

APPENDIX No. 2

A. One line of work that we have been investigating a little is the best stocks on which to top graft; for instance, the Northern Spy. Although, as I said, we cannot grow the Northern Spy here for a great many years, we can grow it for a certain time. In the province of Ontario there have been a great many inferior varieties of apples planted during past years and fruit growers now are beginning to ask themselves: 'What can we do with these?' We naturally find that they would like to top graft the Northern Spy upon them because that variety, when the tree comes into bearing, is one of the most profitable and surest paying apples that we have. But, unfortunately, some stocks are too slow growing for the Northern Spy, and as a result, in our own experience, we find that after a few years the top of the Northern Spy, which is a very strong grower, retains its characteristics, and if you top graft the Northern Spy upon a poor grower, in a few years it will outgrow that stock and then, perhaps, there comes a big storm and the whole top breaks off. We have been trying to find out what are the best stocks on which to top graft the Northern Spy so that those who have those stocks can use them to the best advantage.

By Mr. Blain:

Q. Is there more grafting in the apple tree line than there was a few years ago or less?

A. I believe, on the whole, perhaps there is less, although there may be more in certain sections. I believe there is more top grafting in the best apple districts, but in the colder parts of the country there is more planting because the growers now know the hardy kinds to plant. Before, they thought that by top grafting the tender kinds on the crab stocks they had, because there were a great many crab apple trees planted, they would succeed better in that way; but our experience on the farm goes to show that the top grafting of tender kinds on hardy stocks does not perceptibly increase the hardiness of the tender kinds. We have tried about 90 varieties of the tender kinds, but they were killed out in a severe winter although top grafted on hardy stocks. Our experience was that the hardiness was not increased. We have found that the Tolman Sweet and McMahan White are very good stocks for the Northern Spy. It is also said to do well on the Ben Davis. We have been sending out letters lately and getting information from fruit growers throughout the country as to what stocks they have found to be the best for the Northern Spy, because if we knew that it would be a very good thing indeed. As a general rule it may be said that strong growing stocks are best for Northern Spy.

By Mr. Sinclair:

Q. Has any system been devised by which people could be sure when they buy Northern Spy from the dealer that they are getting the right variety? Is it possible that there could be some system of inspection at the nurseries so that the people would be protected in some way from the bogus varieties that are placed on the market? It seems to me that is the greatest trouble in the province of Nova Scotia, that people buy these trees from some nurserymen and grow them and wait for a number of years only to find out that they are no good?

A. There is a movement on foot to try and get an Act passed to compel the nurserymen to guarantee the trees true to name, but there are a great many difficulties in the way. It is very difficult for a nurseryman to be absolutely sure, where he has a large gang of men at work, that his trees are all perfectly true to name. I think that on the whole our nurserymen are now sending out trees true to name. Very often trees are bought in large lots. Perhaps they have not been sold by nurserymen direct to those who are going to plant them, but are handled by irresponsible individuals who very often will change the names of trees with the result that the trees they are sending out are not true to name. My advice would be to order direct from the