

THE ONE BEST APPLE.

President Lyon inquired for opinions upon the query: If all the apples were stricken from the list save one what one would we choose to save for Michigan?

Mr. Bitely.—From my present experience in the market and the home—for dessert, cooking and all uses, considering the tree as well as the fruit, I should take the Baldwin.

Mr. Selover.—The Baldwin has many points of merit, but I would want a hardier tree and a fruit of better quality, hence would save the Northern Spy.

Judge Lawton.—I would agree with the gentleman in his choice.

Mr. Harrison, Kalamazoo.—I should choose the Wagener, because the tree is smaller and bears earlier in addition to the good qualities of the Spy.

Messrs. Williams, Dorr and Pearsall chose the Baldwin as their favorite.

Mr. Avery, Grand Traverse.—The Wagener will suit more tastes than either of the others mentioned. The Baldwins are in poorer condition, as to health of tree, than almost any other variety in the state.

Mr. Merriman said he was glad the opinion of any man was not final in this matter,—even his own—still his choice would be the Wagener.

Mr. Chilson thought he should choose his location and save the old Rhode Island Greening.

Prof. Tracy upon being urged to give his opinion said—I can not answer—unless the conditions of existence, the wants, the uses of the fruit are also defined. My choice would vary materially with localities and various other circumstances. It is impossible to speak my mind without circumscribing my condition of life.

Mr. Lyon.—One reason in asking the question is to get at the best variety. We aim at this in our arrangement of classes in the premium list. It is desirable to bring out opinions as to first, second, third, and fourth best, which are based upon actual experience. I could not choose the Wagener because of the peculiar tendency to overbear, nor the Baldwin because it lacks hardiness. I rather favor the Northern Spy.

THE KNIFE AND THE YELLOWS.

Judge Lawton asked what precaution should be taken in pruning peach trees so as not to disseminate the yellows.

Prof. Beal thought this a very important matter, inasmuch as a tree might have the yellows enough to impart the disease and still not exhibit any signs of it distinguishable to the eye. He thought an alcohol lamp could be taken along by the pruner, and the blade of the implement be passed through the flame after finishing each tree.

Mr. Tracy said he had used crude carbolic acid for similar purposes with good effect. The liquid could be purchased very cheaply, and a can or pail of it could be carried about the orchard in case of pruning, and between trees the implement could be dipped in the acid.

Mr. Bitely.—Would there be any doubt about this material being effectual in killing any germs of the disease that might adhere to the knife?

Prof. Beal.—I think none at all; and this would be a better choice than the lamp.

Mr. Tracy.—I employed the liquid in a single case of pear blight that was found in my orchard. I cut the diseased limb below the blighted part, and

then applied the carbolic acid. I think perhaps it may have had the effect of saving a further dissemination of the disease in the tree. One thing is certain, the odor of that acid was discernable a year afterward, exhibiting the fact that it is not quickly lost.

A question.—Do you consider carbolic acid a remedy for pear-blight?

Mr. Tracy.—No; I have no such idea; I have no theory in the matter. The fact is, I used it in this case and the blight did not reappear; it might not have reappeared any way. Still, if I had another case I should try a similar expedient.

The question-box having been emptied, Mr. Guild offered the following:

Resolved, That Mr. Jesse F. Romer be appointed our Vice President for Bay county.

Adopted.

The last topic of the evening was:

CAN TOWNSHIP AND DISTRICT FRUIT SHOWS BE MADE PROFITABLE?

Secretary Garfield said: This topic is worthy our serious consideration. The same arguments that would establish farmers' clubs, granges, and the like, apply directly to the exhibition of products for purposes of comparison and instruction. A great many questions that are now asked at our quarterly meetings would be considered silly by the parties asking them if several times in the year they could, in their own locality, attend a show of fruits that are raised in the vicinity. I find, too, that when discussions are accompanied by samples, they are better flavored and conduce to better results. The same reason that would lead Prof. Beal to place before his beginners in botany specimens instead of books, is applicable to our own study of pomology. Descriptions and methods are prosy things, when taken in the lump, without any spice of illustration. We want the fruit itself to accompany the description, and the fruit to illustrate the effect of a method of practice. Again, I have noticed that there are lots of people, who are full of ideas, who say nothing until you place an apple, an ear of corn, or a bunch of twigs in their hands. The specimens bring out the experience, the facts that help in our future work. A neighborhood fruit show is a very simple thing to handle. Let some leading spirit start the matter, and it requires but little agitation to secure more than any one could expect.

A township exhibition of fruits is a larger thing to handle, and my own thought would be to have prizes for the best samples in the prominent varieties. These prizes need not be money, but home-made or home-grown articles, offered by individuals. It would be well to unite the fruit show with an exhibit of some other things; for instance, some lady genius could offer a nice piece of fancy work or a home-made picture for the best peck of Baldwin apples, and in turn the man who has plenty of Baldwins could offer a barrel of them for the best display of fancy work. You will see this plan is capable of being indefinitely dilated. Let the day be used, most of it, for informal conversation and comparison of articles; the latter part of the day for discussions set in a programme which will bring out the facts learned at the show. I am satisfied this plan is practicable and prolific of good results, if only taken hold of in the proper spirit.

Prof. Beal.—I heartily endorse the views of our secretary, and will, with the permission of the president, give a little of our experience in this direction