

this province is no doubt a humbug. Now, all these things have the effect of putting a damper on whatever interest may be felt in fruit culture, and do inestimable damage to the fruit-growing industry. I do not know how we are going to combat that kind of thing unless we can educate the farmers up to refusing things until they have been thoroughly tested by the Experimental Farms, where I think all these things should be tested before they are recommended for adoption. This Association has made a move in the way of increasing the interest in fruit culture by sending out representatives to the farmers' institutes. It is no use sending these men out to induce farmers to live and die in the very happy recollection of being humbugged. We want to attain some better results than that. There is another humbug which I will speak of now, which I did not mention before; that is the man who goes out and sells trees on the "home-grown tree" argument. There are lots of little nurserymen throughout the province who go out into the country among the farmers and persuade them to buy the home-grown tree. These men may have an acre or two, but they will turn over a book and show the farmer many thousand trees they have sold as being home-grown trees. Now if a man has only an acre of land and is selling thousands of trees he does not grow them on that ground, and he is just as bad as the nursery jobber.

Mr. CAVERS.—I represent the Galt nurseries. We send out many agents and we distinctly tell them we do not grow all the stock that we sell. Of course when our men are out canvassing we do not know what they tell customers. The more tender varieties of stock we could not grow as well as they could be grown elsewhere. We know that as the result of our experience, and we tell our agents to tell our customers that we can supply them with better stock of the tender varieties by not attempting to grow them ourselves. We do not know exactly what our men tell our customers but we distinctly inform them that all the stock they get is not necessarily grown in our own nurseries. We find that by growing only those varieties we can guarantee, we are able to give better satisfaction than if all were home grown. In the Galt district we cannot grow all that is called for. Now, what are we to do? Are we to be called jobbers and ruled out of the business because we do not have all home grown? And suppose a nurseryman is growing all this stock himself, is that a guarantee that the stock supplied a customer is what he says it is? The customer has to depend upon the reliability of the men he is dealing with in every case. We make it a rule to send nothing out of our nursery that is not exactly what it is labelled. Sometimes we substitute, but when we do we put on just what it is so that the customer may refuse it if he likes. If ever a tree goes out with a wrong label it is a mistake. Something has been said here about nurserymen sending out trees that are not suited to the sections of country they are ordered for. Nurserymen have to send out what is ordered, and in some cases where, knowing that what is ordered is not adapted to the climate, something else has been substituted because it was more suitable, the cry is at once raised that there was some dishonest ulterior motive in the substitution. Now, what are we to do for that? In discussing this question of humbugs it would not be amiss, perhaps, to take a look at it from the nurseryman's point of view. We always endeavor to do things perfectly upon the square, but you see the difficulties we have to contend with.

Mr. DENTON.—My own impression is that the further south you go the more delicacy you will find in a tree for certain parts of Canada, and my disposition would be to encourage more of our home selection. Referring to this question of humbugs which is under discussion it is very sad to go through my district, especially Lobo, and see so many orchards which men have planted and brought into bearing, and then found it was the commonest fruit grown, instead of being choice varieties such as these men paid for and expected to get from their trees. It is very hard in the face of that to induce men to enter more largely into fruit culture, but I think if they will take the list published in the "Horticulturist" it will overcome the difficulty presented. We all know that men who have stuff to sell will sell it if they can. I believe the gentleman who has spoken is perfectly honest, but are his men going to be so strictly bound down when their living depends on the extent of their sales? I think not. The farmers generally are ignorant of what is best for them to plant, and I think it is the duty of this Association, as has been said by my friend Mr. Race, to go forth and educate them, and in ten years from this time there will be a great change.