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**STATE HORT. SOCIETY
MEETS AT HOOD RIVER**

"The war and car shortage," declared Secretary C. D. Minton in his annual report Monday afternoon, "must be given the blame for the lack of preparation for the 31st annual meeting of the Oregon State Horticultural Society. I have been so busy that I could not give the matter my closest attention, and my associates have been too busy to reply promptly to my letters. And I know, after walking your streets and seeing the apples piled in vacant business houses that you of Hood River will understand."

The opening session, scheduled for Monday morning, was postponed. Mr. Minton and A. P. Bateham having been the only out of town men present. While Pres. R. C. Washburn, of Central Point, arrived for Tuesday's sessions, he was absent Monday, and J. L. Carter occupied the chair.

The horticulturists were welcomed by Mayor Dumble, who, while he characterized himself as a fountain pen farmer, lauded the society for the work it had done in lifting the business of farming to a higher plane.

"I hire my work done," said Dr. Dumble, who has developed two extensive tracts here, "and wield my pen to pay the bills, but I realize the great good your organization has done in standardizing and making more perfect the pack of fruit."

For the most part the first afternoon meeting touched on the technical side of orcharding. Talks on spraying were given by Leroy Childs, of the experiment station, and F. A. Frazier, a spray manufacturer of Seattle.

Only a hint was given of the serious car shortage problem. In his annual report Secretary Minton suggested as a possible prevention of future such trouble that the transportation company be forced by law to pay the shipper a demurrage charge for all days of delay in getting rolling stock after it had been ordered for products. Mr. Minton also urged that steps be taken to secure legislative appropriation to be used in paying expenses of the society.

M. Williamson, of Portland, read a memorial tribute to the late Dr. J. R. Cardwell, one of the founders of the society, and a short address, recalling the work of Dr. Cardwell was given by E. L. Smith. A memorial paper for the late Frank W. Powers, former secretary of the society, prepared by Homer C. Atwell, was read by Secretary Minton.

C. G. Brown, horticulturist of the local experiment station, delivered an address on the influences of commercial fertilizers in orcharding.

The following out of town fruit men registered at the society headquarters today: C. D. Minton and H. M. Williamson, of Portland; Dr. C. H. Bailey, of Roseburg; Dr. C. A. Marum and A. P. Bateham, of Mosier; J. N. Pomeroy, of Seapoose; A. B. Gardner, of Corvallis; Geo. R. Castner, of Pendleton, B. C.; E. E. Mills, S. C. Graham and Sidney H. Boddington, of White Salmon; B. Lees, of Beaverton; F. A. Frazier, of Seattle; C. F. Galligan, of Dufur; J. E. Slade, of Husum; A. H. Harrison, of Louisville, Ky.; Clement West and Edw. L. Bachman, of Dee.

The thirty-second annual meeting of the State Horticultural Society will be held in Salem next year, and Robert Paulus, manager of the Salem Fruit Co., was named as next year's president. Other officers elected were: Dr. C. H. Bailey, of Roseburg, vice president, succeeding V. M. Johnson, of Corvallis, and C. D. Minton, of Portland, reelected secretary. A. P. Bateham was reelected to the board of trustees. Other trustees are Judge Chas. McNary, of Salem, and Albert Brown

ell. While the horticultural convention was slow in getting started, but few members having shown up for attendance Monday, Tuesday's sessions have created more than usual interest, and the Commercial Club quarters have been crowded, more than 100 local orchardists having been in attendance.

Following a talk on pruning this afternoon by A. B. Gardiner, of the Oregon Agricultural College, discussions on the more absorbing topics of the day, grading rules and marketing, were launched in addresses delivered by the following: E. H. Shepard, Wilmer Sieg and C. A. Malboeuf, the latter general manager of the Western Oregon Fruit Distributors.

Dealing with the subject, "What Shall We Pack in Apples," Mr. Shepard made the declaration that the cost of growing a box of apples was 30 cents and that another 30 cents was required in the expenditure of packing and marketing. Unless growers can get this price for a box of a certain variety, he said, it should be eliminated. Mr. Shepard further declared that growers, unless they were selling their cull apples product for at least 59 cents per box in the open market, packed, they would find it more profitable to dispose of it to by-products plants at the rate of \$6 per ton.

Touching on the subject of a standard system of grading rules for the four northwestern apple states—Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana—Mr. Shepard said that such plans were impossible of practical solution.

"If such a system is adopted," said Mr. Shepard, "it will soon be found that it will be necessary to set it aside, as was the case in Washington last year. Each district must make its own grading rules. Of course, we should have some standardized law that will prohibit the shipment of apples that carry diseases."

Mr. Shepard further suggested that a saving in the preparation of apples for market would be effected if instead of the three grades—extra fancy, fancy and C grade—as now is generally included in northwestern grading rules, but two grades were used. He suggested that the extra fancy grade should consist of as perfect apples as possible, and that the best of the C-grade fruit be packed with the fancy, the combination to be called "a standard grade." Mr. Shepard would have the worst of the C grade product disposed of to by-products plants.

Mr. Malboeuf, whose subject was, "Has High Apple Grading Paid During 1916," made the emphatic assertion that it had. "To lower grading," he said, "would mean a step backward. We find that Cashmere and Mosier fruit sales agencies have been building for years on the maintenance of stringent grading rules. They have been successful. Do we find that they want to change?"

Mr. Malboeuf paid a tribute to the apple men of the White Salmon community. He declared that they would emerge next season as one of the strong fruit districts of the northwest.

"This year," said Mr. Malboeuf, "the growers of White Salmon have welcomed the closest inspection. But next year they are going to further standardize their grade of apples by building at central points four community packing houses."

Business gave way to sentiment at the horticultural sessions Tuesday, when A. A. Quarrenburg, a walnut grower of Vancouver, presented the organization with a gavel made from the oldest apple tree in the Northwest. Mr. Quarrenburg in his presentation speech told the story of the old tree, now 90 years old. Still alive and bearing apples at Vancouver barracks, it was planted by one of the men of Capt. John McLaughlin, governor for the Hudson Bay Co.