

8 EDWARD VII., A. 1908

nurseryman, and in that way I believe you would get in nearly every case trees true to name. The matter is being looked into now, but it is a very difficult thing to pass any Act whereby the nurseryman would be compelled to guarantee his trees. Most of our nurserymen now, I hope all of them, are trying to send out their trees true to name.

By Mr. Pickup:

Q. You would have to depend upon the reputation of the nurseryman, I suppose?

A. Yes. What I think would be a good line for the nurseryman to follow would be this: It seems to me he could arrange to have a certain number of trees for sale, which he would guarantee, for a higher price. He might have a special department where he might have a limited number of these higher priced trees, and I believe there are men who would rather buy those trees.

HOW TO-CROSS VARIETIES OF FRUITS.

By Mr. Pickup:

Q. In crossing two different varieties what method do you pursue?

A. In crossing two different varieties we decide first of all on the kinds of fruits that we would like to use as parents. Those that have the greatest number of good points are usually chosen because, as a rule, we have found that the offsprings will combine most of the characteristics of the parents in some way or other. We will say that we would like to have a tree with a vigorous habit of growth. Just before the flowers open we take a little pair of tweezers, open the flowers and cut away the male organs or anthers. Then we apply the pollen which we have gathered from another tree to the female organs of the tree we are going to make the female parent, and the flowers of which we have already worked upon. The pollen is rubbed over the stigma with the finger, and then in order to prevent bees from bringing other pollen there the cluster of flowers worked upon is covered with a paper bag for a few days until the fruit is set. After the fruit is set a gauze bag is put on so that we are able to protect the fruit from any one who might break it off. That gauze bag is left over it until the fruit ripens. When the fruit ripens it is taken off, the seeds extracted and planted the same autumn. We find it is much preferable to plant apple seeds, either of crosses or seedlings, in the autumn, because they are softened during the winter and start very quickly in the spring. If they are planted in the fall in seed beds they will germinate by spring.

By Mr. Wright (Renfrew):

Q. When do you plant plum seeds?

A. Just as soon as the fruit is ripe. If sown when the stone becomes really dry it won't germinate at all. Cherries, plums and peaches should be planted as soon as they are ripe before the kernel becomes dry. You could not get even butternut or walnut to germinate after it has been dry all the winter.

By Mr. Lewis:

Q. If the stone is in the fruit will it do the same?

A. If the fruit or pulp remains on it that keeps it moist longer.

By Mr. Wright (Renfrew):

Q. You could not do that with the plum?

A. Plum pulp dries very quickly. It is different with an apple. Our apple seedlings are coming up now very quickly, that is the ones we planted last fall, so you