

in and in—seek to develop an inbred strain that would produce its valuable qualities from seed. A staminate variety from such a breeding could be used to cross an outside named kind (pistillate sort,) and the seedlings would possess to an eminent degree the qualities of the male parentage. These seedlings (the pistillate sorts) could be bred back again to the staminate sire or to some other staminate variety of the above inbred strain. I am sure wonderful results would attend some such systematic method of breeding. have seen enough to satisfy me that there are great possibilities in this line of plant breeding.

A man must have means and leisure to carry out such a line of experiments. It is a most fascinating line of study; much more than the mere testing new varieties, most of which are only chance seedlings picked up in fence corners and taken from stumps and stone heaps.

After a few years of such systematic breeding I think we would give much more valuable results. The method I have used in the past is: I take up the plants, place them in six or eight-inch pots—I do this in the spring for seed bearing, in late fall for fruiting—crosses I make under glass so as to control their fertilization. When I have several staminate varieties that I wish to use pollen from, it is needful to keep these staminates in a separate chamber or in some place apart. In fertilizing a staminate with another staminate the stamens have to be removed a couple of days before the flower would naturally open. Then when open apply pollen. There is need to apply the pollen several times in order to ensure a thorough fertilization, and have smooth perfect-shaped berries.

There is pleasure in testing varieties of other men's growing, but there is far more pleasure, a perfect fascination, in raising and fruiting.

"*Pedigree seedlings*" of your own, not that we find a prize in every variety, but we do find such a wonderful variety, size, shape, color, texture, quality, etc., that we are lost in wonder at these new fruit creations.

I have often wished that I could give more time to this sort of experimental work, but I have other demands on my time, but I manage to do something in the line of sought-for improvement with what degree of final success remains to be seen.

REPORT FROM OTTAWA VICINITY.

The SECRETARY introduced a report by Mr. R. B. Whyte of Ottawa, Director for District No. 2 as follows:

As I cannot attend the meeting at Woodstock, I send on the following few brief notes of the condition of the fruit growing industry during the past season in this district.

The season opened very favorably, and if it had not been for the severe frosts in May which ruined the strawberry and gooseberry crops, and seriously injured the others, we would have had one of the greatest fruit yields on record. The previous winter was most favorable, not very cold, plenty of snow, and no thaws to uncover the plants and expose them to cold winds. The weather during the summer was a great contrast to that of Western Ontario. Hardly a week passed without copious rains, which, with abundant heat, induced a most luxuriant growth in every thing that escaped injury from frost.

The severe cold in the latter part of May, which was so disastrous all over the country, utterly ruined the strawberry crop in most sections in this district. In some localities there was a fair crop but my experience was that of the great majority of growers, all we got was a few quarts of nubbins, hardly a good berry in the whole plot.

Almost as disastrous was the effects of the low temperature on the gooseberry. For the first time in my twenty years' experience in gooseberry culture, such varieties as Downing, Houghton, etc., usually so prolific, failed to bear a good crop. Out of over