Proceedings of the Convention

HELD AT WHITewater, DECEMBER 15th, 1855.

In accordance with an arrangement of the previous evening, the Convention organized at 9 o'clock A. M., and entered upon the discussion of

WINTER FRUITS.

Northern Spy.

J. C. Brayton, of Aztalan—Tree hardy; unproductive while young; quality "best."

Abel Slocum, Whitewater—Has fruited this variety, at 2, 3, and 4 years from grafts inserted in standard trees. Should always be worked on strong stocks.

A. G. Hanford, of Waukesha—Will do well root-grafted; trees disposed to bear but few specimens while young; think it will eventually prove very productive.

A. Child, of Delafield—Has had a few specimens from trees seven years planted; consider it a shy bearer while young, trees very vigorous, upright growers; the branches should be well thinned, and the head of the tree kept open if well ripened fruit is sought; think the character of this variety not sufficiently established in this State to recommend for extensive planting.

C. Hawley, of Milwaukee—Has trees 9 years planted which have not yet blossomed; they grow well; soil a clayey loam.

It was moved to recommend for general cultivation.
MR. BRAYTON moved that the resolution be amended by adding the words, "to those that can afford to wait for the fruit." Amendment lost, and original motion carried.

VANDERVERE.

BRAYTON—Tree rather tender when root-grafted; does well stock-grafted; in season from November to February; sometimes affected with bitter-rot in rich stiff soils; quality "best."

HANFORD—Tree hardy, good grower, early bearer; fruit always fair; quality "best;" soil a sandy loam.

D. MATHEWS, Burlington—Tree very thrifty; somewhat spreading; hardy; promises to be very productive; fruited 5th year from planting; quality "very good." Soil a sandy loam.

CHILD—This variety is recommended in "the books" as fine on sandy soils only; my trees growing on a stiff, heavy, (but dry) loam, have been planted seven years; they gave me during the past season, on an average, two bushels per tree, of the very finest fruit, some specimens being over eleven inches in circumference; think it will prove an early, regular and an abundant bearer; makes a fine open head, requiring but little pruning; unsurpassed in flavor; in perfection from January to March.

Recommended for general cultivation on dry soils.

ESOPUS SPITZENBURG.

HANFORD—A tardy bearer, and in this respect, as objectionable as Northern Spy. My trees are stock-worked.

BRAYTON—Begins to bear in three or four years from graft; would not class it with Northern Spy; not an annual bearer; has not at the West the character of a productive variety.

SLOCUM—Has trees worked in various modes; in its bearing qualities it resembles Northern Spy. My trees are growing on sandy soil.
Wm. Birge, of Whitewater—Grafted three large trees 5 years ago; bore good crops this year; soil sandy.

G. Kinney, of Whitewater—Trees two and three years planted, have borne this year.

H. A. Congar, of Whitewater—On sandy soils, a good and regular bearer.

Hawley—Have trees stock-grafted, nine years planted; bear moderately on alternate years; fruit fair and handsome; trees grow well.

Recommended for general cultivation when stock-worked.

*Red Canada.*

Hanford—A moderate grower; hardy; quality "best."

Brayton—Slow grower; productive; quality "best."

Child—A first rate, long-keeping fruit, bearing fine crops on alternate seasons; may be kept in perfection until May; tree has an open habit, freely admitting light to every fruit.

Recommended for general cultivation.

*Rhode Island Greening.*

Kinney—No apple is better known than this; would recommend it for general cultivation without discussion.

Congar—Has grown this variety on light sandy soil; a good bearer; has had 2½ bushels fruit from a tree 7 years planted.

Brayton—Has stock-grafted trees on a rich loam; bears moderately; blossom buds tender; not worth planting if root-grafted.

Hanford—When stock-worked, an early, and a profuse bearer.

Child—Has proved with me an early, regular bearer, and very productive. Eleven bushels of unsurpassable fruit is the past season's product of five trees, seven years planted. These trees are budded near the ground, are growing in a heavy soil, and have borne good crops for four years past.

Recommended for general cultivation, when stock-worked.
Cables Gilliflower.

Hanford—Hardy; good grower; an early and profuse bearer; quality "good;" loses its flavor after 1st of Feb'y.

Brayton—A profitable fruit for market; quality not good enough to recommend it for general cultivation.

Yellow Bellefleur.

Brayton—A good grower in the Nursery and in the Orchard: makes a large tree; is an early bearer and does well root-grafted; quality "best."

Hanford—Root-grafted trees slow in coming into bearing: the reverse of this is true with stock-worked trees; grows well either way; quality "best."

Mathews—Perfectly hardy in every respect: trees planted in 1848, fruited in '53; my trees are worked standard high, and promise to be very productive; quality, "very good."

Moved to recommend for general cultivation.

Brayton—Moved to amend by adding the words "south of 40°"; thought it would not do for the North.

Hanford—Cole particularly recommends it for cultivation at the North. The quality of the fruit is much better in Wisconsin than in Iowa.

Amendment lost and original motion carried.

Perry Russett.

Brayton—This variety has been disseminated in the West as the Golden Russett; after eight years, it is very productive; quality "best;" is in use all the winter months, and may be kept until May.

Hanford—Esteem it very highly; tree a good grower, hardy, and productive. In use from Nov. to March.

Hawley—In the Spring of '54, almost the entire crop of one of my orchards was cut off by a late frost, except that on a tree
of this variety; a tree of "Fameuse" which stood beside it, and was full of blossoms, bore no fruit. The quality of the fruit is "best;" tree a moderate grower. Should recommend it for general cultivation.

O. S. Rathbun, of Brookfield—An early and an annual bearer; very productive; fruit large, and better than any other I cultivate; a long keeper; should be kept in boxes or barrels. My soil is a rich loam, sub-soil clay, over lime-stone.

Recommended for general cultivation.

English Golden Russett.

Hanford—Disseminated in the West as "Golden Russett;" hardy; an early bearer; very productive; a good keeper; more valuable for this latitude than Roxbury Russett; is inclined to shrivel.

Brayton—May always be distinguished from the English Russett, by its diverging habit, and dark colored shoots. A very hardy tree; comes into full bearing rather early; fruit should be kept in barrels. Agrees with Mr. H. with respect to its superiority over Roxbury Russett.

H. J. Starin, of Whitewater—Objects to the "Russetts" generally, on account of their tendency to shrivel.

Hawley—A fair grower; very productive; keeps longer than Roxbury Russett, and is perhaps superior in quality; should not however fail to plant some trees of Roxbury Russett; does not shrivel when kept in barrels.

Recommended for general cultivation.

English Russett.

Brayton—A good and a rapid grower; tolerably hardy; very productive; very valuable as a market fruit; stands bruising without rotting; doubtful if it will do well on prairie soils.

G. Kinney—One of the best of the long-keeping varieties.
Discussion of Winter Apples suspended for the transaction of general business.

On motion of Mr. HANFORD, a committee of five was appointed by the President, to nominate officers for the ensuing year. The following were appointed: BRAYTON, HANFORD, GIFFORD, SLOCUM and MILLER.

After consultation, the committee reported as follows:

**President**—CHARLES GIFFORD, of Milwaukee.

**Vice Presidents**—CYRUS HAWLEY, of Milwaukee; A. SLOCUM, of Whitewater; H. T. WOODWARD, of Beloit.

**Recording Secretary**—ANDREW CHILD, of Delafield.

**Corresponding Secretary**—CHARLES COLBY, of Janesville.

**Treasurer**—R. W. PARKER, of Milwaukee.

**Executive Committee**—J. C. BRAYTON, of Aztalan; H. J. STARIN, of Whitewater; A. G. HANFORD, of Waukesha.

Whereupon the report was accepted and adopted.

On motion of Mr. BRAYTON, it was Resolved that
the next Annual Exhibition and Convention of the Association, be held after the fair of the State Agricultural Society.

On motion of Mr. Hanford, Resolved that for the accommodation of those who may wish to exhibit early fruits, the Executive Committee be requested to make arrangements for an exhibition at some time before the 10th of October.

On motion of Mr. Congar, Resolved that the Executive Committee be requested to determine upon, and publish at an early day a general outline of business for the coming year.

Convention adjourned for one hour.

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Wednesday, 2 o'clock P. M.

Discussion of Winter Fruits resumed.

Swaar.

Hanford—Productive; an early bearer; my trees are stock-grafted; soil a stiff loam; quality, “best.”

Hawley—An early and an annual bearer; not productive; trees grow well; soil a clayey loam.

Slocum—My experience agrees with that of Mr. Hanford, but my trees are root-grafted.

Brayton—Will rarely make good trees when root-grafted; is apt to be upset by the winds; if stock-worked the Swaar is likely to overgrow the stock and break off; should always be worked standard high on strong growing sorts; when properly worked, is a productive variety.
Recommended for general cultivation when worked on strong stocks.

**Westfield Seek-no-Further.**

**Brayton**—In all soils a valuable fruit; moderately productive; a tardy bearer; in season from December to February.

**Kinney**—With me an early bearer, and productive.

**Hanford**—One of the best; a good grower; productive and hardy.

**Mathews**—A shy bearer with me thus far; trees thrifty and hardy.

**Starin**—Begins to bear at 5 years from planting.

**Hawley**—Have trees 9 years planted; bore for the first time a heavy crop last year; very few this season; trees grow slow.

**Rathbun**—Tree hardy and a good grower; bears sparingly on alternate years; not an early bearer; fruit very fair and of good size; keeps well; quality “very good.”

Recommended for general cultivation.

**Baldwin.**

**Slocum**—A good grower; moderately productive; does well.

**Hanford**—A tardy bearer; grows well.

**Starin**—“Steele's Red Winter,” has been to some extent disseminated in the West for this variety.

**Brayton**—Has fruited the Baldwin for 5 years past; on prairie and on moist soils, subject to bitter-rot; on dry soils, stock-grafted, it is a valuable apple; very productive.

**Hawley**—A good grower; tardy bearer; productive on alternate years; not subject to bitter-rot with me.

**Rathbun**—Fruited with me 6 years from planting; not productive; fruit of good size and very fair; subject to bitter-rot, though free from it the past season; third rate as to quality and productiveness.
CHILD—Have twelve bearing trees; in flavor the fruit fully sustains its Boston reputation; consider it a tardy bearer; occasionally affected with bitter-rot. I esteem the Red Canada, which has about the same season as the Baldwin, a better fruit for orchardists in this climate.

Recommended for further trial.

Dominie.

STARIN—A good grower; requires no pruning; a pretty early bearer; quality "very good."

BRAYTON—Hardy; excessively productive; does well either on stock or root-grafted; fruit should not be gathered before the 10th of October; if picked too early, liable to bitter-rot.

KINNEY—Makes a beautiful orchard tree.

SLOCUM—Exceedingly productive; very valuable.

Red Romanite.

SLOCUM—Very productive; in season from March to June; will keep until August. Never sold the second tree to a purchaser who had fruited the first!

Herefordshire Pearmain.

BRAYTON—The finest flavored of all early winter sorts; good grower; moderately productive; not very hardy when root-grafted.

STARIN—Has fruited it for four years; trees bear well; makes a large, upright tree.

Recommended for general cultivation.

Jonathan.

HANFORD—A great favorite with me; an early bearer; productive; of excellent quality.

HAWLEY—Agree with Mr. H.; a first rate variety.

BRAYTON—An excellent sort for the garden; tree does not grow large enough for the orchard.
Mathews—Tolerably thrifty; productive; an early bearer; quality, "very good.

Recommended for general cultivation.

Canfield's Sweet.

Brayton—Trees attain the largest size; esteemed in Northern Ohio as one of the most profitable fruits for market culture; will probably prove valuable here; fine for baking.

Hanford—Tree a fine, upright grower; quality "good."

Talman's Sweet.

Congar—Trees hardy and healthy root-grafted; one of the best sweet apples.

Hawley—The meaneet apple in my orchard; always tough and dry, fit only for baking and for stock.

Bassett—Trees not perfectly hardy root-grafted.

Hanford—One of the best for baking and for stock.

Brayton—Bears good crops; trees do not attain a large size.

Child—My trees have made a fine growth and begin to bear early; have not yet (7 years planted,) proved productive; fruit is very sweet and rich, and keeps well.

Recommended for general cultivation.

Broadwell Sweet.

Brayton—My trees stock-worked; are very productive; quality "very good."

Green Sweet.

Hanford—Esteem it highly; a very early bearer.

Brayton—Tree a slow grower; hardy; productive; in quality, superior to Talman's Sweet.

Rathburn—My trees were planted in 1847, fruited the first time last season; the crop was small; fruit of good size and very fair; the apples are still hard.
Rawles' Janet.

Brayton—Knows it well; productive; begins to bear at 5 years from planting; in full bearing at 8 years; is not injured by hard frosts; should not be gathered before 20th of October; in season from March to July; makes a fine orchard tree; needs very little pruning; quality very good.

Matthews—My trees were planted in 1848, fruited in 1853; trees make a thrifty spreading growth; hardy and very productive; quality "good," may prove "very good."

Edwards, Troy, Walworth County—Blossoms late; very productive; of excellent quality at maturity.

Recommended for general cultivation, except at the far North.

Limber Twig.

Brayton—The variety in cultivation is a higher flavored, smaller fruit than that described by Elliott and Thomas, and is probably a seedling from that variety; in season from March till June; best in May; very productive.

Fameuse.

Brayton—Does well in all soils; quality "very good;" not rich in flavor, but pleasant and agreeable.

Hanford—Agree with Mr. B.; consider the variety indispensable.

Hawley—A good grower; very productive; an excellent and a valuable variety.

Recommended for general cultivation.

Peck's Pleasant.

Child—Second to none as an eating fruit from January to March. Tree a good grower, bearing annually fair crops of handsome fruit.
Hawley—My trees planted in 1847; they grow well. This variety has not proved an early bearer nor to this time has it proved productive. Quality “best.”

Newtown Pippin.

Hawley—Have six trees planted in 1848; have borne but little until the present season, when three trees bore large crops of fine fair fruit.

Roxbury Russett.

Hawley—In its habit of bearing resembles R. I. Greening; fruit double the size of the best specimens I have seen from the East. May be kept about as long as English Golden Russett. Quality “very good;” tree a moderate grower.

FALL AND EARLY WINTER VARIETIES.

Rambo.

Congar—One of the best bearers; my trees are root-grafted; soil sandy and dry; from a tree 9 years planted, had three and a half bushels of fruit.

Slocum—My best specimens are from root-grafted trees.

Stairn—My trees are root-grafted; they are hardy, healthy, and bear well.

A. Kinney—My trees are root-grafted and are planted in a clayey loam; have lost some trees by the severity of the winter.

Brayton—Set out some root-grafted trees 9 years ago, lost two of the lot; from the others have not had more than a dozen specimens; from one graft inserted at the same time in a strong stock, have taken more than two barrels of fruit; do not think it desirable when root-grafted. In season from October to February, when not picked until October.