

Garden and Orchard.

Ontario Fruit-Growers' Association.

The summer meeting of the above association was held in the town of Lindsay, on the 7th ult. There was a fairly good attendance of fruit-growers, but the number of farmers was small, owing, no doubt, to the busy season.

Mr. Thos. Beall, Lindsay, was chiefly instrumental in arranging the program. He associated business with pleasure, having, after one day's sitting at Lindsay, arranged for a cheap excursion by boat to Bobcaygeon, touching at Sturgeon Point, where the excursionists had an opportunity of inspecting the vineyard of Mr. Jas. B. Knowlson, son of the recently deceased John Knowlson. Mr. Knowlson is an affable gentleman, and made the visit of the fruit-growers exceedingly enjoyable. Towards noon the boat sailed for Bobcaygeon, where an afternoon session was held, the fruit growing peculiarities of that section having been discussed. A cordial vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. Beall for the ability he displayed in making the affair so agreeable and intellectually profitable.

The following subjects were on the program: *Strawberries*—Time for planting? Hills or matted rows? Varieties for different soils? Four of the most desirable varieties suitable for cultivation in this vicinity for market purposes? *Pears*—Four of the most suitable varieties for cultivation here? The best method of cultivation? *Apples*—Why are there so many failures in our apple orchards? The right time for pruning? Should orchards be cultivated after the trees commence to bear fruit? Most desirable aspect? Are wind-breaks necessary? Name ten varieties that may be profitably grown in this vicinity for market purposes? *Plums*—Can plums be profitably grown in this vicinity? What varieties? To what insect pests are plum trees liable? What are the remedies? *Grapes*—What varieties are suitable for cultivation in this county? The hardiest sorts? Methods of planting and supporting? Comparative standing of white, red and black sorts? How best protected during winter? The proper season for pruning? *Roses* were also on the list. At Bobcaygeon the apple question was again discussed, and there was also a discussion on tulips and hedges.

W. W. Hilborn, Arkona, regarded early spring as the best time for planting strawberries. He preferred the matted row system, not letting the rows spread more than one foot wide. He had the best results from changing the plantation after one crop of fruit was taken off. He regarded the Crescent Seedling as the best variety, as it gave a greater yield by one-half than any other variety. For the best four varieties he named the Wilson, Manchester and Capt. Jack to be added to the Crescent; but in a sandy soil he would substitute Daniel Boone for Capt. Jack, the latter flourishing best in a clay loam. He considered that it took more work to clean out an old patch than to plant a new one. By planting out in August, however, one-fourth to one half a crop could be secured the next season.

W. M. Robson, Lindsay, agreed with Mr. Hilborn that matted rows were the best. A member thought that three crops at least should be taken from each plantation. Mr.

Morris, Font Hill Nurseries, believed in matted rows one foot wide. He would mark out the rows with the plow $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet apart, would plant in spring, manuring well the previous fall, and would cultivate thoroughly through the season. He found the second crop to be as good as the first and earlier. He recommended the Crescent, Wilson, Sharpless and Jewell. The Manchester did not always do well. Mr. Croil regarded the matted row system as the best for raising berries for the market, but fancy varieties should be grown in hills in order that they might get the best chance. He thought that two crops at least should be secured before changing the plantation. Mr. Demsey regarded the second crop as the best. He used the narrow row system, planting $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet apart in the row. He applied the following mixture as a fertilizer: 10 barrels unleached ashes, 500 lbs. bone dust, and 500 lbs. superphosphate per acre. He regarded the Crescent and the Wilson as enough varieties for profit. He planted in spring. The matted rows could not be made too narrow, and too many fertilizers could not be applied.

A. M. Smith, St. Catharines, agreed as to the varieties named, but said that Mrs. Garfield and the New Dominion should be planted for late berries. Mr. Hilborn said that the Garfield was not prolific or profitable enough. He would substitute the Manchester for it. The plants of the New Dominion were not hardy with him. Mr. Robson, Lindsay, praised the Early Canada, it being very early. Mr. Morris said he had it once, but plowed it under. Mr. Hilborn said the Early Canada was the best and earliest if the late spring frosts could be escaped. Mr. Robson said he got double price for it, which compensated for occasional losses.

With regard to pears, Mr. Beall, Lindsay, said he could not name four varieties which would flourish in his vicinity. Clapp's Favorite and Flemish Beauty included the whole list. He tried 30 or 40 varieties and they all failed except these two, and he had no trouble with them. Henry Glendinning, Manilla, said that the two varieties named by Mr. Beall were the only sure ones in his neighborhood; other varieties blighted badly. D. W. Beadle, St. Catharines, said these two were the hardiest varieties that he knew of. There were some new Russian varieties, but he could not speak of them yet; it might take ten years before confidence could be placed in them. Mr. Wanzer said he had saved pear trees from blight by placing iron shavings around the trees.

The failures in apple orchards were exhaustively discussed. Mr. Beall, Lindsay, gave two leading causes of failures: (1) The undrained land, the soil and subsoil in that section being a heavy clay; and (2) Growing varieties that were too tender. The usual practice was to drain $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep, which he did not consider deep enough. They attempted to grow too many varieties. He could not name ten varieties suitable for that section. He named the following eight varieties, which could be grown successfully: Red Astrachan, Duchess of Oldenburg, St. Lawrence, Keswick Codlin, Colvert, Snow Apple, Haas and Wealthy. These he named in the order of ripening. The Russets did not thrive there. Other causes of failure were: Not getting the

varieties ordered; not having the land prepared when the trees arrived, and sticking the trees into a hole instead of planting them. With regard to pruning he changed his mind several times; he did not prune much now. He did not plow or sow after the trees began to bear; but he cultivated lightly and manured well. Grass might be grown if the orchard were well manured. He favored pasturing the orchard with sheep. He recommended a northwestern aspect. Wind-breaks were very necessary. He did not want a thick wind-break, but something that screened the wind in its passage through, breaking its force.

Henry Glendinning, Manilla, mentioned as a leading cause of failure, the fact that farmers did not know what they wanted till the tree-agent called, and then the agent didn't know what the farmer wanted. It was usual for the farmer to select the varieties represented by the nicest plates, and these were usually unsuited to the district. The farmer had then no place fit to plant the trees in, but usually selected the lowest and springiest ground, and planted them carelessly. He lived only 14 miles west of Lindsay, and was successful with more than the varieties named. He recommended the Fameuse, the Golden Russet, the Talman Sweet, and the Ben Davis. The King of Tompkins did badly, but the Northern Spy flourished until this year, last winter having burst the bark. Of the Baldwins, few were left. He generally pruned in June. He recommended seeding down with June grass and top-dressing. He preferred a southeastern aspect. They liked early blossoming in their section, as they were not afraid of the late spring frosts; they suffered more from high winds. Their greatest losses were in fall, not in spring. Dry, hot winds were as injurious as cold winds. The Ribston Pippin and the Keswick Codlin suffered from high winds while in blossom. He regarded wind-breaks as extremely necessary.

Mr. Morris disapproved of late cultivation, as it made the trees too tender to stand the winter successfully. He mentioned another cause of failure, viz., allowing the trunks of the trees to grow too long. He would let them grow about four feet high, and then let three branches spread out from the main stem, which should grow up at an angle of about 45 degrees for a distance of two or three feet. From the tops of these branches the head of the tree should be formed. He contended that this method of pruning prevented the trees from leaning over, and also prevented damages from extremes of heat and cold. A team while cultivating the orchard could easily walk under trees pruned in this manner. He regarded June as the worst month in the year for pruning; spring was the best time, as soon as the severe weather was over. He advocated constant cultivation from the day of planting till the death of the trees; but the cultivating should be done early in the season—not later than July, when buckwheat should be sown to shade the ground. He favored shallow cultivation. With reference to wind-breaks, he agreed with Mr. Beall. When the breaks were too close, the trees were subject to damage by the codling moth. He recommended the following varieties for the Lindsay section: Wealthy, Duchess of Oldenburg, Yellow Transparent, Wallbridge, American Golden Russet, Talman Sweet, Alexander, St.