

ful is the principle of life, that a seedling, accidentally deprived of its radicle, will sometimes form a second one, but in such cases the plants are weak and never attain to their full vigor, but remain small and delicate.

GEO. MOORE.

(To be continued).

INSPECTION AND BRANDING OF APPLES.

Some discussion took place last week at Ottawa upon the bill introduced by the Hon. Mr. Fisher in regard to the inspection and branding of apples. There was a wide difference of opinion expressed as to the effectiveness of such legislation, many claiming that the clauses regarding inspection would be unworkable. There seems to be good ground for believing that the inspection of apples in barrels would be a very difficult matter to work out in actual practice. It would be practically impossible to inspect all apples when being packed, and the only way of carrying out the system of inspection proposed would be to have some inspector examine a certain number of barrels from each shipment at the port of shipment. But this would entail a lot of difficulty, and it is hard to see just how it is going to work out satisfactorily. We presume, however, that the Minister of Agriculture has the matter worked out in his own mind and will be able to arrange for a satisfactory inspection if required.

This inspection difficulty might be overcome by having Canadian Government officers located at Liverpool and one or two other points in Great Britain, where the bulk of Canadian apples are sold. Such officers could be called in to inspect and report upon shipments of apples in which fraudulent packing or grading has been found, and upon whose evidence the guilty parties might be brought to justice in Canada. A plan of this kind would necessitate the branding of the name and address of the packer of the apples on the outside of every barrel, but we think it would work out well and be the means of tracing out parties guilty of such fraudulent practices as have been only too common in this country for the past few years and which have brought our export apple trade into disrepute and dishonor to the name of Canada.

But whatever plan of inspection is adopted, or

even if there is to be no inspection, the name and address of the person who packed the apples should be branded on the outside of every barrel of apples sent out of Canada and, for that matter, upon every barrel of apples sold to the local trade as well. The apple trade of this country has got into bad repute through the action of certain dishonest individuals, and strong measures are needed in order to bring these parties to justice. Only a very small percentage of the men who grow apples pack them. This is done in 90 per cent of the cases by dealers, who make a business of buying up orchards in the fall and doing their own packing. These are the parties responsible for fraudulent packing, and if every packer were compelled to put his name and address on every barrel, it should not be difficult to trace the guilty parties and mete out punishment to them in keeping with the offense. Such punishment will, no doubt, be in the shape of a fine. All we have to say on this point is, let the fine be good and large, so that the guilty parties when found out may feel it. In certain recommendations made to the Government by the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association on this point a very small fine in our opinion was suggested in the way of punishment. The Minister of Agriculture would do well to make the fine large and effective.

THE EXPERIMENTAL FARM METHOD OF TREATING AN ORCHARD.

Editor *The Farming World* :

Under most circumstances I believe in clean culture in the orchard in spring and the early part of the summer ; seeding down to red clover or some other leguminous crop about the middle of July, and plowing under the clover early in the spring. By this method a cover crop is formed to hold the snow in winter and protect the roots of the trees from sudden changes of temperature. The crop, also, when plowed under, will add humus to the soil and supply a large quantity of nitrogen. I believe this system is the best one to adopt in the milder parts of Ontario, especially where droughts are liable to occur, or where the soil is naturally inclined to be dry. For the colder parts of Canada, and where the location of the orchard is such that there is no fear of the soil becoming too dry, a fruit grower should use his