

lars in a single night certainly invites, if, indeed, it does not demand protection at our hands. To my mind prophecies of a repetition of old time, long continued, favorable conditions, however agreeable to entertain, carry but little weight. Who of us knows when these favorable conditions are to re-commence and for how long continue? If, as is stated, history repeats itself, it is, at least, at irregular intervals; and haven't some of us figured in history

that we do not care to see repeated? We spend money in insuring our buildings and merchandise against loss by fire, and this money we hope is thrown away; that is, we hope the building will never burn. To a certain extent the money that we shall spend in protecting our groves from cold will be invested in the same way. The best business methods are those that provide against every contingency of loss. Are they not as applicable in the one case as the other?

REPORT OF SECRETARY.

H. G. HASTINGS.

[SEE MINUTES PAGES I TO 6, ITEM 28.]

The work of the Secretary's office for the past year has been largely of a character as given in former reports.

After being duly authorized by the Executive Committee, your Secretary and President Taber made contracts for the publication of the annual report.

This report, which was considerably larger than any previous reports issued by the Society, was delivered to the Secretary on October 4th, and a copy mailed to each member on the following day. This is, we believe, the earliest date on which the report has ever been delivered.

In March a circular letter was sent to the editor of each paper in the State calling attention to the annual meeting for 1898 and the response was exceptionally large, very few papers failing to publish the notice and many of them editorially called the attention of their readers to the meeting. The thanks of the Society are especially due to the Times-Union and Citizen for repeated

editorial notices of the work of the Society, and to the Farmer and Fruit Grower and Agriculturist.

On April 1st, a notice of the meeting for 1898 was sent to members, calling attention to the coming annual meeting; requesting that the memberships be renewed. At the same time an urgent request was made that each one try and induce one or more others to become members. Up to April 20th renewals of memberships came in at a rate that indicated a considerable increase of membership over that of the previous year. At that date, however, it became apparent that war could not be averted and in the consequent excitement of the public at such a crisis the renewals of membership dropped off almost entirely and has continued so until now, comparatively few memberships having been issued after that date. It seems to be a fact that in this time of war excitement the interest of the people in peaceful pursuits has for the time being

ceased and we are confronted by the disagreeable fact of a decreased membership over that of last year, in spite of the fact that more extended notice of the meeting has been made than at any time in the history of the Society.

The financial transactions of the Secretary's office since taking charge of same at the last annual meeting are as follows:

Received from Acting Sec. Taber..\$	4.50
Dues for 1896 collected.....	3.00
Dues for 1897 collected.....	50.00
Dues for 1898 collected.....	271.00
Four Life Memberships.....	40.00
Donation from Amos Wakelin....	4.00
Extra copies sold.....	3.50
	<hr/>
	376.00
1898.	
April 30. Turned over to Treas....	100.00
May 4. Turned over to Treas.....	276.00
	<hr/>
	376.00 376.00

Following is an exhibit of membership taken at 2:30 P. M., May 4, 1898:

MEMBERSHIP.

Honorary members..	2
Life members..	28
Annual members..	271
	<hr/>
	301

Your Secretary at the time of his election expressed serious doubt as to his ability to fill the office satisfactorily and one year's experience in the office has convinced him that it is utterly impossible for him to carry on the work of the office in justice to the Society and to himself without assistance. At the time of year when active preparations should be made for the annual meeting your present Secretary was unable through pressure on his time from active business, to give the work of the Secretary's office the attention that it should have had and it was only by the kindly co-operation of President Taber in relieving the Secretary of a portion of the work that arrangements for this meeting have been fully completed.

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT.

W. S. HART.

[SEE MINUTES PAGES I TO 6, ITEM 29.]

To The Florida State Horticultural Society
Dr.
1897.
May 5. To bal. in treasury at last report... ..\$378.82
1898.
Feb. 12. To membership fees received by Treasurer.. . . 4.00
Mar. 27. To fee and donation from Mr. Amos Wakelin.. . . 5.00
Apr. 30. To received on deposit from Sec. Hastings.. . . 100.00

May 3. To received on deposit from Sec. Hastings.. . . 276.00
Total receipts... .. 762.82

Cr.

1897.
June 19. By Sec.'s Draft No. 14. Return of Sec. Manville's stipend.. . . . \$ 62.50
July 2. By Sec.'s Draft No. 15. Ste'grapher's wages \$30.00 Board at Orlando 3 days @ \$1.50.. . . . \$4.50