

D. W. BEADLE: Would Mr. Huggard have the kindness to send about half a dozen of those apples about the time when they are in order and season for testing, and send a letter giving a full account of the tree, its hardiness, productiveness, and general habit of growth, and all the better if he can tell us something about the soil and average climate in which it is grown. He can send both the apples and letter to Prof. Craig at Ottawa, without charge, under a privilege granted us by the Government, and then Prof. Craig can send them to the other members of the committee and we will all get them without any cost to Mr. Huggard more than the trouble of putting them up and sending them, and the apple will get all the consideration that it deserves and a full report at some subsequent meeting of this Association.

#### METHODS OF ORIGINATING NEW VARIETIES OF STRAWBERRIES.

The SECRETARY referred to a letter from Rev. E. B. Stevenson of Freeman, who is a specialist in strawberries and who has spent his life in originating new varieties. From him in the future we will hear some interesting things that will be of great value to us in our experimental work. (The Secretary read the following extracts from the letter from Mr. Stevenson):

It seems to be there has been no systematic effort either in Canada or the United States by those who have had the time and means to improve the strawberry. I am very much limited in both respects; but I am in a small way and in a somewhat systematic manner seeking to improve on the varieties we have at the present time.

There are so many points to be looked to and guarded in what we all are looking for, viz., the "*Perfect Strawberry*." It has to be a perfect plant—strong and healthy. This is very important. The perfect plant must be free from rust. Some otherwise good varieties are spoiled by rust. A high system of cultivation, manuring heavily with nitrogen manures, serves to increase the tendency to rust; also certain conditions of the weather, situation of the beds, low lands, etc.

I have found very little rust when beds are situated on highest lands; whereas, beds on grounds seventy-five or one hundred feet below showed considerable rust. I have little confidence in a variety that is easily attacked by rust.

A seedling, a Wilson and Jersey Queen cross, that on elevated ground was quite free from rust, when it came to be removed to a lower situation, rusted so badly as to be of little value. On upland it was one of the most promising seedlings—productive, good size and quality, etc.; in fact, an improved Wilson. I have found that a large per cent. of seedlings of Wilson blood, or rather breeding—whether they are seedlings of the Wilson or seedlings of other varieties with Wilson crosses—are more or less severely affected by the rust. A lot of seedlings from Burr's New Pine, crossed with Wilson, nearly every seedling from this cross gave fruit of superior quality like Burr's N. P., but the plants fairly burned up with rust as soon as plants were through bearing.

Probably 1,000 seedlings grow the Wilson and Wilson crosses were undertaken with the hope to secure a Wilson jr., that should possess all the valuable qualities of the Wilson, (which for so many years caused it to stand at the head as a market berry) with the addition of increased size, improved quality and more vigorous growth. It is, perhaps, needless to say the result was failure. Perhaps the Wilson can be crossed on some pistillate variety and the result prove highly successful. I have decided not to make any more experiments, using the Wilson as a pollinizer.

I may never reach in the way of a seedling a variety which shall be my ideal of a strawberry, but I shall aim for it, and never cease to raise seedlings as long as I have the time and opportunity.

Had I time and opportunity I would cross named varieties with a view of ascertaining which kind and crosses gave the best results. Then I would select this stock, breed

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