

Mr. A. H. PETTIT.—I look upon this discussion as a mere waste of time. If we wait until the humbugs are all done away with we shall wait until the millenium.

The SECRETARY.—I think it is a mistake to make any personal references whatever in a farmer's institute; I do not think we ought to disparage any local nurseryman by name in any of our meetings, nor do I think we should advertise any of our reliable nurserymen by name although we have every confidence in them. We should recommend those varieties that are desirable for planting and be unsparing in our condemnation of those which are worthless; but I do not think we ought to make any personal references one way or the other by name of either Canadian or American nurserymen. In regard to the Russian apricot, which has been spoken of, I believe it was sent out by nurserymen both in the States and Canada with perfect confidence, because it had not been tested. It has been found that a large number of these Russian apricots, introduced by the Mennonites from Russia, were seedlings grown from the fruit of trees that fruited in the southern part of Russia, down near the Black Sea, and I am told by a correspondent in Russia that that section of the country will grow tender fruit such as we cannot pretend to grow here: fruit such as is grown in California. Russia is a word which covers a very wide territory and the southern portion of it is a very mild climate. I believe, however, that there are some varieties of Russian apricots which have been tested at the Iowa Agricultural College that have been found hardy, and I am told by Russian friends that there is a variety of apricot, known there as Anjustin's, which is more hardy than any of the varieties we have tried.

Mr. McMICHAEL.—The gentleman from Galt has said that they sometimes, under some circumstances, take the liberty of substituting. I remember a number of years ago giving an order for a considerable number of pear trees, and in filling it the nurseryman substituted some varieties and said he had not what was ordered in stock. All the substitutes with us were found to be totally worthless when they came into bearing.

Mr. MORTON.—One humbug in connection with this matter and connected with the Canadian nurseryman is the humbug of the agents nurserymen employ. The nurseryman, according to what was stated by the secretary a minute ago, is no better than the farmer, because, if the apricot was introduced in the way he says, it proves to me that no person of any common sense would send out a thing in perfect confidence because it had not been tested; I cannot see that it at all follows.

The SECRETARY.—He might not have known that it was a fraud.

Mr. MORTON.—I think a person who introduces a thing, recommending it as likely to prove beneficial when he does not know anything at all about it is the next thing to the man who will recommend that which he knows positively to be worthless. A person has no right to recommend a thing of which he does not know anything. However I do not wonder at their adopting that course when I find that in appointing agents they follow a similar plan. Their agents have not been tested, and consequently, as in the case of the apricot, they have every confidence in them. Of course it is well known that some firms have had experiences the reverse of pleasant with their agents. In my own section several instances have come under my notice of orders having been duplicated by agents or raised on the face of them. I must say in justice to the nurserymen that in no case have they refused to do what was right in the matter, according to my opinion. In a great many instances the agent does not know anything about the business. I have had experience with several. One man, who came to me to sell me grapes—I pretended not to know anything about them—recommended the Niagara as of better quality and earlier than the Champion. I asked him what quality the Champion was and he said he was not quite sure of the color but he knew it was a sour grape. Now I think it is folly to send out an agent like that. It is to the advantage of the firms themselves to see that the men who represent them understand their business and are straight and honest, because on their shoulders must fall any slip made by the agent.

Mr. WELLINGTON.—It is not often I take part in a discussion that lays me open to the charge of talking "shop," and I am very sorry the present discussion has assumed the form it seems to have assumed. I fully appreciate the remarks made by Mr. Morton, but

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