

and training the branches sufficiently high to prevent the ground remaining wet, coupled with a friable condition of the soil, were of more value than any medicament applied.

The point has been raised as to the deleterious effect upon the soil of continued applications of remedial agents in which copper compounds form constituents. Those who should know are divided in their opinion as to the ultimate result upon the fertility of the soil. Scientific combat upon the use of salts of copper in this way is now in progress, the result of the first few "rounds" is decidedly in favor of those who advocate their use, but until the intellectual duel is finally settled, it behooves us to act with caution lest a condition arise from which serious loss would ensue.

Before closing my address I desire to call attention to two bulletins issued by the Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa, Nos. 10 and 11 of this year. These bulletins are of great interest to fruit growers and should be in the hands of all our members, containing as they do in compact form much desirable information upon the subject of apple scab, grape and gooseberry mildew and insect pests, with practical directions for their suppression. The delay in the distribution of these bulletins until the season had considerably advanced depreciated their usefulness for this year, but blame for such delay cannot be laid upon the shoulders of the Director of the Farm or of any of his staff.

A discussion followed this able address, the tomato rot and the disappointing results of late shipments of apples to England being the principal subjects touched upon.

Mr. A. McD. Allan, of Toronto, thought the apple crop of the season had been on the whole very satisfactory, but he thought that pickers made a mistake in picking their fruit too soon. If the maturing process has set in before the apple is picked it cannot be expected to keep long in good condition. The English buyers always rolled aside any damp barrels, or barrels in which any motion was observed, although they often contained just as good fruit as the other barrels accepted.

Prof. Saunders moved a vote of thanks to the President for his able address, and a committee was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Allan, Smith and Wellington, to consider the matters contained therein and report.

The next business was the election of officers, but as Prof. Saunders had to leave after the close of the session it was decided to hear him and allow the election to stand over.

Prof. Saunders stated that he was down in the programme for an address on "The Possibilities of Fruit Growing in Manitoba and the North-West." He could speak better of the impossibilities of this, and feared that the ordinary settler who tried to grow apples there would be disappointed. There were several varieties of the crab, however, as, for instance, Whitney's No. 20, Transcendant and Hyslop, that were hardy and which might survive. His observations in the North-West had gone to show that the soil in Manitoba was not poor enough, was too rich in fact, to grow good apples. The rich prairie bottom invariably killed the fruit. The fruit growers there would require to continue their tests, and he recommended the gravelly strips in the valleys as the best place in which to plant. The lack of shelter was another factor against the fruit attempted to be grown in the open. Land strips were now being formed, planted with double and triple rows of Manitoba maples so as to form shelters, and it was hoped that this experiment would help to solve the difficulty. The Pointed Pepka, the Summer Arabka, the Sandy Glass, the Gipsy Girl, the Ostrakoff's Glass, the Ukrane, were all apples which had done well at the Experimental Farm at Brandon. The cherry crop in Manitoba and the plum crop were partly winter-killed, but the Koslov Morello cherry, one of the varieties received through your Association from Mr. Niemetz, of Russia, has

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