

Mr. POWELL : I hardly think so, because I do not believe the cultivation is detrimental to the tree at all. I think it is necessary. High culture I think is very desirable ; but we must in some way give check to this wood-bearing tendency. And I think there is no way so effectual as top-grafting trees after they have stood for a few years. My experience is on the Keiffer stock, they have been exceedingly productive.

Mr. PATTISON : Have you had any experience with Sheldon ?

Mr. POWELL : I have not grown the Sheldon, because it is so prone to drop its fruit. The winds, when they strike a crop of Sheldon, lay such a large proportion on the ground that I have not planted the Sheldon tree. Another point is, the Sheldon is not a popular fruit in the market. It is not appreciated, although I think it is one of the choicest and finest varieties of pears ; but its color is against it, and its shape also is undesirable, and so I have avoided planting it.

Mr. SMITH : I think that is a question that ought to be taken up, to educate the people to the use of the different kinds of pears.

Mr. MCNEILL : Although we have no representatives to speak from the affiliated horticultural societies, we must not estimate their work by the amount of talk we have had from them. It is an exceedingly important work, and it has done more, perhaps, than any single advance that has been made by the management of the society for the extension of horticultural knowledge, and for fulfilling the objects of the Provincial Association. Their work has been a decided advantage to the Province ; and wherever there is a Horticultural Society located its influence is felt to a very large degree, and the Province owes a debt of gratitude to the managers for so faithfully following out the lines of work laid out for them by Mr. Thomas Beall of Lindsay, who is so intimately associated with them, and to whom so great a share of the credit is due.

The CHAIRMAN : The Secretary has some correspondence on the fraudulent packing of fruit which he will read.

The Secretary read letters from S. Nesbitt, Brighton, W. E. Wellington, London, England, bearing on the subject. He also called attention to two baskets of apples on the table—one basket taken from the centre of a barrel of apples that had been packed for export, and the other of apples with which it was faced at each end.

HOW CAN WE PREVENT TRICKERY IN THE PACKING OF APPLES FOR EXPORT ?

BY A. H. PETTIT, GRIMSBY.

This is a subject that has been discussed by our fruit growers for the last twenty years, and we have as yet failed in agreeing on any definite steps that might be taken. Now, I don't think you can pass any legislation to make a man honest. You may correct some evils, you may improve the quality of our fruit by cultivation, by pruning, by spraying and by thinning, and thus get rid of a large proportion of this unsalable fruit that is being placed in the centre of barrels for the British market. We all know that the growers of this country have more or less inferior fruit. They are going to market that product, and they have a right to market that product, and I don't believe that any legislature or any government can pass a law to prohibit them doing so. But if we can raise public opinion to the point that it ought to be raised, then I take it we can reach the only feasible plan. For years I have advocated and urged that a system of inspection be adopted for apples. The point then asked was that the Government appoint an inspector to inspect such fruit as was offered for inspection. I do not believe that we can make a compulsory law that all fruit shall be inspected, but we can place it within the reach of a man who wishes to make a