

sident and secretary of which are experts; then you have at Guelph a horticultural division with Mr. Hutt as professor of horticulture, who will always be glad to identify specimens for you as far as he can if sent to him; and lastly at Ottawa you have an institution that is willing as far as possible to aid in this work, and any specimens you may send to me as horticulturist of the Experimental Farm I shall be very pleased to examine as fully and as far as my other duties allow me. You may send specimens free to the Experimental Farm. Then you have an important committee in connection with this Association that is doing excellent work—the Committee on New Fruits, of which Dr. Beadle is chairman, whose duty is to investigate the merits of all seedlings and fruits without name, including new varieties to be put upon the market. Now if you will send samples to me at Ottawa I shall forward them after examination to Dr. Beadle and to Mr. McD. Allan, who is also a member of that committee and our combined observations are presented at the annual meeting. We are thus able in a measure to keep track of new varieties.

A DELEGATE: Would you send one apple or two or three?

Prof. CRAIG: It is always better to send four or five specimens, because it is very difficult to get one apple that is exactly representative of its type. If you have five or six, then I can send one to Dr. Beadle and one to Mr. Allan, so that we can make our report much more conclusive and valuable. I trust that you will bear in mind these suggestions and act upon them.

THE BLOOMING PERIOD OF FRUIT TREES.

Prof. CRAIG: Those who attended the meeting at Orillia, will remember a very excellent paper we had from Professor Beach from the Experiment Station at Geneva, N.Y. He gave us some very valuable information in regard to the blossoms of fruit trees, and the power of the blossoms of the different varieties of grape vines to fertilize themselves and so set fruit. This investigation was instituted by Professor Waite of the United States Department of Agriculture at Washington. Mr. Waite worked on pears, and the results of his researches opened up a very wide field for investigation, and it was somewhat in extension of that work that I began work on the apple blossom. I may say, however, that the work was begun previous to this season. My object at this time is to present to you in a very crude, but I hope suggestive way the results of these investigations, more for the purpose of asking your co-operation and for getting the fruit growers of this province thinking about this matter, than to give you very valuable information at this time—though I think there are some points that will be of interest and value to you.

NOTES ON THE BLOSSOMING OF FRUIT TREES IN CANADA.

By JOHN CRAIG, HORTICULTURIST, CENTRAL EXPERIMENTAL FARM, OTTAWA.

The cause of the unfruitfulness of orchards has always at horticultural conventions and elsewhere been prolific of much surmise, conjecture and I may say variation of opinion. The possibility of the trouble existing at least in part in the blossom has been mooted only in recent years. As a rule, I think we are prone to lay too much stress upon a single feature in the management of an orchard, and too little upon the collateral practices which make a harmonious and well balanced programme in the life of the average apple orchard. Some orchardists pin their faith to varieties, others to location and cultivation, others again to manuring or pruning, and perhaps still others—though I have not yet heard of them—to spraying. Undoubtedly we cannot expect orchards in which the trees are so closely planted as to be fighting for the mutual ground and perhaps for nourishment at twenty years of age to continue long and of healthy and fruitful condition. In passing, I may say that in certain localities with certain varieties