

Mr. ALLAN : The big apple.

The SECRETARY : How early would you do this thinning ?

Prof. CRAIG : I should say just after the first apples are fallen from the effects of the codling moth.

The SECRETARY : Just about the time we do our spraying ?

Prof. CRAIG : A little after.

A DELEGATE : How old was the tree from which these specimens came ?

Prof. CRAIG : It was six years planted.

The PRESIDENT suggested calling for the paper, "Fruit Growing on Clay soils," by Mr. F. G. H. Pattison, of Grimsby, and discussing it in connection with the paper just read.

FRUIT GROWING ON CLAY SOILS.

For a long time it was supposed, at all events in the section of country in which I am situated, that fruit would not succeed except on a light soil, preferably a sandy one. Consequently, those who had the temerity to plant fruit on the clay were laughed at by their neighbors, as being likely to have nothing but their labor for their pains. Even now the same impression prevails largely, especially amongst those who own farms of sandy texture.

To aid, then, in dispelling this idea is one of the objects of this paper. From a personal experience in the heart of one of the best known fruit sections in Ontario extending over eight years, and from observation of the operations of others over a longer period, I have come to a conclusion slightly different from the foregoing, and I ask you to lend me your ears for a short time that I may present the other side of the case to your notice. Now, in my experience clay soil, and especially high red clay, is peculiarly well adapted to growing profitably the following kinds of fruit, namely; grapes, pears, plums, apples, quinces, red and black currants. Peaches and cherries will also do fairly well; the former must, however, be given exceptionally good attention and cultivation, when they will bear fruit some seasons when there is little or none on the sand, and the quality will be very fine. Still for profit clay does not compare with sand in the case of the peach, which naturally loves a light warm soil. Small fruits, also, with the exception of red and black currants, mentioned above, cannot be profitably grown upon clay to any great extent, although an excellent supply for home use can be easily obtained. But let us examine into those fruits that I have already said *can* be profitably grown there. To begin with grapes. For them I claim the following advantages on clay soil: Firstly, earliness. On the high red clay most varieties will ripen from 10 days to 3 weeks earlier than on sand in the same locality. This advantage is of great importance from a pecuniary point of view, especially in an early season, frequently from this cause alone doubling the profits to be obtained from the vineyard. Secondly, healthiness. Grapes on clay are not nearly so subject to diseases, especially rot and mildew. Thirdly, the quality of the fruit is vastly superior. So much is this the case, that the same fruit grown on clay is like a totally different and superior variety compared to that grown upon sand, although the name be the same. To give you an example from my own experience, which is the more valuable as it was purely voluntary and quite unbiassed. A year or more ago a young friend of mine who had been staying with me for a considerable time and had been accustomed to eat my grapes grown upon a clay soil, expressed a wish to go through some of the large vineyards in my neighborhood upon the sand. It was a fine day in the early part of October, and as we walked through the vineyards the grapes hung in tempting clusters, perfectly ripe. Naturally enough, he sampled them as he went along, but after doing so his face did not express the satisfaction one might have looked for under the circumstances. Instead of which he said, "whatever is the matter with these grapes? they have no flavor." I suggested that it