

Horticultural Meetings.

Alton (Ill.) Horticultural Society.

FRIDAY, February 3, 1865.

The Society met at the residence of S. R. Dolbee, Esq., in the city of Alton.

Dr. Hull was called to the Chair.

Resignation of Chas. W. Dimmock read, and W. C. Flagg elected President to fill vacancy.

Geo. Eisenmeyer, Esq., of Mascoutah, Illinois, was called—he having been requested at the last meeting to give the members some facts pertaining to old pear trees and orchards. He read the following:

I have been informed by Mr. Aubry, an intelligent horticulturist, who has resided in the French Bottom near Cahokia for the last thirty years, that an old man upward of one hundred years old told him that seventy years ago there were large old pear orchards in the neighborhood of Cahokia, of which five trees are still remaining, and are in a healthy and thrifty condition, said trees are from forty to fifty feet high, and about three feet in diameter, they are never pruned, but average from fifteen to twenty bushels per year; the ground is cultivated in the usual manner of farming. They are not affected by the high water, and in 1844, the fruit was gathered in skiffs and in that manner conveyed to market. He does not know their title, but says they are of an excellent quality, and are never sold for less than two dollars per bushel. Mr. Aubry thinks the healthiness of the trees is attributable to the loose sandy soil, in which the trees send forth deep strong roots, and are thereby enabled to receive an average support of moisture all the year round. There are also other orchards in the vicinity from fifty to sixty years old, which average thirty bushels per year, and others from thirty to forty years old, which yield from twenty to twenty-five bushels per year. All these trees are healthy and produce good summer and fall fruit. Young pear trees are always killed by the high water, if the water comes over the leaves, otherwise they are not injured. They have no name for the various sorts, but call them all "pears." From the Rev. Mr. Frohbaese, I learned that the oldest pear trees in **Prairie du Rocher** are about fifty years old; the trees are somewhat neglected, but notwithstanding he made an excellent crop last year, a part of which he converted into "pear cider," which is of an excellent quality. Said trees are all of one kind, the fruit, very high flavored, and juicy, the name has been lost, and the tenacious and taciturn pears refuse to give it. They ripen in July and are the size of a large hen egg, but Mr. F. thinks they can be greatly improved by a higher state of cultivation. Said trees are all growing in the rich, black sandy soil, formerly the bed of the Mississippi.

Mr. Thomas Crosby, a highly intelligent English nurseryman living near Belleville, calls said pears "Cahokia Seedling." Three years ago we planted fifty standard trees, purchased from Mr. C. and have not yet been able to detect any disease, said trees appearing to be hardy and healthy so far.

GEO. C. EISENMEYER.

Several specimens of wine presented—a medium quality Catawba, from Nauvoo, Ill.; currant wines (or cordials) of fair quality.

The report provided by the hospitality of Mrs. Dolbee, was discussed in committee of the whole, the proceedings of which clearly demonstrated that the utmost harmony existed, and that the zeal and capacity of our worthy members had not been impaired or abated. This gratifying point being established, committee rose, reported progress, W. C. Flagg in the chair.

Mr. Dolbee's grounds are beautifully situated, on the bluffs immediately up the river above the city, with a scenery not surpassed in the neighborhood of the city of bluffs. His fine residence is situated on five and a half acres of land; its elevation about 300 feet above the river; has a fine variety of fruit, among which are 220 peach; 150 apple; 100 pear with small fruits, and about 2,000 grape vines, consisting mostly of Catawba, Delaware and Concord.

Next meeting to be held on Friday, March 3d, 1865, 10 o'clock, A. M., in Alton, at the residence of Charles W. Dimmock, Esq.

H. G. MCPHIE,
Secretary.