

# The Centreville Observer.

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## HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY IS ROYALLY WELCOMED

### Three Days' Session Held in Opera House, Centreville.

**HUNDREDS OF QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTYANS VIEW THE MAGNIFICENT EXHIBITS OF FRUITS AND NUTS. OFFICERS ELECTED. DOVER NEXT MEETING PLACE.**

Centreville threw out the latchstring with her customary promptness to admit the Twenty-third Annual Convention of the Peninsula Horticultural Society, at the Opera House, last Tuesday afternoon, and since that time agriculturists from all sections of Maryland, Delaware and Pennsylvania have enjoyed our citizens' hospitality, and the different sessions of the Society, which will be recorded in its annals as the most successful in the history of the organization.

Although Queen Anne's county's thoroughfares were in many places almost altogether closed, necessitating the absence of many farmers in the more isolated portions of the county, the attendance during the week was nothing if not absolutely satisfactory, and it is estimated that thousands of persons viewed the handsome exhibits in the Assembly Room of the building and attended the sessions in the Auditorium.

The Twenty-third Convention of the Society convened in the Auditorium of the Opera House Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock, with perhaps the best program within the memory of the oldest members. W. Irving Walker, Esq., of Centreville, presided over the opening session and the inauguration of the organization, and it was largely through his instrumentality that Queen Anne's was accorded the honor and privilege of entertaining the convention at Centreville this year.

His meritorious work in the preparation of the program, which proved of such inestimable value to the agricultural interests of the county, cannot but meet with the hearty approval of every person who attended one of the sessions, and the influence of the many suggestions, revelations and farming views propounded by able speakers will be felt no doubt in the years not far distant.

#### The Society Welcomed

The first session of the convention opened at 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon, and, following devotionalists by Rev. Dorsey Blake, pastor of Grace Church, Rev. Walter B. Stahl, rector of St. Paul's Church, delivered the address of welcome in behalf of Centreville and the agriculturists of this section and county. He extended the glad hand of welcome to the visiting agriculturists and members of the Peninsula Horticultural Society, paid a glowing tribute to the tillers of the soil, and compared their noble profession to the commercial and business workers whose labors are of a much less important nature, so far as the teeming millions of humanity are concerned. His address touched the keynote of sentiment in the breast of every visitor, and each felt that the key of egress and ingress which had been so generously extended was sincere, loyal and appreciative of their presence.

The response, in behalf of the Society, came from J. W. Kerr, Esq., of Denton, Caroline county. He extended thanks for the cordial welcome accorded, but stated that in the lengthy acquaintance he had cherished with Queen Anne's county and her citizenship, he could not conceive of other than just such a warm, cordial and hearty welcome as the Society and its friends were accorded. He continued: "We came here to Queen Anne's and Centreville, not only to test the depth of your hospitality, which has certainly been most generously extended, but to present to you such exhibits as may best serve to instruct and aid in their further growth and production in this section. The display of fruits and other soil products are in themselves a substantial attestation of what can be done here, and I hope that the farmers of Queen Anne's county may enjoy the same amount of pleasure from increased crops that we have from your hearty and hospitable welcome."

#### President's Address

The annual address of President W.

Irving Walker was next delivered. His talk was in every way an echo of the sentiments of his fellow horticultural workers, and at its completion the conviction was felt that if the methods he advocated were adopted and his advice followed, the Delmarvian Peninsula would indeed become a better crop producing section; more money would eventually be placed in circulation and the general trend would be to a higher grade of improvement in farm life than ever before.

Mr. Walker summed up the possibilities of the farmers of this section of the United States as follows: "Surrounded as we are by purely an agricultural section, the soil of a type and fertility producing yields of cereals and forage crops equaling any within the State, and at a minimum cost of production, as well as marketing, we have neglected in a great measure the opportunities which are within our reach in not having taken up apple growing on the same extensive scale we grow the peach, back in the seventies and eighties."

In reference to the exhibits displayed in the Assembly Room of the building, he continued: "The display of fruit and other exhibits seen on the tables in the Assembly Room speak volumes as to the possibilities of our soil and climate, showing and proving the statements made before our Society by men who have been termed 'fanatics,' that the pictures so often painted to us can be reproduced by every farmer between

Cape Charles, if they will adopt the same fundamental principles in planting, cultivating, spraying, jacking and packing followed by such men as Frank H. Soper, F. C. Bancroft, James S. Harris, the late Robert S. Emory and many others of the Society."

Mr. Walker also spoke of the new State roads now under construction in making marketing more advantageous, and referred to the effort in Maryland to improve the public thoroughfares for the guidance of our sister State, Delaware, in making similar improvements for the benefit of its agriculturists.

He concluded by saying: "I feel grateful to all those who have so liberally contributed towards making this exhibition of fruits the best in the history of the Society, and for the loyal support and encouragement during my term of office, bespeaking for my successor your most hearty cooperation for the coming year."

#### Experts Address Meeting

Following the President's address, the regular program work was commenced, beginning with an address on "Peach Culture" by W. G. Dawson, Esq. of Cambridge, Md. Mr. Dawson prefaced his remarks with a resume of peach growth in this section some years ago, and comparing the time when our land blossomed with fruit flowers and our banks overrun with money from the bountiful yield, and the present, with the lack of trees and a possibility of almost total extinction staring the growers into disheartenedness. He spoke at length on the means successfully used to combat the enemy of fruit such as "San Jose Scale," "yellows" and "little peach." He advised spraying in a liberal form for San Jose Scale, but "yellows" were even more dangerous, inasmuch as the peculiarities of the disease is not so well known. "Little peach," he declared, has not extended to any great amount on this Peninsula consequently the effect has not been very seriously felt. He claimed that the diseases first originated in the old trees that were left by growers after they had become unproductive, where the insect bred, and finally caused the diseases, now so destructive, to spread.

He continued: "Peach growing has not been profitable on this Peninsula during the last ten years, and the three most destructive diseases are rapidly lessening the output of the section from year to year. There is but one method in order to bring this Peninsula back to its peach growing proclivities, and that is by effectively preventing the ravages of disease as described, and proper tillage of the trees when they assume a flourishing condition."

#### Potato Talks

Eugene Shalerson, Esq., of Middletown, Del., followed with an interesting address on market gardening. He struck the keynote of his address in the first statement: "Good crops are cheap at any price." He continued: "Bad crops are the cause of many crop losses, and many trucking seasons are made dismal failures because the farmer in his effort to save in purchasing seeds receives goods of a decidedly inferior quality and ultimately experiences a correspondingly inferior produce."

He compared Maine potato growing to Maryland, and, while conceding that Maryland was among the better potato states, declared if the local crop would adopt more of the New England State's methods, the potato would make a very material difference in the yearly yields. He also showed how spraying at a cost of about \$60 per acre, on the same amount of land increased the yield value about \$40, or a net profit of \$20 above cost of spraying.

#### For Seed Legislation

Following Mr. Shalerson's remarks in reference to improved seed, a motion was made by President Vincent, of the Maryland State Horticultural Society, that a bill for the passage of a pure seed law be brought before the Legislature now in session, having the sale of other than perfectly pure seeds. His motions brought on further discussions, and a former Maine potato dealer was asked to address the meeting on the practice of Maine farmers in reference to potato seed selling. He admitted that potato seeds of an inferior

quality were sold, and also conceded that the partial reason of so many inferior crops was the lack of Agricultural College, delivering an address on Education, the public schools of the Centreville High School and Centreville Primary School being present on special invitation. He made a plea for the further education of the boys and girls of our country, stating that they were the country's greatest natural resource. Incidentally he favored increasing the school appropriation so that the little one-room schools of today, which he says are but relics of primordial days, may be removed and the necessary buildings erected in their stead. He also recommended extensive outside school improvements, and endorsed the good roads law as the means of placing the rural districts in closer relationship with educational facilities. He also spoke of the growth and work of the Maryland Agricultural College and gave a short resume of the different fruit diseases and the preventative now in use. He concluded by saying: "The American farmer represents the highest type of the Nation's citizenship and he must enjoy the same facilities of his more fortunate brother, in order to overcome at least some of the obstacles of rural life."

#### Evening Session

The evening session opened as usual with several selections by the Centreville Orchestra, and, following this, Prof. H. B. Fullerton, Superintendent of the Long Island Experiment Farm, was introduced. His talk was one of the most enjoyable features of the Convention, interspersed, as it was, with lantern slide views of farm life, farm methods and farm improvements.

He showed the progress of an experiment station from the time when the land presented tangled forest wastes, down through the dangerous period of felling trees and dynamiting stumps, and then the more progressive work of establishing a smooth surface on the soil, later the building of dwellings and finally the crop yields. His address was of a decidedly elevating nature, and he declared that the farmers of this county by proper improvement can realize the same results from their crops as do the farmers about Long Island.

#### Reception Tendered Visitors

Although the visitors had already tasted of the sweetness of Centreville's hospitality in the sessions during the opening day, it remained for the evening to reveal the true depth of her welcome to the Peninsula Horticultural Society, its members and friends. The Assembly Room of the Opera House, already gorgeous with the display of fruits and vegetables, was enhanced in the evening by a gathering of the ladies of the town, and a buffet luncheon of cold, Maryland biscuits, coffee and lemon was served all present in tempting style.

To Centreville must go the honor of giving the Society a reception such as it did not receive at either Baltimore and Wilmington, the chief cities of both the Old Line and Diamond States, and to those present was accorded the pleasure of experiencing such hospitality as only Centreville ladies can bestow in all the alluring charms of epicure and beauty.

The reception continued from 8.30 until 11, during which time hundreds of persons viewed the exhibits and enjoyed the evening in a general round of merry-making, in which the visitors were made the central figures. Music was dispensed the entire evening by the orchestra.

#### Wednesday's Session

Wednesday, the second day of the Convention, opened with a magnificent attendance, and, while the morning gathering was not large, the afternoon session was increased by scores of persons who arrived over the Maryland, Delaware & Virginia and Pennsylvania Railroads. There were also several arrivals of county grange representatives.

The first session of the day was called at the usual hour, with Prof. A. W. Slaymaker, of Wyoming, Del., on the platform for the discussion on "The Pear." Prof. Slaymaker manipulated his subject in a skillful and masterly manner and his methods were practical, plain and business-like. Although there are few pears raised in this county, compared with what some of our sister counties produce, his views, no doubt, very materially increased the broad-mindedness of some growers here and at other places on the peninsula.

Prof. E. A. Evans, of Cheswold, Del., told of his success with grapes, describing the necessary requisites to the growth of good marketable grapes, and how to best plant, cultivate and harvest the crop. His address was also instructive. Prof. E. C. Meyers concluded the morning session with a talk on "Experiment with Cabbage and Tomatoes."

#### Full House

The evening session when H. W. Spencer, of Agricultural College, delivered an address on Education, the public schools of the Centreville High School and Centreville Primary School being present on special invitation. He made a plea for the further education of the boys and girls of our country, stating that they were the country's greatest natural resource. Incidentally he favored increasing the school appropriation so that the little one-room schools of today, which he says are but relics of primordial days, may be removed and the necessary buildings erected in their stead. He also recommended extensive outside school improvements, and endorsed the good roads law as the means of placing the rural districts in closer relationship with educational facilities. He also spoke of the growth and work of the Maryland Agricultural College and gave a short resume of the different fruit diseases and the preventative now in use. He concluded by saying: "The American farmer represents the highest type of the Nation's citizenship and he must enjoy the same facilities of his more fortunate brother, in order to overcome at least some of the obstacles of rural life."

Perhaps the most interesting address of the afternoon, so far as fruit growers were concerned, was the one delivered by Mr. W. T. Outten, of Seaford, Del., on "How to Kill the San Jose Scale." The methods for the extinction of this disease were altogether practical and fruit growers throughout the county would no doubt greatly enhance their chances of better yields were they to follow his advice.

The afternoon session adjourned after being addressed by Prof. C. A. McCue, of the Delaware Experiment Station, and Prof. T. B. Symons, of the Maryland Experiment Station, on "Spraying" and "Insects."

#### The Last Evening Session

The Wednesday evening session was devoted almost entirely to apple growing discussions. The principal addresses were delivered by J. W. Kerr, of Denton; E. Cyrus Miller, of Massachusetts, and Prof. E. C. Myers. The address of Prof. Miller was illustrated by lantern slides. The addresses were listened to with eager interest, apple growers recognizing the ability of the speakers and their methods in every respect. That Maryland is a great fruit growing state these gentlemen pointed out from the fact that the Maryland State Horticultural Society has exhibited fruit three times in the West, in competition with the foremost apple growing sections of the Western coun-

try, and out of a total of 86 entries has won 46 prizes, 41 of which has been gold medals and first premiums. At the Rocky Mountain Apple Exposition, held in Denver last week, Maryland apples won fifty per cent. of the first premiums.

Following the addresses the gathering repaired to the Exhibit Room, where the remainder of the evening was spent in individual discussions of the relative merits of the different displays and otherwise.

#### The Last Session

Following two days of success in the discussions of different plants, fruits and vegetables, the last session of the convention was held Thursday morning. Cantaloupes was the subject of a discourse by Dr. Alfred Smith, of Delaware, and his address was followed by talks on the "Importance of Seed" by W. W. Tracy, of the United States Department of Agriculture, and a talk of "Eastern Shore Horticulture, What It Has Been and What It Should Be," by Prof. W. F. Massey, of Salisbury. Prof. C. P. Close also gave an interesting description on the Nut and Apple Exhibit at Denver, Colorado, and of the Horticultural Society Exhibit at Council Bluffs, in the middle West last fall. The meeting adjourned at 12 o'clock.

#### Election of Officers

One of the most important features of the entire convention was disposed of after the regular session. The election of officers for the ensuing year was placed in the hands of a committee in the early part of the convention, and in an election Thursday morning the following men were named to look after the interests of the Horticultural Society on this Peninsula:

President F. C. Bancroft, of Wyoming, Delaware.  
Vice-President J. W. Hall, of Manor Station, Maryland.  
Secretary-Treasurer Wesley Webb, of Dover, Delaware.  
Vice-Presidents for the Counties

#### DELAWARE.

N. E. Castle—D. W. Seaford.  
Sussex—F. M. Soper, Del. Seaford.

#### MARYLAND.

Cecil W. D. Bradford, Middletown.  
Kent—James S. Harris, Still Pond.  
Queen Anne's—H. P. Skipper, Ches-

terton.  
Caroline—J. W. Kerr, Denton.  
Talbot—Dr. W. L. Howland, Easton.  
Dorchester—W. G. Dawson, Cambridge.

Wicomico—Rowan Jones, Allen.  
Worcester—R. C. Peters, Ironshore.  
Somerset—Albert Scales, West Virginia.

#### VIRGINIA.

Accomack—A. J. McNeill, Only.  
Northampton—W. L. Elzy, Exmore.  
The following committees were also named to look after the business interests of the Society for the ensuing year:  
Executive Committee—F. C. Bancroft, J. W. Hall, J. W. Shalerson, W. Irving Walker, W. F. Allen.  
Committee on Transportation—James T. Shalerson, W. Irving Walker, O. A. Newton, W. F. Allen, S. H. Derby, Charles Baker.

William Reddie, Pres.

W. W. Spence, Cashier

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M. B. Nichols, Oliver H. Henry, W. C. Littleton,  
J. W. Salmons, J. Henry Covington, W. W. Spence  
WRITE TO THE CASHIER FOR ONE

It was decided that the next annual convention of the Society should be held at Dover, Delaware.

#### Exhibits Presented

Mr. F. M. Soper, better known as the "Apple King of Delaware," who had two tables of apples on exhibition in the Assembly Room of the Opera House during the convention, made glad the hearts of several hundred public school pupils Wednesday afternoon by announcing that every apple exhibited would be presented to the pupils of the different schools. True to his promise, the last day of the convention found a happy, scrambling crowd of merry boys and girls, gleefully accepting the generosity of the Diamond State's greatest fruit grower.

He also presented a basket of apples to each of the Town Commissioners and to each lady on the reception supper committee.

#### The Exhibits

To those not fortunate enough to witness the magnificent products of fruits, nuts and vegetables, a list will suffice, and the following are the varieties shown on the display tables in the Opera House this week.

Apples—Display by F. M. Soper & Son, Magnolia, Delaware; York Imperial, Missouri Pippin, Stayman, Canada Red, Lily of Kent, English red strain, Stark, Nickajack, Nero, Limberton, Winesap, Carthouse, Rome Beauty, Paragon.

The exhibit of F. H. Bancroft, of Evergreen Farm, Delaware, consisted of the following varieties: Nero, Collins, Rome Beauty, Senator, Winesap, Highhill, Evans, Missouri Pippin, Given, Arkansas Black, Black Ben, Stayman Heighes, Johnathan.

The displays from the different counties were as follows:

Caroline—Lawyer, Pippin, Rome Beauty, Grimes, Golden and York.  
Howard—Early Harvest, York stripe, Dominic and Roll.  
Kent—Noyes, Lawyer, Smith.  
Talbot—Schocky, Maiden Blush, Smokehouse, Winter Bellies, Pemeca.

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