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GUELPH FARMERS' CLUB.

SUBJECT—ORCHARDS.

A monthly meeting of the above club was held at the town of Guelph in January last—the President, Col. Saunders, in the chair.

The attendance was better than usual. The subject for discussion was—"The advantages of cultivating orchard fruits, and the best mode of planting and treating them," which was ably introduced by John Caulfield, Esq., as follows:—

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,—

The subject for discussion this evening is the planting and management of Fruit Trees, and the advantages of raising Orchard Fruit. The few remarks I wish to make are from my own observation and experience, and I fear you will find them very imperfect, and not of that importance the subject deserves.

Persons intending to plant Apple Trees, (as I suppose our remarks will chiefly relate to them) should see that their ground is in good tilth and well drained, either naturally or artificially, otherwise wait till it is so—as it is of no use trying to raise an Orchard unless the soil is in a good state of cultivation. If the land has been properly tilled previously, then dig the holes for the reception of your Apple Trees, 33 feet apart; of such dimensions as to admit of a layer of the top soil in the bottom of the holes, and that the roots may be spread out as they were in the Nursery-bed. After the holes are prepared, the great object is to get suitable Trees, and the best way is to go or send some competent person to a respectable Nurseryman to select good, thrifty, well proportioned Trees of good size; and leave the thriftless rubbish no matter how cheap you can obtain them—as the best kinds occupy no more ground than the very worst. Still, some prefer to purchase Trees from Tree pedlars, some eight or nine months beforehand giving them a written agreement to take their

Apple Trees, and giving them also ample time to buy up the refuse of the Nurseries wherever they can find them. If the pedlar cannot find Trees to suit his purpose he can sell his orders to the best purchaser. After the Trees are dug up, tied and labelled and well packed with straw, and a pailfull of water thrown over them to keep their roots moist, they should be removed to where they are to be planted as soon as possible. After putting a layer of the surface soil in the bottom of the hole plant the Tree with the best soil, treading it in as firm as the surrounding earth, but leaving the surface loose and the Tree planted about two inches deeper than it stood in the Nursey-bed, as the earth will settle a little. After the Trees are planted they require a little attention to ensure success, and about the beginning of June when the ground gets warm, take some coarse barn yard manure and litter the ground round the Trees to the distance of two or three feet, and if the summer is very dry and hot, water the ground three or four times round the Trees, and if they are not attacked by the borer they are almost certain to grow. The Trees ought to be pruned the following year, and there should be four principal limbs left to form the head, so situated as to balance the Tree equally, and I would prefer leaving three limbs sooner than five, although some persons who should know better, say that standard Trees ought not to be pruned. There is also a great diversity of opinion as to the proper time to prune Apple Trees and I have seen them pruned all the different months in the year, and each month has its advocates for pruning at that particular time. I generally prune in April, before the wood and buds get soft, and if small branches are cut off at that season, they grow over or nearly so the following summer, and if the Proprietor of the Orchard prunes his Trees regularly, he will seldom have to remove a large limb; if the pruning is done in June a favorite month with some people, the branches that are left to form the head of the Tree must be injured by removing those that are cut off at a time when the bark and wood are soft, and the young fruit forming. I would recommend the land to be kept under good cultivation until the Trees grow a good size, then when they begin to bear fruit the specimens will be much better than if grown on small stunted Trees. I suppose I need not remark that the orchard should be well fenced,