

Resolution of Thanks.

WHEREAS: The Florida State Horticultural Society during its regular annual meeting, has been so royally entertained by the citizens and Board of Trade, it is fit and proper that we give some expression of our appreciation of the courtesies extended; therefore, be it

Resolved, That we wish to thank the Tampa Bay Transportation Company for the use of their beautiful steamer, "*The Favorite*," for a free trip up the Manatee River, the ladies of the Town Improvement Association for the elegant lunch

so generously served, and the citizens of St. Petersburg as a whole, for their uniform courtesy and hospitality during our stay, and also we wish to thank all of the transportation companies for the special rate given us.

W. N. WILSON,
GEO. KERR,
J. F. FARLEY,
P. J. WESTER,
J. B. CURTIS,
Committee.

Question Box.

No. 1—What is the best method to defoliate?

Member—It is to take your thumb and finger and pull the leaves off.

Mr. Hart—I would like to ask if you think it is practicable to defoliate, say, four square miles of trees in this way?

Mr. Painter—A large per cent. of trees or shrubs can be defoliated by spraying with a strong solution of Bordeaux mixture. By a strong solution I mean one in which the copper has not all been neutralized by the lime. Thrip juice in the proportion of 1 to 500 will also defoliate trees and shrubbery.

No. 2—Which is the best time to plant cabbage palms; can they be transplanted any time in the year?

Prof. Rolfs—I have seen them live when transplanted during any one of the

twelve months. The best time to transplant is after a long dry spell and before that dry spell has been broken.

Mr. Sperry—I contemplated setting out a large quantity of palms. Before doing so I talked with a man who had a large experience in planting palms, and he stated the best time is during the wet season in the summer.

Mr. Chilton—From my experience, I would say February or March. We have our wet times during those months. I have been informed that in digging them up it is well to trim off the small roots and plant them deeper than when they came out of the ground. Trim them close to the ground and plant them one foot deeper than they were originally.

No. 3—I understand that this society frowns down any attempt made by ad-

vertisers to call attention to their goods at its annual meetings. Would it not be well to let them exhibit in the hall, inasmuch as some of the improved machinery would, if shown by salesmen who understand it, prove interesting to us and we would have a chance to compare the various styles in such a way as is not often our privilege. They might even grant a discount to us in return for the advertising privilege.

Mr. Hart—I think our constitution bars out anything of this kind. I do not see how we could grant the room to anyone to exhibit their goods even though it would be of benefit to us. They are at perfect liberty to exhibit their goods outside the place of meeting. I do not think it would be policy to grant anyone this privilege because it would unavoidably disturb our meetings.

Mr. McCarty—I met two or three men yesterday who are interested in irrigation. It seems to me that with as much space as we have here, it would be a good idea to allow them to exhibit where we could all get the benefit of it. This space could all be filled up with goods of the fertilizer men, machinery men, nursery men, etc., without detriment to the meeting. It seems to me it would be a great addition.

Mr. Painter—I think the gentleman has a wrong idea of the proposition. He thinks that the society does not want an exhibit of fruit trees, machinery, etc. We do want it, but we don't want it on the floor where the meeting is held. By the floor, I do not mean literally speaking. I mean any particular wares should not be advertised during our sessions. Any person or firm can bring or send anything they wish to display or advertise to the

place where the meeting is held and make any arrangements they choose outside the place of meeting. The society itself cannot take the position of endorsing or advertising any commodities.

No. 4—Do hard wood ashes actually destroy or check the mildew on the tomato?

Prof. Rolfs—It is not likely that they would have any effect.

No. 5—Is the white fungus of the tomato transmitted through the tomato seed? Is it continued from year to year through the same soil?

Prof. Rolfs—It is transmitted from plant to plant.

No. 6—At what stage of the tomato growth should the Bordeaux be applied to check or destroy the white fungus or mildew?

Prof. Rolfs—Three of these questions appear to be asked by the same person. The tomato in Florida is rarely attacked by mildew and it is probable that the author of these questions had in mind the condition that is produced by a small spider mite. They should be fought by dry sulphur, sulphur spray or sulphur compound. They are easily killed and usually disappear by the use of potassium sulphite or soda sulphite.

No. 7—Orange and grapefruit trees to plant; which are the best and most profitable for planting with normal conditions, large, small or medium size trees, all presumably healthy?

Mr. Taber—Medium are the best.

Mr. Hubbard—Conditions make a dif-

ference. I think the more vigorous growing the tree is, the better it is.

No. 8—What is the best month in the year to plant an orange tree?

Mr. Waite—November.

Mr. McLain—I should say, December,

Mr. Hart—May, if wet, is a pretty good month.

Member—You would not approve of May unless the rainy season had started in, would you?

Mr. Hart—In my part of the country, it is sure to start about that time.

No. 9—I would like to know if the Society approves of cutting the trees back at the time of setting out?

Mr. Hampton—Cut them back every time. And about that planting of trees; I would prefer to plant them in the month of December to any other month in the year. Some say November. Don't you think that is a little too soon? They are likely to start to growing and the January or February cold snap will take them in. If you plant them in December they are not so apt to start to grow.

No. 10—I would like to ask whether it is best to use the Stringfellow method for planting on low ground?

Mr. Hart—I have not had experience in that, but if the ground is low, you cannot push the roots down far. They have to grow on the surface. If there is not room above permanent water line for the tap root, little can be made in that direction. I would prefer fairly high land for planting orange trees.

Mr. Taber—In relation to that Stringfellow method, I want to say that I don't think that the Stringfellow method is a

good habit to get into unless one qualifies every assertion that he makes. If you take a great big tree like Mr. Hubbard would recommend planting, you can't successfully treat it that way. I have set out thousands of little nursery trees and taken off all the fibrous roots. It is the proper way to plant them. Line up a row, open it with a spade and stick in nothing but little sticks. But you can't do that with a five or six year old tree.

Member—I think the success of a newly set tree depends as much on the weather following the time of setting, as the method of setting. As to the Stringfellow method, I would say do not prune the roots quite so close.

Mr. Hume—I have seen a few attempts at setting trees by the Stringfellow method which were entirely successful. I have seen some that were a dismal failure. It requires careful study of the conditions of the soil, of the weather and of the kind of tree you are planting before you determine whether you are going to plant by the Stringfellow method. He makes absolutely no exception to the kind, character, or size of the tree, and I think anyone who follows him implicitly is going to get into pretty deep water.

Mr. Hoard—Three years ago, I moved 600 bearing trees without losing a single tree. Some of them had had a box of oranges the year before, and I saved all the roots I could get.

Mr. Hart—I am not advocating the Stringfellow method in all cases, or anything of the kind. I brought the subject up to see what experience others had had. I am interested in it. All my early experience was much in that line in the planting of trees. When I came to the east coast all of our groves were set out

from big, wild trees that we got from the hammocks. Some of them had no tap root and where they did, we dug down and cut them off short. We cut the large trunks off not over a foot high and cut the roots off close up so that a tree with a six inch trunk would go in a hole eighteen inches to two feet across, and those trees made strong, healthy and rapid growth and were in profitable bearing in three years. The nursery trees were budded when set, but these were allowed to sprout and then buds were inserted in these sprouts after the trees were set in grove form.

I would tell you that it is best to set out big trees. "Big" may mean six or sixty years old. You can get a fine bearing tree very quickly if you put such out when the conditions are favorable, while small trees suffer seriously from every adverse condition and it may take several years to get them to a fair, bearing condition.

Mr. Skinner—During the discussion, Mr. Mason sat alongside of me, and he says there is no question but that cutting off the roots will make them grow deeper.

Mr. Taber—I do not think you can apply the same ruling to trees of all sizes. Mr. Hart mentions citrus trees as being transplanted at any size, but there are few other trees that can be treated like a citrus tree, and live. I claim that a citrus root is one of the hardest things in the world to kill. Take a peach or pecan tree, for instance. Regardless of the age or size of the tree, regardless of the season it is put out—Stringfellow just makes the sweeping assertion that it should be closely root pruned, which I do not believe is always proper or advantageous; and that is the reason why I say that one should

be careful to designate what he is talking about. If you put out trees at the beginning of the dormant season, you can successfully transplant a larger tree and you can prune the roots harder than you can at the time when growth should commence. He makes no exceptions at all.

Mr. Hollingsworth—Mr. Hart, were not those trees you spoke of transplanted on very damp soil?

Mr. Hart—They were transplanted in any kind of soil. In some places it was eleven feet to water, and in others the ground was covered with water a good deal of the time.

No. 11—Can anyone advise concerning the soap tree, how it is planted and what distance apart? Why does not the California Pepper tree fruit here?

Mr. Stevens—I have seen a soap tree growing wild around Orange Lake. That is the only place I have ever seen one in Florida.

Mr. Painter—The soap berry tree has been grown near Tallahassee for years.

No. 12—I would like to ask why the olive tree grows finely here, but does not bear any crop?

Prof. Rolfs—That is a question that is as yet unsolved.

Mr. Wakelin—We have an olive tree on our place. It bloomed very heavily and when I left home for the North it had small green olives. When I came back they had all fallen off, except a few dried up specimens. This year it has had no bloom.

Mr. Hampton—The olive tree has been talked over a long while, and some seem to think they won't bear, and some con-

tend that they will. I have more or less olives every year. I believe I could raise plenty of olives, but whether I could raise enough to pay commercially or not I do not know, but I have plenty for my home consumption.

Prof. Rolfs—There is a place near Sanford and one just east of Malabar and Drayton Island, I think, where they fruit quite heavily. I think that the probability of making it a commercial success is a small one.

Member—Does Mr. Hampton use anything special in the way of fertilizer?

Mr. Hampton—No, I don't use anything special.

Member—Last year I gave my olives slacked lime, and I think I am on the right track to getting enough olives for ourselves.

Mr. Hart—This matter has been pretty carefully gone over by Mr. Rooks, one of our members, who is much interested in

anything of the kind. I think the general opinion is that there is but one variety of olives that fruit well in Florida. I have seen some with trunks nearly two feet through, but they never bore what you might call a full crop. I think there is one variety that will produce a fairly good crop, but do not remember what it is.

Member—I live close to Mr. Rooks and see his olives, but I have never seen anything like a full crop.

Mr. Taber—I have fruited some four or five different varieties of olives, including which are the Queen, and they do not even get to maturity, but drop before they mature. I have gotten olives from several different varieties, but would not recommend them for anything more than home use.

Mr. Hampton—I never had any trouble with the fruit dropping. They stayed pretty well to maturity.