

the thanks of the Association to Messrs. West & Co.

Mr. Axford read his report of the method of handling and packing the prize fruit, as follows:—

THE RECTORY, CORNWALLIS, }
November, 1892. }

According to the request sent by advertisement for competitors for prize offered by Nothard & Lowe, of London, England, to best ten barrels of Ribston Pippins, I forward you a brief statement of my method of packing and marking apples for market.

Picking.—The fruit is hand picked from off the trees singly and carefully into baskets which are carefully emptied into apple barrels close at hand, in the orchard (excluding all wormy fruit, to prevent good fruit being defaced by the worms in fruit bin.) Thence they are taken to the fruit room, and carefully placed in the fruit bins, where they are allowed to sweat and remain until required to be put up for the market.

Packing and Marking.—I secure, if possible, air-tight barrels, believing that the more the air is excluded from the fruit the better it will keep anywhere, and especially as freight in a vessel. Having obtained the barrels, I number the bottom and sides before I remove the bottoms, to secure the right ones when heading up. I then nail the heads and edge hoops securely, taking care that no nail points are exposed inside the barrel. I then place a thin layer of excelsior shavings inside on the head of the barrel, line it with white paper, placing some upon the excelsior, and proceed to pack the fruit, marking in pencil the intended quality on each barrel to avoid any mistake when labelling. When sorting fruit I choose some of the brightest and best for heading with, so that when it is opened it may appear desirable, and ask to be poured out for inspection. I lay the first two layers of fruit with the stems down, (they show up when the barrel is opened) placing them in tightly, after which I carefully put in the best from the basket, putting in perfect fruit in form, and of uniform size for the first quality; shaking the barrel occasionally that the fruit might settle. When full I put in some of smaller size to fill up the spaces, and place a layer of white paper over all, before I put in the bottom of the barrel, or as it is termed, head up, which operation I perform with the screw header (M. C. Bacon's, Falmouth,) which took the prize at the Kentville Exhibition, where I bought it. Having got the bottom in place through steady pressure and gentle tapping of sides of barrel all round, and otherwise shaking the barrel to get apples solidly in place, I put the hoops on and secure by nails, using stout shingle nails for bottom hoops, and either large tacks or small lath nails, as the hoops may require, for the bilge. After which they are marked by stencil plates with the name and quality of fruit, name of grower, and locality of growing, and forwarded to market, seeking for as good a price as is going.

FRED. J. H. AXFORD.

This report induced considerable discussion. Mr. Longley said he believed apples were best packed immediately in the barrels from the tree, being assorted from the picking baskets. They look much fresher when spread than when

placed in bins or heaps, and particularly the more tender varieties as Native Spys or Bellefleurs.

Mr. A. A. Pineo endorsed the views of Mr. Longley. He had tried this plan and found it very satisfactory.

Mr. Isaac Shaw said apples should be headed at once, and not left in the bin to sweat, as it is called.

C. R. H. Starr approved of packing directly in the barrels when practicable, but when there were hundreds of barrels to be gathered, it could not be done to advantage on account of the time required. They must be housed as rapidly as possible, and could be sorted during weather not propitious for gathering. He celledared apples in both hard and soft wood barrels, and found the soft wood barrels all had to be re-filled, while those in hardwood remained full and fresh.

Mr. Parker's report was read and favorably commented upon. The above reports were ordered to be placed on file for further reference.

It was resolved that the time for holding the Winter Exhibition be left with the executive, with the understanding that it be held during the meeting of the Central Board of Agriculture.

The election of officers was proceeded with. The President intimated his desire to be relieved of the duties of the position; and the Secretary said, as he expected to be absent from the Province for some months, it would be wise to appoint some one in his place. The following named were then elected:—

President.—Avard Longley, Paradise.

Secretary.—C. R. H. Starr, Port Williams.

Vice-Presidents.—Kings—T. H. Parker, Berwick; Annapolis—F. S. Whitman, Annapolis; Hants—G. C. Wiggins, Windsor; Digby—Dr. Morse, Weymouth; Yarmouth—C. E. Brown, Yarmouth; Queens—I. H. Dunlap, Liverpool; Lunenburg—Judge Des-Brisay, Lunenburg; Colchester—Isaac Longworth, Truro, Pictou—T. M. McDonald, Durham; Cumberland—Charles Atkinson, Maccan; Cape Breton—J. B. Jackson, North Sydney; Shelburne—W. F. McCoy, M. P. P.; Antigonish—T. M. King, Antigonish; Guysborough—James A. Fraser, M. P. P.

Standing Committee on Fruit.—R. W. Starr, C. E. Brown, A. H. Johnson, C. R. H. Starr, Isaac Shaw, Benjamin Starratt, Robert Marshall.

Committee on Publication.—Prof. Higgins, Avard Longley, R. W. Starr, A. H. Johnson, C. R. H. Starr, Revs. J. R. Hart and F. J. H. Axford.

Auditors.—George V. Rand and George Wallace.

Resolved, That in the estimation of this Association, the time has arrived when it is absolutely necessary that a frost-proof warehouse should be provided in connection with the railway at Halifax, for the better protection of perishable produce, more particularly that designed for export during the winter months.

There was an animated discussion upon this resolution, which passed unanimously, and a special committee, consisting of the President, Secretary, W. H. Allison, M. P. P., W. H. Blanchard, Windsor, Rev. Mr. Axford, Cornwallis, was appointed to take it in charge.

The Secretary asked for information upon Quince culture. R. W. Starr said he thought they required surface culture. Dr. McLatchy said much depended upon the soil; they require moist soil. T. E. Smith said he had transplanted his quince trees from light soil to black mud, and they were doing well now. William Sutton said he had grown quinces for thirty years upon light sandy loam, manured on the surface. He considered them a profitable crop. Had sold them at auction in Halifax for 35 cents per dozen. Rev. Mr. Hart said he had seen the best success when rock weed was used for mulch. A. H. Johnson said he attributed Mr. Sutton's success to his having raised his own trees.

T. E. Smith asked for information as to the best varieties to graft in his nursery. A. H. Johnson said graft Ribston Pippins, but don't sell Ribstons to be planted in light soil, Baldwins, Nonpareils, Golden Russets, King of Tompkins and Blenheim Pippins.

The Secretary endorsed the last speaker's views, excepting as to Baldwins; they fruited too irregularly.

R. W. Starr alluded to the difficult growing of Nonpareil and Ribston Pippin trees satisfactorily, and advised planting a portion of Gravensteins in every orchard.

Rev. Mr. Axford said his Nonpareil trees in the shelter of the pines were full of fruit, while those in the open had few.

Mr. Longley said he found Blenheim Pippins a very fine apple, but recommended growing Gravensteins and Nonpareils for profit. Orchardists were prone to plant too many kinds; four or five varieties were enough.

Mr. Rand said it was the duty of the nurserymen to guide the purchaser in the selection of suitable sorts to meet the adaptability of their soils. It was great folly to plant too many kinds.

Mr. Smith recommended planting a portion of Gravensteins.

Mr. Longley asked for information as to when apples should be picked for foreign shipment. He thought it best to pick them a little green. There was danger of leaving Ribstons on the trees too long, but Baldwins should be kept on trees as long as weather would permit.

Some discussion upon pruning ensued. Late spring pruning was recommended to set trees bearing.

The Secretary spoke of the danger of sprouts from trees not grafted below the