

Who can estimate the commercial value of the Wilson strawberry and the other hardy small fruits to the nation; or of the May cherry and Miner plum to the west? And yet all these are still meeting the opposition of horticulturists who cannot see beyond the bounds of their own state or section.

It is safe to say that the new Siberian apples, brought to notice within the last few years, form a far richer and more important addition to the pomology of the country than any one or all of the above fruits combined. The extent of territory in which this species must ultimately be alone relied upon for a supply of home-grown fruit, is immense in area. The social consequences of such a supply are not to be computed in dollars and cents. No true pomologist will for a moment calculate the problem of keeping open this vast region as "the natural market for the finer fruits grown further south," by discouraging the introduction of "Siberian crab apples and other coarse fruits" into that section. With our wide domain and varied climate, subject to changes which sometimes destroy our most luscious and long tried fruits, we cannot afford to dispense with a single variety, much less whole species, which promise a permanent supply of hardier and perhaps ultimately equally valuable fruits. The Siberian species of the apple offers to us, as horticulturists, a rare opportunity to test the capacities of our soil, climate, Yankee genius and generous hearts, in multiplying and extending to every portion of our country the rich pomonal gifts that nature has placed in our hands to cultivate and improve.

At the close of the reading of this paper,

Mr. TUTTLE remarked that the crab could be hybridized with the Russian and other apples, and there might be good results therefrom.

Mr. STICKNEY thinks that we have about enough crabs; let them be only the six lower rounds of the ladder; but we should look for better fruits, such as the Duchess and others like it in hardiness. Others fully concurred in this caution.

This subject was extended to considerable length.

CRABS FOR STOCKS.

Mr. GOULD of Beaver Dam, offered the following, which led to much discussion :

"*Resolved*, That the adoption of the cultivated (Siberian) crab as a seedling stock, upon which to graft and bud our apples, is a step in the right direction."

Mr. PLUMB said that he had no doubt but the spirit of the resolution was all right; but he doubted if it would bear the test of experience and trial. If the intent be to propagate the crabs, then the resolution was proper; but if to work other trees on it, it was all wrong. Some apples, like the Bellfleur, would be a total failure, if attempted to be worked on the crab; the two would not unite perfectly.

Mr. GOULD—My experience has been with root-grafting on the seedling crabs, and in that I have been successful. He had suffered by root-killing, losing thousands of dollars. The tops were hardy, and appeared to come through the winter all right; but on being dug up, every root of the stock was dead, and he had lost

his trees; but with the crabs for stocks he had lost no trees from root-killing. He had found no trouble in working varieties on the crab.

Mr. STICKNEY had worked a few hundred trees on the crab stocks, and found they did well, but they were dwarfs. Many of them had loaded down with fruit, and the fruit was smaller than usual. He knew no good reason why the crab was not a good stock for the purpose of dwarfing, as many varieties had improved on these stocks. He expected to get dwarfs and half standards on such; but for general use he doubted the propriety of their use. He found, however, the roots nearly double those on any other kinds he had used.

Mr. GOULD did not think the dwarf objection of any weight. We wanted dwarfs out west, if we could not have hardy trees without. Hardy stocks are absolutely necessary to hardy trees. Root-killing has been the great trouble with even the best sorts of trees. He had become so convinced of this necessity for hardy roots, that that he had entirely discarded all eastern and southern seeds. He found it better to pay forty dollars for a bushel of western crab seeds, than to get the others for five. In fact, they were worse than no stocks, as they were almost sure to die.

Mr. PLUMB said he would not say anything in favor of dwarfing, believing it a humbug generally, and proceeded to show that the cion will give its essential character to the root, no matter what the root may be, and that to the cion we must look for the requisite qualities of hardihood and vigor.

Mr. STICKNEY proposed the following, which was accepted by Mr. GOULD, and was passed:

Resolved, That we think favorably of the use of the Siberian crab stocks for the production of very hardy apple trees, by root-grafting or budding, and recommend that our nurserymen and amateurs experiment with them, and give us at some future meeting the results of their observations.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent in a revision and discussion of the list of apples as heretofore recommended, in which nearly all the fruit-growers took a part, and stated their experiences, which were very diverse on most of the sorts, but they adopted as follows:

LIST OF FRUITS.

Apples.—1st. A select list of five, of which hardiness is the first requisite, and to which there shall be no dissenting voice, viz: Duchess of Oldenburg, Astrachan, Fameuse, Tallman Sweet, Golden Russett.

2d. List worthy of general culture for all qualities of tree and fruit: Sops of Wine, Fall Stripe. St. Lawrence, Fall Orange, Plumb's Cider, Perry Russett, Willow Twig, Red Romanite, Blue Pearmain' Seek-no-further.

3d. List for trial: Sweet June, Tetofsky, Lowell, Bailey Sweet, Gros Pomier, (Haas), Paradise, Winter Sweet, (Sweet Wine), Cable Gillflower, (Flushing), Ben Davis, Northern Spy, Rawle's Janet.