

The following are a few of the questions asked :

What is the cheapest and best way of protecting trees from mice ? A. The practice of banking trees is not only expensive but ineffectual, as the mice will run up the bank and girdle the trees. Clean cultivation is the best preventive, but is not always practicable. Where a man has a great many acres of young fruit trees, it is impossible to grow hoed crops on all the ground, summer fallowing would be a waste of land, and grain or grass must necessarily be grown in some measure. Tar paper sometimes blisters the trees, thereby stunting their growth, but we believe this is due to its fitting the trunk too tightly. It should be tied on loosely and removed early in the spring, and, in spite of its blistering tendencies, is the cheapest and best preventive. A new tar paper, that is tar sandwiched between papers, is being tried here this winter for the first time. It is thought that it cannot blister the tree, the only question being whether there is sufficient tar in it to deter the mice.

A question as to when native plum trees, planted in a standard plum orchard with the object of top grafting them, should be so treated, was answered by the Vice-President, Mr. J. S. FREEMAN, who thought they should be grafted as early as possible after the first season.

OFFICERS.

The following are the officers of the Association for the year 1893 :

President : GEO. E. FISHER, Freeman P.O.

Vice-President : J. S. FREEMAN, Freeman P.O.

Secretary-Treasurer : A. W. PEART, Freeman P.O.

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Entertainment Committee : President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer.

Auditors : C. N. DYNES and Geo. N. PEER.

REPORT OF FRUITS.

While in our locality, this has been a good season for the growth of wood, which is going into winter well matured, it has been generally unfavorable for fruit, the wet weather of May and June causing undue development of fungoid growth, thereby seriously impairing the quality of pears and apples, of which the yields were large. There were scarcely any plums, due probably to the heavy crop of last year. The peach crop was nil, the buds being frozen during winter. Cherries were few, owing, it is thought, to imperfect fertilization, the weather being wet and cold during the blossoming season. Grapes were a light crop. A few of the more tender varieties were frozen in the winter, while many were so late in ripening as to be practically useless. Some vineyards on thoroughly drained soil gave a heavy crop of fine quality. Raspberries and blackberries were a light crop. Some of the varieties, notably the Cuthbert, suffered seriously from frost during winter. The strawberry crop was fair, but of inferior quality, small and sour, due, we think, to imperfect fertilization and protracted wet weather. Red currants were a light crop ; black currants a heavy crop, the quality of both being good. Gooseberries were a fine crop and were unusually free from mildew. Quinces, a full crop, although relatively few are grown in this locality. The acreage of fruit plantations has been largely increased during the past year, especially in the direction of pears and plums. Generally speaking, the crop of vegetables was fair, tomatoes heavy, radishes, table carrots and beets unusually good, onions and cauliflower good, cabbage and celery light. Melons were a good crop but poor in quality, potatoes a light crop and badly effected by the rot.—GEO. E. FISHER, President.