

absolutely insipid. One of our dealers tried this plan last summer, but only the Duchess got there all right; the Astrachans he had a serious loss on. The Duchess is a splendid apple, and in high favor if you get it at its right stage; but you cannot get it at its right stage and send it any distance. I cannot offer any solution of the problem except quick transportation and quick sale.

Mr. MORDEN (Niagara Falls South): There is another question, of careful handling. The great difficulty we have to contend with in fruit transportation to-day is that it is bruised all to pieces. Last summer I sent a picking of berries to Buffalo, twenty miles away, and they were handled all right on the train, but when they got two or three streets away, by some race-horse methods that they adopted, they had those berries mashed, and almost destroyed the price of them. Now, if we could get a quick and careful transport a good deal of this difficulty would be avoided.

Mr. CASTON: Another question in regard to transportation might be mentioned. I never received a consignment of grapes that had not been broken open and quantities of them stolen. (Hear, hear.) A friend of mine had some peaches shipped to him and he would only accept them for what was in the basket. The express company tried to make him pay for the full amount, but he refused to do it, and finally they accepted pay for what was there. In some of the packages half of them were gone. It is simply disgraceful.

Mr. MCNEILL: That is the fault of the shipper himself. We have frequently had baskets opened, but make it a matter of principle to follow every such case to the bitter end, and sometimes I follow a case for six months till I get a rebate of perhaps a dollar on the shipment. In the winter months I take all these complaints and follow them up, and I have never failed to have the freight and expressmen make the loss good. I can say to their credit they have never failed, when I have brought home to them the undoubted proof of loss while in their hands, to have the loss made good. I have correspondence two inches thick over some trifling shipment where the basket was broken into. When carriers know they are being watched by the shipper they will not break them open. Shippers are to blame in not following up these losses by a persistent system of inspection.

#### APPLE CULTURE.

Mr. E. HERSEE, of Woodstock, read the following paper:

We learn that the apple formerly originated from the wild crab of northern Europe, and now it is cultivated throughout the whole world, and the fruit we now enjoy is so entirely unlike the original species that we hardly recognize it as belonging to the same. Yet if we plant the seed of our most improved varieties it reverts to its original type, so by the good cultivation and the improved condition of the soil, with the workings of our experimental stations and of our fruit growers' associations, we have been enabled to bring to the front many new and improved varieties.

My idea in apple culture is to strive and improve on previous years' methods.

There are now in existence many notions in regard to cultivating the orchard, and these suggestions have led inexperienced people to suppose that no one but an experienced person could do the work. *This is a mistake.* I would say let us get acquainted with our trees, look at them, visit them daily; they need it. For example: Put a horse in a field and let it care for itself; will it do well? I think not. So trees need our attention and our daily visits.

My experience gained in planting a young orchard is that the growth must not be checked. We must not expect that a tree planted in the grass with simply a small portion of the sod worked around it will make the same growth that the same tree would if planted in cultivated soil. I would say a tree planted in cultivated ground will make three times more growth than one planted in the sod; the grass will exhaust the soil of its moisture and fertility, and the consequence is the tree will only exist.

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