

it that would be likely to help the Canadian planter. From the paper and the discussion which followed, we gathered that the pear-blight is fully as troublesome in Georgia, Kentucky and Mississippi as it is at the north.

On reassembling after tea Mr. T. V. Munson read a paper on "Systematic Horticultural progress," in which he suggested that each member take in hand some particular fruit, notifying the Secretary what fruit is being experimented with, and at the meetings present, either in person or by written paper, an account of the work done and progress made, and that from these a year book of progress be compiled. A paper on "Horticulture versus Ruts," was read by T. T. Lyon, of Michigan, in which he sets forth the importance to the cultivator of following the ruts in which his plants and trees run, instead of trying to make them run in his ruts. This was followed by a very interesting paper by Governor R. W. Furnas of Nebraska, entitled "Forestry on the plains," in which he presented his own experience in the growing of trees upon the prairies during a residence of twenty-seven years. Since 1854, there has been planted within the State of Nebraska, 244,355 acres of forest trees, and it is estimated that the indigenous growth since fires have been kept out is equal to half the area planted. In the State of Kansas, there has been planted since the first settlement in that State, 139,995 acres of forest trees. Actual measurement of the growths made at two feet from the ground show that White Elm in fifteen years from planting attained a circumference of 24 inches; *Catalpa Speciosa* in twenty years grew to 48 inches; Soft Maple, *acer dasycarpum*, at eighteen years measured 69 inches; Cotton Wood, *Populus monilifera*, in eleven years, 93 inches; Black Walnut in sixteen years 50 inches; Rus-

sian Mulberry in six years 24 inches, and White Pine in twelve years attained a girth of 29 inches. The State of Nebraska, incorporated in her Constitution a provision that the increased value of lands by reason of live fences, fruit and forest trees grown thereon, shall not be taken into consideration in the assessment thereof; and enacted by statute that one hundred dollars shall be deducted from the assessable value of lands for five years for every acre planted to fruit trees, and fifty dollars for every acre planted to forest trees. Experience has shewn that better results are secured by planting the tree seeds and afterwards assorting into grades, and transplanting each grade by itself in its permanent location, than by sowing the tree seeds where they are intended to remain.

The evening session was closed by the reading of a paper sent by Doctor John A. Warder, of Ohio, on "The influence of Forests on health," in which he treated of the climatic influences of forests, effect of denuding the mountains, shelter belts, and their value in preventing the dissemination of malaria.

OSTRICH FARMING IN AMERICA.

The San Francisco Bulletin tells of a farm in California, on which there are twenty-one Ostriches kept for their feathers. The eggs have not yielded any chicks; why not, is somewhat uncertain, yet it is said that the feather crop pays for keeping the birds, even if no chicks should be raised. It is stated that three pairs of Ostriches have been taken to Florida with the view of ascertaining whether they can be made a source of profit in that climate. It is said that there is now a hundred thousand domestic Ostriches in the African Ostrich farms, whose feather crop is worth four and a half millions of dollars.