gusting thing I ever saw caused by scale. I know if the members here have had the experience I did they will try by all means to have this bill passed, and hope that the Legislature will spare neither time nor expense in getting the bill through this session. It is the curse of our State!

Mr. Westlake: It seems to me that the committee on the bill undertakes too much. It imposes duties on the entomologist which it will be impossible for him to perform. It seems to me that in requiring an entomologist to examine all fruit and vegetables sent out of the State, we would require all of his time, especially in the shipping season; his time and his deputies’ time.

Another little defect is in the financial article near the close of the bill. I am not a statesman nor a lawyer, but I know that it is not usual to provide for an appropriation. Men who draw up a bill only provide for the expense, and leave the rest to the Legislature.

Mr. Moremen: We want a good strong law or no law at all. I think that the objections urged that the entomologist would have more than he could do are based upon a misconception of the bill. It would not be necessary for the entomologist to examine everything in the State, but when there is anything suspicious he should make the examination. In other words he should ever be on the alert.

Prof. Rolfs: In regard to imperfection; it was the idea to present this to the Legislature as our idea of what a bill ought to be. I might say further, in explanation here, that, as to my card to the members of the Horticultural Society suggesting to them to let the Experiment Station do this work, it has been ruled against by the Federal courts. We cannot appropriate money from the Experiment Station for that purpose. If Floridians wish to have money for this purpose, they must appropriate it from their own treasury.

Dr. Kerr: If such a law is necessary—and we believe that it is—I think that every member of the Horticultural Society should take an interest in writing their Representatives in their respective districts, urging upon them the necessity of such a bill. It would have its effect, and concerted action would bring it about.

GROWING STRAWBERRIES IN FRAMES.

By Prof. H. E. Stockbridge.

If the subject of strawberries is still under consideration I wish to describe an experiment made during the past season which may be of interest to the Society.

The object in view was to hasten the maturity of fruit by protecting the early blooms from the freeze which so commonly ruins them in December or January. For
this purpose a structure was built which I called a strawberry frame. Double walls were built by driving two rows of stakes into the ground about four feet apart and nailing to them rough boards twelve feet in length until a height of four feet was reached, the distance between the rows being two feet. This frame was built in the form of a square, each side of which was twelve feet in length with double walls two feet apart and the corners pointing to the four points of the compass, north, south, east and west, so that each side was subjected to the direct rays of the sun during a portion of the day. These walls both inside and outside were perforated with two-inch auger holes seven inches apart. The space between the inner and outer walls was filled with soil mixed with compost and made rich with chemical fertilizers. Three-inch drain tile were placed on end at distances of three feet apart as the earth was filled in, one tile being placed end to end on top of another as the space was filled. The bottom was filled with moss pounded in solid to prevent the easy passage of water through the same so that these tile, when filled with water, became reservoirs of moisture which percolated slowly into the surrounding soil, keeping the same constantly moist. Strawberry plants were then set in the auger holes through the wooden walls. An opening was left at the northern apex of the frame to allow passage to the interior of the same. The structure thus described accommodated about 600 plants which took root easily, grew thriftily and yielded bountifully.

As a matter of comparison, plants of the same varieties were transplanted the same day and with essentially the same treatment into a bed with slatted covering and one adjoining in the open. The result was that the plants on the frame grew more rapidly and bloomed earlier than in either of the other cases. The first fruit was picked from the frame on February 7th, fully three weeks earlier than would have been the case under shade. The actual final comparison was, of course, spoiled by the freeze of February 13th, which ruined all blooms and fruit although the plants themselves in each case escaped.

Four advantages, it seems to me, are presented by this method of strawberry protection.

1. Although the frame itself requires some little expenditure, all subsequent cultivation is absolutely avoided, so that the cost of production in this way is really diminished and the fruit is of a very superior quality being necessarily free from sand and requiring no mulching.

2. A gain of about three weeks in date of maturing is secured, which, of course, means highest prices for the product.

3. The shape of the structure facilitates easy covering with paper or cloth as protection against moderate cold.

4. Such a frame can be cheaply and easily constructed in a very limited space so that residents upon town lots by this means can produce their own fruit which would not be possible with level culture.

The method is, of course, circumscribed by limitations and cannot be recommended as a commercial method upon a large scale. It is believed, however, that it has very material advantages for individual producers, particularly as a means for securing early fruit in an economical way. It will, of course, be recognized that the method is not entirely new as it utilizes the particular characteristic of the so-called barrel method...
of cultivation. It is believed, however, to be in every way more economical and effective than this method, indeed the latter method is not believed to possess utility for practical growers.

DISCUSSION.

[See minutes, pages 1 to 5, items 56 and 57.]

Mr. Putney: I want to say that strawberries can be grown on high pine land. My strawberries are on high land, and I have always been able to get a good crop there. Just after the freeze of 1895, Mr. Roby, of Lake county, put out a moderate sized bed on high pine land, well fertilized, and sprinkled them with the hose—Lady Thompson variety. They made good fruit, and have been successful nearly every season.

Last winter at Avon Park there were beautiful beds of strawberries grown with no other irrigation facilities than a watering pot. They are very successfully grown, and they get enough strawberries for home use, though they are too far from a railroad to ship to market.

If you can get enough fertilizer, and a head of water—or a sprinkling pot and have the muscle to carry the water—you are sure to have plenty of strawberries.

I think the three best varieties are the Hoffman, Newnan and the Lady Thompson.

Mr. Westlake: I have seen the same result obtained by boring a barrel full of holes around the side. It is not only good, but ornamental.

Mr. Putney: I want to endorse the Lady Thompson as a good strawberry. You can have berries, as far down as Lake county, from the 9th of December to the 4th of July, if you have plenty of manure and moisture.

CANES AND UMBRELLA STOCKS.

Mr. Schmelz: I wish to speak on another subject—walking canes and umbrella handles. In Germany they have quite a systematic industry in this line. Bamboo canes are supposed to come from Japan, but in reality they come from Georgia. I find that it is cheaper to grow an article like that than it is to go into the woods to find it. Now, I would suggest the growing of the wood known by the German name of weichsel, probably the mahaleb cherry. It retains its fragrance, and the best is grown in Hungary. They train the young shoots so that they produce switches with a right angle, suitable for long canes and umbrella handles. There is a great deal to be learned. I know some people who have been in the business. The principal point is to succeed in retaining the fragrance of the wood. A party in New Jersey grew some but did not make a success in retaining the fragrance of the wood. Some grown in Kentucky was very good. I tried it in a small way before 1895. They were in demand. If anyone has had any experience in this line I would like to hear from him. There is more in this industry than you might think. Also in the making of pipe stems. Every piece of them is utilized.