

asked by the President of the Minnesota State Association to find out what the Canadians were doing in originating new fruit; also what success had been met with here in growing Russian apples. He would be glad to listen to the discussions and to afford any information he possessed. (Applause.)

APPLE GROWING.

Mr. THOS. BROOKS, of Brantford, read the following paper:

The apple is one of the oldest of fruits. There is an old book with which I have no doubt most of you are familiar in which we find these words: "As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons,"—something beautiful and lovely—beautiful in its growth, form and appearance, lovely in its fruit and usefulness; such ought the apple tree to be, for apple trees like ourselves are known by their fruit. Plant in the spring, thirty feet apart each way, and do not forget that you are planting a living thing with a life to be fed, protected and cared for if you would have it a thing of beauty and profit. If you do not mean to feed, protect and care for it, do not plant it. Of all the kinds of fruit grown in this country the apple is capable of adapting itself to the greatest variety of soil, climate and surroundings, but under no circumstance must we neglect to feed, care and protect it. "Dig about it and dung it" is still good advice, though it has come down through the centuries. In regard to the apple tree, just remember this, though it is a living thing it cannot roam about for food; it is tied to the spot. Take your cow into the field and give her only twenty feet of rope. She will soon have eaten up all the feed within her reach and have nothing but the ground to stand on, and if you do not supply her wants the pail will soon show the reason. Now I believe this to be the condition of too many of our apple trees: they have little more than the ground to hold them up, and if there was any such thing as their getting out they would follow one another over the fence like so many breachy sheep. General practice has been something like this: For the first ten years the orchard has been made to grow all the grain and roots that could be got from it, thus doing double duty. All right if double fertility has been applied to the trees, but this is too often neglected. Unless the orchard has had very liberal treatment in the way of manure and cultivation the ground will be poorer than when the trees were planted. To me there appears a great similarity between animal and tree vegetable life. For our domestic animals to become strong, healthy and vigorous, they must be fed and cared for in a proper manner. The cow, to give good results at the pail, must have the proper feed in right proportion and quantity, with good care; so the orchard, to give good results in the barrel or cellar, must have its wants supplied to that end from year to year. The animal and its needs, and how and with what to supply them for any desired end, is now pretty well understood. In the case of the orchard these points are rather more obscure and perhaps not so well understood by the average farmer. The suitable treatment of the tree itself, in the way of cleaning and pruning, may in the main be agreed upon as to what is best. And, not to go below the surface of the ground, may there not very easily be some special fertilizer, particularly adapted for the production of fruit, that we do not yet know of? And when we have done our best so far, may there not easily exist some subsoil conditions which will counteract all our best efforts. The only remedy that I know of to cure any unfavorable subsoil conditions, either in the field or orchard, is tile draining. This will greatly benefit a hard clay subsoil, or a cold damp bottom, and in the orchard I believe a good depth, even to four or five feet, to be necessary. If tile drain is too near the surface in the orchard there is danger of the tiles filling with small roots from the trees. I do not wish to be tedious, and of what I have written this is about the sum: First, if the orchard is on hard clay, or cold subsoil, deep and thorough tile draining with perfect outlet; if in grass, which I always think is the nicest condition after the trees are well to bearing, not, however, to be sod-bound, but kept mellow with top dressing, ashes and coarse manure. Next is clean bark and proper pruning—and let me say right here, better prune too little than too much. I have seen most ruinous results from over much pruning. Get the tree

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