Mr. Irving Smith: It was my pleasure to be sent to attend the meeting of the Michigan Society at Hart, Michigan, in Oceana county. We went by way of steamer across from Milwaukee to Grand Haven, and from there to Ludington was the most forlorn, God-forsaken country that I ever went through. After we passed Ludington the country began to improve, we began to see a little oak timber coming up, the second growth, on the rather undulating land, and the soil began to look a little better, and when we got up to Hart we were in what looked like a pretty fine country. The meeting was held in the opera house there, the attendance being not as large as at our own meetings. The Society there is not as large as ours, but very enthusiastic, particularly the leaders among them impressed me strongly and they treated all their delegates with the utmost cordiality.

Mr. Caleb Davis gave us a little sketch of their fruit growing history in Oceana county; that is in the midst of the peach growing country. He said that the growers until about 1885 grew in a very limited way and sold to practically a home market. At that time they began to set more largely, particularly of peaches. They seemed to think that anybody that had a few peach trees had a fortune that he was going to get very soon; well, they did not all of them get it. As the peach industry advanced, prices of course went down, and it was reduced to the ordinary business proposition of supply and demand. Mr. Brassington, who led in the discussion, gave us a description of his own methods, which I think were very good for his kind of a market, which is a distant market. He said he sent his fruit all to one party, this happened to be a Milwaukee party, and he made it a point to be acquainted with that man, to go over and see him at various times not only in the shipping season, but at other times. He made shipments of from one to five cars daily, and by so doing keeping up a continual supply of this particular brand of fruit, so that this dealer in Milwaukee could get a trade on this particular brand of fruit; he knew what he could expect, and he found much more satisfactory results than selling in a general way to whoever happened to give the best bid for that particular lot,
Then we had a very good paper by C. B. Cook, of Owosso, who said that as we are servants of the public, let us make our fruit as cheap as we can. He advocated the double hedge row, by which he meant setting two rows of plants pretty nearly together, and allowing but few runners to form and then and now a matted row. In general cultivation he had very much the same plan as we have here, but there was one point, that of winter protection, that was got at in quite a different way. He found the sowing of barley or oats broadcast on his strawberry bed, on his old bed soon after the crop was off, and on a new bed after the plants were pretty well grown, of value in protecting the plants if they were inclined to go too far in the fall. There was an exhibition of strawberries there; this was the first week of December, and there were strawberries in fruit there on exhibition, I believe the variety was Enhance, very fine berries. The varieties of strawberries there seem to be pretty nearly what we have here, as given by Mr. Kellogg, the great strawberry man there. He put in the Warfield, Senator Dunlap, Sample, Seaford and Arama, as among the most prominent for commercial growing.

Prof. Herrick, of the Experimental Station, gave us quite a long talk on apples, the varieties and variation by selection, and showed, apparently to his satisfaction, though I must say, not to the satisfaction of the audience, that the locality in which fruit is grown very often changes the appearance, almost the type, of the fruit.

Then we had a talk by Prof. M. D. Wait, U. S. Pathologist, on nurse crops and cover crops. This I thought was a very valuable paper, and one that we might all get good points from. His experience extended over a large section of the country, both in the south and in the north. He defined nurse crops and cover crops in this way, the nurse crop being a crop which is planted in the orchard for the profit of the crop itself, and the cover crop for the benefit of the orchard. He said that corn was one of the most common nurse crops to plant in an orchard, and it was a very undesirable crop to plant, except in a very small, very young orchard; it was too heavy and took more soil than the trees could profitably spare, but it was a very good indicator as to the real strength of the soil itself, something we all need to know. As to nurse crops, he recommended truck crops, as we commonly speak of hay crops and potatoes, particularly in the south they raise immense quantities of sweet potatoes in the orchard with
very desirable results. The common grains, oats, rye and barley, should never be planted in the orchard, as they take too much of the moisture from the ground and consequently starve the trees. He recommended as cover crops, cow-peas, vetch, soy beans, crimson clover, in fact, all nitrogen gatherers, and cautioned against too late plowing in the spring.

When the matter of spraying came up, there were some very remarkable exhibits of apples shown as the result of the work of spraying; among them was a northern spy they had taken from the show tables, which was so bright in color as to attract very general attention.

Mr. Horace G. Welsh, the commissioner who was appointed to look after the peach orchards, and destroy, where necessary, diseased trees, gave us a talk on the diseases of peaches. I must say that while he recommended some remedies, that the summing up of it was a good deal like the summing up of the remedies for the hog cholera; after you read a few pages of remedies to give your hogs when they get the cholera, they usually end up by saying that the best thing is to kill all the hogs and bury them good and deep. That was about the result of the work in the matter, not of prevention, but curing trees when they became diseased was to chop them down and dig them out, root and branch, and burn them.

We all know that celery is a large industry in Michigan. We had a little talk on that, showing the growth of the business and the wonderful extent to which it had gone, and the possibility of still greater work. I can say from our own experience that the celery markets are not overdone, there is room for a great deal more celery than is now grown. The Kalamazoo people get about ten cents a dozen for their celery, the growers, that is, and claim that it is profitable at that figure.

The paper delivered by your delegate was on Intensive Cultivation and the Bank Account. It was very well received, and in two or three points I wish we could copy the Michigan Society, that is, in not putting down or setting a certain number of minutes for a paper. I suggested this to the Secretary, and whether it was on account of that, or something else. I notice that he has made our program in that way. The form of the program which I hold in my hand is quite an attractive little booklet giving just a little sketch of the speakers who were expected. This was sent, I judge by the heading, to the various persons,
with the request that they print as much as they had room for in their paper as an advance advertisement, and it struck me as a very good way to advertise our meetings. My expenses were entirely paid by the Michigan Society.

Mr. Gibbs: I have a very short statistical report in regard to these societies which I should like to offer for the record.

On motion of Mr. Barnes, the reports of the various delegates were accepted.

GROWING VEGETABLES.

John Vanloon.

While the subject of market gardening is one of great moment and the business of growing vegetables is one that engages the attention of a large number of men, women and children throughout the country, still we believe the subject of home gardening is one that affects more people and can frequently be discussed with profit. It is hardly probable that I can give the members and friends of our Society any information in relation to the subject which they do not already possess. Gentle reminders or personal experience sometimes prove a source of information, and it is from this standpoint that this paper has been written and if some of those present may gain some thoughts or hints worth knowing I shall feel well repaid. During an experience of thirty-five years in market gardening, a great change has taken place and the knowledge gained during that time has confirmed us in the belief that to grow vegetables successfully and profitably we should aim to have a well enriched soil, kept clean by the best known ways, and provided with an abundance of Humus. In fact every effort should be made to add constantly what humus we can in order to obtain paying results, and to defy droughts which occur to a greater or less extent almost annually. An additional item and perhaps the most important of all, is the sowing of the best seeds and plants obtainable. Shun poor or doubtful seeds—burn them or throw them away. It's a waste of time to bother with them. If you are already fortunate enough to deal with a reliable seedsman, stick to him and pay