

Mr. Melville: Yes, the price of the trees and trouble of manuring during that time, hauling a lot of manure on, was the main cost, never cost a great deal in cash paid out.

Mr. Daub: What is your subsoil?

Mr. Melville: Our subsoil is deep clay loam, it does not change. When we dig a well, we have to dig thirty feet before you strike water. That land is so solid and hard you would not have to curb a well, it is as hard as rock.

THE STANLEY DISTRICT.

C. L. RICHARDSON.

A portion of the surrounding country that I wish to speak about this afternoon is to the east of Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire; it is along the Wisconsin Central Line, 25 to 35 miles to the east. The country over there is a clay loam, or a loamy clay, a great deal similar to the country that has been described by the two gentlemen who have preceded me. It is not at the present time an orchard country, but in the vicinity of Stanley there are numerous small orchards ranging from a few acres to five or six acres, and off to the north there is a large amount of country that is almost a wilderness, which is probably not adapted to orchards at the present time, but which will be as the country becomes cleared up. South of the tract the country is more cleared up and there is where most of the orchards are. The section extends from the northeast corner of Chippewa County over quite away into Taylor county, and running south of the tracks, projects for a ways into the northwest corner of Clark county. They had a little County Fair at Stanley this year, and 294 plates of apples were shown, all grown within a radius of eight or ten miles of Stanley, and they showed that at present at least there do not seem to be the insect pests and fungus enemies that are common in other sections. The fruit that was shown at the Fair was of high quality, large size and good coloring, and there is a great deal of the land in that section which I think is adapted to raising apple trees and which would be good strawberry country.

In regard to the prices of our land, any person who wishes to go into that country and start an orchard will not have a great

deal of difficulty in getting land at what would seem to be a very reasonable price as compared with what is to be found in many sections. The cultivated lands there run in price all the way from \$40 to \$75 per acre, and the wild lands are perhaps as low as \$10 or \$12, and up to \$20 per acre, so that it would not entail great expense upon any one who wished to go into the country and go into the raising of fruit. A great deal of this wild country of which I speak has been logged over, but there is a great deal of small timber left on it, so that many of the people who have gone in there have found that the amount of material that they are getting off the land is aiding them very materially in their efforts to pay for the land. The section north of the tract has good railroad facilities. There is the Wisconsin Central running east and west along the southern border of this section of which I have spoken. It is cut diagonally from northwest to southwest, by the new extension of the Soo Line to the head of the Lakes, and a local logging road starts about forty miles up in the country, cutting it from southwest to northeast, so that any one wishing to go in there would find that while it is virgin country, that they would still be in close touch with civilization.

One last fact I might perhaps present, and that is that some of us got together this year and decided that we would put up a county exhibit at the State Fair, and among other things we had a fruit exhibit, and our fruit exhibit took second place in the rating at the Milwaukee State Fair and every bit of that fruit was grown in Chippewa County and perhaps one-half or more of it was grown in the eastern half of Chippewa County, omitting from this the apples that came from the Melville section and from the northern part of the county. From that it would seem that while only in a small way, yet that section is actually producing fruit of superior quality.

Mr. G. J. Kellogg: How much of that country that you describe is similar in soil to Mr. Melville's ground?

Mr. Richardson: While none is exactly similar, there is a considerable area of good apple land between Stanley and Hannibal. Much of the land for 6 or 7 miles north of Stanley and Boyd is adapted to orchard purposes, and also an area from Stanley to Thorp and 7 or 8 miles south of Thorp—making 8 or 10 townships in all.

A Member: What varieties are you raising?

Mr. Richardson. At the Fair, this year we had Wealthy Duchess, Northwestern Greening, the finest Patten's Greening that I ever saw in my life; we had McMahan's White, they were

very fine; practically all of the crab apples that are grown in the northern part of the state, the Peerless, the Dudley, Russett, Malinda and a few others. In all, I presume there were probably thirty-five varieties.

ORCHARD TILLAGE SESSION.

Topic.

“Shall we advise clean cultivation until July 15th to be followed by cover crops for young orchards (five acres or more), or may we consistently recommend a system of cropping for five to ten years after planting? If the latter, what crops, what rotation, how many years may crops be grown, and what portion of the land may be cropped?”

PROF. J. G. MOORE.

Orchards of five acres or more are commercial plantations so that our question refers to handling a commercial orchard. As the apple is the chief fruit in this state, it also presumably applies to apple orchards. Two points immediately arise in considering the question: the result on the trees, and the cost of bringing the orchard up to the producing period. From the stand point of the tree alone, I believe that a system of cultivation with cover crops most advisable for the welfare of the orchard unless great care is exercised in the cropping. It is also essential that an amount of plant food equivalent to that removed by the crop be returned to the orchard soils.

The bringing of the orchard from planting to fruiting as economically as possible, will in the majority of instances, practically preclude the clean culture-cover crop system up to the time at which the orchard begins to give returns from the fruit produced. The question then resolves itself into “What is the best practice in the cropping of a young commercial orchard?”

The length of time during which a young orchard may be cropped successfully, which means without injury to the trees, cannot be definitely stated. It will depend primarily upon the age at which the trees come into bearing. I believe it to be a mistake to grow other than fruit crops in the orchard after it has reached the bearing period. It will be seen that the length of