

Mr. STEVENSON. I think the bush form is probably best for both apples and crabs in this country, but in our district we have to grow them in single trees. I am sure it is necessary to give protection. They have always found it so in Minnesota, more especially if you want the trees to last a long time. Our oldest tree is nineteen years old and about twenty-two feet high.

Mr. WAUGH. How does Mr. Parkinson at Portage la Prairie grow his trees?

Mr. HAY. Mr. Parkinson grows his out in the open. We do not on the Portage Plains go in much for protection. I would say, however, that if I were going to give protection it would be from the south, and not from the north.

In respect of the class of apples, I got four from the Experimental Farm at Ottawa. They were very little things, but have been growing nicely for three or four years. They will bear almost any amount of pruning. I cannot say anything yet as to the fruit but the wood is very hard, the hardest I have yet seen. I prefer the small trees, as I think they are the best. We grow a great many crabs in Portage la Prairie. One tree I saw last fall was sixteen feet in diameter at the top. It think it is best to get the trees from Minnesota.

Mr. WAUGH. My impression is that Mr. Parkinson objects to protection.

*Answer.* Yes he does.

*Question.* Does Mr. Stevenson fill up the box round the tree with earth, and if so, why?

Mr. STEVENSON. Yes, I fill the box with earth. It is to protect the trunk from sunscald and also to prevent the tree getting black heart. Sunscald does not take place until the tree is a good size. The filling up of the box makes a difference of about 20 degrees in the temperature.

Mr. FRANKLAND. In regard to the boxing of trees I may say that some growers in Minnesota are opposed to this plan, as they think it will have the effect for a time, but that if it is once begun it will have to be continued and that it entails a great deal of labor.

Mr. STEVENSON. Of course it is true that if you start it you must keep it up, but it is generally admitted that protection is necessary. There are various ways of doing it, the boxes, burlap or paper, but I claim that some kind of protection is necessary. Trees grown without do not last so long, but die in sixteen or eighteen years, while those that have been protected, regularly are strong and healthy at twenty-five.