

and they bear good crops. It is the only variety that we grow to any extent. With regard to Mr. Johnson digging a hole and filling it up with clay, it would be like a farmer making a hole and putting in a handful of phosphate; the roots would get away from it.

Mr. Newman—I don't think pear culture will assume any great proportions until we have some seedlings of our own to work on. We cannot work on imported fruits on a large scale.

Mr. Westover—Speaking about pear trees and the time they come into bearing, about the time I was planting my first orchard, I had an old English gardener, who said: "If you want fruit early, you must put on plenty of ashes; but if you want the trees to grow fast, put on lime." I put on lime for a year or two, but since then I have used ashes. In growing apples I find that the Russian varieties all bear young. We should encourage that in growing pears. I think, as a general thing, the Flemish Beauty is naturally a long time in coming into bearing.

Mr. Brodie—The Goodale was my best; it bore two pears the second year after planting.

Professor Craig—In ashes you have lime; but when lime is applied by itself, it has no direct effect on the soil; it is not a direct fertilizer, but it is a tonic, or solvent, serving the purpose of rendering available other constituents which are not directly available to the plant. It may unlock them. I think its value principally lies in its use as a fertilizer for certain soils.

Mr. Barnard—Some soils have no lime, and no fertilizer will replace the lime. Most soils have not enough lime for practical purposes. We want lime more than any other country. In France and England they have too much; here we have not sufficient. We have any quantity of stone, but it is not in a form available for the use of the soil.

Professor Craig—It is only soluble in the proportion of about one part in four thousand.

Mr. Barnard—I speak of lime in the stone state, not burned or available. There is soil in St. Maurice with limestone six or eight feet deep, and the moment you burn it and put it on the soil you have good crops; but until then it is useless.

The meeting then adjourned until 2.30 p. m.

#### FRUIT EXPERIMENTAL STATIONS.

On reassembling, the President again took the chair, and Mr. J. C. Chapais read a paper on "Fruit Experimental Stations." He said:

The farmer who intends to become a fruit-grower must begin by getting a thorough knowledge of such fruits as are adapted to the climate of the region where he lives. He has many means of acquiring that knowledge. The first is personal experience; *i.e.*, the test made by himself of different varieties. This