

AFTERNOON SESSION

INDIVIDUAL TREE RECORDS

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Ladies and gentlemen: Mr. Popenoe has asked me to say a word, or make a suggestion, as to keeping individual tree records of the avocado trees which you are planting now. I have not had the opportunity, Mr. President, of making any observations or carrying on any work with avocados, nor do I expect to have an opportunity. The Department of Agriculture, however, has just appointed a young man, Mr. L. B. Scott, who was associated with me for four years in citrus work, to carry on individual tree records with the avocado similarly to the individual tree records we are carrying on with the citrus trees.

It seems to me that the avocado industry at this time offers a splendid opportunity for individual tree work. If you could visit the citrus orchards we visit and find, as we do, that many of them have from fifty to seventy per cent, trees of an inferior type, I think you gentlemen who are the pioneers in the avocado industry would be more interested in individual tree records as a basis for propagation. My suggestion would be to every grower of the avocado to number his trees and keep a record of the number and weight of fruits taken from each tree, together with the time of picking.

This information will, in time, constitute a performance record from which your association, or you yourselves, can intelligently pick out the best trees for budding.

All sorts of mistakes that have been made in the propagation of citrus and other fruits through the selection of poor trees for propagation, even as to varieties so well established, can be avoided and it seems to me to be a work of surpassing interest among avocado growers to keep individual tree records as a basis for the selection of trees for propagation.

My suggestion would be to have these records handled through your association, and the records kept by the association for the members of the association. Perhaps that might be the best plan. In any event, if any avocado growers desire to undertake this work before the association is ready to care for the records, we will be glad to cooperate to the extent of keeping these records for you together with our citrus individual tree performance records. It means a tremendous lot in the avocado industry. The problem is varied. There is a variety of means of selection from seedlings and other trees, and the intelligent selection of these trees, you know, can only be done through some definite individual tree knowledge. It seems to me this information is well worth while now. It is a practical thing you can take up at this stage of the industry, and I believe is well worth doing. I thank you.

The chairman stated that Mr. Shamel's ideas were directly in line with what the association is attempting to do at this time, and asked that individual tree records be forwarded to the association. Such records will be carefully tabulated and kept on file for the benefit of members.

In answer to a query in regard to the confusion in the nomenclature of the varieties, the chairman expressed the opinion that within the next six months it will be possible to appoint a committee to pass on names and register with the association in such a way that members can get definite information as to varieties.