The discussion was closed at this point.
Mr. Hoxie now presented his paper, "Chips from a Carpenter's Tool Chest."

"CHIPS FROM A CARPENTER'S TOOL CHEST."

By our Corresponding Secretary, B. S. Hoxie.

To the President and Members of the Wisconsin State Horticultural Society—You who have read the title to my subject, as announced on our programme, may well wonder what that has to do with horticultural topics; so if I fail to stick to my text, bear it in mind that all preachers can find good texts but all do not put in appropriate filling for the hearers, and mine will not be the first failure. Our worthy secretary, after reading my circular letter to the members of our Society and others interested in fruit culture, suggested that I prepare a paper upon the subject "Fruit Prospects for Wisconsin," and on that I shall have something to say; or rather, I shall make some of the members who are not present say it for me. In looking over our programme I said, surely here is an array of subjects, and the talent of the authors will bring out from their storehouse of knowledge thoughts which shall awaken investigation, and prompt to action for the benefit of all.

The organic act of our society sets forth, among other things for our object, the collecting and disseminating of valuable information for the benefit of the horticultural interests of our state. It is well sometimes to look up old landmarks, lest in our zeal for pet theories, or pet fruits (which in our case is quite as fatal), we overstep the limits of our organization. My experience as a builder well fits me to "hew to line," and my observations and great interest in horticulture qualifies me for a place with you, and if I score into the rotten wood it is not my fault, but if rotten timber goes into the structure then I am blameworthy. I remember the little pleasantry indulged in by some of the members at the time of my election to the place of corresponding secretary, and friend Stickney said "let Mr. Hoxie
get what he can out of it.” Now during the past two years with all of my efforts I have failed to get anything out of it but a good chance to put much in. But for fear my prelude may be longer than the sermon I must give you some of the chips that I have gathered up. I wish that my basket had been full to overflowing, but I suspect some thought their chips too valuable to go into a common receptacle and we may find them at some future time served up in a basket with silver lining.

The past winter by many was considered the most severe and trying to the fruit crop of any in the history of our society, and in sending out copies of the premium list for this meeting, I thought it well to enclose a short circular letter to our members and others interested in fruit culture, asking them to give me the condition of fruit trees, including our small fruits whether protected or not. The replies to that circular have been very general and generous, a summary of them was published in many of our papers under date of June 2.

I find that in the southwestern part of our state some varieties succeed that do nothing in other localities. Thus from Darlington the Golden Russet, Tallman Sweet, St. Lawrence and Utter, with Miner plums, are all in fine condition. From Spring Valley, near Brodhead, Mr. Palmer writes: My Roman Stems are loaded with blossom buds; Tallman Sweet and Golden Russett, though looking well, do not promise much fruit this year. My orchard is somewhat damaged by the depredations of leaf rollers, and I have just been trying a sprinkling of Paris Green. Two men with team and wagon went over five hundred trees in one half day, and I await the result.

From Albany, Green county: Your circular of the 14th inst. at hand. Small fruits except strawberries nearly all winter killed. Blackberries entirely so. Apple trees not many blossom buds with few exceptions; these are Duchess, Wealthy and Roman Stem. The winter has been very severe on most all kinds of fruits. Grapes are nearly all killed. Cherries only show a few blossom buds. I consider the Wealthy the best apple I ever raised.
Let me remark that in some portions of Green county I have seen some of the finest old Duchess trees of any in the state. Trees that have been set for over thirty years healthy and vigorous and promise good crops for years to come. From Brookside farm, near Dayton, Green county, a very complete report of May 21: "To-day wife and I have been inspecting the orchard, and we find Duchess all right, full of fruit buds just ready to blossom. Tetoiski, Golden Russett, Wealthy and Willow Twig are in good condition and promise some fruit. Utter and Fameuse will blossom full and look well. Haas shows plenty of fruit buds but the trees have a sickly appearance. Plumb’s Cider in good condition but the off year for fruit. Walbridge promises as usual—nothing but leaves. Strawberry and Fall Orange are going after Ben Davis—to the woodpile. Cuthbert Raspberries killed down to snow line; Philadelphia when sheltered on the north and west by timber are all right.

From Rutland, Dane county: Russian varieties all right as well as some of our own varieties. The Wealthy, McMahon and Wolf River, seem to be as hardy as oaks. Fall Orange and Pewaukee will do for a trial a little longer. Among the worthless I consider the Autumn Strawberry, St. Lawrence, Ben Davis, Alexander, Walbridge, Rawle’s Janet and Willow Twig, and the Golden Russett not much better.

Baraboo, Sauk county: Our recommended list of apples are all right with us. Blackberries are killed; strawberries generally looking well, whether protected or not.

Milwaukee May 24: I reply to your circular of the 14th inst. as follows. Duchess and Wealthy all right. Pewaukee, wood blackened somewhat but will blossom freely. Plumb’s Cider was hurt a little. Twenty Ounce, Golden Russett and Willow Twig will blossom freely. Walbridge seems all right and promises a show for fruit this year. Tallman Sweet and St. Lawrence, green to the terminal bud. Prospect for apples is fair while that of pears is about average. Plums are blossoming freely, and cherries are setting full; raspberries and blackberries killed back badly, Gregg, and Stone’s Hardy not excepted. Grapes seem to be all right
and Janesville, kept tied to the stakes, are budding out nicely.

From Berlin, Green Lake Co.: This will truly be the sweepstakes winter for all kinds of fruit trees. We have lost all of the tender, half-hardy and some of the iron-clad varieties, Tallman Sweet quite badly hurt. Golden Russett, Red Astrachan, Fameuse and Perry Russett a shade better. Grime's Golden, my favorite, and for twelve years past very successful, are all gone. Pewaukee badly hurt; Duchess, Wealthy and North Western Greening are all slightly hurt. The Turner raspberry is with me, the most hardy, and alive above as well as below snow line. Ancient Britton with protection, is our great bearer. I have quite a large list of strawberries on trial but have discarded Sharpless, Bidwell and Big Bob as worthless here.

From Green Bay, Brown Co.: Wine Sap, Tallman Sweet and Rawle's Janet, my favorite, are badly injured. The Duchess, Bellflower and Tallman Sweet are my best varieties.

From J. M. Smith, Green Bay: I have examined only one orchard and that appears to be all right, but have heard of damage in other places. I always protect my grape vines and all other small fruits, except currants, with earth and marsh hay.

From Richland County: A general injury to all trees; Golden Russett and Fameuse badly hurt. Bloom on all apple trees very light and pale, indicating a want of vitality. As usual, the McMahon's White Apple stands best of all in hardiness. Gregg and Brandywine raspberries badly winter killed; Stone's Hardy and Snyder blackberries killed down to the ground.

From Warren Mills, Monroe County: Duchess, Wealthy, Tetofski, Walbridge, Plumb's Cider, Tallman Sweet and Russett do as well here as in any part of the state, but all have been badly injured during the past winter. I consider the Duchess best of all. Much interest is being shown here in the cultivation of small fruits.

From E. A. Webb, publisher of the Northwestern Farmer Fargo, Dakota: With regard to fruit trees in this section
of Dakota, I think I can safely say they are coming out all right (that is, of the hardier varieties) and some Salome apple trees that I have are only killed back a very little. The Duchess is a success. Russian mulberries are winter killed.

Mr. Daniels, of Auroraville, Wis., writes me that his Northwestern Greenings have come out all right. This, and McMahon's White, are new varieties, and only two correspondents beside Mr. Hatch and Mr. Daniels, the propagators of each variety, make any mention of them as having fruited the varieties. I have high hopes for both. I am very sorry that the friends of the Wolf River have not favored me with a report of that fine and showy fruit.

To the members of our society and others who have so kindly written to me and favored me with these reports I return my thanks. I have taken extracts from a few in different localities to show the general tenor of the whole. And what are the lessons? As a society we are looked to by the tree and small fruit growers for our report and recommendations. It is our duty to collect and disseminate valuable information; to be valuable must be truthful, so far as it lies in our power to make it so.

Does not our list of hardy varieties of apples need correcting, when we retain a nearly useless variety like the Walbridge, or talk of hardy varieties of small fruits that need no protection. It is well for the propagator of any new variety to give it all the push and prominence he can, but as a society we must be more than tree peddlers. It is all idle talk to say that a farmer will not dig a deep hole to set his tree with the tap-root entire, if he was convinced of the fact that nature demanded it, and that he could not raise perfect fruit without this protection. When a farmer will pay $1 for a poor specimen of a Mackintosh Red, thinking he is getting a good variety of fruit, perfect and hardy, he can well afford to dig a hole twenty inches deep to put it in, or spend a few hours time to protect his blackberry patch if he is convinced that it is necessary. We publicly declare against the tree peddler when some of our nursey men behind the scenes set them on and practice frauds on a much larger scale and
occupy prominent places in nurserymen's conventions. I am well aware that by this plain talk I shall put in jeopardy my chances for an election to congress, or the prospect of being president of the United States, but I have the honor of subscribing myself, very respectfully,

YOUR CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

A discussion arose concerning the blackberry. Mr. Hoxie considered the Ancient Briton the best, but had heard from Mr. Tuttle that there was another variety which surpassed the Briton. Mr. Palmer stated that he knew a gentleman who had both the Snyder and the Ancient Briton, both being equally protected and there appeared to be no material difference between the two varieties. Another gentleman in Iowa has a patch of the Snyder and Briton varieties. Last year there was a great deal fruit from both varieties, but the gentleman considers the Briton the superior variety in quality. The Briton came through the winter in good shape while the Snyder was killed. Mr. Rhodes said that the great obstacle to raspberry and blackberry growing was the difficulty of protecting the bushes. Mr. Smith said that his mode of protecting raspberries was to bend the bushes over and throw earth on the tips of them. Strawberry plants he covered with hay. If raspberry bushes were on heavy soil Mr. Smith thinks it might be necessary to cut the stems a little to prevent them from breaking when bent. Mr. Daniells thought it a good plan to take a spade or fork and work it around the root of the bushes when the stems can be more easily bent over. Mr. Smith stated that his present patch of raspberries had been out but two or three years. The previous one was in seven or eight years. Mr. Rhodes had thought that a patch was seldom profitable after one or two heavy crops had been taken from it. Mr. Adams grew several varieties of raspberries and blackberries. Of raspberries he had the Cuthbert, Brandywine and Gregg's and of blackberries the Snyder and Stone's Hardy. In his locality he has found all these varieties to be good until last winter. Many of his Snyder blackberries
were girdled by mice. A portion of the Snyders which were not protected by the snow were not girdled. The Cuthbert, which bore heavily last year, are growing well this year and will bear a little fruit. He likes the Cuthbert better than the Philadelphia.

The discussion was suspended to listen to Mr. Rich's paper, which follows:

SMALL FRUITS.

By O. A. Rich, Weyauwega.

The hints on planting and management of small fruits has been so often presented in these meetings and published, that whatever I may have to say will fall far short of being new and interesting. The importance of these fruits as a source, not only of health, comfort and luxury, but as a source of profit is yearly increasing, and with the improved varieties, and with economical methods of culture, our homes and our markets may well be supplied with these wholesome fruits with but little cost, but those who would know their delicacy and what "big beauties are, must have them fresh and at home," and at a small expense for plants united with their labor, enjoy an abundant supply.

A well-kept strawberry bed is a thing of beauty, and if not a joy forever, will well repay the labor required to keep it in order, when one has in mind the rich treat in store for him about this time of the year.

I shall not undertake to give you specific directions for planting, future management and marketing, for if any one is really desirous of engaging in the business, just let it be known and you will find it an easy thing to obtain all needed information. None of us are under the same circumstances, and what would do for one would not do for all, and so my advice is, not to do as others have done, begin and then neglect their grounds for awhile, but begin and keep at it, for the reason that every family may have and should have, an abundant supply of strawberries, currants, raspberries and