AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION.

Mr. Hume: There is a matter at this time, while we are on this matter of Resolutions and miscellaneous business that I think I had better bring up, and there are more in the audience than we may get together at a subsequent meeting.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee this afternoon, the very vital question of the future of this Society from a financial standpoint was gone into very carefully. We have had the matter under consideration for some time, but finally decided what line of action the Executive Committee should present to the Society at this time. Now the recommendations of the Executive Committee to the Society takes the form of amendments to our Constitution and to our By-Laws, which under the Constitution, may be amended at any meeting of the Society by a proper vote, of course. Without going into further details of this matter at the present moment, because you don’t know what’s coming, I am going to ask Mr. Floyd to read these changes and it is the belief of the Executive Committee that these should be put into effect. If you agree with us on that, we will take it up. Mr. Floyd, will you please read those changes?

Mr. Floyd: The Executive Committee recommends that Article 2 of the Constitution be changed to read as follows:

Article 2. Any person may become an Annual member of the Society by subscribing to the Constitution and paying one dollar. Any person may become a Perennial member of the Society by subscribing to the Constitution and paying the annual membership dues five or more years in advance. Any person may become a Life member by subscribing to the Constitution and paying twenty-five dollars. Any person or firm may become a Patron of the Society by subscribing to the Constitution and paying one hundred dollars.

Mr. Hume: I think we had better ask Mr. Floyd to read the balance of it. In addition, the Executive Committee recommends the adoption of another By-Law. There are three By-Laws at the present time. The fourth one would be as follows:

Mr. Floyd: The Executive Committee recommends the adoption of the following By-Law:

4. All Patron and Life membership dues and all donations unless otherwise specified, shall be invested by the Treasurer in United States bonds. Only the interest on these bonds shall be available for payment of the current expenses of the Society. Perennial membership dues shall be placed on deposit at interest by the Treasurer. Only one dollar and the interest from each perennial membership
fee shall be available for use in payment of the current expenses of the Society during any particular year.

Mr. Rolfs: As the resolution originated in the Executive Committee and I happen to be the Chairman, I move the adoption of the amendment of the Constitution.

Mr. Skinner: What would be the objection to making the annual dues $2?

Mr. Floyd: The chief objection would be on the part of the Secretary in collecting the $2. It is much easier to get $1 than $2.

Mr. Skinner: What is the cost of printing the annual report?

Mr. Floyd: Well that brings up another question. Heretofore we have gone along very nicely, but I hear from the printer that there will be a very substantial increase in cost this year. We have a nice little sum to do this work this year that we hope will take care of it, and if not we will have to raise it by subscription. Then, I believe some of you members will hear from us.

Mr. Christiancy: I suggest that the membership fee remain $1, and if they want the report to pay another dollar.

Mr. Sample: I think the Secretary can speak better on that point than any one else. It is his duty to raise these dollars, and with a great many people who do not attend the Society, all they want is that copy of the Proceedings. When they pay a dollar for it they think that is all they ought to pay, and at the same time I do not believe we would want a membership to consist of that class of members, we would not want merely a person on our list who had only bought the Proceedings. We want to encourage them to come to the meetings and it seems to me that your proposition would complicate matters and make it very difficult to put across. I think the simple matter of $1 for one membership and a copy of the Proceedings would be better, and I believe at the present time that it will not be well to raise the membership fee.

I think the members of the Society could help out by taking perennial membership. The perennial membership provides for paying membership fees five or ten years in advance. In that way the Society has the interest which is small, but when multiplied by one or two hundred, does help out a great deal.

Mr. Hume: Replying to your question Mr. Skinner regarding the Proceedings, it is a very difficult matter for anyone to get at the cost of printing these days. Most any printing establishment will tell you that they will do the printing work if they can and the bill will come in when they get the work done, and the doing of the work will be conditioned upon getting the paper, materials to do it, etc. That is my experience with some printing. I think our Proceedings will cost us in the neighborhood of 80 cents a copy so that it is pretty close figuring to get through.

Mr. Mills: Mr. Chairman, if it costs 80 cents a copy, 20 cents isn't much to run an institution on. Is there any other thing in Florida that hasn't increased in price except the membership of the Horticulture Society? I tell you frankly, it strikes me that if we are in the thing and going to make it worth while, I do not believe anyone interested in the welfare of the Association would refuse to pay $2. Certainly if you are going to pay 80 cents
a copy, I do not see where there is anything to work on left.

Mr. Sample: We have to have money with which to conduct the Society. I understand that; but you will get better contributions and I believe you will raise your money more easily in some other manner than by adding it to your membership fee. I do not think it would be practicable. This organization is for the mutual good of the growers in the State, and I believe we will get more memberships by leaving it at $1 than by raising it to $2, and I believe you could raise your money far more easily by some other method. I am not going to prescribe that method.

Mr. Hart: Mr. Sample has expressed my sentiments in this matter. We want everyone interested in horticulture in the Society; we want them here for what we can get out of them in the way of information, and I do believe that increasing the membership fee—doubling it—would keep a good many away. If you go out after the members to get an increase, you can get a whole lot with $1; if it is $2 you would not get near as many. I think it is true in most communities because the high cost of living makes every dollar—though only worth 40 cents or so—count in the considering of the expense of this year and I should feel sorry indeed to see the membership fee increased.

Mr. Hume: Those in favor of the amendment of the Constitution as outlined, will signify by saying aye. Motion is carried and the change in the Constitution is adopted.

Mr. Hume: Now, the additional By-Law, which states how these funds shall be handled and taken care of. Those in favor of this addition in the way of a fourth By-Law as outlined will signify by saying aye.

Motion is carried and By-Law adopted.

Mr. Hume: Now, then there is a chance for somebody to help us out very materially in the way of becoming Patrons of the Society, by subscribing to the Constitution of the Society and paying $100. That $100 becomes as Prof. Rolfs said, a sinking fund and the Society can use the interest on that money only for its expenses from time to time. They cannot touch the principal.

Dr. Ross: I would like to have the pleasure, and I am sure it would be an honor to say that the Florida Citrus Exchange would be the first Patron of this Society. (Applause).

Mr. Hart: Let us understand this thing. There are quite a lot of life members already. Does that mean $100 from them to become patrons or does it mean $90.

Mr. Hume: No it means $100. (Laughter).

Mr. Mills: I have been a life member for some twenty years and this is only the second or third meeting I have attended, but simply to show that my heart is in the right place, and living up to what I preach, Mills the Florist of Jacksonville will be the second Patron.

Mr. Skelly: May I announce that the American Fruit Growers, Inc., will be glad to become a patron member.

Mr. Hart: Mr. Chairman, I want to be the fourth one. I am getting behind.

Chase & Company. I want to be the seventh. I am a seventh son and I would like to become the seventh patron.
Thomas Advertising Service of Jacksonville, the sixth patron.

Mr. Hume: Mr. L. B. Skinner is a very modest man, very retiring. He does not like to talk, and just held up his hand. Make him the eighth.

Mr. Gillett: I want to be No. 13.

Mr. Hume: Well, in order to get close to you Mr. Gillett, we will have to take twelve for the Glen Saint Mary Nurseries Company.

Exchange Supply Company, No. 11.

Mr. Lyons: Mr. Chairman, please make The Gulf Fertilizer Company No. 10.


The Van Fleet Company, Florence Villa No. 5.

Mr. Christiany: I was born the 13th day of the month and have been having a terrible time ever since, and I would not like to see this thing left at thirteen, so I am going to make the American Agricultural Chemical Company, Jacksonville, No. 14.

E. O. Painter Fertilizer Company No. 15.

Mr. Floyd: Mr. Chairman, please give Wilson & Toomer Fertilizer Company place No. 16.

Mr. Emerson: I want you to reserve place No. 17 for the Florida Times Union and The Livestock Record.

Deerfield Grove Company, of Wabasso No. 18.

The Southern Crate Manufacturers Association No. 19.

Mr. Hume: If any of the individual members wish to become patrons they can do so.

Hastings Seed Co., Atlanta, Ga., No. 20.


Mr. Hume: Well, now I think we had better bring this very necessary part of our program to a close. The interest from that fund of $2,100 will be of very material help to the Society year after year, and I have no doubt that it can be materially increased with a little effort on the part of the officers. Thank you very much.