mosphere having warmed up, this cold fruit condenses the atmosphere, and we find ourselves packing a lot of wet oranges. I have found a good way to prevent this is to shut the packing house up early in the afternoon, and keep an oil stove burning during cool nights.

Another advantage in holding fruit for several days before packing is that the culls show up better and can be more easily detected.

A good sizer will attend to that part of the business, but the grading and culling should be very carefully done.

Grade uniformly; cull closely, and if you have no home market for culls and wish to ship them, ship only the best and mark them culls that they may sell on their own merits.

Pack honestly, stencil carefully; put your name and address on the box, it is a sign that you are not ashamed of it.

Let it be your aim that when a buyer opens up a box of your fruit he will find it to be just what the stencils said it was; it will pay in the long run. You may fool a man once, but you don’t often fool him twice.

Don’t pay by the piece, either for picking or packing; it is offering a premium for hasty, careless work and “haste makes waste.”

Now the all important question confronts us. How shall we sell our fruit to best advantage? Shall we sell at home? Shall we sell at auction, or shall we ship to the much abused commission merchant? These are questions each grower must answer for himself. Could the orange growers combine on any one feasible plan and stick to it faithfully, it would be much the best for all; but alas! this seems impossible.

If the opportunity offers to sell at home at anything like a reasonably satisfactory price, do so. “A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.”

If you prefer the auction, a perfectly safe and efficient service is within reach of all.

If you prefer the commission merchant, ship only to those of known reliability and good standing, which can readily be found out from the commercial agencies, or the banks in the cities where they are located.

* JOINT MEETING. *

Texas and Florida State Horticultural Societies,

Report prepared by G. L. Taber, of Glen St. Mary, Baker County, Chairman Special Committee on Joint Meeting, Texas and Florida State Horticultural Societies, and read by the Secretary.

[See minutes pages 1 to 6, item 46.]

It will be recalled that, at our Annual Meeting for 1894, a resolution was unanimously passed inviting the Texas State Horticultural Society to join this Society in a Joint Session, to be held during the present year. (1896).

Messrs. Geo. H. Wright, of Orlando, G. W. Mellish, of DeFuniak Springs, and
myself, were appointed as a Special Committee to present this invitation, and to act for this Society in arranging for such joint-session, in the event of the acceptance of the invitation.

At the 1895 Annual Meeting, as chairman of the Joint-Session Committee, I submitted a report, the purport of which was, that the invitation had been personally presented to the Texas Society and had been accepted by that body—which had appointed a committee to act with the committee of this Society in arranging for the proposed event. And, there the matter rested, waiting the joint action of these committees.

Subsequently; and during the summer of 1895, there resulted a voluminous correspondence between the Florida and the Texas Committees.

It soon transpired that a Horticultural exhibit and convention of the horticulturists of the entire South and Southwest, was contemplated in connection with certain celebrations to be held during the summer of 1896, at Galveston.

The Texas Committee desired that the Joint-Session be held in connection with this Galveston event, in fact, be made a part of it. And it was apparent that it would be impracticable to hold the Joint-Session, except in this connection. In view of this, in a letter to Mr. T. V. Munson, Chairman of the Texas branch of the Committee, dated June 17th, 1895, I said:

"The Florida Society in passing the resolution of invitation, had in view a definite object, namely, getting together the horticulturists of the "Gulf Coast Country," and the Florida committee was constituted to carry into effect this definite object.

The matter at your end has taken such definite (although different) shape, and has been so enlarged in its scope (although upon other lines) that it does not seem to me feasible to carry into effect the original object, but it does seem to me that the meeting you outline, having already taken definite shape, is the meeting that would be most successful under the circumstances, and is the meeting to hold.

But, in order to secure a good general fruit exhibit, the date must necessarily be fixed at a time when Florida (and a considerable portion of the Gulf region proper) could not make an exhibit which would be creditable by comparison, and when such an attendance could not be had as Florida should have as a joint mover in the undertaking.

Therefore, in view of the fact that the Florida Committee is limited by the definite object idea, and the further fact, that under the circumstances, Florida could not, by reason of restricted attendance and exhibit, participate creditably with Texas as a joint promoter of the undertaking, I do not think Florida should attempt the joint roll, but, that the meeting should be held under the auspices of the Texas Society, Florida participating, like the other states, in response to the invitation of Texas. Texas, and the Texas Committee, which would have the work to do, should have the credit.

Secretary Manville concurs with myself and the Committee in the opinion:

That it is not feasible, under the circumstances, to attempt now to carry out the undertaking on the lines originally laid down.

That a meeting in accordance with the outline and inception you set forth is advisable.

That, in fairness to Florida and justice to Texas, the former recede from the position of joint promoter, and the meeting
be held under the auspices of the latter.

I trust the foregoing will meet with your approval, and that you will take the matter up accordingly."

On July 5th, I again wrote Mr. Munson, urging this view of the matter as follows:

Our Florida Committee appreciates most fully that your Committee wishes to harmonize with us, and we, most certainly, wish to do nothing that should in any way lessen the pleasant relations already established between the Horticultural Societies of Texas and Florida.

And, it was with this in view that I wrote you as I did on the 17th, ult., waiving our claim, for the joint meeting on the lines originally contemplated, so that the horticulturists of Texas might feel free to accept the invitation of Galveston, and to co-operate with its citizens toward a meeting and fair, much larger in scope and more extended in territory.

The invitation from the Galveston Chamber of Commerce is for a "joint meeting and horticultural fair of the States of Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, North and South Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas, Indian Territory, New Mexico and Texas."

The very largely extended territory covered by this invitation, coupled with your suggestion (June 11th,) that every state and county horticultural society in the South should be invited, and your expressed belief (June 24th,) that such a meeting will be held at Galveston, during 1896, makes it very clear to our Florida Committee that we (as initiatory joint promoters) should be exceeding the authority granted us by our Society in assuming so much more power than has been conveyed to us, either by the original resolution, or subsequent instructions.

It is equally clear to our Committee that it would be acting, to say the least, in very bad taste, for us to do anything that should in any way tend to hamper the success of this very desirable (though radically different) meeting, so liberally blocked out and provided for by Galveston, and that it is eminently fitting and proper for us to waive the claim, that your Committee so generously conceded, on the point of priority of invitation, (to a meeting that must, from the very nature of the territory to be covered, have been smaller) and thus positively set aside any possible confliction of interests, in favor of the larger meeting.

And, now, before making the suggestions that will appear later in this letter, I wish to bring up another phase of the subject, that will, I think, convince you, that the Galveston meeting, with the Texas State Horticultural Society as sole promoter and inviter, is, not only the best arrangement, but that Florida, under the changed conditions from a year ago, will be glad to have you act upon this belief.

In April, 1894, when the resolution was passed inviting Texas to a Joint-Session with Florida, the horticulturists of this State were in a prosperous condition, and no signs of an impending calamity were apparent. When the invitation was presented by myself to the Texas Society, the conditions remained the same. And these conditions continued unchanged up to Dec. 29th, 1894, when, at one fell blow, a large portion of the income of the Florida horticulturists was swept away. Again, on Feb. 8th, 1895, the blow was repeated, this time intensified, wiping out the source of income, at least, so far as the near future is concerned. The trees, on which the fruit was frozen by the first freeze, were themselves badly crippled in the second,
and a large portion of them will have to grow again from the ground before anything in the way of income can be obtained from them. In the above, I refer principally, of course, to citrus fruits, in the culture of which a large portion of our horticulturists are principally interested. The damage, however, was not confined to citrus trees, or to the State of Florida, but the region in which the most loss was experienced, was (speaking for this State) the one that (without this disaster) would have sent the largest delegation to the joint meeting.

However much we may deplore it, the fact remains, that the attendance from Florida, at a joint meeting at Galveston, or elsewhere, will be largely reduced from what it would have been under the normal conditions that were existent when the invitation from Florida to Texas was presented.

With these facts in view, the suggestions I wish to make, or rather to emphasize, (as having already been made) are as follows:

That the Galveston meeting, under the auspices of the Texas State Horticultural Society, is the one to be held in 1896.

That the increased scope, and the changed conditions from a year ago, make it inexpedient for Florida to act in the capacity of joint initial promoter.

That in waiving the acceptance of Texas to act as joint promoter with Florida for a joint session of their respective Societies in 1896, it is with the best of feeling on the part of Florida, and in the interest of a more comprehensive meeting.

That, if the withdrawal of the Florida Committee, ends the life of the Texas Committee, the Texas Society will, doubtless, see fit to re-elect the same efficient Committee to carry out the work on the lines indicated by the Galveston invitation.

That, if more than three members are deemed advisable for this Committee, other members of the Texas Society can serve, under the circumstances, to better advantage that the Florida Committee.

That the Florida Society hopes for, and will expect, an invitation from the Texas State Horticultural Society to a meeting of the horticulturists of the entire South, to be held under the auspices of the Texas Society, at Galveston, in 1896.

And finally, that at some time in the future when the results of the past winter's freezes in the Sub-Tropical Region have become less marked, and when nothing of greater magnitude would have to be sacrificed, that Texas, and the intervening Coast Country, will come to our State, upon our invitation, when we promise to repeat the good things we look for, at your hands, in 1896.

Trusting that this letter and these suggestions will be received, and acted upon by your Committee and your Society, in the same candid and friendly spirit in which they are written, and feeling sure that the views of our Society, as above set forth, are properly presented by our Committee, I remain, etc."

On July 10th, I received a reply from Mr. Munson, acquiescing in this view.

Inasmuch as your Committee has completed the work committed to it, they respectfully ask to be discharged.

(Signed) G. L. Taber,
Chairman.

Report adopted and Committee discharged.