periment station ought to have very little else to do than to oversee affairs.

Mr. Hatch now offered a resolution providing for the appointment of a committee of three to take early action as to the establishment of experiment stations in Wisconsin, such committee to report at subsequent meetings during the year. It was thought best to have this arrangement so that the committee might be instructed when opportunity offers. The resolution was seconded and adopted.

The convention now returned to the hearing of observation reports. Mr. B. F. Adams read his

REPORT OF THIRD DISTRICT.

The year 1885 has made scars on our fruit trees that it did not kill, but many have survived in the Third district of Wisconsin that will do some service in fruit-bearing hereafter. More apples were grown in Dane county than the most sanguine expected, doubtless owing to the diversity of its soil and locations. I have been in all the counties of the district, except Iowa, and conversed with many as to the effects produced by the cold of last winter. Duchess, Tetofski, Golden Russet, Talmam Sweet, Walbridge, Willow Twig and Fameuse have fruited lightly in many places, and the latter a fair crop in a few favored locations. I have seen Plumb’s Cider bearing some fruit also, but showing injury. Thousands of apple trees were killed and badly injured in the five counties of the district. I have seen only two varieties, Fameuse and Utter, loaded with fruit, and these on the same farm, where they were protected by belts of poplar, larch and evergreens intermingled. The solitary Utter tree is thirty years old, or nearly that, and stood near farm buildings, all of which were protected by timber belts as stated above. The fruit was perfect. The location is on high prairie land, black soil, 120 feet above Madison, the Utter tree on the crown of the elevation, but the orchard of iron-clads on a northern slope. Against this location I place in contrast another near this city; an orchard of 150 trees protected by a double row of soft maples on all sides except the
street side running from northeast to southwest, which is protected by a single row. All were killed except a few Talman Sweet and Fameuse, which fruited lightly. The varieties were unknown to me; some were seedlings and many of them had been barren. Probably sold to the proprietor twenty-five years ago as iron-clads by a tin peddler.

Pear trees are not numerous enough in this district to determine what effect the climate has on them. The solitary Flemish Beauty on my own farm endured last winter well, but was injured by mice; the wound was patched and it made a fair growth last season. Crescent seedling among strawberries did best in this district; the Wilson still produces more than nine-tenths, of the strawberries in this district, but has suffered for two years past from rust. Gregg raspberry among Black Caps and Cuthbert (red) are considered our best for this region; Brandywine and Turner equally hardy and the first mentioned the best to handle. The Snyder is more planted than any other blackberry; Stone's Hardy and Ancient Briton to some extent. All are protected by some growers at an expense that varies as given to me, the lowest five dollars per acre and the highest forty. I have not protected any of this fruit. Our cherry trees were mostly killed. Miner plumbs were abundant last season. Grapes did not ripen well, but the Concord and Worden, Moores Early fruited. The newer varieties of apples, Pewaukee, Wealthy and a few Russian trees are to be found growing in this district, but not old enough to bear much fruit. They survived the winter and made a fair growth last season. Some of the new varieties of strawberries, Iron-clad, Piper's seedling and Bidwell fruited moderately compared with the Crescent and Wilson. Field mice have become a serious pest in several localities among blackberry and raspberry bushes, girdling the canes standing upright and even laid down. I had three-fourths of my canes killed by them; the solitary row of Stone's Hardy uninjured by them fruited well and I exhibited specimen branches of the fruit at the state fair. The Snyder canes, not girdled, also bore a little fruit, but evidently were greatly injured by the winter.

B. F. ADAMS.
The report of Mr. Stickney was called for, but it was said that Mr. Stickney was at present in California. Mr. Floyd's report was next listened to. Mr. Floyd said that he had not had an opportunity to visit the different localities in his district, but had made inquiries and traveled somewhat and had made a short report and as good a one as he could from the material at his disposal.

REPORT OF FIFTH DISTRICT.

If I could draw a picture showing the condition of the orchards as they are in this district, in many respects it would be dark and gloomy for horticulture. Hundreds, yes thousands, have resolved to not plant more apple trees, since the almost total destruction of all the orchards, old and young, of the district, by the effect as they think of last winter's cold.

Apple trees seemed to go into winter quarters in a very low state in regard to vital forces from exhaustion, produced by, and from the effects of having produced a heavy crop of fruit and a previous hard winter, also from the effects of parasitic fungi on foliage. This pest has come upon us almost unawares, and I regard it as the most formidable foe to horticulture in general that we in the future shall have to contend with. I am quite sure that all of our sickly trees, those that did not quite give up their lives last winter, had a severe attack of this same foliage fungi last fall; I noticed it most on Wealthy, Fall Orange, Utter, Fameuse, and the crabs.

I have never known the Oldenberg to be affected with this parasite; I think it has the best leaf of any apple that I am acquainted with. I would want no better fortune than a dozen varieties of apple that would give a year's succession of fruit equal to it in all respects.

I have strong hopes in the Northwestern Greening, I have positive proof of its hardiness up to seven or eight years old, how it may prove after it comes into bearing I cannot say, but it seems to me that a variety of apple standing on low, strong soil, exposed to a temperature forty-eight degrees be-