

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

in Capitol grange, located in this city. Our first attempt in the way of an exhibition was with corn. We were all surprised at the variety of the display, and it was a foundation for the relation of valuable experience and the stimulus to a most satisfactory discussion. We could not get through with it in one evening and continued it over to another meeting, leaving the samples on exhibition in the mean time. This was followed by an exhibition of apples, which was also a success. I am satisfied that this plan involves a correct principle upon which to base a system of instruction. I work upon this plan in teaching botany to classes. I begin by having them gather a certain kind of specimens, requiring them to observe all they can; and scarcely a year goes by but that some important fact is brought out that old observers have rarely noticed. The exhibition of specimens always suggests valuable information, and I favor this idea for clubs and societies organized for purposes of instruction.

Mr. Pearsall.—I am satisfied, too, that great benefit may be derived by holding these shows and bringing the people together, old and young, to talk over any matters suggested by the specimens shown. Many people can give their experience with an apple in hand or a plate of fruit to handle over, who could say nothing at all empty handed. Very many of us are like the boy in the spelling class who missed the word because the button was off his coat that he usually had hold of. One or two of these district fruit shows I have attended with very much profit, and I can see that by proper management they can be very beneficial.

Mr. Guild.—In our farmers' club of the Saginaw valley we find that the fruit exhibitions are of inestimable value in illustrating information that would be of little value without the specimens.

Judge Lawton.—I am of the opinion that rightly managed these local exhibitions of fruit might be made a fertile source of amusement and instruction. You know at Paw Paw our people carried fruit together and thought they selected well. They did not know the value of a stem or a blow in a specimen, and did not consider the importance of some of these points in judging of the value of a specimen. They received rather harsh treatment at the hands of the committee, but it was good for them. They learned a valuable lesson. At any exhibition of this sort the people go away with new ideas that are of worth in their experience.

W. H. Harrison.—I believe in these fruit shows, and also in the formation of local horticultural societies. They pave the way for such meetings as these, and furnish the questions, the discussion of which will be most valuable at these general meetings.

Adjourned until Thursday morning.

Thursday Morning Session.

The first discussion of the morning was led by Charles N. Merriman upon the topic,

MISTAKES IN SELECTING ORCHARD SITES.

Mr. Merriman said: For the orchard location, few if any arbitrary rules can be laid down, applicable alike to all places. The most desirable exposure for the western would not prove to be the most favorable one in the eastern part of this State, and so of the northern and southern sections. Yet, certain gen-