

pent of mangels in that time: see M. Chartier's speech at St. Hyacinthe, January, 1888. A. R. J. F.

"Now that we have a practical commissioner of agriculture for the province of Quebec, we may look forward with some confidence to the settlement of the mangel-wurzel question. The Hon. Col. Rhodes has assumed office just in time to enable him to preside at the definite test which had been fixed to take place early in the spring. The controversy began at the meeting of the Dairymen's association at Three-Rivers and was continued at that at St. Hyacinthe. At the former meeting Abbé Chartier, who has had considerable experience of practical agriculture as superintendent of the Seminary farm at St. Hyacinthe, recommended the abandonment of mangel growing in favor of ensilage. Corn cut green and siloed was, according to Mr. Chartier, as fodder for milch-cows, equal, weight for weight, to mangel wurzel. This was not mere theory, but had, the Abbé claimed, been proved by actual trial at the farm. It was found that, after the rations of mangels had been stopped, and ensilage given in its stead, not only did the milk not fall off—the quantities of fodder served out in both cases being the same—but, moreover, after a few days of the new feed, the cows began to yield more milk than before. The advantage in cost was considerable, the cultivation of corn being so much less expensive than that of mangels. At this point, a new figure appears on the scene, Mr. Jenner Fust, who was ready to stake his reputation as a scientific and practical agriculturist, on the superiority of the discarded root. He is, as Abbé Chartier put it, "a great amateur of roots," and, as we are told, "was not pleased." He thought that Abbé Chartier "was declaring war against root-growing." This, however, was not the case. It was simply a matter of economy. The Abbé would still grow roots for cattle fodder during the months of October and November. Moreover, if mangels could be raised at the figures mentioned by Mr. Jenner Fust, that is \$3 an acre, he would gladly withdraw the claims of silo in their favor. A pupil of Mr. Jenner Fust's, M. Guévremont, of Sorel, declares that he has really grown mangels at \$3.40 an acre. This to Abbé Chartier (who is not alone in his surprise) is "an unheard of thing." At Three Rivers he estimated the ordinary cost of cultivating an acre of mangels at \$12. At his Seminary farm he has had ample opportunities of learning the price of such labor, having had to pay for all the work done there. M. Casavant was of opinion that an arpent of mangel wurzel might be cultivated for \$8 or \$9. But at the same time he admitted that it sometimes cost even more than the \$12 mentioned as a minimum by Abbé Chartier. Mr. Denis, who had come to Canada to promote the cultivation of the sugar beet, was inclined to think \$12 too high a figure. The work of weeding was sometimes done by women and children, whose services cost less than those of men. In closing the discussion, Abbé Chartier deprecated the notion which some seemed to entertain, that he was in favor of giving up root crops altogether. All he meant to maintain was that corn—used in silo fashion—was cheaper for cows than mangel wurzel. The upshot of the discussion was that Mr. Jenner Fust offered to give a practical demonstration of his methods in the spring of the present year at St. Hyacinthe and Sorel, M. Guévremont, one of his pupils, undertaking to prove the truth of his statements as to the cost of mangel-growing and its superiority on economic grounds, to siloed corn. The Hon. Col. Rhodes will then have an opportunity of having a question of importance to most of our farmers decided once for all.

A very good meeting of the Fruit-growers Association of the Province took place on January 29th and 30th at Montreal. A full report appears below. Mr Wright was especially

emphatic in his praises of the Champion Grape, as the most profitable as well as the most detestable of all grapes—too qualities difficult to reconcile, one would think.

Hints About Fruit.

POINTS BROUGHT OUT AT THE FRUIT GROWERS' CONVENTION.

At the convention of fruit growers, opened in Joyce's rooms yesterday, the first thing that struck the eye was a magnificent collection of no less than sixty different kinds of new seedling apples from Huntingdon County brought by Canon Fulton, some magnificent Russian and other apples exhibited by Mr. C. Gibb, Mr. Fisk and others, including the Arabka, eleven inches in diameter and ten ounces in weight, and some Canadian grapes in perfect preservation brought by Miss A. Jack, of Chateauguay. Among those present were Prof. Penballow, W. Dunlop, the secretary, Dr. Hoskins, of Newport, Vermont, a number of prominent fruit growers from Abbotsford and others.

The President's address advocated the fostering of the study and practice of horticulture by state aid.

Dr. Hoskins, of Vermont, stated that there were two or three seedlings in Vermont and one in Michigan with the white Fameuse flesh, so like the Fameuse that they were sold and eaten for it. Strangely enough, many of them suffered from the characteristic Fameuse spot. Of ironclad Vermont apples he recommended Canada to try MacMahon's Wife; it is as early as and like the Duchess, and so big that one will make a pie. The Northfield Beauty and the Scotch Winter, which keeps to May, were also worthy of choice. Like Mr. Shepherd, of Como, he strongly recommended the Wealthy, stating that it will keep till March when grown on the high Vermont hills, but not longer than Fameuse when grown near Montreal, which has a 1,700 feet lower level. The most important thing in keeping apples was to put them in the coldest place possible during the warm weather which often came just after they were picked, and to pick them on cool days or in the cool of the day. He preferred that trees should not bear till three or four inches in diameter—and alluded to the strange fact that sour apples often found a good sale because preferred by

PERSONS OF BILIOUS TEMPERAMENT.

He mentioned that one tree of Mackintosh Red, accidentally manured with house slops, was unspotted, while all his other Mackintosh Reds had spots, and suggested that, perhaps, very high culture would keep down spotting.

Many speakers named the Wealthy as the greatest rival of the Fameuse, having every one of its good qualities. Its only fault is that it is "too good," bearing so young and so heavily that it often kills itself in seven years. At the present price of apples it does not pay to thin. Mr. Wright, of Renfrew, and Mr. Shepherd, of Como, suggested cutting back, and Dr. Hoskins top-grafting, to cure this its supererogatory excellence.

The most profitable varieties for this Province were, as all agreed, Fameuse, Duchess, Wealthy, Alexander, St. Lawrence Red Astracan, and Yellow Transparent, arranged somewhat in order of the favor in which they seemed held. To these Mr. D. Westover, of Dunham, added Tolman Sweet (for roasting); Mr. J. Fish and Mr. W. Honey, of Abbotsford, added Tetofski; Mr. Robert Brodie, Utter's Red and Nonpareil; and Mr. Shepherd, of Como, the Switzer. Ben, rejected for poor flavor and Golden Russet for scanty bearing. As to the Alexander, it is recorded that Captain Raynes lately got as much as