

OFFICERS OF THE WISCONSIN STATE CRANBERRY GROWERS ASSOCIATION—1925

President.....C. L. Lewis, Jr., Beaver Brook, Wis.
 Vice President.....Guy Nash, Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.
 Secretary.....Clare Smith, Route 3, Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.
 Member Executive Committee.....S. N. Whittlesey, Cranmoor, Wis.
 Member Executive Committee.....Mrs. A. C. Otto, Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.

REPORT ON PUMPING MATERIAL BY MR. SCOTT.

Part of the material has been disposed of. There were two tubes for \$35.00 cash received, and I will remit at this time to the treasurer for that amount. There is still quite a bit of material left to be disposed of.

Is there any of this material that any grower would be interested in? There are two pumps, one three-inch and one four-inch; some amount of four-inch piping, and four-inch pipe settings; and five or six three and one-half inch gate valves. They are still in the system at the Mitchell Marsh. There is a Myer's eight-inch piston pump and the small number of fittings that go with that. Unless someone expects to do some pumping, I do not think there would be any of this material that would interest any growers, outside of the centrifugal pump.

COMMENTS BY MR. NASH

The state made a definite appropriation for that pumping. If there is anything left, I suppose it should be returned to the state. Wouldn't it be better to use these pumps for construction work? Let the association keep them and loan them out. They will go as a credit to the pumping fund.

ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT LEWIS

I will take this opportunity to explain to the members of this Association what has been done in reference to our attempt to secure State Aid for the cranberry industry in Wisconsin.

But before going into this subject I want to express the thanks of the members to those who had charge of the banquet last evening. We all attend these delightful affairs without realizing the amount of work that is necessary to make them successful. Miss Smith had charge of the arrangements and I think Miss Bamberg, Mrs. Whittlesey and Mr. Babcock of the Wood County Bank assisted her and we want it known that their work is appreciated.

We have been working on our legislative program for several years. I will review this matter for the benefit of those who are not familiar with the steps taken two years ago. At that time a bill was introduced in the legislature asking for an appropriation of \$2000 annually, to defray the expenses of the fieldman working among the growers

during the summer months. The bill was referred to the Joint Finance committee for consideration. This committee allowed the cranberry growers a hearing in February 1923. Mr. Whittlesey, Mr. Nash and I appeared for the Association at this hearing and the sentiment of the committee seemed favorable to our request. But we soon learned that we were doomed to failure at that session. The trouble was we had not started early enough, we had not specified where the funds for carrying out the provisions of the bill were to come from. In fact, although we knew what we wanted, we did not know just how to go about it and consequently our pains were not properly made and our bill was lost in the shuffle.

This experience, although ending unfavorably, was not without its benefits. We met the officials at Madison with whom we must deal, we were given valuable advice and we have since that time planned a campaign that we believe will bring satisfactory results. At our meeting last summer, we passed a resolution to the effect that we ask for an annual appropriation of \$5000 which would give us a fieldman throughout the year. We realized that it would be impossible to obtain a man for part-time and we felt that the fieldman must have the winter months to study the storage diseases of the cranberry, carry on his laboratory work and prepare his reports. At this same summer meeting we discussed the need of funds for defraying the expenses of sending a committee to Madison this winter to explain our request to the present legislature. We passed a subscription list at that time and about \$450 was pledged for this purpose.

Shortly after our summer meeting we were requested by Mr. J. B. Borden, who is Secretary of the State Board of Public Affairs, to prepare a budget of our anticipated expenses for the next two years. This is required of every association or department that received an appropriation from the state. In answering we mentioned our intention of asking the state for funds for a fieldman. This led to further correspondence on the matter, which opened the way to the very definite campaign which we have worked out. The main points of this plan are as follows: We appealed to the Commissioner of Agriculture to place our request in his budget for the next two years. The Commissioner seemed willing to cooperate with us in a proper presentation of our case and he accordingly placed our request in his budget for presentation to the legislature.

We learned through our newly formed friends at Madison that our matter would have a better chance of success if brought up as a budget item than if brought before the legislature as a separate bill. It would be given consideration by the budget committees and if it received their support it would undoubtedly go through the legislature without opposition. All budgets are first submitted to the State Board of Public Affairs. This board is composed of the Governor, Secretary of State, Lieut. Governor, Speaker of the Assembly and three citizen members. The Governor is chairman and they consider

all budget matters before they are presented to the legislature. They then pass these matters on to the Joint Finance committee with recommendations pro and con and it is inevitable that their recommendations must frequently be con, as a great many excessive requests for funds are made through the various budgets. Naturally a recommendation by the State Board of Public Affairs would have great weight with the Finance committee and quite as naturally an adverse recommendation is as good as a death warrant, especially in a matter such as ours. Therefore it was of prime importance that we secure a favorable recommendation by the State Board.

When the Commissioner of Agriculture appeared before the State Board to present his budget we were given the opportunity to be present and explain our request. We were given very short notice of this hearing and I did not have time to take it up with the officers or members of the Association. I did however manage to reach Mr. Scott, a member of our committee, and we met at Madison and did our best in behalf of the Association. We were given about three quarters of an hour during which time the Governor talked freely with us. When we emerged from the hearing we felt that we could look for favorable action, although of course we were not to learn their action until after the legislature was in session two months later. As you know, that time is just at hand and we expect almost daily to learn what action was taken by the State Board.

The next step before us is a hearing on our measure before the Joint Finance Committee. We do not know when this will be held but they have promised to give us as much notice as is possible. At this meeting which will probably be held in February, it is very necessary that as many growers as possible go to Madison and appear. We must have three or four spokesmen who will divide the material for presentation. We should have a delegation of at least twenty members at this hearing. We are looking for a favorable report by the State Board and we honestly believe that if we make an intelligent presentation backed by sufficient numbers, we will win the support of the Finance committee. With their support we believe our battle is won.

We have spent a great deal of time and effort to date in connection with our appeal for State Aid. I have here a bunch of correspondence that is open to your inspection but it is not necessary to read it all at this time. I have given you the substance of the matter and I thank you for the fine spirit of cooperation that has been in evidence.

We also wish to acknowledge the splendid assistance that has been given us by Dr. S. B. Fracker, State Entomologist, who has been our faithful friend during the past few years.

In addition to our legislative matter, we are going to discuss the poor keeping quality of our 1924 crop, the reasons for it, Etc. We shall discuss the packing and grading of berries. We will talk about

packages and in this connection we will hear from Mr. J. L. Wilcox, Manager of the Linderman Box and Veneer Co., of Eau Claire, Wis. We will hear from Mr. Searles on the Cost of Bog Development and we will have other general discussions.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE

- 1 The Cranberry Industry in Wisconsin dates back over 50 years, and for many years prior to the war the State maintained an Experiment Station where the problems of the industry were studied. This Station was discontinued during war times in the interest of economy as a war measure and since that time no State assistance of any kind has been given this industry.
- 2 The industry, being a highly specialized one, is not reached by any other State Agency such as the county agent or the University Extension service and due to lack of State Aid, insects and diseases have caused great losses to the growers of the State and there is little incentive for the further development of the industry.
- 3 The nations crop of cranberries is produced in three states, namely, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Wisconsin. While Wisconsin is most favorably located as to market and has the largest acreage of land suitable for cranberry production Wisconsin produces only 10% of the nations crop. Massachusetts and New Jersey encourage this industry by operating State Cranberry Experiment Stations and employing a corps of trained men to work on the problems of the industry.
- 4 The present production of cranberries in Wisconsin averages about 50,000 barrels. These are raised on lands which are not suitable for any other purpose. It is perfectly possible to raise this production to 200,000 barrels, and in doing so make valuable much more land which now lies idle and contributes nothing to the coffers of the state.
- 5 At present cranberry growers in Wisconsin are paying taxes on 50,000 acres of this kind of land. This represents an investment of \$5,000,000 and gives work to several thousand people.
- 6 The Industry is asking through its Cooperative Association that the request for an annual appropriation of \$5,000 in the Department of Agriculture budget be allowed. This money if allowed will be spent under the direction of the State Department of Agriculture and is to be used for the employment of a trained specialist in cranberry insects and diseases, who will devote his entire time to advisory work among the growers.
- 7 The growers of Wisconsin are paying state income taxes of many times the amount asked for. We feel that we deserve this modest assistance from our state and in view of the possibilities for extension of the industry it will be a splendid investment for the State of Wisconsin.

The above report is a brief resume of the material to be presented to the Joint Finance Committee on January 28th.

CHAS. L. LEWIS, JR., *Chairman.*