Greening are favorites, pears are a failure, peaches no good, strawberries yield heavily and prices range low.

Prof. Van Houghton of southern Iowa talked on cold storage. Apples should be cooled over night before being placed in cold storage. The Wealthy is exceptionally good for keeping in this way. Cave cellars were recommended for storing fruit. They should be covered with three or four feet of earth and air admitted by an underground pipe and should have a small air chimney at the top.

The president's address recommended that papers be assigned six months previous to the date of next meeting. The members voted to adopt this rule.

These officers were elected for the next year. President, C. G. Patten; Vice President, C. F. Gardner; Secretary, C. H. True; Treasurer, E. Blakeman.

The next meeting will be held in Charles City.

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REPORT OF DELEGATE TO MINNESOTA.

E. P. SANDSTEN.

Through the kindness of this society I was appointed a delegate to the meeting of the Minnesota State Horticultural society. The meeting on the whole was both profitable and interesting. It was held in the First Unitarian Church and the facilities for handling the crowd and the exhibit was very good, but so far as the general attendance was concerned it was a disappointment. It was told by the secretary that the membership of the society is nearly 2000, while the attendance was not larger than is here today. Many of the old pioneers were present as usual, prominent among them Mr. Wyman, Mr. Elliott, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Yanhke, Mr. Latham, Mr. Loring, and our Mr. Phillips and Mr. Kellogg of Wisconsin.

The program was extended over three days and it was too full to permit of a full discussion of the various topics handled, and I think a mistake was made in trying to cover too much ground. One part of the program was given over to the nursery men and their customers. This part proved exceedingly interesting and brought out facts which the fruit growers in
general are not acquainted with, though the consensus of opinion was that the nurserymen and the fruit grower having the same object in view should be honest with one another. The promiscuous employment of agents was discussed as a menace to substantial progress. It seems that our society could profitably devote a half day to this subject in a future program.

The impression an outsider would gain from attending the Minnesota meeting would be that Minnesota horticulturists have gone apple mad, while Minnesota members may accuse us of going plum mad. Apple seedlings were the most absorbing topic and the exhibit showed evidence of great activity among fruit growers and farmers in the production of new seedlings. The exhibits were exceptionally large and fine, especially so was the collection of seedling apples. I think that the Minnesota people have stolen a march on us in having their meetings in December, as they can then make a better exhibit of fruit than we can in February. We can only exhibit fruit that has been kept in storage or a few of our winter apples. Whether any direct gain results from having the meeting in December instead of February is an open question but I think it worth while for us to consider.

There were two prominent apple seedlings exhibited. These two seedlings are now being propagated and distributed. There is also a seedling shown by Mr. Perkins of Goodhue County that stands very high and is now being extensively tested. This seedling is in line for the prize offered by the society for the best winter seedling.

The liberal prizes offered by the society for the production of apples and plums is beginning to bring results. Besides the prizes for apples there are two prizes for plums, one for $1,000 and another for $100.

Referring to the question of membership, I was impressed with the fact that while the membership in the Minnesota society is very large the attendance was relatively small and I firmly believe that the strength and usefulness of the society does not lie entirely in the number but in the enthusiasm and activity of the workers.

One criticism I would make on the meeting is the generality of the topics discussed and I heartily want to second our secretary’s idea of the program, namely, that so far as possible
each paper presented at the meeting shall stand as a monogram or a thesis on that subject for a long time to come. It should, as far as possible, be a finished product printed for future reference. In this way only can permanent good be derived from the report and a history of horticulture in each state be recorded.

Another fact was brought back to me with greater force than ever, namely that while discussions in many instances are for the enlightenment of others, they are in other instances mere discussions of personal opinion which are hardly profitable since seldom two persons agree. Each speaker is insistent that he is right in his opinion—the fact is that we are all right according to our own opinion.

When we consider Minnesota’s position on the map and her age as a settled state, I think that she has a right to be justly proud of her achievements. She will some day be able to teach her more favorite sister states the secret of profitable fruit growing.

The closing climax of the meeting was the banquet Thursday night, December 23rd. At this meeting a number of toasts were given, Mr. Phillips and Mr. Kellogg responding in their usual happy mood. Prof. Hansen of South Dakota gave a very interesting talk on Luther Burbank and his work. He dwelt at some length on the achievements of Mr. Burbank and upon the favorite soil and climatic conditions under which he is carrying on his labor. He was not able, however, to get from Mr. Burbank any direct pointers as to how he accomplished his marvelous results. Mr. Hansen’s opinion was that Mr. Burbank’s success was attributable to his intimate knowledge of plant individuals, his ability to judge the value of a seedling while in its infancy, and to the favorable soil and climatic conditions. The height of the discussion was engendered when the question was brought up of extending the list of the best apples for the state. The principal warriors were Professor Green and Mr. Wyman. On the whole, the meeting was one long to be remembered by those in attendance.