

National Nut-Growers' Association, held in New Orleans in October last, could but be impressed with the importance of the industry and deep interest shown. Every moment of the three days' session was filled with reports, papers and discussions of value to the industry. This, the second meeting of the Association since formed, was well attended by representatives from South Carolina to Texas, and as far north as Missouri and Illinois, and from the practical side of nut growing the subject was most thoroughly investigated and ably discussed. We had with us representatives from five or more Southern colleges, and from the Department at Washington, D. C., who gave splendid aid in helping to place the work of the Association on a firm and stable foundation.

The exhibit of nuts embraced most of the leading and well known varieties of pecans as grown and propagated from Florida to Texas.

One exhibit of one hundred and sixteen samples from a seedling grove grown from choice nuts, and no two alike, we think must have been shown for the express purpose of chilling the man who still believes a choice nut planted will make a choice grove. Unfortunately the convention was held too early to give fair test as to quality of varieties shown, few being dry enough. This trouble will be obviated at the next meeting, which will be held in St. Louis October 26-28, 1904, as last year's crop will be held in cold storage and so be in proper condition to test. The most important report of the New Orleans convention was the one on nomenclature and standards. The need of this measure for judging the pecan has been apparent for some time, as several names have been applied to one nut, several bearing the same name, and a still greater number propagated that possessed no especial point of superiority

over existing ones, increasing the difficulty to select for planting. As nut culture is one of the recognized branches of pomology, it will be governed by the same code in establishing its standard. We regret we have no statistics at hand to show the volume of or increase in nut culture at this time, but trust such data, if not now available, will be formulated for use in the near future. In conclusion, let us state that we deem the subject of nut culture as being worthy of our best efforts; and instead of trusting that time will bring to us some chance seedling of merit, whether it be from any one of the nut tribe, let us take up the work of endeavoring to improve what we already have. If we cross-breed other fruits and by careful selection obtain something more desirable, why not with the pecan? We are constantly trying to raise the standard of other fruits; why not apply some effort toward producing our ideal in nut culture?

It may be a long road to travel for questionable results, but let our efforts be such that those following may see wherein our labor has not been entirely in vain.

H. S. GRAVES.

PECAN NUTS.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is not my purpose to inflict upon you a long-drawn-out article on this, to me, a most fascinating branch of Horticulture. Being of a nature that has no inclination to run other peoples affairs or business, I am not prepared to report upon this industry, except in so far as my own personal successes and failures go; and thinking this might be a source of interest to some of you, I will briefly relate some of my experiences. The nuts from which originated my several varieties of pecans, were planted fourteen years ago. These seedling trees are now 50 to 70 feet high, with a spread of 40 to 50 feet; they are now setting their

eighth crop of nuts. Since beginning to bear, each crop has been a full regular one; although I have cut heavily of graft wood from these trees, yet I gathered from individual trees, last year, 75 to 125 pounds of nuts, the qualities of which a good many of you are somewhat familiar with.

In March and September, 1901, I worked over a grove of 4 and 6 year old pecan trees, by grafting and budding with my choice varieties; some of these grafts bore in 1902; from one graft I picked 20 fine nuts, while in 1903 numbers of them bore—one bud, 205 nuts, which weighed 5 1-2 pounds; and a single graft bore a peck. Photos of these trees are on exhibition at this meeting. These are only single instances, as I have dozens of these buds and grafts now bearing.

I do not give these items in order that I may here advertise my business, but I was asked to prepare a report, and as I was not familiar with any but my own, I thought I would give it, such as it is, or as much of my experiences as are past the experimental stage, for many of my methods are original with me, and I would not dare give them as examples for others to follow. What I have done, others can do, and with care in selection of trees, proper fertilization, soil conditions, etc., all these being satisfactory, I see no reason why anyone cannot make a success of pecan growing; and should you go into it, either for profit or mere pleasure, or both, you will never regret the day you planted your pecan grove. And now, as demonstration is more in my line than speechmaking (the handsome cluster of grape fruit and little jar of pecans on the desk there will do their own talking), I will say in conclusion, that if any of you wish to ask any questions of me, in regard to my ideas and experiences in this industry, I will cheerfully give you as clear and concise information as I am able to give.

MRS. C. W. JACOBS.

STRAWBERRIES.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The growing of strawberries in South Florida, during the season just closed, has perhaps been fully as prosperous as that of former days. The acreage planted has been much less, but the plants have been more prolific and the amount of strawberries shipped has, as far as I could learn, been quite an average.

Prices might have been better during the early part of the season, but the long continued freezing weather in the North was not conducive to a large consumption of strawberries; hence the prices were very low. Towards the end of the season the prices improved, so that in March we were selling in Boston at forty, forty-five and fifty cents per quart.

At the last yearly meeting of this Society, I reported Brandywine as the leading berry, and spoke of the Klondike as likely to improve on closer acquaintance. This has turned out so, and, although the berries are not quite so large as the Brandywine, they are large enough for all purposes, thirty frequently filling a quart basket. The Klondike plant is much hardier than the Brandywine; even a light freeze does not hurt the bloom or young berries, when the Brandywine plants would have all the bloom and young berries destroyed. Again, this plant does not seem to be subject to leaf spot or blight, and red spider has not attacked any of them in our strawberry gardens, when, on the other hand, Brandywine has to be treated for both of these pests. It is, however, later in maturing than Brandywine, and neither will at all compare in earliness with the Excelsior, which bears a much smaller berry, but is so prolific that the yield is even greater per acre, and very much earlier than all other varieties. We began shipping on the 14th of December last year, and none