produce vast quantities of fruit and agricultural products when brought into cultivation, gave us the Florida East Coast Railway. No sooner were the rails laid, or often anticipating the coming of the iron horse, new settlers were in advance. It was not, as a rule, the merchant, the manufacturer or moneyed men who kept pace with the building of this great enterprise, but it was the horticulturist and agriculturist who plunged into the forest, relinquishing the pleasures and advantages of old settled communities, to make a start in a new place under new conditions, and in a part, (the tropical section) a new world, where climate and soil were a sealed secret. It was not for the benefit of the throng of tourists that annually come to the State that the building of these great trunk lines was brought about. Their coming, and the wealth they would leave behind, was but a secondary consideration that led these great capitalists to spend their money freely in the building of these roads. The prime and overshadowing reason was that the farmer, the tiller of the soil, the man with the hoe, should have rapid transportation, that the products of their fields might be sent to the distant markets of the North. These gentlemen knew that villages and cities, with mercantile establishments and giant manufacturing plants, would follow in the wake of the tillers of the soil, the uncrowned kings and queens of the earth.

In the transformation of the State of Florida from a wilderness, the railways and the hardy, honest sons of toil have worked side by side, hand in hand, and that which has been accomplished in a few short years has been marvelous. Neither the one nor the other, working single-handed, could have brought about these results.

It is estimated that the next orange crop will reach the enormous sum of 3,000,000 boxes. With another favorable winter, there will probably be 5,000,000 boxes the year following.

In the southern section of the lower East Coast, where the growing of citrus fruits is in its infancy, many thousands boxes will go forward next year, then year by year, as the young groves come into bearing, the output will be more than doubled each year. Besides the citrus fruits, there have been and are being planted large acreages in mangoes, Avocado pears, sapodillas and other purely tropical fruits. Thus you see, as the great commercial and manufacturing interests are increasing in your city, gathering about you a larger population, and producing more wealth, the horticulturist is not forgetting his mission, but steadily and more intelligently he is cultivating the soil, bringing about greater and better results.

E. V. BLACKMAN.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL ADDRESS.

Members of the Florida State Horticultural Society, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Meeting as we do today in peaceful force in this splendid new hall in this splendid new city, there is one word which more forcibly than any other emphasizes the thought uppermost in my mind, and that is the magnificent word, Progress. On every hand our surroundings show evidence of progress and prosperity, the natural results of well directed, united effort—united in the sense of city and country working together.

This beautiful Board of Trade building in which we are convened stands as a tan-

gible expression of the progress of the city which is our host. But it also stands for more. It stands as an expression of the progress of the adjacent country; of the smaller towns and villages scattered throughout our State, and, finally, of the rural population, the producers, who make possible those towns and villages. In a large sense the conditions that prevail in a city are a reflex, an emphasis, an accentuation of the conditions that obtain in the country. City and country are, and must ever be, inter-dependent each on the other.

The freight trains that roll southward in endless procession and pour out their contents in this Gate City of our State, and the steamers that pile high its docks with every conceivable kind of merchandise, must carry back to the land from which they came, products of some kind, compensatory in value to those brought in, else there can be no lasting basis of prosperity.

And it is as a very large and very active band of producers that we of the country meet with our city friends today; not in any sense as strangers, but bound together in the closest kind of business relationship. For I think I am safe in saying that this Florida State Horticultural Society has done more than any other organization in our State toward increasing the quantity, the quality and the value of these compensatory products without which the city of Jacksonville would not and could not be the bustling, thriving city that it is today.

In times past this Society has partaken of the traditional bread and salt not only of this city but of other sections of our State and, in every instance, we have come away with the feeling of cemented friendship that such partaking is supposed to engender. But now we feel that we have returned home again. We are glad to accept the welcome of this city at its face value and to believe that her people like us to feel at home.

In listening to the eloquent and cordial address of welcome tendered us today by the President of this Board of Trade, Capt. C. E. Garner, I am forcibly reminded of past cordialities extended this Society by the same gentleman, and particularly of a remark made by him to me in May, 1901. At that time, as many of you will remember, this Society was to have held its annual meeting in this city, but on account of the terrible fire our place of meeting was changed to St. Augustine. Captain Garner was at that time president, not only of this Board of Trade, but of the Fire Relief Association as well. Burdened as he was with innumerable duties, and those of the most arduous character, he found time to say to me, and, in saying it, voiced, I believe, both the sentiment of his own great heart and that of the city of Jacksonville: "Brother Taber, please say to your Society and to the good people of St. Augustine, that in addition to the losses Jacksonville has suffered by fire, she feels the loss of the Horticultural Society meeting."

Is it any wonder we feel at home here? Would not we, as guests, be sadly lacking in courtesy to our host should we refuse to feel at home with the remembrance of such an expression, coming from such a source at such a time?

I have said that the word progress is to my mind a magnificent word. Some may inquire: Why stop at progress? Why not say fulfillment, accomplishment? I will tell you why: Because the high aims and purposes of a Society like ours can never be fulfilled or accomplished in their entirety. They are too vast and too far-

reaching to admit of finality. Certain phases of our work may be, and have been, settled for the time being—but only temporarily so. To admit finality in a given direction is to put up the bars to progress in that direction.

I have never been able to satisfy myself that the word contentment, which is continually rung into our ears by some as being the Alpha and Omega of everything desirable in this life, is always rightly used or rightly interpreted. It seems to me its meaning can easily be, and often is, construed into the very antithesis of that which makes for advancement, for progress. The savage who supplies his limited wants from the depths of Nature's primeval forests drawing upon them for the, to him, all sufficient requisites of shelter and warmth and food may be typical of contentment, but he certainly is not of progress. And so up through all gradations of advancement to the highest types of present day civilization, ameliorating changes have been wrought out by those who were not content with existing conditions.

We honor and venerate our forefathers for what they were and for what they did, but honor and veneration carry with them no circumscribed limitations to progress. It is not enough to be content with life if that content is based simply and solely upon what our grandfathers or fathers did, neither is it always enough to follow step by step their exact footprints — however good they may have been. Our work commences where theirs left off, from the vantage ground to which they had attained, not from which they started. The tracks they blazed, if leading in the right direction, must be extended and become well-beaten highways; but, equally so, paths started either by them or us, that seem devious or wrongly laid must be abandoned and supplanted by others that offer a more direct and better way. It is not enough to let our lives flow smoothly along the channels of least resistance and, for this, take praise to ourselves that we are content. That our fathers progressed is sufficient mandate upon us, if we would honor them, that we must progress also. Contentment with our lot is good only as it comes from a knowledge of the full exercise of our best powers both of mind and body; of duty well and fully done, and that duty is to ourselves and to our children's children.

And it is with a great deal of pleasure that I call the attention of the Society—and of others interested in our work—to the fact that we, as a Society, have not been content to do less than the best that was in us toward furthering the aims for which we organized. Had we been content, our Society would certainly not have grown from the eighteen charter members of sixteen years ago to the unparalleled number, as compared with similar State organizations, of over eight hundred, shown by our printed report for 1903. A full record of our progress would, of course, have to take into consideration not only our wonderful increase in membership during those sixteen years, but also the past and present status of the work in which we have been and are engaged. A review of this kind would be too lengthy at this time, and is perhaps hardly necessary, inasmuch as the files of our annual reports contain the full proceedings of our meetings. Suffice it to say that we have tried to have the value of our work keep pace with our increased membership; or perhaps a better way to put it would be, that others seeing our work increase in value have wished to partake in it and have therefore become members. Either construction is good, and both are synonymous with progress, so long as the membership increases in numbers and the work in value.

One feature of our work which it seems to me is so valuable as to demand specific notice is the cataloguing of our fruits. This fruit catalogue, which appears in our printed reports, carries with it great weight, for behind it is the official sanction of the Society: First, as to species and varieties that should be listed; secondly, as to proper descriptions, and, thirdly, as to respective merits of these varieties for different sections of the State. Such a list to be of service must receive frequent and very careful revision. A committee appointed on "New Fruits and Revision of Catalogue" will make report at this meeting, and I bespeak for it your earnest, careful consideration.

And now, having spoken of the progress of our State and of the important factor that this Society has been and must continue to be in this progress, the words which I wish might have been hopeful and helpful and cheerful throughout, become less bouyant, and a minor key enters into the theme, as it becomes my sad duty to allude to that which has come into the lives of some of us since last we met. This year, as in some of those gone by, it has become my sad duty to appoint a Committee on Necrology. The report of this committee will be made later on in the meeting and, for reasons with which many of you are familiar, I could not find words to forestall this report, even if I would. I simply know that the heart of each member of the Society will go out toward those who are afflicted; not alone because of any sense of personal loss that any of us have sustained; not alone because of the goodness and graciousness and estimable qualities of those who have passed from our midst; but also because of that magnificent, god-given trait of humanity, that world-encircling bond of human sympathy, which at such times, as some of us have had recent experience, makes the whole earth kin.

I shall make only such further brief mention of the subject as seems necessary in connection with the loss of our esteemed Secretary, Stephen Powers. Immediately following Mr. Powers' death, which occurred on April 2, I appointed Aubrey Frink to serve as Secretary up to the time of this meeting, and a few days later I appointed E. O. Painter, Assistant Secretary for the same length of time. I would recommend that immediate action be taken by the Society electing Mr. Frink and Mr. Painter to serve in these respective positions during this meeting. I would also recommend that when the permanent Secretary is elected for the ensuing year, his term of office should be defined as commencing immediately after the adjournment of this meeting and to continue until January 1st, 1906, the time at which the term of other officers to be elected at this meeting will expire. Disposed of in this way, there would be no break in the Secretaryship and the time would be clearly defined as to when the duties of one Secretary leave off and those of another commence.

To my mind, one of the most hopeful signs in connection with our work, and the one more strongly indicative than any other of enduring life and constantly increasing usefulness of this Society, is to be found in the fact that the younger generation is taking, year by year, added interest in horticulture, and in this Society as its State exponent. That this gratifying condition exists, we have abundant proof, and the reason is not far to seek. It is that "Advancement of Horticulture" which forms this Society's basis of constitutional life, receives year by year a wider, deeper, fuller interpretation and significance as, year by year, the limitations set by nature

upon her productions become further and further removed and the possibilities of more completely governing these productions, both in character and extent, by our own will and skill become more apparent. It is that the horticulture of today is an inviting science worthy of the best efforts of any scholar; repaying us, her devotees, just in so far as we can digest and apply her lessons, continually beckoning us on to still higher achievements. It is that a man can spend a lifetime—or a dozen lifetimes, if he had them—without sounding to the bottom the wells of research which are constantly opening up and inviting investigation under this magic word, horticulture.

Take, for instance, the one feature of advanced horticulture that deals with the crossing of species and varieties by artificial pollination and making, one might almost say, to order, absolutely new varieties; combining into one fruit just such characteristics as seem desirable, supplying from the parentage on one side added size or vigor or productiveness and from the other an added touch of color, flavor or juiciness. Is there anything in the whole realm of science that can be more fascinating? Astounding results have already been produced in this direction in widely separated sections of our country, and one of our number, Dr. H. J. Webber, now in charge of the Laboratory of Plant Breeding of the United States Department of Agriculture, will deliver an address on this most interesting and important subject at this meeting.

But there is still another reason for our love for and interest in horticulture; a reason that extends infinitely beyond the realms of science and passes down, unheralded and untaught, from generation to generation; a reason that completes and overlaps the circuit of all knowledge and starts again with the child in the cradle. This reason is the divinely implanted instinct that accompanies many of us from infancy to age, to surround ourselves with the beautiful. It is the instinct that finds expression at the hands of every child who plucks a flower, that will perish in a day, and the instinct of the man who plants an oak that shall live a century. If we look, as we distinctly do, upon the commerical and scientific side of horticulture as laudatory, then let us consider this home-ornamentation side, this cheering, brightening, life-worth-living side, as obligatory.

And now, ladies and gentlemen, our Society has a vast amount of work laid out for this meeting, as you will see by consulting the program, and not only work, but recreation; for the people of this city have nearly overwhelmed us in their generosity of good things offered. To get time to show our appreciation of this generosity—by partaking of it—we shall have to work assiduously or else go away with our program incomplete. I trust, therefore, that the Society will aid me in expediting business in every way possible. We have been made to feel at home here by this Board of Trade and by this city, and in return I express, for the Society, the hope that the people of Jacksonville will feel at home with us while we are here. They are cordially invited to attend our meetings and to glean whatever of interest or value they can from our deliberations. We thank those who have honored us with their attendance tonight for having done so.

In closing, allow me to express the hope that this Society, this Board of Trade, this city and this State, may be partakers together in the long continued term of progress and prosperity that we believe has already commenced and that will surely abide with us, if each of us, as indi-

viduals, do our best to further it. Let us be content with nothing less.

GEO. L. TABER.

The Society had the pleasure of listening to the following excellent address on "Plant Breeding" by Dr. H. J. Webber, of the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.:

PLANT BREEDING.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It gives me great pleasure to have this opportunity of meeting with you again after an absence of several years. I find on returning to Florida that I have not lost interest in the State and still feel that it is my home. No State has more to be proud of than Florida. While primarily a fruit growing State, it is probably true that no State is more various in its agricultural products. In the northern part of the State cotton and pears, peaches, and strawberries are grown; in the middle part of the State orange growing and vegetable raising are the chief occupations; and in South Florida with its semi-tropical conditions, oranges, lemons, pineapples and other tropical fruits are produced. All of these tropical and semi-tropical products have been largely neglected so far as breeding and improvement is concerned and the subject of plant breeding is of primary interest to the growers of the State. I find that some people are surprised when it is stated that we can breed plants, though it is now a well established and generally recognized fact that plants can be bred the same as animals. Since the time of Knight and Van Mons, in the last century, we have had a fair understanding of the methods of plant breeding, and the history of agriculture is rich in illustrations. The forefathers coming to America brought with them fruits and grains of the Old World. These varieties and races of plants were not adapted to conditions in this country, and it soon became manifest that new varieties and races must be developed if they were to succeed. Very early in the history of the country we find Massachusetts organizing a horticultural society which offered premiums for new and improved seedlings of pears, apples, grapes, etc. This resulted in the securing of very valuable new native types which gradually superseded the original imported ones. As civilization spread westward and the imported varieties that had succeeded in the East were taken to western regions, we again find the same history of development. On examining the lists of fruits grown in New England now the majority are found to be of native origin. In the same way in the States of the West, native varieties originated there and were adapted to the conditions, gradually replacing eastern and foreign varieties. In the great Northwest where the demand is for hardy apples and plums, we are importing eastern varieties and varieties from other countries, but every intelligent grower realizes that this is only temporary and that sooner or later native sorts must be originated which will take the place of these. Many persons can remember the great advance that has been made in some of our native plants. Only slightly more than a half a century ago the tomato or "love apple" was regarded as injurious and not fit to eat and was cultivated for the sake of its small beautiful red fruits. Within a few decades this plant has been modified in form, trebled or quadrupled in size, and greatly improved in quality until it is now recognized as the queen of vegetables. Such illustrations show what wonderful development can be produced in plants, and I use the word produced advisedly, for without man's agency in selection such progress would never have been