Names of Committee of Observation.

Frank Stark, Randolph; J. F. Case, Eau Claire; F. A. Hardin, Weyauwega; W. H. Hanchett, Sparta; A. J. Edwards, Fort Atkinson; John J. Menn, Norwalk; Daniel Williams, Summit Center; A. Clark Tuttle, Baraboo; D. E. Bingham, Sturgeon Bay; C. A. Abbott, Appleton; A. J. Philips, West Salem; E. R. Holliday, M. D., Ellsworth; L. F. Laiten, Omro; W. L. Osborne, La Crosse; Charles H. Ramsdell, Menomonie.

What Shall We Plant?

Geo. J. Kellogg.

Editor Wisconsin Horticulturist:—This theme is old and yet it is always new. But at this season of the year it is the most important question that comes to the front with every planter, be he the owner of a thousand acres or a small village lot, be he farmer, gardener, or mechanic,—"the best thing to plant that will bring the best returns." Every year we ought to improve on the last. A failure is often more important than a success, but not at all profitable, unless it will help us to avoid future failures. To the gardener who is always trying every new humbug in seeds, the balance is on the wrong side of the ledger. The American likes to be humbugged and the seedsmen, nurserymen and tree tramps are always ready with the humbug. If we exercise our good judgment and common sense we ought to see through the advertising lies that promise impossibilities. I would not discourage trying new things, but there is such a large majority of new things in the fruit and vegetable world that it is not safe to leave the old, tried varieties which have paid.

Apples.—Stick to the kinds that are doing best on your soil, those that have paid you for the last ten or
twenty years. Still I would not pass by the new varieties that have come to the front in the past ten years, those that are proven adapted, good and productive. There are several new kinds about which there is a variety of opinion as regards hardiness, productiveness and season.

We tried to bring out the facts just as they exist, about the Northwestern Greening, at our last annual meeting. Many seemed to think I was opposed to it. I am disappointed that it does not keep in Rock, Dane and Jefferson counties, but with all the objections I am fully persuaded it is the most profitable winter apple we have, unless it is Ben Davis! Now I presume I have struck a sensation! Well, the facts are that Ben Davis has paid better than any other winter apple in southern Wisconsin; in one large orchard one hundred miles north of Madison, it was the apple that paid.

Twenty-five years ago I sold one hundred Ben Davis trees to a man in Jefferson county, and he tells me today that those trees have paid him better than any thing in his large orchard and he regrets that for every one that died he had not set out two more of the same kind. Now I would not raise a Ben Davis excepting to sell. The Willow Twig has paid in my orchard in Janesville best for thirty years, but it is because I had more of them than of Ben Davis.

For the new beginner I would recommend Oldenburg, Patten's Greening, McMahan, Wolf River, Newell, Wealthy, Plumb's Cider, Fameuse, Longfield, Windsor, N. W. Greening, Malinda, Talman Sweet, Utter, Fall Orange, Flush- ing Spitzenberg, Custar's Golden Sweet, Dominion, Murphy's Blush and Ben Davis, twenty apples; Transcendent, Hyslop, Sweet Russet, Whitney, Martha, and Virginia crabs. And if I could not get every kind I would set a Virginia crab in its place, and if I could not get the crab
trees I would plant the root graft where the tree was to grow and graft it later on.

Our Wausau trial orchard, I am sure, will demonstrate that the healthiest tree on its own roots, can be grown from the root grafts planted and never dug. Set two or more in each place where a tree is wanted and later take up all but one. Next healthiest and probably the best tree of all will be the top-grafted Virginia crab. If I were planting an orchard of 500 or 5,000 trees I would plant all root grafts and half of them would be Virginia or Shield's crab to top-graft later on.

I have mentioned in my list only one Russian. There is Yellow Transparent that blights; there is little Repka that keeps; and perhaps there are some others of value. I have been fooling with the Russians for thirty years and last winter, a year ago, killed ten kinds of Russians, whole rows of them, just as bad as Ben Davis, Hibernial with the rest. Our State Society offered $10 for a show of winter Russians and there were three kinds of the ten that made a show. Who has ever grown and put on the market in Wisconsin or Iowa ten barrels of winter Russians?

I suppose I have committed the unpardonable sin in mentioning the Russians. I have always admired our State Fair show of Russians, especially as shown by friend Tuttle, and when I was on committee of awards I recommended a $20 premium as a special on the show of Russians; it was paid. I have always hoped we might get ten varieties of Russians that we might count a success.

I ought to apologize for mentioning 21 kinds of apples for a beginner. If I should come down to ten it would be Oldenburg, Patten's Greening, Wolf River, Wealthy, Plumb's Cider, Longfield, Windsor, N. W. Greening, Malinda, and Murphy's Blush.

Now is the time to decide what to plant.
Janesville, Wis.

[Editor's Note.—Of course a communication like the
above is merely an expression of the personal opinion of the writer whose signature it bears. Probably most Wisconsin orchardists would not fully indorse the list of apples which Mr. Kellogg recommends for a beginner.]

LETTER FROM COLORADO.

Littleton, Colorado, March 7.

The more I study and learn of all South-Western climates the more I think of our state of Wisconsin as a fruit state. Here they have spring and winter mixed for five months, which is much harder on trees and fruit plants than the cold of our state. One hundred and fifty freezes and thaws dry out twigs and kill more than the cold of our climate. The soil here is deep and rich, but the air, always dry and on the move, is so hungry or thirsty for water that all slender twigs are dried out by the long season of the mixed winter and spring.

Raspberry canes have to be covered six or eight inches deep to hold them back and keep them from drying out.

We had one week of zero weather this winter, the coldest morning 10 degrees below, but a hard frost or freeze every night and warm and sunny every day, as a rule. Last spring had a hard freeze after every thing was in bloom; all trees killed on south side and some clear to the ground, hence no fruit. They expect a big crop every seven years. —H. Floyd of Eureka, Wis.

ARBOR DAY—THOUGHTS ON ITS PRACTICAL SIDE.

We wish we had space for the suggestive article with the above title, published in the March number of that excellent journal "Park and Cemetery and Landscape Gardening." We give some extracts:

"Arbor Day is now observed in some forty-two states; in the majority of cases the day is appointed by proclama-