

Mr. MITCHELL (Innerkip).—I think some gentleman recommended a wild variety of blackcap, and I would like to give a word of warning in the matter. We tried a wild blackcap, and it introduced a very serious disease among our blackcap raspberries; the cane of the wild blackcap seemed to blister, and the leaves turned yellow, and after a little time the disease spread over the entire bush. We found that this disease was contagious, and was communicated to our cultivated varieties, the Gregg and Mammoth Cluster; so much so, that a few years ago we had to discard our blackcaps altogether. We found our Gregg and Mammoth Cluster where grown by themselves were free from the disease, but wherever we planted the wild variety that disease, whatever it was, was communicated to them, and we had to get rid of our blackcaps altogether. I would caution those present to beware of this disease in the wild varieties. I hardly know what it is.

A MEMBER.—Rust?

Mr. MITCHELL.—Yes, it appears like rust; but whatever it is it is very serious. The wild blackcap is very prolific, but those who think of introducing it should remember that it has a disease which even our more tender cultivated varieties are not subject to when kept by themselves. At all events that has been the case in our district.

Mr. WHYTE.—I don't like the term "sprawling," I don't have mine sprawling. I have mine tied up with two strings, one at the top and another at the bottom. It more than pays for the trouble.

The SECRETARY.—It would be expensive by the acre.

Mr. WHYTE.—About a cent and a half a year per plant.

Dr. HURLBURT.—I had the blackcap I referred to several years, and never saw anything such as Mr. Mitchell has described wrong with it. The plants were perfectly healthy, and continued so year after year.

Mr. GIBB.—Thirteen years ago I put in a great many canes, and I made careful notes of them at the time and reported. The result was my retention of the Clarke as my red. The Early Wilson and a number of others I had to give up, as I found they winter-killed, even under cloth. The winter came on a little too soon and found several matured when it set in. There is a little berry—what I consider a dewberry—which sold for rather high prices. It has a peculiar flavor, and is not nice to eat, although sold for making jam.

A MEMBER.—What do you find your best blackcap?

Mr. GIBB.—I like the old Doolittle.

Mr. BORTHWICK.—A comparison has been made between the values of strawberries and raspberries in this market. I may say that our home-grown raspberries have always sold for from 25 to 50 per cent. more than strawberries when placed in competition. There is this difficulty about raspberries, especially from the west, that they don't stand the carriage very well, but those from the west have always realized much lower prices than our home-grown fruit for that reason.

Mr. BRODIE.—Ninety miles below Quebec they can grow Cuthbert and Brinckle's Orange without protection. The Turner, I believe, was another that would grow there.

Dr. HARKNESS.—My experience is that the buds of the Cuthbert even if put down, unless well covered with the snow early in the season, are killed. You put down a cane, say six feet high, and at the bend, where it is exposed to our cold weather, no fruit will grow, but at the top, from four feet up, you will have fruit. Of course that does not make a satisfactory crop; and I think unless you put the Cuthbert along the fences, or somewhere where there will be snow drifts, you will have to protect it with a mulch of some kind. I have grown a great many different kinds of raspberries, and I must say my experience with blackcaps has not been favorable. There are two or three reasons for that. One is that the canes are excessively brittle; you can't lay them down, and they are very apt to winter-kill. Another reason is that about the first of June, sometimes the last of May, but generally the first week in June, we have a slight frost in this part of the country, probably it will average one year in three or a little more than that, and the least frost in the world will kill blackcaps at that time when they are first beginning

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