

Mr. ALLAN (Goderich): The windbreak as generally grown is a closely planted hedge. Now, you want something that will allow the wind to thoroughly run through the trees, but merely break the force of it. People make a great mistake in planting too close. I would plant windbreak trees thirty or forty feet apart, so that there is no possibility of them ever interlacing; plant in a double row, which would make them practically twenty feet apart.

Mr. GOOD: You can carry a lighted match almost any time of the year on the lee side of the windbreak I spoke of, and there was less scab in that orchard than in any one I know.

Mr. JOHN J. FRASER: Mr. Good and I are, comparatively speaking, neighbors. We have a windbreak on the west and north, of evergreens planted about twelve feet apart, grown to the height of thirty feet or upwards, and I have noticed that for many years past the apples in that orchard have been very much subject to scab—much more so than in the other orchards we have. I have always attributed it to the closeness of the windbreak, which prevented the free circulation of air. There was not a bushel of apples in that orchard last year that was free from the scab.

Mr. MORRIS: The roots of those trees thirty feet high will extend through the ground the same distance, and come in contact with the roots of the fruit trees in that distance, and will rob the ground of food which those trees should have had; and that will tend to bring about the scab. I would not have evergreens for windbreak, but rather something like European larch, which the wind will pass through.

Mr. CASTON: In our part of the country windbreaks are beneficial. I would have them on north and west sides if possible. I have a board fence fourteen feet high. I built it when I planted out the trees, and at the same time I planted a row of evergreens, to be coming on while the orchard was growing, so that when the fence got old I would have the evergreens. The winter of 1884-5 was very severe—averaging colder than it had for thirty years—and I lost between sixty and one hundred trees. The more exposed portion of the orchard suffered most severely, and right in the neighborhood of that fence they were scathless. A neighbor of mine had no windbreak—because it was an axiom with us that we ought to have a northern exposure—and his orchard was entirely ruined. I would certainly have a windbreak fourteen or twenty feet high, whether of trees or fence. I think in close, foggy weather the fungus gets in its work.

Mr. GOTT: Windbreaks are good. The finest plot I ever saw was five acres entirely surrounded by white pine, about thirty feet high—the branches interlacing—planted about ten feet apart. I believe the tender fruits such as plums, fine peaches, and apricots, can be grown within a windbreak of that kind. I had a friend who had perfect apples, and who had a forest along the whole northern part of his orchard.

Mr. BRAND was asked by Prof. Craig to speak about windbreaks. He said: We have very high windstorms, and frequently tornadoes, in July and August, and we have found it necessary to protect with windbreaks our main orchards—which are chiefly composed of Duchess of Oldenburg, which blows off very easily—to ensure a good crop, but as to the health of trees I never could see that they were beneficial, but rather objectionable generally. The largest, best and most productive trees that I have stand a long distance from any windbreak; so also do the best in the State—and I have seen as many trees in our State as any other man in it. I have been planting a windbreak of European larch. I have windbreaks of evergreens, which I find of a great benefit in catching snow from five to seven feet deep, and thus protecting tender trees through severe winters like that of 1884, when all our Wealthies were destroyed, except such as stood in deep snow. With regard to the scab, Prof. Goff, Professor of Horticulture in Wisconsin, succeeded, by spraying a Fameuse tree three or four times during the season, in producing seventy-five per cent. of perfect apples, as against twenty-two per cent. on trees that were not sprayed.

Prof. CRAIG: On what sides are the windbreaks planted?

Mr. BRAND: West and south—our most damaging winds coming thence.

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