

The PRESIDENT: What was the flavor?

Prof. CRAIG: The flavor was Golden Russet throughout. It grew on a Golden Russet tree. I had another specimen of the same kind from Nova Scotia. These I only regard as "sports," and I don't know of any way of accounting for them.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I have frequently met with raspberries where one-half would be red and the other half yellow. Is not that accounted for by the fertilizing of the fruit in its blossom?

Prof. CRAIG: I don't think so, because you can't get that constant effect every time. I have crossed hundreds of blossoms of strawberries and apples without that result.

Mr. WATKINS (Michigan): In my immediate vicinity there is a large tract of country about twenty miles long and two or three miles wide, called the Burr Oak Plains, very fertile farm land, and most excellent fruit land for about twenty years. All of a sudden that land, planted to orchards, began to dwindle, and after twenty-five years there has not been a bushel of apples taken out of the entire tract. We have such tracts all over the state. Every device that we could conceive of has been tried to produce fruit on this ground—frequently farm lands bearing heavy crops—a clay shale with a great deal of lime and plenty of potash, and supposed to be excellent fruit land. Now, if the pollenizing is perfect, what is the reason of all kinds of varieties failing on that land? Right by the side of that land there is a rise of broken land with a heavy clay loam bearing fruit perfectly to this day. You can almost throw a stone from one to the other along its whole line. It seems to me that sterilizes the whole matter of pollenization.

Mr. BEADLE: Do those orchards blossom well?

Mr. WATKINS: Perfectly, and perfectly thrifty trees, but no fruit.

Mr. BOULTER: And plenty of bees?

Mr. WATKINS: Yes, sir.

Mr. RICE (Michigan): I don't want you to learn any wrong lessons from my orchard, and if you can learn any good lessons from it, and get any good out of it, you will do better than I can. I will make you a little statement in regard to it. My orchard is situated in Wayne county, New York, the banner county for apples in the world. (Hear, hear.) If the evaporated fruit from that vicinity could be made up into apple pies they would reach continuously around the world. (Laughter.) My orchard stands on a hill, which is mostly heavy clay loam. As you stand on that hill in spring time and look along up the ridge road to the west and off towards the lake and see the orchards in bloom in every direction, you will see that you are in the midst of a garden of orchards, and they are all productive. I was always quite a theorist, and about thirty years ago people said that nurserymen were ruining their stock by continually cutting their grafts from nursery rows; and I said I will not ruin my orchards. I sent to Rochester for the trees. I said I cared nothing for the varieties, I was going to top-graft my trees from the very best stock to be obtained from the whole country; and I got good, nice stock, and I think that they stated that they were mostly Alexander apples, but there were some Northern Spies in the stock. After planting I had an expert go right through and top-graft. In cutting the scions I went to my father's orchard twenty rods away down on the ridge road—just down hill, as you might say—and I cut from Baldwin trees that were planted fifty years ago, trees bought from Maxwell Bros., of Geneva, and which, from the time they were large enough to bear, had never and have never really failed a crop. I cut, not from water-sprouts, not from lower limbs, but from the top limbs of the tree, so as to be sure to get the place where the wood was best developed and the buds best developed and in the best order. I did the same with my Greenings, and we went through and grafted. The stock took remarkably well, and the trees thrived and grew, and I thought of the happy days I was going to have selling the fruit and living at ease. I waited for those days, and they didn't come. I went off to Michigan, where I had a piece of wild land, and I have been strugg-

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