REPORT OF PROF. E. S. GOFF AS DELEGATE TO MINNESOTA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

To the President and Members of the Wisconsin State Horticultural Society:

As delegate of our society, I attended the meeting of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society on Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 5th and 6th, being present at five sessions, of which one was the annual banquet. The sessions, with the exception of the banquet, were held in the lecture rooms of the Plymouth Congregational church, corner 8th and Nicollet Avenue.

The weather during the meeting was very mild and the attendance averaged somewhat larger than is usual in the meetings of our own society. The earnestness and intelligence of the members was manifest in all their sessions, in the character of the papers and the discussions. Two features of their society might, it seems to me, be followed with profit in our own organization, viz., the Ladies' Auxiliary and the annual banquet. It cannot be denied that these features increase the interest and pleasure of the meetings and tend to promote concord, a provision which has sometimes been needed in our society.

The Ladies' Auxiliary is, as I understand it, partially independent of the state society. That is, it has its own officers and provides its own program, and at least one session of the meeting is given over entirely to it. It is certain that this session was a most profitable one. It did not adjourn until half past five and then there was much of interest that had to be cut off for lack of time.

The annual banquet was instituted this season. It was held at the elegant Guaranty Loan building and was in all respects an up-to-date affair. As is customary at such occasions, the toasts were intended rather to promote hilarity than progress in horticulture, but the comfort and kindly
feeling they engender is perhaps more valuable by way of variety than if the time had been devoted to serious work.

In the fruit room were exhibited 277 entries for premiums, besides a number that were not competitive. Of the entries for premiums J. A. Howard showed 43 and was awarded 20 first premiums, and the Jewell Nursery Co. showed 38 and received 17 first premiums. W. L. Parker, C. W. Sampson, H. H. Heins, Thomas Ridpath, Gust. Johnson, W. H. Perry, H. H. Pond and J. R. Cummings were also quite large exhibitors. There were apparently 9 entries for the $1000.00 prize seedling apple. There were 35 entries of grapes, 6 of honey and 6 of flowers. Of the 216 entries of apples 170 were from cold storage. The average quality of the apples shown was very fine. Numerous seedlings were shown, of which some appeared to have considerable merit. Mr. Lord showed 40 varieties of native plums and Mr. Cook of Windom showed 18 varieties.

To undertake an abstract of the papers and discussions would require too much space and it is hardly needed since many of us already have the Minnesota Horticulturist, in which they will all be printed. A very interesting part of the program was the illustrated lecture by Prof. Green in which he gave a rambling account of his journey through Germany, illustrating many of the commonplace and homey scenes of rural life in Germany, which were the more interesting because they have been so seldom portrayed.

The society made an excellent beginning in recognizing the valuable work accomplished by the late Peter M. Gideons by subscribing $225.00 to the fund for his family.

In conclusion, I feel almost compelled to add that if our society hopes to keep pace with that of Minnesota in progress and usefulness, we shall need to raise up a larger company of workers who are more anxious to contribute some benefit to the society than they are to reap some personal benefit from it.  

E. S. Goff.