

the same vinery, retained their foliage perfectly, and did not show any signs of having suffered from the burning sulphur. He asked for an explanation of this singular phenomenon, but no one ventured to give any.

The best variety of pears to be grown for profit.

Mr. Shoff recommended the White Doyenne, Flemish Beauty, Louise Bonne de Jersey, Duchesse d'Angouleme, and the Urbaniste. He said the Bartlett was tender with him, and a delicate grower.

Dr. Cross stated that he gets more profit from the Bartlett than from any other pear. Next to this he placed the Duchesse d'Angouleme, which does not yet seem to be troubled with the blight.

Dr. Dougall had found the Flemish Beauty to spit and crack so badly at Windsor as to be quite worthless. He had noticed that only the very early or the late pears were of any profit; those that ripen when peaches, plums and grapes are most plenty, do not sell for enough to pay for growing them. Of the very early sorts he named *L'Éclair* Early, which he said was a new sort, and that Mr. Roy, at Berlin, had found it to be hardy there. To this variety he would add *Beurre Giffard* and *Suprême de Quimper*, both excellent sorts. The Bartlett had been too largely planted to be any longer saleable at remunerative prices. This year it would not bring in their market two dollars per bushel. It is, however, one of the best for canning, and where there are large canning establishments is saleable for this purpose.

Among the late varieties he named as profitable the Duchesse d'Angouleme, *Beurre Clairgeau* (very productive and very profitable), *Onondaga* or *Swan's Orange*, *Beurre d'Anjou* for winter, the *Lawrence*, which is always fair, never spots; *Willemoz*, best and latest winter pear; *Alexander Dumont* is very fine; *Madame Eliza*, one of the best.

Mr. Smith, of Brantford, had found the Bartlett the most profitable. The Flemish Beauty was also an enormous bearer, and also the Louise Bonne de Jersey. Among the later sorts he thought highly of the *Beurre Diel*, *Winter Nelis*, and *Giant Moroccan*. His soil was sandy, hardly enough clay to be fit for pears; had suffered this year very much from the fire blight.

Mr. Bennett said the Bartlett had done very well with him. The Flemish Beauty and Louise Bonne de Jersey were also among the best. The *Winter Nelis* he esteemed the finest pear he raised. The *Lawrence*, *Easter Beurre*, and *Beurre Diel*, are also very fine. *Osband's Summer*, *Dearborn's Seedling*, and *Bloodgood*, are the best early kinds.

Mr. Ross, of Goderich, had found the Bartlett to do very well. *Onondaga* one of the best bearers, fruit fair and fine size, and the tree healthy. The Louise Bonne and Flemish Beauty do admirably.

Mr. Arnold had found the Bartlett the most profitable pear, and the most prolific. In his experience winter pears were very variable in quality, once in a while the flavour was good, but as a rule very unreliable.

Mr. Leslie, of Toronto, stated that the market in Toronto had been glutted with pears. *Beurre Giffard* brought eight dollars per barrel, and Bartlett nearly the same price, and also the *Ananas d'Été*. He had found Flemish Beauty and Louise Bonne de Jersey to be enormous bearers. These, with *Vicar of Winkfield* and *Duchesse d'Angouleme*, were the most profitable. For winter, he preferred the *Josephine de Malines* and *Winter Nelis*. He had found the *Sheldon* to bear well.

Mr. Parnall, of St. Catharines, stated that dealers complained that the Flemish Beauty

did not ship well, that it came out of the barrels badly discoloured. He knew from personal experience that the fruit blow off badly, and that oftentimes he lost a large part of the crop by their being blown off long before they were fit to gather.

Mr. Shantz, of Waterloo, said the Flemish Beauty bears well, and thrives well in that section. He had kept the Flemish Beauty quite late into the winter by packing the fruit in maple sawdust.

President Burnet desired to call the attention of the members to some varieties of pear not generally known. He had found the *Fondante de Malines* to be superior to the *Belle Lucrative*. The *Graslin* was a variety which does not spot; is large and profitable. *Ananas d'Été* is hardy, and better than the Bartlett. *Duchesse d'Orléans* is a very handsome and desirable fruit. *Madame Eliza* is also very handsome. *Willemoz* is very hard to ripen well. *Viscount de Spailberg* is a very fine winter sort, ripening about Christmas. Of the older varieties, he remarked that the *Winter Nelis* requires to be well fed, and it is then one of the very best of the winter sorts. The *Vicar of Winkfield* should be kept in barrels in the cellar until near the time of ripening; then should be placed in paper bags, and kept in a warm room for about a fortnight, when they will be found to be good. The *Lawrence* is a very fine pear, always fair. The *Sheldon* bears great crops about Hamilton, and is much sought for in the market. The Louise Bonne grows well, bears abundantly, and sells well. The Flemish Beauty is one of our most hardy varieties, thriving well even in the vicinity of Ottawa.

Mr. Mills, of Hamilton, keeps the *Vicar of Winkfield* in the cellar the same as apples, but ripens them by wrapping a few at a time in flannel, and placing them in a drawer in a warm room.

Mr. Leslie keeps only the best specimens of this pear; places them in a warm and dark garret, and they ripen up very fine. The tree is very healthy and hardy.

Mr. Watson, of Goderich, finds the *Oswego Beurre* a fine bearer, very hardy and profitable. The Louise Bonne is a good grower, and very productive, especially if supplied with a good dressing of ashes.

Dr. Cross stated that he had lost half of his trees of the *Vicar of Winkfield* with the pear blight, and thought the variety quite subject to this disease.

Mr. Posa had grown it for eight years, and found it healthy, and Mr. Arnold said he had grown it for twenty years, and the tree is yet healthy.

Mr. Dougall said they were not troubled with the pear blight in the vicinity of Windsor and along the Detroit River. He had found the *Howell* a tender tree, and the fruit not of first quality.

Mr. Leslie had met with the same experience.

Mr. Ross said the tree grew well about Goderich, and was a great bearer, and the fruit was of fine appearance, but only of second quality. He had found the *Beurre d'Amalis* to be a great bearer and of good quality.

Mr. Dougall said the *Oswego Beurre* did not sell well at Windsor.

Mr. Mills had found the *Beurre d'Anjou* a good market pear; the tree is not a very abundant bearer, never overloads, and hence the pears are always of fine size, and command a high price; from twenty to thirty dollars per barrel in the Boston market.

The President had noticed that the *Swan's Orange* or *Onondaga* was too acid to be ac-

ceptable to many, and that every five out of six objected to it on account of its acidity.

The discussions having been protracted until a late hour of the evening, and many of the members being obliged to leave on the morning train, the meeting was adjourned to the call of the President.

The Potato—Mode of Planting, &c.

The extensive use of this esculent, and the important position that it occupies, not only in the household but in the economy of the farm, renders the consideration of its cultivation a subject of no inconsiderable consequence; in fact, it has come to be one of the most important that engages the attention of farmers, so much so as to result in the production of not only innumerable varieties, in contrast with the few of a short time ago, but also those that, compared with old varieties, possess much greater value for culinary use.

This state of affairs was probably in a great measure brought about by the "potato disease" that prevailed to so great an extent some time since; since in consequence of the scarcity and liability to disease, the effort was made to produce seed from the potato ball, which, proving successful, introduced many new varieties, and in one sense a change of seed, which proved to be highly beneficial to the general crop. There is undoubtedly every reason to believe that one cause of the potato disease was in consequence of the continued use of seed from the same varieties, year after year, which would of necessity result in deterioration, which, in the case of the potato, could be exhibited in no more forcible manner than the course of almost entire decay that for some little time prevailed. Admitting this position to be correct, then upon the use of the balls for the re-supply of seed, the cause of decay, i.e., continued use of seed, being removed, of course the effect of necessity would cease to exist, and hence the general disappearance of potato disease, which has for like reason failed to renew its appearance. But this was not the only benefit derived; much was learned with regard to the manner of cultivation and the use of seed, so that some of the old prejudices regarding planting were either wholly removed or terribly shaken. It was formerly believed to be necessary to simply divide a good sized tuber only once or twice, and so plant two pieces in the hill. This did very well while potatoes were comparatively cheap; but upon the introduction to the notice of planters of those celebrated varieties of later times, which were sold at from four to fifty dollars per pound, most purse strings would forbid the excessive use of so expensive seed, and, as a consequence, there was a division of tubers into minimum proportions for the purpose of spreading the seed over a maximum surface of ground, so that in contrast with one division of a tuber and two pieces in each hill, was seen, even