I am glad to have met you again, glad that you had the opportunity to come to this beautiful capitol, it is one of the interesting spots of the state now, and I am sure that you will enjoy your stay. I thank you for your attention. I should like to remain with you, but I have a busy day and I cannot possibly spare the time, so I will ask to be excused.

RECEPTION OF DELEGATES

MR. JOHN HEY (Northern Illinois): I am glad to be with you. This is one of the most beautiful places I have ever been in. It certainly must be an inspiration and satisfaction to the people of Wisconsin that they have all had a hand in creating this beautiful building. I come from the Northern Society of Illinois. They have a very interesting meeting usually, and I bring you the greetings of that society. There are many things that we feel might be remedied in our society, for instance, one of the things on which I hope to gain some knowledge from your society, is to create a better attendance from the surrounding community. About two years ago our society met in Dixon. I was very much interested, as well as being on various committees there and I know we all put forth the most strenuous efforts to get the surrounding people to attend the meeting. We like to have the farmers come to us, their money pays for those things and yet after the meeting was over some of them came to me and said, “Was that meeting free, was it for common people, we thought it was for fruit growers.” So I hardly know how to reach those people. I also think it would be well for the society to establish experimental stations or stations for producing new varieties. Here and there a person will come with a new variety and do a lot of work and possibly it is not worth five cents, but they want to make a market for some new variety, they want someone to give them $500 or $1000 for the sole control of that thing.

We have in our home town a local society and we have three meetings a year. There is a small fee of 50 cents per family per year and possibly fifty to sixty families meet and we have what they call a spring meeting, generally the latter part of February or first of March, and at that time we have
enough funds accumulated so that we can hire good talent from abroad and we have had Mr. Cranefield with us and we have had several speakers from other places, making the meetings very interesting. In June we have our strawberry meeting. It is quite a strawberry country and when strawberries are the finest, sometimes three or four cases are disposed of at those meetings. We also have a meeting in the fall when grapes are ripe. We get together and discuss different topics and all seem to enjoy it.

We also are troubled in our country with San Jose scale and it is a very hard pest to get rid of and I hope to get lots of information here on all these different subjects.

I am glad to be here and know I shall gain a great deal of good from the meeting.

---

**WHY DO STRAWBERRY VARIETIES RUN OUT?**

**Mr. H. C. Christensen:** This is a subject that has never given me very much trouble, because I have taken it for granted that varieties did run out, but that nature is generous and gives us a better variety when one is run out. The only reason that I can think of is that the strawberry is propagated by runners and we do not get the rejuvenating effect of cross pollination as in plants propagated from seeds. And so it seems to me as plants are multiplied in this way we get deterioration, that is, the weakening of a single plant by the reproduction of a bud, they naturally weaken or run out. And then, I think, possibly there is another reason why they do run out, they get more or less diseased and in propagating we naturally get that disease with the plant and while we are not as careful as we might be to keep them always healthy, after a while they run-out. I am not carrying on any experiments along this line, except that I know that varieties do run out on our soil, and cannot give you anything more definite than the fact that it seems to me that it is largely the same as in breeding animals, that weaknesses will crop out sooner or later.

**The President:** Before I call on the next speaker, I am going to say that what they told me in Minnesota made me