

along more mature lines of stock. This truth I think will hold equally well in the propagation of trees. If we are multiplying continually year after year from the young, immature stock in the nursery we are inducing in the propagation the continued growth of wood, as that is the function of the young tree of the nursery, first to develop and produce its wood; and if we propagate from that source we are simply pushing that development of the wood growth to a longer period than we would if we selected our propagating stock from the more mature tree. Now upon this point let me say that in the selection of this propagating stock it is important to take a number of things into account. First we should study the tree as I have said from the standard of its individuality. We will understand as we go into a block of trees that there are those that require little pruning. They seem to be from nature well-balanced trees. They seem to grow in all directions naturally and well; and we will strike many trees like this in our work which require comparatively little pruning. They seem to grow out as well balanced in all directions, and their growth seems to be such that they naturally grow into a fine and perfect tree, eliminating very much of the labor of pruning; while on the other hand we still see trees that are inclined to fill up with massive growth of wood, and it is necessary to go in and prune severely in order to throw that tree out into the shape we would like to see it acquire. Now, in the selecting of propagating stock I would make a very careful study of this principle. And so in starting this orchard of Kings upon the Spy, it was my privilege to send to Tompkins County in New York State where the King grows to the greatest perfection. It is recognized that in Tompkins County, surrounded by lakes, the King does its best, and so pains were taken to send to this county to take the propagating stock from this section, and then from only what I describe as typical trees. I stated to the gentleman who got me the scions. "Now, study the tree in every respect closely and carefully. Study the tree in its form, and only select scions from the trees that are growing naturally in a perfect form." Secondly, the request was to study the character of the fruit. We all know that there are differences in trees in relation to the character of the fruit which those trees will produce. Some will produce uniformly good fruit, while again the tree next to it will produce a larger proportion of inferior fruit. There is where the individuality of the tree manifests itself again. I cannot explain it, but there undoubtedly is a difference in trees in assimilating the nutrition which is obtained from the food and the soil; and perhaps the greater power of assimilation of nutrition may make the difference between a tree that will produce a larger proportion of excellent fruit, as against one that will perhaps produce a larger proportion of its fruit inferior in quality. So the quality of the fruit and the character of the fruit was studied along with the natural form of the tree, and in this manner these scions were selected. They were placed in trees that were set out eight years ago two years of age, and at the second year the propagation began. Now as to the results. It has been a very interesting study all along to note the development of those trees. All along on this first system of propagation there were distinct differences in the forms of those trees. Some came into form beautifully. You could select here and there, all through this plot, trees that from the time the scions were set until the present time have been developing naturally very fine trees. In addition to that the same characteristic seems to have followed in the perfection of the fruit. The fruit is uniform in size. When you have picked Kings from these trees you will find that as they lie in a pile it is a very uniform lot of apples in regard to size. Evenness of sizes is marked in the production of some of those trees. Then again, the uniformly fine color which comes out upon them. So that the tree seems in this first experiment to be working out, proving that there is individuality in trees, and it is for us now as fruit growers to study and learn these, and then make use of them as far as we can. Now, then, to carry it further. In the planting of a

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