

One of the most interesting features of the Truro Exhibition appears to have been the conversation or evening meeting held at the close of the Exhibition on 2nd October, in the Temperance Hall. At the appointed hour the President, Col. Laurie, took the chair, and in a few well chosen remarks on the object of the meeting and the success of the Exhibition held that day, said: that as several gentlemen from the great fruit producing Counties, Kings, and Annapolis were present, they would kindly favour the audience with some practical hints on fruit growing, and that intervals between each address would be occupied by delegates from the Counties of Cumberland, Pictou and Antigonish, who were present, as well as by gentlemen from different parts of Colchester, who had anything to offer or questions to ask. He then introduced Dr. C. C. Hamilton, of Kings, who said that did he attempt to travel over the ground touched on by the President he would have to detain the audience for a week and he was not vain enough to suppose that they would care to listen to him for that length of time. And as no text had been given him he would merely talk on matters that occurred to him or answer questions proposed by gentlemen present. He said that as regards the financial value of apples there could be no doubt. Kings County was capable of producing about 30,000 bbls. of apples a year. Annapolis did more, but Kings was rapidly coming up with her. Each barrel of apples raised was worth \$2.00 to \$4.00 and as the demand was much larger than the supply, and would doubtless continue so for many years to come, their culture was also a safe investment. But, laying aside the financial aspect of the matter, fruit growing had a decidedly moral tendency and was well calculated to make those who were engaged in it better men and citizens. If the soil in Truro was what it had been represented to him, viz: a thin clay soil with a substratum of gravel, he could not hold out much encouragement. Trees in such a soil would probably do well for two or three years, but as they became larger and the roots sank deep in the ground, the gravel would not afford them the nourishment they required. But where there were suitable soils that would retain moisture the result would be different. He believed from what he had seen to-day that apple growing could be made a success in Eastern Nova Scotia. The Plums exhibited were excellent, he had rarely beheld better. Pears he did not think would succeed as well as apples, plums, &c. He warned intending Orchardists that they must have patience and spend much time and labor, before they had any right to say that fruit culture was a failure.

Mr. Atkinson of Cumberland stated

that but one or two Orchards, so far as he knew, existed in that county, other than those of the old fashioned kind. Many produced good apples but of course not such as ought to be grown, and he believed would eventually. He thought even where new apples had been introduced the best kinds had not been secured. He believed this Exhibition would have a very good effect in his county, in giving an impetus to this most important branch of industry.

Mr. Starr next addressed the meeting; he said if you want orchards to succeed you must first prepare the land, simply digging a large hole and setting the tree in the centre and filling it with rich earth and manure will not do. More particularly is this objectionable where there is a stiff soil with a hard pan underneath, as in such cases the water gathers around the tree and remains there, said hole forming simply a tub to hold the surface water, and very soon killing the tree or most effectually preventing its doing any good. He would first plough his land deep, ridge it up, and furrow to carry off the surface water, as quickly and thoroughly as possible. Get your trees from the nearest nurseryman, next door if you can, who has the varieties you want. Summer kinds stand the frost better than the later kinds, and if called on to mention any sorts would say: The Russian Fruits; 1st Petovski, 2nd Red Astrachan, 3rd Duchess of Oldenburg. He had found the Emperor Alexander good, as a winter apple. We generally find those that blossom late do well. I consider the "Northern Spy" reliable. From what he saw to-day would advise to plant the Gravenstein. Does not believe in planting too far apart particularly in windy districts; from 20 to 25 feet apart is quite far enough. Manure highly and do it on the top of the soil. He thought that no set rule could be given as to situation. All exposures do well if the soil and cultivation is good. Too much rake of wind is not desirable, and where such cannot be avoided, would protect them by planting spruce, which will grow rapidly and shield them from the blast. He believed plums would do well in this section.

Mr. Duncan, could not pretend to speak for Colchester outside of New Annan. A few Scotchmen had raised orchards there; their trees were principally from Mr. Wilson's Nursery, but it was only recently they commenced to introduce the new varieties. The Association would have a tendency to spur them up to have the better varieties, and he hoped to see a great improvement before long. He felt particularly encouraged at the extension of this industry, Dr. Hamilton having said that it had a good moral tendency, as he had been a sufferer from the lack of that element in his community,

by having his best specimen of apples stolen from his trees previous to the Exhibition.

Mr. Haldarton thought counties that could produce the fruit on exhibition to-day should not be set down as incapable of fruit growing. Two varieties shown from Pictou "Pomme Gris" and Snow, were excellent dessert apples and as fine as could be expected anywhere. He planted his trees in rows and very close together, filling between them with plums, Dwarf Pears, and such like, until they are not further than eight feet apart, and finds it to work well. Watches his trees closely and is always prepared with a good knife to keep them pruned.

Mr. Matheson of Pictou stated that apple raising was as yet only in its infancy in this County, but he felt very much encouraged by the success of this first Exhibition under the auspices of the E. C. F. G. Association. He had great faith in the success of that institution, though great results could be accomplished by the spread of information. Wished that this meeting had been held in Pictou, so that the remarks of the previous speakers could be placed before the public through the columns of the press. He waxed warm on this part of his subject, but on being informed that there was a "a chiel amang us" the speaker apologized, a proceeding that was quite unnecessary on his part, so far as we are concerned, as we consider it right for all speakers, when from home, to laud their local institutions. At the same time, however, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not yield to the Press of Pictou, or any other place, in our attention to local matters, more especially on subjects that in any way tend to benefit the tillers of the soil, and should it so happen that we never again do anything more on behalf of E. C. F. G. A., we consider that we have already done more than the Pictou Press can possibly accomplish for years to come, inasmuch as it was we who nominated the indefatigable and energetic Vice-President of that institution for Pictou County, David Matheson, Esq., who was candid enough to admit that that honor conferred on him had stimulated him to greater exertions.

Mr. Eaton would advise those who intended to engage in apple raising not to have too many varieties, have enough summer and fall kinds for your own use, after that confine yourself to not more than two varieties; and he would advise to select as being the best within his knowledge "Baldwin and Gravenstein" Dr. Hamilton agreed with this view; although he had over forty different varieties in his orchard, he would not have them if he were going to plant a new one. In answer to a question as to the best method of clearing a tree of lice. He advised to