

MEETING OF THE BOTANICAL BRANCH.

February 14th, at the home of Mr. A. E. Attwood, the following members present: L. H. Newman, N. Criddle, J. Dickson, R. B. Whyte, C. J. Tulley, Dr. Blackadar, W. T. Macoun, A. E. Attwood, J. R. Fryer.

Mr. W. T. Macoun led in a discussion of the subject, "The Wild Fruits of Canada," describing many forms, especially those which give promise of economical usefulness.

APPLE—Two species of wild apple growing in Canada were mentioned—*Pyrus coronaria* (American Wild Crab Apple) and *Pyrus rivularis*, a western species. The former is the poorest we have and not much use is likely to be made of its fruit. A double-flowered variety of a species closely related to this, known as Bechtel's Crab, blooms at the end of May, and its flowers are so large and fine that it would make a beautiful ornamental tree. The tree may be obtained by grafting or budding.

PLUMS—Four species were referred to—*Prunus nigra*, *P. americana*, *P. pumila* (sand cherry) and *P. maritima* (Beach plum). *Prunus nigra* is found from Newfoundland to Manitoba along the Great Lakes. It is a very tough tree and is not broken down by heavy snowfalls. In this respect it is in contrast to *P. americana*. The fruit of *nigra* is all red, or all yellow, or red on one side and yellow on the other. Its skin is soft and dissolves easily. The period of ripening is early and lasts about a month. There is probably a great future for *P. nigra*. These trees are practically self-sterile, so that it is necessary for two or more individuals to grow together. *P. pumila* bears some very good fruit and some that is of no use. *P. maritima* has not as yet proved to be of any value.

CHERRY—*Prunus serotina* (Wild Black Cherry), *P. virginiana* (Choke Cherry) and *P. pennsylvanica* (Bird Cherry) were mentioned. *P. serotina* is a large tree, the main value of which is in its wood. The fruit has a strong and a trifle bitter taste. *P. virginiana* grows as far north as latitude 62. The fruit of this plant varies tremendously. Some bushes bear fine fruit, others very poor. *P. pennsylvanica* grows far north and as far west as British Columbia. Its fruit is small, but varies somewhat in size and has a fine acid flavour. It is used for stock on which ordinary cherries are grafted.

GRAPE—*Vitis vulpina* grows wild in Manitoba, and there are great possibilities of developing from it a grape which will be useful as fruit to the western provinces. *Vitis labrusca* (Fox