AFTERNOON SESSION.

Meeting reassembled at 2 p. m., Vice President S. N. Whittlesey in chair.

The report of Experimental station was presented by Judge John A. Gaynor of Grand Rapids, who accompanied same with suggestions and statistics, which were ordered printed as also other communications received by secretary.

Experiment Station Report.

To the Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers' Association—Gentlemen: As most of you know, the station, which contains a little more than a quarter of an acre of ground, is divided into sections, each about a half a rod square, and at the center of each square a single vine of the variety to be cultivated is planted. There are, in all, 207 sections, 24 of which are still vacant and 183 have been planted. Of the 183, 44 have been planted to seedlings from some of the finest varieties of berries that have been exhibited at the annual meetings, and 139 have been planted to a single vine of such varieties as have been recommended to us. Of these 183 varieties, twenty-five were planted in 1894, thirty-nine in 1895, four in 1896, twenty-five in 1897, nine in 1898, thirty-two in 1899 and forty-eight in 1900. Three sections of seedlings were planted in 1894 from berries furnished by Mr. Tuttle, and these sections are now in full bearing. Twelve sections of seedlings were planted in 1897 which will probably come into bearing next year. About twenty sections of seedlings were planted during the past summer. The imported seed furnished by the government usually failed to grow. This failure, I think, is due to the fact that the seed was dried before it was shipped, and cranberry seeds, in common with the seeds of most woody plants, will not bear drying; drying destroys the vitality. We have instructed the Agricultural department at Washington on this point, and they are now shipping us the seed in the pulp, and we hope for better results in this line hereafter.

Your committee last year, after examining the samples of fruit from the Experimental station, recommended the following varieties for further propagation: Nos. 3, 31, 27, 35, 38, 39, 88, 43, 51, 57, 50, 60, 59, 53, 89, 64, 61, 86, 78 and 87. Vines were taken from each of these sections and planted by themselves at the north end of the nursery, early in June last. These plantings have done exceedingly well, and cuttings may be taken from them as soon as they come into bearing. We hope to have samples of the fruit from these vines at the next annual meeting, and the vines of such as show a decided superiority may be distributed to Wisconsin

growers, who will be willing to undertake their further propagation on such terms as the association may prescribe.

The seed of the above varieties produced at the Experimental station was planted on sections of the Experimental station for the purpose of ascertaining to what extent their fruit would resemble the berries from which they were derived. In short, this was done to determine the degree of variation that cranberry seedlings would show. As a rule, most wild seeds are true to their parental type, but the seed of the cranberry seems to be an exception to this rule. Besides the seeds planted at the Experimental station, a large amount of seed taken from fruit sent us for exhibition at the last annual meeting was planted near the northeast corner of the nursery.

The only other planting done at the nursery was the completion of the upper section, which is planted to Metallic Bell vines received from the Shennington marsh.

This method of seeking to improve the cranberry by selecting and propagating such varieties as may be found in nature should be continued as long as men continue to grow cranberries. While much might be done by cross-fertilization, this method requires skill, time and scientific training that we are not likely to be able to-secure, and even if we could secure it, it is doubtful if we could secure larger results than may be secured by diligently selecting such varieties as nature produces.

We have now nearly all the varieties to be found in the United States, and while we expect to add in the future mostly foreign varieties, we do not expect from them any specially fine results. It is seldom that any imported plant does even as well as it did in its native country. The best results will be secured from improving our native varieties, and the chances are that it would be best for each grower to improve the natural varieties found in his vicinity. All of which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES GAYNOR.

The Blossom Bud.

Every observant fruit grower, whether interested in apples or cranberries, has noticed that one year he will have a great profusion of blossoms, and another, a decided scarcity. Without blossoms there can be no fruit, hence, it is of the highest importance to determine what the conditions are that give a fair supply of the blossom buds, upon which success depends.

The cranberry vine, like most other plants, is divided into joints. While these joints are not as apparent as in the corn stalk, the elder bush, or grape vine, yet they are joints all the same, and at the end of each joint there is a leaf, and in the crotch or axil of every leaf, a bud. A bud in the axil of a leaf is called a lateral bud to distinguish