

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Four meetings of the Executive Committee were held during the past year, President M. U. Mounts presiding as Chairman.

On January 14, 1954 in Winter Haven:

Comments on the 1953 annual meeting of the Society in Daytona Beach indicated that the following policies initiated at that meeting should be continued:

1. Mimeographing and distribution of abstracts of papers;
2. Scheduling of afternoon sessions on the opening day;
3. All sessions to close by noon of the third day.

The Secretary was instructed to investigate possible ways and means of preparing an Index to the Proceedings for Volumes 38 through 67.

Following a report from the President and Secretary it was moved and carried that the 1954 annual meeting of the Society be held October 20-22 in Miami Beach at the Empress Hotel.

A note of appreciation was sent to Mrs. B. F. Floyd for her donation of several copies of the Proceedings which are in short supply.

The Secretary was authorized to supply without cost those missing volumes of the Proceedings as may still be available to such libraries of recognized colleges and universities within the State as may wish to complete their file.

On June 8 in Winter Haven:

The Publication Committee was complimented for the outstanding job rendered in compiling and publishing the 1953 Proceedings.

The Secretary reported that Mrs. Helen C. Ellerbe of the library staff of the University of Florida had consented to prepare the index to Volumes 38-67 of the Proceedings.

It was moved and carried that the Society contribute \$480 per year for a 2-year period to the Florida Agricultural Council in support of two graduate fellowships in Nematology at the University of Florida.

It was moved and carried that private interests could purchase reprints, or reprint directly from the Proceedings, for distribution with its products, provided

1. Permission be granted by both the author and his employer.
2. No advertising matter to appear on the reprint.
3. The article must be printed in its entirety with due recognition given as to the source of publication.

On September 27 in Miami Beach:

After considerable discussion it was moved and carried that back numbers of the Proceedings be priced as follows: For the last five years—\$4.00 per volume, from then back to 1935—\$2.00 per volume, and prior to 1935—\$1.00 per volume.

Due to the heavy expense incurred in program printing and other arrangements for the annual meetings it was moved and carried that a registration fee of \$1.00 be charged all persons attending the sessions with the exception of specially invited guests and families of members in attendance.

Because of the 30% increase in the numbers of papers submitted for presentation at the annual meeting this year the Secretary was authorized to increase the size of the final program to 12 pages.

The Nominating Committee as suggested by the sectional Vice Presidents was accepted by the President.

On October 20 in Miami Beach:

Since it has been estimated that the new 30-year Index to the Proceedings will cost approximately \$1,000 for 500 copies and in an effort to determine how many copies should be printed, it was moved and carried that orders will be accepted prior to publication at \$2.00 per copy. The regular price of the Index after publication will be \$3.00 each.

The Publication Committee was authorized to award the contract for printing the 1954 Proceedings to the Stuart Daily News, Inc.

The records as of October 18th show that the Society has a total of 947 members, 178 Sustaining and 769 Annual.

In order to definitize a long-standing policy of the Society, it was moved and carried that each speaker presenting a paper on the program must write his paper in a manner suitable for publication in the Proceedings.

Because of the many agricultural meetings now being held during the fall, both on a state and national level, your Executive Committee suggested that the 1955 Executive Committee consider the advisability of holding the Annual Meetings of the Society during April or early May.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernest L. Spencer
Secretary

GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

Miami Beach, Florida

October 21, 1954

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 by President M. U. Mounts.

The report of the Treasurer, L. Rogers McLain, as printed elsewhere in these Proceedings, was read and accepted.

The report of the Executive Committee by Dr. Ernest L. Spencer, Secretary, was accepted as read.

Mr. G. Dexter Sloan reported on the activities of the Florida Agricultural Council.

The report of the Necrology Committee was read by Dr. Fred B. Smith, Chairman.

The resolutions as listed elsewhere in these Proceedings were accepted as read by R. A. Carlton, Chairman of the Resolution Committee.

The report of the Nominating Committee was read by J. R. Graves, Chairman. The nominees as listed at the front of these Proceedings were unanimously elected.

The official attendance at the start of the General Session showed a registration total of 485 persons. The meeting was adjourned at 4:15.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS: The sixty-seventh annual meeting of the Florida State Horticultural Society has been outstandingly successful, and

WHEREAS: The success of this meeting was due in large part to the efforts of those who throughout the year devoted long hours to the planning of this meeting and to the business of this Society:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Florida State Horticultural Society that an expression of deep appreciation and gratitude be expressed to:

1. President M. U. Mounts, Vice-Presidents W. R. Hancock, R. Bruce Ledin, M. C. Jorgensen, Charles M. Phillips and H. D. Todd, Secretary E. L. Spencer, Treasurer L. Rogers McLain, Publication Secretary Ralph F. Thompson and Editing Secretary W. L. Tait.

2. Lyons H. Williams, Jr., Chairman of the Arrangements Committee, and

3. The city of Miami Beach and especially the Staff of the Empress Hotel for their friendly cooperation.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS: The spreading decline of citrus, and related troubles in other horticultural crops, are of paramount importance and concern to all phases of the horticultural industry in Florida:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida State Horticultural Society go on record as recommending that the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, the United States Department of Agriculture, the State Plant Board, and the Florida Agricultural Extension Service use all possible ways, means, methods, and precautions to find a solution to the problem of spreading decline;

THAT the Florida State Legislature and the United States Congress be requested to provide sufficient funds for these agencies to immediately proceed with inspections, surveys, quarantines and research necessary to preserve and protect the Florida Horticultural industry.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Citrus canker, an extremely serious disease which kills the trees and renders the fruit unsalable, was introduced during the early years of this century into Florida and other Southern States from Japan, where it is known to be widespread, and has now been eradicated from these areas at a cost of millions of dollars to growers and State and Federal Governments; and

WHEREAS, The production of citrus fruit in Florida, with its associated industries of canning, manufacture of fruit juice concentrates, cattle feed, etc., is regarded as the State's foremost agricultural industry, which gives employment to thousands of people and is a main source of revenue; and

WHEREAS, A determined and persistent effort is now being made by certain interests to have the Federal foreign quarantine which prohibits the entry into the continental United States of citrus fruits from Japan and other areas where citrus canker is known to be present amended so as to permit the readmission of citrus products from Japan; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED That the Florida State Horticultural Society, in session at Miami Beach, Florida, this the 21st day of October 1954, is opposed to the introduction into this country of any living citrus products or living parts thereof from Japan or any part of the world in which citrus canker is known to be present.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Society be and he is hereby instructed to send copies of this Resolution to the Florida members of Congress and to the Honorable Ezra Taft Ben-

son, Secretary, United States Department of Agriculture.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The attention of the Florida State Horticultural Society has been directed to the fact that the Bureau of Customs, following a brief probationary period of "spot" examination of foreign passengers' baggage during 1953, has now made this temporary procedure a permanent one, despite disapproval and objection on the part of many interested organizations and individuals; and that under the present procedure only a small percentage of the total baggage arriving is examined; and

WHEREAS, It is a matter of record that there are present in many foreign countries thousands of dangerous insects and plant diseases not known to be present in the United States; that such diseases and insects are frequently intercepted in passengers' baggage at the ports of entry; and that some travelers will go to great lengths to conceal plants or plant products which they especially desire to bring in; and

WHEREAS, Plant quarantine inspectors at various maritime ports of the United States have, within the past year, intercepted many times fruits infested with dangerous fruit flies, including the extremely serious Oriental fruit fly, regarded by many as the most dangerous fruit insect known to man, which has now been introduced into the Hawaiian Islands from countries of the Far East and become firmly established there; the Mediterranean fruit fly, which was introduced into Florida many years ago and eradicated at a cost to Federal and State Governments of several million dollars; and plants infested with the citrus blackfly, a serious pest not only of citrus trees but of other fruit trees and ornamentals as well; and

WHEREAS, The discovery of any one of such pests in a fruit-growing area can present a serious threat to the economic structure of a State, as well as of larger areas; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Florida State Horticultural Society, in session at Miami Beach, Florida, this the 21st day of October 1954, is opposed to any relaxation of the foreign baggage inspection procedure which has been in effect for so many years, and that every effort be made to have the procedure in effect prior to May 1953—the date the probationary period was begun—restored over the country as a whole; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Society be and he is hereby instructed to send copies of this Resolution to the Florida members of Congress and to the Honorable Ezra Taft Benson, Secretary, United States Department of Agriculture.

FLORIDA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
TREASURER'S REPORT
OCTOBER 1, 1954

RECEIPTS:

Cash on Hand January 1, 1954		\$ 5,026.19
Membership Fees:		
Annual—1953	\$ 88.00	
Annual—1954	1,666.00	
Annual—1955	4.00	
Sustaining—1953	10.00	
Sustaining—1954	1,470.00	
Total Membership Fees	\$ 3,238.00	
Proceedings & Miscellaneous	11,664.30	
Total Receipts		14,902.30
Total to be Accounted for		\$19,928.49

DISBURSEMENTS:

Proceedings Expense—1953	\$ 4,226.07	
Stationery, printing & postage—1954	238.93	
Miscellaneous—1953*	10,083.00	
Miscellaneous—1954**	598.62	
Total Disbursements		15,146.62

CASH IN THE PENINSULA STATE BANK OF TAMPA, OCTOBER 1, 1954 \$ 4,781.87

Respectfully submitted,
(s) L. ROGERS McLAIN,
Treasurer

* 1953 Miscellaneous covers purchase of bonds (reinvested).
** 1954 Miscellaneous includes dues to Florida Agricultural Council.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE TO FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL

MR. PRESIDENT:

Your representatives to the Florida Agricultural Council, consisting of Frank L. Holland, R. S. Edsall, George H. Wedgworth and myself, have attended such meetings of the Council as have been held since the last annual meeting of the Horticultural Society, either attending as a full committee or at least one or more members of your committee being present at all meetings of the Council.

We have of course, in past reports, reviewed the activities of the Council. We feel it is desirable, however, that we again tell the membership something of the activities and the purpose of the Council. We feel that it is only through the Florida Agricultural Council that agriculture has a voice in legislation affecting it. The Council is composed of representatives from twenty-four agricultural agencies. That covers all the agricultural agencies in Florida.

The purpose of the Council is to secure for our agricultural institutions, research as represented by our system of Agricultural Experiment Stations, education as represented by our Extension Service and our College of Agriculture, protection as represented by our State Plant Board, necessary appropriations for the carrying on of these institutions in a manner that will improve our agriculture in Florida and certainly not cause it to take any steps backward.

You have just heard a very fine presentation by our Plant Commissioner, Ed Ayers. He has told you something about the problems of the State Plant Board, our protective agency.

In looking over the program of this Sixty-Seventh Annual Meeting, I note that eighty-three papers have been presented by scientists and educators connected with our public institutions supported by our state tax money. I believe all of you will agree, except for those eighty-three contributions we would have had a rather flat program.

After these public agencies have carefully prepared their budget needs for the ensuing biennium, these prepared budgets are submitted to the executive committee of the Agricultural Council. The executive committee

reviews these budgets very carefully. The committee doesn't always agree with the budgets as submitted—oftentimes reductions are made in certain cases and additions in others, in an effort to reach a realistic budget—not a padded one but one that can be supported wholeheartedly by the Council. After this has been done by the executive committee, the entire Council is called into session and the budgets carefully studied. As a result of these conferences a budget is prepared which then the Council is willing to support in its efforts before the Legislature.

Before there was an Agricultural Council there was no unified effort on the part of agriculture concerning its appropriations. Each agency supported its pet project. During the seven or eight years existence of the Council, however, the efforts have been combined, and because of this combination a realistic budget has been possible and a common front presented to the Legislature for these appropriations. The Council is highly regarded by the Board of Control and by the Legislature, as well as our Chief Executive and the Cabinet. In 1953 the Council's recommendation on budgetary matters affecting agriculture was accepted 100%. That within itself would indicate the Council is an organization regarded with a high degree of responsibility.

Another instance however, might be mentioned here to further indicate the high regards for the Council. Following the untimely death of the beloved President, Dr. Miller, it became necessary for the Board of Control to consider the selection of another President of the University. To assist in this selection the executive committee of the Agricultural Council along with the executive committee of the Alumni Association of the University were asked to name representatives to sit with the Board of Control in their deliberations and interviews with individuals considered for this post. Unfortunately a President has not yet been selected but when one is selected it is hoped agriculture, Florida's principal industry, will be well pleased with that selection.

The Council's responsibility does not cease with the appropriation of money. Its responsibility extends to assisting these public

agencies in utilizing the money appropriated to the best advantage and for the purpose for which it was appropriated. In other words, the Council is somewhat of a watch-dog of the public funds. I know it is rather unpopular because of certain happenings to refer to a dog in a report of this kind but I want to assure you I am not talking about a kennel dog.

In order to keep the Council effective we must have the support of every individual interested in agriculture. We must have your support with your elected representatives to our State Legislature, that is the State Senators and State Representatives, as well as the State Cabinet and on up to the Chief Executive.

A small group of men representing these twenty-four agricultural organizations cannot do the job alone. These representatives must have the full support of the organizations they are appointed to represent. You can well assist the Council and agriculture in general by talking to your legislative representatives about the Council and letting them know you are behind it 100%.

Thank you, Mr. President.

G. D. SLOAN, *Chairman*

F. L. HOLLAND

R. S. EDSALL

G. H. WEDGORTH



NECROLOGY

DR. DAVID FAIRCHILD

April 7, 1869

August 6, 1954

Lansing, Michigan Coconut Grove, Florida

Plant foundations of American Agriculture, (horticulture is a division of agriculture), have come from world wide sources. Endemic to the New World are corn, peanut, potato, sweet potato, lima bean, tomato, pepper, avocado, pecan, pineapple, dahlia, petunia and zinnia. Many of these also have become important crop plants in the Old World. Many plants, important in American agriculture, belong to the Old World. Their migrations began with the famous voyages of Columbus in the latter part of the fifteenth century. The list also is important — oat, wheat, barley, rye, apple, pear, peach, cherry, olive, date, mango, celery, cabbage, eggplant, rose, gladiolus and chrysanthemum. Both lists may be extended at considerable length.

There came a time when it was realized that regions foreign to the United States contained varieties of old crop plants and varicous kinds of new plants, not yet introduced, that would be valuable additions to American fields, orchards and gardens. Out of this thought, the Office of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction, U. S. Department of Agriculture, later known as the Section of Plant Introduction, took form a half century or so ago and David Fairchild was its guiding spirit from 1904 until his retirement in 1928, a period of a quarter of a century of continuous direction.

To the task of introducing plants, that American agriculture might be enriched and extended, David Fairchild brought wide knowledge, never failing interest and enthusiasm that knew no bounds. He grew in stature, even as his work grew. He lived and acted upon his motto—"Push On." He explored widely and gathered to his aid a coterie of men, Myers, Dorsett, Popenoe, Moore, Swingle and many more who went out searching for plants. By correspondence he contacted kindred spirits the world around and a steady stream of plants and seeds flowed to the United States, new ones and varieties of old ones. Inventory Number 156, September 1954, the last available, shows that up to December 31, 1947 plant introductions handled

through the office or section that he organized numbered 161,666. Among new crops established, extended or enlarged are soybeans, avocados, mangos, persimmons, bamboos, dates (in cooperation with Walter T. Swingle) and many more. Ornamental and medicinal plants were included—palms, hollies and tropical flowering trees are especially noteworthy. No phase of American agriculture and horticulture has been overlooked. Test gardens and facilities for caring for plants introduced were established in different parts of the country. Plants were distributed widely for testing as soon as they became available. The effects, economic and esthetic, on the plant industries of the country have been tremendous. In plants of warm regions he had a particular interest. From 1928 until 1954 Florida was his home at the Kampong in Coconut Grove.

Dr. Fairchild was the recipient of many honors. Among these of particular interest was the Doctor of Science degree, conferred by the University of Florida. In conferring this degree, the State recognized the numerous benefits received through additions to its plant life and honored itself. Plant monuments have been erected the state over and they will endure as long as there is a Florida.

HENRY J. EDSALL

Born in Hamburg, N. J., December 9, 1873 and died in Bradenton, Fla., November 24, 1953 at the age of 79 years.

Mr. Edsall graduated from Cornell University in the class of 1896 with a degree in mechanical engineering. He was associated with the Link Belt Company in Nicetown, Pa. for many years, specializing in material handling equipment.

In November, 1922 he moved, with his wife and two children, to Bradenton, Florida where he became manager of the Inslee Groves, which position he held until shortly before his death.

Mr. Edsall took a keen interest in citrus production and the citrus industry. He was associated with the Domino Citrus Growers Association in Bradenton and served that association as director and president.

GEORGE ALFRED MERRIN

George Alfred Merrin was killed in an automobile accident near Plant City on September 16, 1954. He was born May 23, 1904 in Gloster, Mississippi and came to Plant City as a child.

Mr. Merrin was a graduate of the Plant City High School and received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Horticulture at the University of Florida. He was an outstanding player on the University football team.

For the past 10 years Mr. Merrin was employed by the Prosser Fruit Company of Plant City as production manager in charge of groves. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church and a charter member of the Men's Bible Class.

Survivors are his widow, Mrs. Daisy Horne Merrin; one daughter, Kay Merrin; a son, Joe Merrin; three sisters, Irene Merrin, Bessie Merrin and Florence Merrin, all of Plant City; six brothers, the Rev. W. L. Merrin, Lirely, Ga., W. H. Merrin, Plant City, the Rev. J. F. Mer-

rin, Rockmart, Ga., R. G. Merrin and Joe K. Merrin, both of Tampa, and Phil F. Merrin, Largo.

HAROLD S. NORMAN

Harold S. Norman, 59, Director and Vice-President of the Waverly Citrus Growers Cooperative, died at his home in Mountain Lake near Lake Wales May 23, 1954.

Mr. Norman came to Waverly from Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1914. For many years he operated a citrus nursery, a mail order express citrus box business and several large groves. He was a pioneer among the organizers and for many years President of the Florida Citrus Canners Co-operative in Lake Wales. During the 1930's he served as a director on the farm Credit Board District Federal Land Bank of Columbia. He was one of the organizers of the Episcopal Church in Lake Wales and served as senior warden from 1923 until 1947. He was a Mason, member of the Eastern Star and the Lake Wales Rotary Club.