantity equal to one hundred quarts of grain or dry measure. The cranberry barrel shall be twenty-five and one-half inches high, sixteen inches in diameter at the heads and eighteen inches in diameter at the bilge, inside measure; and the dimensions of the cranberry crate shall be twenty-two inches long, twelve inches wide, by seven and one-half inches high, inside measure. Every maker of cranberry barrels shall stamp or brand on each such barrel his name with these letters over it, "W. S." Any person selling cranberries in barrels of less capacity than is herein provided for shall be liable to the purchaser in damages to three times the amount of the shortage therein, and any person who shall stamp or brand a cranberry barrel of less capacity than is herein prescribed, with the letters aforesaid, shall forfeit to the complainant, not less than five, nor more than twenty-five dollars for each offense. A contract for berries by the barrel or the crate, unless it is otherwise specially stipulated, shall be construed to mean barrels or crates of the dimensions herein prescribed.

Section 2. This act shall take effect and be in force, from and after its passage and publication.

Approved May 3, 1899.

The preparation of matter for the Paris Exposition was left to executive committee, and it was recommended that every grower send a quart of his best variety to the January meeting, due notice of time and place of which will be given.

The following communication from Judge Gaynor of Grand Rapids, in regard to Blight, was ordered printed in August report:

BLIGHT.

This term is usually applied to all blossoms that fail to mature fruit and it is applied in all cases of failure from the time that the "hook" is visible in the axle of the scale or leaf up to the time when the berry is as large as a small pea. There is considerable loss from this source every year. This year the loss was not less than 20 per cent. in this locality and no reliable explanation seems to be offered by the growers for this failure. Until the cause is ascertained, no remedy can be offered, and as I have no reliable explanation to offer, I would only suggest a line of inquiry to be pursued by those who are in a position to observe.

It looks in some instances as if the hot sun parched and killed the young berry in its infancy. It has been alleged by some that if rain or dew is on a young berry and the sun shines on it before it has had time to dry off, it is subject to be blistered or blighted. In other instances it looks as if the stigma had not been fertilized, and on that account there was no development of the ovary or fruit. This might be caused by rain washing away the pollen at or about the time of fertilization. In other instances the miniature or embryo "hooks" do not progress far enough to open up into a blossom, but seem for some cause to be arrested in their growth. It has been alleged that this is caused by leaving the water over the vines after the buds have begun to open.

That at this time the water actually comes in contact with the miniature "hook" and blasts it. It has been alleged by some that the arrested growth of the hook, which is in theory a lateral bud or branch, is caused by stimulating the growth of the terminal bud with an excess of the moisture as the terminal bud, when stimulated, has a tendency to absorb all lateral buds to which class the "hook" belong.

It is possible that by holding the water high in the early spring when the new leaves and new rootlets are being formed through which most of the nourishment is secured for the plant; that afterwards when the water is drawn off down lower, these rootlets are too high to reach sufficient moisture to furnish the required nourishment, and the hook, blossom or young fruit dies for want of nourishment. It may be that if the soil in which the rootlets are distributed is cold, the cold lessens the activity of the root and renders it unable to furnish sufficient moisture. It will probably be found that lack of nourishment is the leading cause in most instances, and coldness and lack of moisture are large contributing factors.

I give these various suggestions to induce observation, in the hope that some one will diagnose the real cause.

J. A. GAYNOR.

The following motion was introduced by Mr. A. C. Bennett and duly carried:

That James Gaynor be requested to test the California

wet smudge process of preventing frost this fall on the experiment station, and to report in full the results at our annual meeting in January.

A communication from Mr. Bennett in regard to prevention of fire running on marshes is ordered to be printed and is herewith given:

NEW METHOD OF EXTINGUISHING PRAIRIE AND MARSH FIRES

About one hundred years ago, Sir Humphrey Davy, an Englishman, discovered that the flame from the fire would not pass through small spaces and he made a practical application of his discovery by the invention of the miners safety lamp. This consisted of a cylinder of fine gauge wire enclosing the flame of the lamp on all sides with gauge wire over the top. With this lamp the miners could walk in safety through the most dangerous explosive gases in their mines.

I am surprised that this principle has not been used in extinguishing fire, not only on prairie and marshes, but also in cities. On prairies and marshes the onward march of the fire is preceded by what may be called the tongue of the fire which acts as the leader, being in advance of the main fire. To cut this off and divide the fire in sections is the first object sought. With a roll of fine wire screen, unpainted, such as is used for window screens 25x50 or 100 feet long and three feet wide or more, provided with small iron rods at each end, let two men proceed rapidly in front of this tongue of fire and standing on each side with the outstretched screen, proceed to smother it out as though the screen was a blanket. Then let others with shorter screens follow up along the divided sides. This wire screen is cheap. It is light and strong; it will not burn up and no flame will go through it.

The round iron rods at the ends are used for keeping the screen spread open and for handling. It should be two feet longer than the width of the screen so that in case of necessity the screen could be set up edgewise and these ends left fastened in the ground. In this way many screens could be formed into a fence. They would not only prevent the passage of flame, but both heat and smoke would be greatly lessened as is observed when a screen is placed before a fireplace, thus enabling men with water or other devices to approach with safety and extinguish the smoldering fires.

A. C. BENNETT.

On motion of Judge Gaynor it was taken that the general opinion of growers was that the price of berries would be \$5.50 to \$6.50 according to quality.

The matter of establishing a journal devoted exclusively to cranberry interests was discussed and favorably received.

Owing to importance of subjects and lack of sufficient time consideration of "Late vs. Early Picking" and "Early vs. Late Drawing Off of Water in the Spring" was postponed until January meeting; and all are requested to contribute as much light on same as possible.

A vote of thanks was extended to the ladies for their efforts in providing and looking after the comfort and convenience of those present at the convention, and also to Gaynor Bros. for the hospitable tender of their grounds and general thoughtful attention.

Meeting then adjourned.

W. H. FITCH, Secretary.

F. H. NORTON

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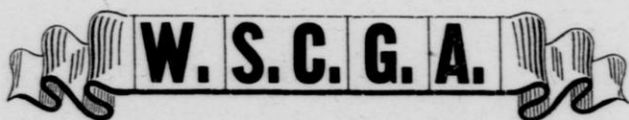
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E. F. TUCKER,

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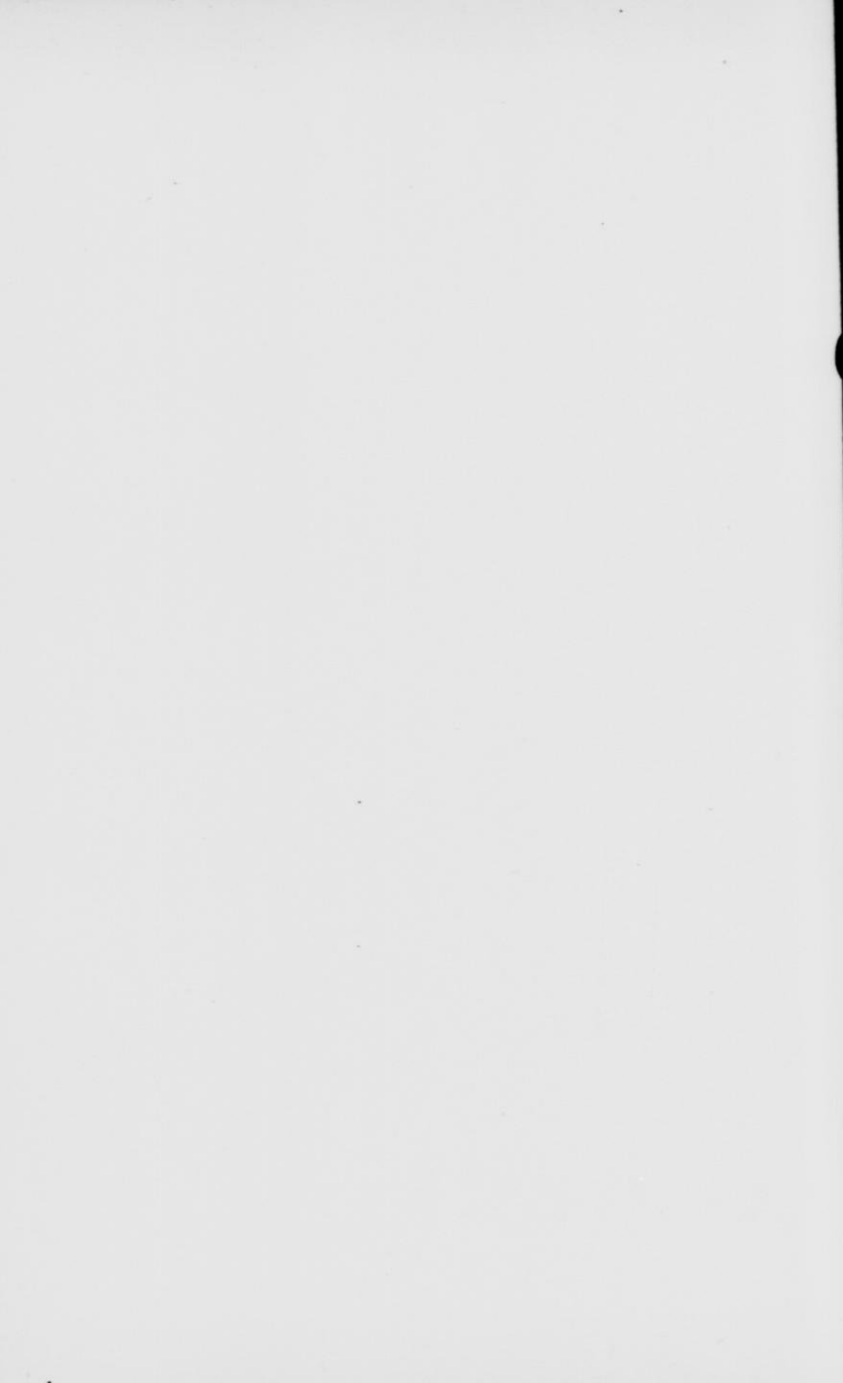
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