

blight is to be looked for simply by locating the pear and the peach orchard together.

Mr. Thompson.—A lady wrote me of a mistake which cost her family \$6,000. It was an error in selecting soil for an orchard site. There are hundreds of such instances in this state where men have sunk money because of false ideas upon the matter of location. I think the elevated counties will prove to be the best for fruit. Washtenaw is a good example. Ionia county has a number of prominent contrasts between the low land and high land orchard sites. Grand Rapids handled over \$16,000 worth of peaches last year, all from the elevated lands.

Mr. Merriman spoke of contrasts in Washtenaw county, that had come under his own observation illustrative of the same law.

Mr. Dorr confirmed this statement with illustrations in his own experience in Washtenaw county. He said: Judge Lawrence planted 1,000 trees on a clay bluff of the Huron and three crops netted him \$1,000. This gave an impetus to the planting of peach orchards, until now there are about 250 acres of these orchards close to Ann Arbor. My own place is high—so high that my well is 104 feet to the water. I get peaches six years out of seven.

Mr. Potter thought water drainage as important as air drainage, and if the water were all taken out of some of our flat lands they might prove to be pretty well adapted to orcharding.

Mr. Lyon said there was a limit in the matter of elevation above which peaches could not be profitably planted in this state. He had seen such examples.

Mr. LeValley said that he planted the first peach tree in Ionia county 38 years ago. His first orchard was well protected by timber on the west and north; but that one bit of experience was sufficient for a life time. Since then he had planted other orchards, and the one that went through the hard winter the best when the thermometer went 10° below zero, then 20°, then 28°, then 38° below zero, was thoroughly exposed on the north and west. His choice of a location would be one on high ground with a deep and sharp slope on the north and west sides. Then he would plant evergreens among his orchard trees.

Mr. Selover spoke of a protective wind break on the west of his orchard, which he valued because it saved his apples from blowing off when his neighbors would have but few left on their trees.

Mr. Guild spoke of a new plan adopted quite successfully in the Saginaw valley of draining the surplus water into wells.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON VEGETABLE GARDEN.

The committee to whom was referred the recommendations in Mr. Davenport's essay on farm gardens and who were instructed to report a list of vegetables for farmers to grow signified their readiness to report.

In submitting the report of the committee, the chairman spoke of the

IMPORTANCE OF HORTICULTURE.

To strengthen the Society we should embrace garden culture. The importance of this is nearly equal to fruit culture. The two go hand in hand, and it is impossible to divide them. Small fruits coalesce with kitchen and even ornamental gardening. The committee beg leave to remind the Society that a farmer is not a vegetable gardener. He cannot go into the general cultivation

of vegetables for sale. He may raise potatoes for the market, perhaps, but this is about all. He had better feed all other surplus of the kind to his stock. He can raise vegetables sufficient for his table for a succession throughout the year. This he can afford for profit and health. The principal standard vegetables upon a farmer's table are, potatoes for nearly each meal, then cabbages, onions, squash, tomatoes, turnips, and corn. Most of farmers grow peas, parsnips, rhubarb, beets, beans, cucumbers, melons, radishes, and lettuce. It is not true that farmers have no gardens, for these vegetables are found upon the tables of the farmers generally in their season. Fresh vegetables, as grown by the market gardeners, are the delight of city life. The city vegetable market is the resort of all good housekeepers.

SUGGESTIONS.

We recommend that asparagus be introduced more extensively into farm living. It is a healthy, luscious dish when well cooked. As has been stated, a well planted asparagus bed will last a lifetime. We also recommend that celery become a plant of general growth and that it more frequently grace the farmer's table. Cauliflower is a vegetable of the cabbage kind that makes a delicious and easily cooked dish. Horse radish is a common relish on almost every farmer's table. The vegetable oyster, or salsify, is an early plant to grow and a nice dish, and every farmer can easily grow it. The following is a list of vegetables which we recommend for a farmer's garden. It must be recollected that varieties may not succeed in all localities. Different soils and exposure require different varieties. Farmers are recommended to exchange garden seeds and to select the best seeds. The list recommended is the result of experiments made for several years by Prof. Beal at the Agricultural College and by others.

THE LIST RECOMMENDED.

Asparagus—Conover's Colossal, color, deep green and crown close. It is a large variety, grows vigorously and sends up sprouts from one to two inches in diameter, where the soil is rich.

Beans.—Wax or Butter, a tender and rich variety, of buttery flavor, and as early as any. It is good as a snap bean for early cooking, or as a shell bean for winter use. The White Marrow, a large white bean, round and oval, very productive, tender and rich, and one of the best beans grown.

Beets—Early Blood Turnip, good early and late; blood red, turnip-shape, standard early sort.

Cabbage—Early Winnigstadt, considered by very many the best in cultivation for general use. Early and late, heads hard and solid, full and of good quality, and conical. Keeps well in all weather. Premium Flat Dutch, a superior late variety, a sure header, considered by some superior to any other late cabbage.

Carrots—Early Half-Long Scarlet, Stump-Rooted, is of a medium size; flesh is brittle, of fine flavor and bright scarlet. Popular for early market.

Cauliflower—Erfurt Dwarf—one of the best for general cultivation; heads close, large, solid, measuring from seven to ten inches in diameter. This is classed among the most delicious of vegetables.

Celery—Sandringham Dwarf White, said to have originated in the garden of the Prince of Wales; crisp, solid, not coarse but large, and a good table sort.

Corn—Early Minnesota Sweet, or Sugar; ears pointed and rather small, and though it matures early, has good qualities. Moore's Early Con-

cord Sweet, of first-rate quality, large ears, and is intermediate between early and late. Stowell's Evergreen Sweet is suitable for boiling and will keep the table in this delicious food until late in the fall; productive, tender and sugary.

Cucumber—Early Frame, makes a beautiful pickle and keeps well. Early White Spine, good for table use, straight, smooth, tender and excellent flavored. Improved Long Green is highly esteemed and considered by some as the best variety in cultivation for table or pickling.

Lettuce—Early Tennis Ball, grown extensively by market gardeners, in cold frames, for early spring marketing; small, hardy and the head blanches tender and white. Malta Drumhead, a fine summer variety.

Melon—Nutmeg, a rich, sweet, melting variety of the muskmelon sort. Black Spanish, a round, dark green watermelon, of rich, sugary flavor. Mountain Sweet, a large, long, oval sort of a watermelon, with solid flesh to the center and very sweet and delicious.

Onion—Wethersfield Red, Large Yellow, and White Globe, familiar sorts with which all are acquainted.

Peas—Laxton's Alpha, and Champion of England.

Parsnips—Hollow Crown, grows mostly below the surface; has a smooth, clear skin.

Radish—Early Long Scarlet Short Top, the best variety for table and market use. It is six or seven inches long, half out of ground, quick to grow, crisp and brittle, bright scarlet, straight and smooth.

Rhubarb—Victoria, a large heavy variety, a well grown stock will weigh about two pounds; red at the base. The Linnaeus is worthy of cultivation, it is early, high flavored, crisp, and is a good sort for family use.

Salsify—The vegetable oyster is hardy and may remain out all winter. Recommend the common sort; wholesome and nutritious.

Squash—Early bush, Crookneck, Marble-head and Hubbard. The last is the best winter squash known, dry, sweet and rich-flavored.

Spinach—Round Summer, the best variety for a delicious dish of "greens."

Tomatoes—Early Conqueror, an early variety of great prolificness, smooth, handsome, well formed. Trophy, solid to the center, heavy, smooth and well formed. Mr. Waring, its originator, is entitled to the thanks of the tomato-loving public for this variety, which has stood the test without failure.

Turnips—Strap Leaved White Top, an early, sweet, tender table sort. Rutabagas,—Skirving's Liverpool.

Potatoes—Extra Early Vermont, Early Rose, Alpha.

Unless gardens are near a market the committee recommend the raising of only a few kinds of vegetables. This subject was recently discussed by the Massachusetts Worcester Horticultural Society, and it was there said that it is better to cultivate but a few kinds and to devote to them special attention and culture. John B. Moore said he was 16 miles from market, and raised but few crops; he had a strong hold on onions, and described his management, which briefly, is to put the rows 14 inches apart, to kill the weeds before they come up, to select lands entirely free from stones, and to raise his own seed. He found wood ashes valuable; he had obtained 800 bushels to the acre. Another leading crop with him is asparagus, which usually paid him \$300 to \$500 per acre. The crop requires a sandy soil and high manure. He said the salt theory is a myth, and that salt is of no value to the plant. A heavy dressing renders the crop later. He sets his plants eight inches under ground and plows over them. After this every inch deeper makes the crop a week later; he

plants in rows three feet apart and fifteen inches to the row; a greater distance would doubtless give larger plants. He grows 10,000 cauliflowers each year, manures heavily, adding 100 pounds of muriate of potash to the acre; procures all his seed from Italy, and is sure there is no good seed raised here.

Your committee heartily endorses the sentiments of Mr. Davenport's excellent paper.

J. P. THOMPSON,
W. J. BEAL,
E. F. GUILD.

Following this report, the secretary announced the last topic for discussion as:

LEGISLATION FOR FRUIT INTERESTS.

What can be done by legislation to aid in the development of Michigan fruit growing?

J. P. Thompson of Detroit was called upon to open the discussion, and remarked substantially as follows: I had not expected to speak upon this question. Thus far Michigan fruit-growers, and especially this society, have received very little at the hands of legislation. The society was incorporated, its reports published, and at its recommendation a law passed of local effect concerning the yellows. This covers about the whole ground. I do not believe in asking for money at the hands of the state. The society has gone through so far admirably without any aid of this kind, and the people who are especially interested in its welfare, who are reaping the benefits of its work, will continue to support the enterprise. There is some talk of increasing the number of the reports published. I even doubt the expediency of this. We do not want to issue a volume for every man in the state, but simply for those who will use them properly. They are books of reference of a high character, and for that purpose it seems to me we have about enough.

Mr. Lyon.—I somewhat doubt the wisdom of asking for more volumes unless means are given us to aid in their distribution. A large increase in their number with no such provision would bankrupt the society.

Mr. Saunders, Detroit.—The fruit interests already receive indirect appropriations from those given to the Agricultural College, and my own conviction is that this is the very best way of getting the benefit of legislative appropriation.

Prof. Beal spoke of the building that they proposed erecting at the college the coming year, if the legislature sanction it, for the purpose of storing a horticultural and botanical museum.

Secretary R. G. Baird.—The work of this society is largely a labor of love. From the beginning its members have been accomplishing a great deal for Michigan fruit-growing, because of their interest in the work. They enjoy seeing the peculiarities of Michigan climate and soil made the most of for horticulture, and are repaid for work done in the results of its accomplishment. The work done by this society and the Agricultural college for the centennial exhibition are examples in relief, of this kind of labor. I am in favor of an addition to the number of reports published. They are doing a good deal of good, and there are large numbers of our state's people who want them and would be benefited by them, who can not now be supplied. As regards statistical matters there is certainly a lack of information that would be of great value, and my thought concerning it is that this society select a