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ALLAN.

THE WINTER MEETING.

The Winter Meeting was held in the City Hall, Ottawa, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 8th and 9th of February, 1888.

President Allan being delayed in arriving, the meeting was called to order by the Vice-President, A. M. Smith, Esq., who announced the presence of Messrs. Gibb and Brodie, members of the Montreal Horticultural Society. He sincerely hoped these gentlemen would take an active part in the discussions, as he felt assured the members of the Association could not fail to derive much valuable information from a relation of their experiences in fruit growing.

President A. McD. Allan having now arrived, assumed the chair, and the first topic for discussion was opened by the reading of the following paper by Mr. A. A. Wright, of Renfrew.

EXPERIENCE WITH RUSSIAN AND HARDY NATIVE FRUITS IN THE COLD NORTH.

I regret that owing to circumstances which I shall explain later on, I am not able to give you as definite information as I would like but such as I have I give you. In 1883 I made arrangements with Prof. Budd, of Ames, Iowa, to send me a collection of 200 Russian apple trees one year old from the bud. These came duly to hand and consisted of thirty different varieties, viz., 60, 102, 143, 153, 161, 260, 269, 275, 277, 316, 327, 402, 407, 540, 608, 722, 1260, 2 M., 3 M., 5 M., 8 M., 14 M., 26 M., Yellow Transparent, Russian, Cardinal, Grand Sultan, Belle de Boskoop, Canada Baldwin and five without any name.

As I was President of our local association, I distributed them in groups of five, to as many of our members as cared for them, and the remainder to various friends of horticulture in our immediate vicinity, giving only five to each. In nearly every case the parties desired and obtained five different varieties. This manner of distribution was a great mistake on my part, as you will readily see, for although I kept a carefully preserved list of every tree given to every individual and attached a correctly named label to each and every tree, and gave the strictest injunction that the number or name of each tree should be carefully preserved by them, and that an annual report of their success or failure should be given to me, yet, with very few exceptions, these injunctions were entirely neglected, and all my pains, trouble and expense were of comparatively little value. Had I given each individual five trees, all of one variety, then I would have known just what varieties lived and what ones failed.

For example: Mr. Fraser, according to my record, received one each of Belle de Boskoop, Russian, 275, 327 and 153. Two of these grew and have done exceedingly well, and are now bearing very fine specimens of early fall fruit. Now, the question arises, which two are living? This, we cannot tell, as he apparently made no effort whatever to preserve the numbers given him.

All the other Belle de Boskoops distributed, as well as all the others marked Russian, have failed; hence we have good grounds for believing that the two he has living are two out of the remaining three, 275, 227 and 153, but exactly which two we cannot say. This, you will admit, is not very satisfactory, as it is altogether too indefinite to be of any great value. It is on this account that I cannot speak too positively on some of these fruits.