

Prince Albert is a much more favorable locality than further south, as far as our experience with forestry goes to show; but I do not think that we can hope with our present list of apples to have any of them succeed in that climate. We have been sending out seed of the hardy varieties of Russian apples and grapes to settlers asking them to plant the seed and allow the tree to remain where the seed was planted. Perhaps we may get fruit in this way, and I have advised them to go on planting seed until we find something sufficiently hardy to stand the climate.

Mr. SHORT: What do you find the difficulty? Is it the Chinook winds?

Prof. CRAIG: The trees have not the ability to stand the cold.

Mr. SHORT: I have planted trees. They would do all right the first season, but in the next June or July they would die. They would leaf in the spring.

Prof. CRAIG: They had been root-killed.

Mr. RACE: This gentleman (Mr. Blake) says that he has had an orchard of Kings that he has made fruitful.

Mr. BLAKE: It is a very high locality, and they have been very average bearers every year. I have planted them mixed with Baldwins. I do not know whether that has produced an effect, because I have not planted them separately to see.

The SECRETARY: What are they grafted on?

Mr. BLAKE: On the natural fruit stock, mostly top-grafted.

Mr. RACE: And they bear every year?

Mr. BLAKE: Bear every year, and very fine, smooth apples, too.

Prof. CRAIG: Did they begin to bear young?

Mr. BLAKE: Yes; my oldest tree has been bearing for thirty years, and bears healthy fine apples now.

Mr. PEART, of Burlington: It seems to be established beyond dispute that there are some varieties of strawberries that are sterile, and at Orillia last year the Brighton and Lindley grape and Bartlett pear were stated to be sterile. Have there been any experiments to show that any variety of apples is absolutely sterile?

Prof. CRAIG: I have been carrying on some work for two years on that line. It is a very simple investigation. You simply have to cover the blossom of the apple with a paper sack to exclude all outside pollen. At the farm at Ottawa we have not yet in bearing a number of commercial varieties which I would like to report on, such as the Baldwin, the King, the Spy, and apples of that class. I have got results of a great many hardier kinds like Yellow Transparent and a number of Russians, but have not got results sufficiently definite to warrant me in giving them to the public yet. The experiments will be carried on and the results published as soon as possible.

Mr. BEADLE: Mr. Waite sent me a paper some two or three years ago in which he set forth some investigation he had made, and he had come to the conclusion that the Northern Spy was self-sterile; that if you plant a large block of Northern Spys together you would get no fruit. I remember at our convention at Hamilton Mr. Rice told us about an orchard that had been barren of fruit for twenty-eight years, and he was besieged with questions. I remember asking him if he had Northern Spys anywhere else than in that block. He said yes, he had a few in an orchard near his house mixed with other trees, and I asked the question if they bore there. He answered that they bore very well there. Then I made the remark that botanists knew very well that there were certain varieties of fruit that were self-sterile. I remember some shrubs that grew in my own grounds that were self-sterile, but when I got other shrubs of the same variety planted near they bore seed rapidly. Now, I do not know whether this Northern Spy is self-sterile or not, but possibly this may be a solution of Mr. Rice's trouble. I sent a copy of Mr. Waite's paper to the Secretary, who published it in the *Horticulturist*. I was in hopes that it would fall into Mr. Rice's hands, and perhaps set him to try the experiment of grafting some of his Northern Spys with some other variety and see if it would have any effect upon his orchard.