

# Report of the Committee on Strawberries.

BY R. F. RIGDON.

*Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:*

Strawberries are now one of Florida's staple crops and brings in to the State each year many thousands of dollars, and at a time of the year when there is not very much other fruit to be had.

The soil best adapted to the growth is a dark sandy loam, underlaid with clay,—if it can be had—if not, any piece of good lowland that can be well drained.

The best varieties as to flavor and shipping qualities, as far as I have tested, are Klondike, Hofman, Improved, Lady Thompson and Excelsior.

The yield per acre is, with a fair season, about five thousand quarts, if you have home grown acclimated plants, and about three thousand quarts if you have to get northern grown plants.

Method of culture.—First, the land should be plowed from eight to twelve inches deep and then well pulverized before being bedded, which should be done at least four weeks before setting of plants,

as well selected ground gives a greater assurance of a good stand of plants and they will grow off more quickly and more thriftily.

The plants should be cultivated after each rain very shallow, about one half to one inch deep.

Method of marketing.—The best and safest way to get berries to market is in ice boxes containing sixty four quarts each as they will arrive in the market three days after as fresh as the day that they were picked.

The growth and extent of culture has been very much checked by the rates that the express companies have placed on carrying berries to market.

Draw backs are many. — Drought, freezes and late frosts are all very much against the berry grower, but the worst of all is the express company in their charges to carry berries to market, and at the end the commission men keep the rest and send back for charges.

BY R. K. MUIRHEAD.

*Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:*

I regret exceedingly that I will not be able to be present this year. In former years I told the society all I knew about strawberries. The only new thing I know of is the time of planting, this should be done in spring instead of fall and the plants worked all through summer. This will insure large plants and

about four times if not ten times the yield. I have tried it with the best results but the cultivating through the summer costs money.

The difficulty of getting plants is another difficulty but they can be got at almost all the northern nurseries, and when planted then the northern grown plants do very well.