

Mr. MORRIS—To make healthy trees they must be grown while they are small, in a mild climate. Niagara peninsula is particularly adapted for nurseries on that account. I have known nurseries started north of London failures nearly every time, from the trees becoming all black-hearted while they are young.

Mr. RICE—In Michigan we cannot grow apple trees when they are young without getting them black-hearted, even as far south as Toledo, but we go down to Rochester and get good healthy trees, and we can raise good orchards.

The SECRETARY—I got a 1,000 trees from Xenia, Ohio, once, and planted them in Niagara district, and only about one-tenth grew well; but they were entirely different from the Ontario trees. They were a long, succulent growth, and far more tender than those from our own raising.

Q. Do not nurserymen represent that their stock is home grown when they are really imported?

Mr. MORTON—No.

The PRESIDENT—We might talk all the afternoon about this subject. It is not supposed that travelling agents are all honest. They are like the rest of humanity, and while I like to indulge in a little healthy abuse of a tree agent now and then, I have a good deal of sympathy for them, because if it were not for them we would not be as advanced in the science of horticulture as we are. (Hear, hear.) They have introduced varieties into different sections that we never would have known anything about otherwise. As far as we have discovered, there is no respectable nurseryman that desires to misrepresent, but these things will occur sometimes.

FORESTRY.

The following paper, contributed by I. C. Chapais, St. Denis, Quebec, was read:—

In our Dominion of Canada some boldness is necessary to speak of forest preservation and restoration. In vain we show that countries once covered with forests as luxuriant as ours are now suffering for want of firewood and timber; the settler who has yet his axe in hand to fell the trees growing on the piece of land he intends to sow, answers us with a sneer. For him the tree is still an enemy, and you cannot make him believe that a day may come when he will regret having treated it too long as such. On the other hand, the lumber merchant who owns forest limits apparently inexhaustible, wants to make a fortune as quickly as he can, and turns a deaf ear to economists who try to make him take forethought for the coming generation.

And yet many districts covered with forests thirty years ago contain now no more firewood nor timber. Very often even agriculture has derived no benefit whatever from a clearing of the trees so foolishly made, because it was made on land quite unfit for cultivation now that the beneficial influence of the ashes of the wood burnt during the clearing is no more available. I know whole regions which were cleared in that way by settlers who had to desert the land soon after, because it was worth nothing. Such districts would have been as many inexhaustible wood reserves for future generations, who during an almost endless period of time would find on them all the wood they want. To-day these same districts are quite useless in every respect.

As I am invited to set forth before you to-day my ideas on the forestry question I beg you to allow me to express the opinion that if we wish to be listened to by the farmer who is always prejudiced against ideas quite new to him, we must, for the present, speak only of what is the least apt to run counter to his prejudices. If this is admitted I think we must specially insist on what follows:

Let us request our Governments to give directions to their land surveyors chosen to fix the boundaries of the new townships opened every year to colonisation to point out with precision in their reports the regions unfit for agriculture, in order that they never be granted for agricultural purposes.