

Report of the Committee on Vegetables.

BY W. N. GIST.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I cannot in this paper, convey to your minds a comprehensive idea of the vegetable industry of the State. It is varied. It is a deep subject calling forth much energy and "gray" matter, and let me accent the latter if the grower wishes to be successful. It calls for as much care, thought and energy as the raising of children of which we expect to make men and women of the highest types; that may be an honor to the community in which they may be cast.

The vegetable industry is too varied to be discussed fully here at this time, but I may say that it is one of the moneyed industries and possibly would be pardoned for saying that it now brings more dollars into the State than the orange crop. The movement of truck (you know we grow truck and ship stuff), commencing in November and continues until July, giving nine month's shipping season for the State; some part of the State having suff that is wanted by the

man who has the dollars; all through this period, and the market demand for all our produce is increasing. Twelve years ago the growers around Gainesville would not have thought of shipping a carload of lettuce to New York at one time, now that market can take care of a trainload at paying prices and I might mention other crops, for instance, what effect would Hasting's potato crop have had on the market even five years ago.

The demand has increased and also the means of distributing, and I might say this part of the business has been seriously neglected. It should be a business separate from the growing. The growing and packing is a job big enough for one man, but nearly every trucker thinks (and I'm one of them myself) he can ship his stuff to better advantage than the man who keeps up with that end and makes it a business, giving his entire time and attention to distributing.

There is money in the business! There is also sleepless nights and gray hair to the one who falls a victim.