

expressed the same opinion, saying that the Nova Scotia King of Tompkins was much superior in quality to that of New York.

If this be true as a general principle, and there is certainly good authority for believing it, should it not encourage Canadian fruit-growers to press forward hopefully, for if our northern climate gives us high quality of fruit and more color, we ought certainly to be able to pack it with sufficient honesty and attractiveness to make it stand at the head of the procession and defy competition.

F. C. SEARS.

Principal, School of Horticulture,  
Wolfville, N. S.

### **The Stringfellow System of Root Pruning.**

A few weeks ago there appeared in the Practical Fruit Grower a short article by Prof. H. E. Van Deman, on the Stringfellow system, which brought forth in the Pacific Fruit World a rather warm defense from the pen of the originator of the system himself. The remarks of Prof. Van Deman we quote in full: "When all the conditions of soil, temperature, climate and plant food are favorable, it is better to cut back both top and root before planting, especially if the trees or plants are small. This is the basis of the Stringfellow method of planting as I understand it. I have tested this plan repeatedly with trees as well as with tender plants during the last forty years. It works very well under proper conditions, but not unless they are just right. In my opinion, that is why it is more appli-

cable in the Southern States, where the climate is milder than in the north, where it is more severe and changeable and the soil more compact."

Referring to this, Mr. H. M. Stringfellow said that the Professor was one of the first to condemn him many years ago, and did not then profess to know anything about the system from experience. "The fact is it applies to trees of all ages, everywhere, and the larger the tree the more necessary it is to root prune." To answer just such limitations of the value of root pruning to Southern climates, as pointed out by Professor Van Deman, he says he donated his book, the "New Horticulture," copyright, plates and all and 1,000 copies delivered free in New York, to the editor of the Rural New Yorker, on condition that he conduct an experiment with trees pruned as required in the Stringfellow system. The offer was accepted, and an orchard of trees, with roots cut off to mere stubs an inch or two long and tops cut back to stumps, was set out on poor, rocky, unbroken ground. The trees were set in holes made with a crowbar. The orchard was mulched, but not cultivated, except once or twice a year with a mowing machine. The results, Mr. Stringfellow says, were so favorable and the trees rooted so deeply that the editor of the R. N. Y. has recently enlarged his planting and announced himself perfectly satisfied.

In conjunction with the above defense of the system, a letter of endorsement by Prof. Munson, of Texas, was also published. He says that the system, wherever tried, has given

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