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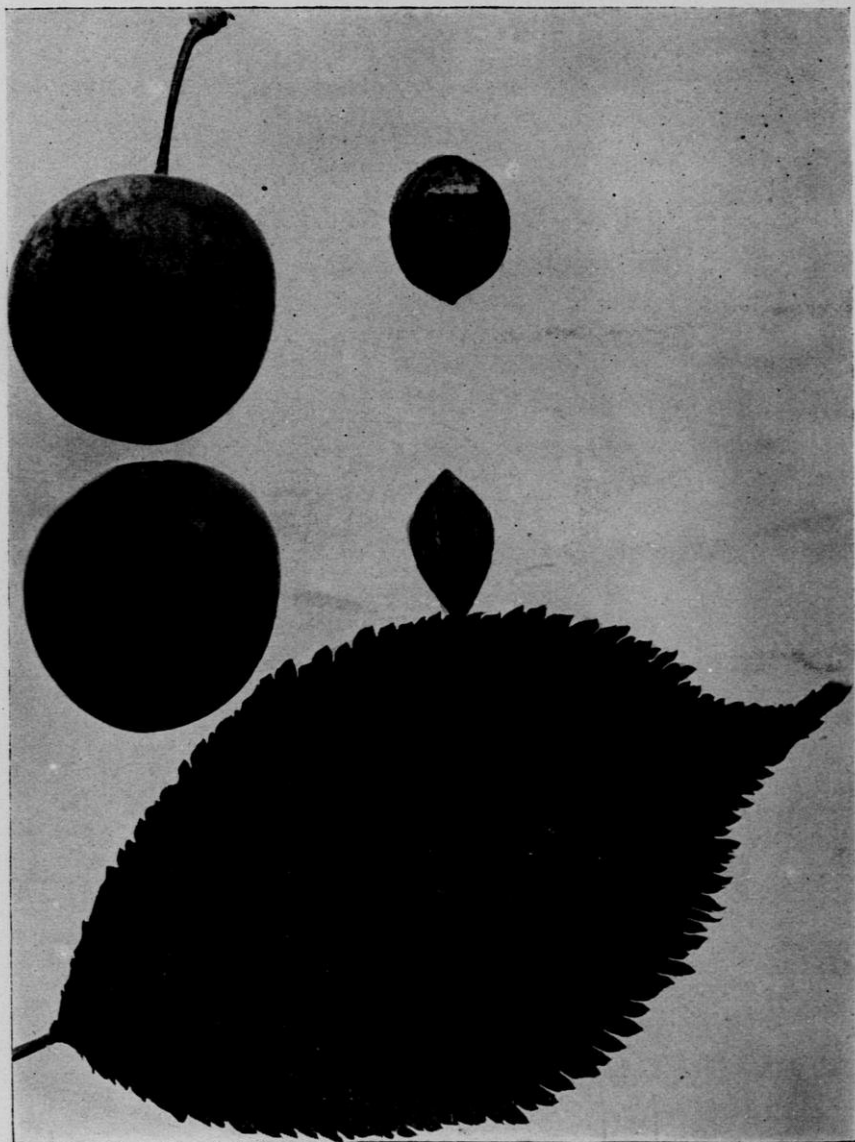
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PIPER PLUM.

The Wisconsin Horticulturist.

VOL. III.

JANUARY.

NO. 11.

THE PIPER PLUM.

Prof. E. S. Goff.

In the fall of 1889 Mr. J. S. Harris, of La Crescent, Minn., sent to our Experiment Station cions of a number of varieties of native plums, of which one package was labeled "Piper." These cions were top-worked the following spring on some Americana seedlings, and as many of them as survived were in due time removed to our plum orchard. The Piper did not fruit until the season of 1897, and I did not feel sufficiently acquainted with it to include it in our plum bulletin issued that year. Since then the Piper has fruited another season, and I have learned more of its history; and also that my favorable opinion of it is concurred in by Mr. Harris and others. I have therefore sent an illustration and description of it for the readers of the Horticulturist.

The tree is a rather free grower, with short-jointed wood that does not seem likely to split down. It is apparently pure *Prunus Americana*, and blooms freely on the young wood, but is slow in coming into bearing. It is very productive, and the large, bright-red fruit is medium-late in ripening, excellent in quality, almost a freestone, and is good for cooking and canning.

Mr. Harris has recently informed me that he first learned of this plum while at a farmers' institute near Mankato, Minn., about twelve years ago. At his request, cions were sent him the following spring, and thus it was brought to notice. It does not appear to have been propagated for sale as yet, though it seems to be well worthy of it.

Experiment Station, Madison, Wis.

"KNOBBY" STRAWBERRIES.

We have been wont to attribute "knobby" strawberries to imperfect pollenization. Sometimes we have laid the blame upon the weather—too much rain when the plants were in blossom; at other times we have thought that the proportion of perfect-flowering plants was insufficient. But the following question and answer in an agricultural paper suggests another cause for knobby berries:

Question: "Is there any way to prevent the ravages of the insect that is so destructive to the bloom of the strawberry, producing a crop of buttons instead of perfect berries?"

Answer: "The general distribution of these plant bugs at all seasons of the year makes it impossible to exterminate them or seriously to diminish their numbers by artificial means, unless the clearing up and burning of rubbish late in autumn might have that effect." . . . "The insects may be caught easily in cool mornings by beating with an insect net the tips of the twigs and leaves of the plants in which they usually lie concealed at that time, and may then be readily killed by shaking them out into a bucket containing a little kerosene, or a film of kerosene on water. They may also be destroyed by sprinkling or dusting the foliage with pyrethrum, or spraying it with diluted kerosene emulsion. Any and even all of these measures of defense may be used with great profit whenever the insects are numerous enough to threaten any serious damage."

**PRUNING APPLE TREES IN WISCONSIN.**

Cuts made in the fall or during the winter with severe cold following are very injurious and often fatal to the tree. The wood and bark kills into and around the wound. Trees should only be pruned while the mercury is 40 degrees or more above zero. If cut while the wood is frozen, trees are often severely injured.

The proper time for pruning is in the spring *after* severe

cold weather and *before* the buds swell or sap circulates freely. If done at this time the wounds should dry over and heal without discoloring. If done too late sap will flow from the wound, which will not heal but will turn black and canker, as it is termed. Pruning should not be done after severe cold winters that have injured the trees, and especially if the preceding season did not produce good buds and well ripened twigs. The object of pruning is to secure such vitality in the tree that the portion left after trimming will take and use the added growth stimulus given by pruning. If the buds are weak or too much injured by cold to do this, pruning should be deferred to a more favorable spring, as if done then it may severely injure if not kill the tree. These remarks are for orchard trees, for in nurseries a different plan is pursued.

Summer pruning is performed in June, but it is of doubtful utility, as it takes away foliage and cannot add any growing power to the portion of tree left. It is only admissible on very thrifty trees where there is vitality to spare or where the form is very faulty and delay may not be desirable.

Pruning properly done will add much to the fruitfulness of orchards, and wounds will heal without the use of any wax or coating as is so often recommended.—Western Farmer.



OIL STOVES.

Oil-stoves and gas-stoves should never be kept burning in a sleeping room, for they are burned in the open air of the room, and having no connection with a chimney flue, they throw the poisonous carbonic oxide of combustion into the air of the apartment and make it unfit for respiration. Even an oil-lamp is dangerous if left burning all night, but an oil-stove is worse, because stoves generally feed more flame, consume more of the oxygen and give off more of the poisonous gas.

—Exchange.

A SOUTH DAKOTA ORCHARD.

Oliver Gibbs, Jr., Prescott, Wis.

The orchard is situated in the town of Ramsey, the northeast town of McCook County, South Dakota, thirty-five miles northwest of Sioux Falls and about ten miles south of the line of the Southern Minnesota Division of the C., M. & St. P. railway. I settled there in the fall of 1885.

Going from Lake City, Minnesota, I carried with me a hundred apple trees, with an assortment of seedling apple trees, native plum, currant, gooseberry, rose bushes, etc., from my own garden there. Of the apples there were fifty Wealthy, twenty-five Duchess and twenty-five of my favorite crabs, and some others that Mr. Underwood wished to have me make a trial of. My object was to grow, as I had always grown elsewhere, a supply of fruits, flowers and vegetables for my own family and of such sorts and qualities that they would suit the market if there should be a surplus of anything.

I buried my trees and shrubs for the winter, and planted them out in the spring of 1886, with ninety more trees obtained from Prof. J. L. Budd, of the Iowa College of Agriculture, consisting of apple, pear, cherry and plum, all Russians.

In the spring of 1887 he sent me sixty more, and the same spring I got six more Russians from A. G. Tuttle, of Baraboo, Wisconsin, and the same number from E. Y. Teas, of Indiana. This has been all of my orchard planting except to fill out vacant places in the orchard with seedling apples and native plum trees of my own growing.

For an orchard site I selected a northeast slope. There was some timber near by on the east and a young grove on the upper side of the slope, southerly—west and north there was full exposure, the windiest place on my farm. This exactly suited me, for I had notions of my own about "protection" of orchards.

I was glad to find my orchard site already well subsoiled by the pocket gophers. This saved me several years'

time and a great deal of hard labor in getting the soil and subsoil into proper condition for orchard growth. I did not have to plow or subsoil at all, but just dug down holes about two feet in diameter and set my trees, placing them about four inches deeper than they had stood in the nursery, trampling the surface soil solid over their roots, filling up with the under soil, trampling again and covering with loose fine earth—the dust blanket so much talked of today. This dust blanket I preserved for six years by use of hoe and spade, gradually extending the circle around each tree, till on the average in 1891 the diameter of the clean space was six feet or more, meantime mowing the rank growth of weeds and grass in the intervening spaces twice each summer to avoid “Bre’er Rabbit” using the orchard for his “briar patch.”

I had helped to fight the Transcendent crab off the list of the Minnesota society, and often said I would not have this variety anywhere within half a mile of my orchard if I could prevent it. And I planted there in my South Dakota orchard neither this nor any other variety of apple or crab known to be an original blighter; that is to say, found by general observation to be inflicted with the summer blight, when standing in groups or single trees alone. To this opinion and practice I attribute the fact that from first to last, up through five years of the bearing period of my orchard I have had no blight whatever. My neighbors to whom I gave warning that the Transcendent would blight and give out the infection to other varieties, have had their orchards burnt up by this summer blight.

The growth of the trees was slow, for we were passing through a series of dry years that culminated in 1894, when the great crop failure occurred. But the gopher sub-soiling and the dust blanket carried my orchard through in a steady, healthy progress. Some of the trees made a weak growth their first season, but these I sawed off close to the ground the second spring, and in every case but one obtained a strong renewal from the graft. In that one case I had a shrub instead of a tree, which I presume is a French

paradise stock, and have preserved it for a curiosity. A number of the trees died out the first season and were replaced.

In planting I did not set the trees "leaning to the one o'clock sun." I could not remember having seen any trees during my boyhood or at any other time, forest or orchard tree, in its natural situation, enjoying its own way of growth, having any trouble to stand erect, and I did remember that the winds blew as stiff on the Vermont hills as over the Dakota prairies. I kept my jackknife in my pocket, and my trees came up spreading, stocky, sturdy, shading their roots and trunks, wide at the base, conifer-shaped and erect. Once in a while I would find a crotch forming with the threat of breakage, and this I would prune, but this was all.

My Russian trees from Prof. Budd were mostly of his own importation and of varieties whose fruit I had not seen anywhere in orchard or at fruit exhibitions. I had made a plat and a list for further identification, both of which were destroyed by fire in 1893. Up to that time only the Cross Apple No. 413 and the Titovka (Titus apple), of this Russian list, had come into bearing; the other fruit of '91 and '92 had been Duchess and Wealthy. The Cross proves to be a true all winter keeper, of good grain and good quality, mild sub-acid, and of extra nice external finish and color, and it is a heavy cropper, but I am not quite sure of its adaptation to our climate in hardiness and would like to see it top-worked on some congenial stock known to be of the first degree of hardiness, perhaps on the Hibernial. By no means would I discard it. Titovka (which must not be confounded with the old Russian Tetovski, with which it has no similarity in the tree or fruit) took my fancy at the start. It is very large, slightly oblong, brilliantly striped, waxy in finish, of good, sprightly, sub-acid flavor, a little coarse in grain, but tender, a better street apple every way than the best Ben Davis, an annual abundant bearer, and the trees, according to their showing in my orchard, perfectly hardy; season of its fruit two weeks later than the Duchess;

a good variety to come between the Duchess and the Wealthy. It is one of the Russian "smelling apples," so fragrant that, as Uncle Remus says of the musk melon, it "hollers at you when you go down de road by de gardin."

Of the succeeding Russians I have been able as yet to identify only the Yellow Transparent and the Antonovka. The Yellow Transparent is ready for use in July and has no fault in tree and fruit, is every way desirable for home use and fits our market for a profitable early apple exactly. Size medium to large, form slightly conical, color a rich light yellow, almost white until ripe, sub-acid, tender, juicy, good skin and finish to bear handling; a good cropper. There are complaints of this variety blighting elsewhere in Iowa and Minnesota. All I can say of this is what the Frenchman said of his gun: "It no kick me, may be it kick stranger." If I found it blighting elsewhere, I should want to observe its neighbors and surroundings before condemning it. The Antonovka sustains all the recommendations of Prof. Budd, only in the soil and location I have given it it ripens too early and seems to be a misfit as compared to others we have of the same season. Possibly on heavier soils and higher elevations it may mature slower and later and be a late fall or early winter apple. In that case I should mark it high in the list.

Of the other Russians fruiting in this orchard, it is no use to say much till I can identify their names with certainty. One of them is a long keeping winter apple, large, showy, good for cooking and a heavy bearer. Several others range through fall and winter, are apparently valuable, all sizes and colors, none of poor quality. One of these seems to be Repka Malenka. The trees of this variety happened to be planted on a bleak point of the orchard with full exposure to the north and stand as upright as a fence post—but, as I said in a former letter, I have never touched them with my pruning knife, but left them to locate and form their limbs to suit themselves. They make their obeisance to all points of the compass in courtesy to sun or storm,



Orchard of Oliver Gibbs, Jr., and Grandson, each ten years of age at the time photograph was taken.—Courtesy of Minnesota Horticulturist.

and when the interview is over come up erect, as a tree ought to be. One of them, standing only seven feet high (soil dry and growth slow) had 255 perfect apples on it in 1896 and showed no weakness the following year.

The Russian pears sent me by Prof. Budd have done as well as the apples. There are several varieties, of which I can identify only the Bessemianka. They have been in bearing three years. The older members of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society will remember that I took stock in Prof. Budd as soon as his Russian fruit work became known to us—also A. G. Tuttle, of Baraboo, in the same line—and did everything possible to give them encouragement in the transaction and annual reports of the society; and all these years of observation and experience since 1882-3 have strengthened my belief that the Russian-American foundation is the right one for our orchards.—Minnesota Horticulturist.



NOTES ON STRAWBERRIES.

Arrow.—This variety was introduced by Edw. W. Cone, Wisconsin. Its foliage and general habits are much like Haverland, and it is said to be a seedling of that well-known variety. Its color is fully as dark as Warfield, but does not put on that black appearance with age; and, too, they color the most uniform of any berry we ever saw. Every berry in the case is of one color, as though they had been dipped in paint. Their shape resembles the old flint arrow head. It ripens mid-season; medium size; quality very high. Not quite productive enough to be grown on a large scale, which is lamentable, considering all of its other good qualities.

Beder Wood.—All things considered, this has been a very satisfactory berry with me. Although it is never "fancy," it runs even in size, has a bright, fresh appearance, and holds up well, so we never have to worry about selling them; but the greatest reason we have for liking it

is because it is one of the best pollenizers we have. Season early to late; medium size; bright crimson color.

Bisel.—Crop large; held out large pickings quite late. Would be a success grown for a late berry; but is too soft; in 24 hours after picking, they had settled an inch in the boxes.

Brandywine.—We were led to expect great things from this variety, but are somewhat disappointed. If we want a berry of that type, we will take the Weston, as it is similar to it, and is a better grower. The description of the Weston does very well for Brandywine.

Belt.—Foliage rusted so badly that it bore but a few deformed fruits.

Burt.—Foliage rather scant, but tough and leathery, and isn't much affected by disease and insects. It is very prolific, of medium-sized fruit.

Bubach.—The foliage of this old variety is as near perfection as can be, and the berry is large and showy, but it is naturally a shy bearer, and only with a good deal of hampering do we succeed in getting paying crops of it.

Cyclone.—One of the poorest of the poor with us.

Cumberland.—Is a good fertilizer for medium early sorts, but late years it has been so badly affected by the rust that it has been a general fizzle.

Crescent.—Gives a good, fair crop right in the glut of the market when there is no profit in berries, anyway, so is not satisfactory.

Clyde.—If this proves to be a good fertilizer for Haverland, and we hope and believe it will, then it suits us first rate, as it is large, productive and fair quality.

Dew.—Is quite similar to the old Sharpless. Of but little account.

Greenville.—Large, healthy, productive and good quality. Gives a large proportion of its crop when prices are the lowest.

Gandy.—Does very well as a very late berry, and yet it

is scarcely productive enough to be profitable; berry medium large and quite firm.

Haverland.—When given the right care, is excelled by none. It can't be grown successfully in a wide, matted row, but if restricted to hills or hedgerows, it is simply the most productive and best selling berry we ever had on the farm. It has been the most successful medium early, mid-season, late and very late berry of all the varieties we ever grew. Its large, even size, and fresh, clean, soft, mellow appearance is tempting, and our customers demand it to use in the fresh state. It does not equal the Warfield for canning.

Lovett.—This berry is large and has a good, deep color; also productive, but its flavor is 'way off. Still, we grow it for no other reason than the fact that it is an excellent pollenizer—a matter that is too often overlooked.

Marshall.—This berry has been talked about more than any other. It surely has some remarkably good points, but still is not the *idol* berry that is being looked for. Still, we are glad that such a berry as the Marshall has been produced, for who knows but it is a stepping-stone to something better. It surely shows great improvements in some ways over anything else yet produced. Although the Marshall is almost always spoken of as a bi-sexual variety, we have noticed that where it has no chance to get pollen from some staminate kinds, it is decidedly buttony; and, too, it has not been successful in fertilizing some pistillate varieties that we have tried it on, which would indicate that while it may bear an abundance of pollen, its fertilizing powers are somewhat lacking.

Michel.—It is doubtful if there is a better extra early variety today than the old Michel. Its main fault lies in the fact that it is a rank grower and a great plant-maker, so that the plants are so crowded, only a few, weak buds can form. But where its runner-making is restricted, so as to give the individual plants a chance to expand, it is usually fairly fruitful.

Pearl.—If this variety has a commanding feature, we have never been able to see it.

Parker Earle.—May be all right for some special purpose, but for general cultivation (we think we are justified in saying) is a failure.

Robinson.—We have fruited this variety five years, and will part with it without regret.

Sharpless.—There was a time when it was our leader, but it is now superseded by many better kinds, so it must go, not without a little regret on account of old friendship sake, however.

Shuckless.—Has some qualities that we would like to have added to those of some other varieties, namely, extreme hardiness of plant and flower, but it is not a market berry.

Warfield.—A grand berry. It is a question in our mind if there is another berry in existence that is as good a "canner" as the Warfield. It is also a great producer when grown on rather heavy soil and given proper care. Is not adapted to light, drouthy soils.

Wolverton.—Foliage fairly healthy. Fruit quite large and plentiful; of a fiery, crimson color; does not ripen at the tip very well. Can be classed as a strong pollenizer.

Weston.—Large, conical; dark, dull color; hull extremely large and double; rather poor quality; seasons with Gandy, but not as good a berry; poor keeper; profitable because it is late and large.

Parry.—This variety has made us some money, but for the last three years it has matured its fruit buds in the fall, so its crop has been slim in harvest time, and we have been under the necessity of setting lightly of this kind.

Epping, Enhance, Pearl and Rio are varieties that have some merits, but are so lacking in others that we have dropped them from the list entirely.

Warfield and Haverland are our old stand-bys. Our customers are satisfied with them; they are good croppers and handle satisfactorily. If we could get varieties to fer-

tilize them with that were nearly as good as they are, we would be pretty well satisfied.

O. A. NUMMER, in MICHIGAN FRUIT GROWER.



WANTED,—A WINTER APPLE.

We have plenty of early and fall apples, but what for winter? We are at a loss to know what to graft.

We have not the utmost confidence in Northwestern Greening. It does not get to winter in good condition. The past year most of that variety of fruit had to be sold in October. We hope it will be a success yet and we want to hear from it through the columns of our paper.

For a promising winter apple we know nothing equal to the Windsor, at the present time.

For southern Wisconsin nothing has paid as a winter apple equal to Willow Twig, for the last thirty years.

The Russets and Talman Sweet don't bear, Newell don't keep. We have faith in Minkler top-grafted. Readers of the Horticulturist, tell us what *winter* varieties to graft in putting out 50,000.

GEO. J. KELLOGG & SONS.

Janesville, Wis.



PLAN NOW FOR SPRING.

EDITOR HORTICULTURIST:—

Now is the time to plan for successful work next season. The garden work should be mapped out. Every row should be marked for its occupant, whether fruit or vegetable. Every garden should be long, so the horse cultivator will do most of the hoeing. There ought to be a row of asparagus on one outside, as this will last a lifetime, once planted and cared for. The plants only cost a half cent each or \$3.00 a 1000. Drop them in a furrow six inches deep and plow them under. Cover the top of the ground with manure.

The whole of the garden ground should be covered

thickly with manure *now* and let it leach into the ground before spring.

One half the garden should be devoted to fruit, one half to vegetables. The row of grapes should be on the sunny side; these will not need to be renewed for fifty years if properly cared for. The bush fruits should be next; the strawberries next the vegetables, as these should be changed every two years at least.

Plant two rows of strawberries every spring and plow under two every July, then you will be sure of a crop. As to varieties, plant those that *do best with you*. I should plant for family use, Wood, Lovett, Splendid, Marshall, Clyde, Wm. Belt, Jessie and Enhance. Now all of these or any of them can be planted by the acre alone. They are "perfect." If I should add one more perfect it would be Brandywine. Then for canning I should have to have a few Warfield, which is pistillate. If your readers think these are too many take the first three or five and they will never regret their choice. These ten kinds can be furnished in 25 of a kind at hundred rates and there is a good deal of satisfaction in having early, midseason, late, bushels and size; just think of Wm. Belt, 12 to the quart, which we exhibited at Appleton last June.

But I have not said a word about apples and tree fruits. Plant a few trees every year, then some of the trees will bear every year. Plant the kinds that pay best in your vicinity.

While we consider the Jonathan tender we would put in one occasionally. We are eating the finest Jonathan we ever saw, grown by Mr. Pengra near Juda, Green Co., Wis. The tree was planted in 1884, never winter-killed, has been in bearing eight years and in 1898 bore eight bushels. This was a common root-grafted tree and we should expect better success with Jonathan top-grafted on some hardy stock. I mention this success of a tender variety, but advise you not to plant many except hardy kinds, for the old, test winters are sure to come.

GEO. J. KELLOGG.

BY THE WAYSIDE.

B. S. Hoxie.

The rule of our society makes it somewhat imperative that a delegate to another State Society shall make report, or, if you please, give account of his stewardship. Well, that report is written up, but then you know, my dear editor, there are many things by the wayside which are not so cold and formal as a "report from the Society" would prescribe. So allow me to speak of a "stop over" on my return trip.

It is not always that a stop over in winter time and a morning ride of a mile or two into the country, with the mercury dancing around the zero point, is fraught with so much pleasure as this was, on the morning of Dec. 23. After I tell you that this trip of a mile or two into the country from the Princeton station on the C., B. & Q. road was to see the homes of the Bryants, some of your readers can readily imagine why a short stay would be enjoyed. All of the old nurserymen and horticulturists of the Northwest are supposed to know that Arthur Bryant was one of the oldest nurserymen in Illinois, having settled on the farm now owned by the youngest son, L. R. Bryant, in the year 1833. The two brothers, L. R. and Arthur Bryant, and their children, are as much interested in horticulture as was the father. So when the invitation was extended to Mr. Hartwell and myself to stop over a train we accepted it, well knowing that opportunities once passed make no second return.

We were met at the station by Mr. Bryant's carriage, which took us to the home of Arthur Bryant in time for breakfast. The drive led over a gravel and macadam road, bordered for most of the way on either side with stately rock maples, whose branches interlocked and overspread the highway so that in summer they form a bower of beauty for a long distance on "Bryant avenue." Many of these trees were planted by Mr. Bryant's own hand more than fifty years ago. The main point of interest was at the old homestead where there are now forty acres of native timber

besides a "wilderness" of about ten acres. This wilderness contains eighty or ninety varieties of trees, besides various shrubs, native and otherwise, planted from seeds, some of them from foreign countries. Among some of the most important trees in these woods I saw black walnut, nearly two feet in diameter with bodies long enough for two good saw logs; a number of varieties of magnolia,—among these, besides the common, were several flowering sorts, one of which has leaves from twenty to twenty-six inches long and flowers from twelve to fourteen inches in diameter; catalpa trees twelve feet in circumference; hard maples nearly nine feet in circumference with spread of top covering an area of fifty or sixty feet; tulip or whitewood trees of large size; chestnut trees now bearing nuts beside the parent trees which produced the seed; European larch sixty to eighty feet tall, as straight as an arrow, and from ten to eighteen inches in diameter; many varieties of birch, as well as linden, ash, cherry, persimmon and numerous evergreens help make up the variety. Among the smaller tree shrubs I noticed a Japanese Ginko tree with very peculiar leaves which must be beautiful in summer owing to their fan shape and thick, leathery appearance. But what brought back the memories of boyhood days more than aught else in this wilderness of wildwood was the moose wood which grew on the old farm in the state of Maine, and which we boys thought the best of any for making whistles because its bark was tough and easily slipped from the wood in the springtime. One of the most interesting trees, perhaps, in the group of large trees was a Norway maple, one of the first of this variety planted in the west. It is not known now whether this was from seed or a small tree which Mr. Bryant found somewhere in his travels, for he was always on the alert for some new variety to plant out at his home. This particular tree was planted near the old log cabin more than fifty years ago. The cabin has long since gone to decay but the tree stands a living monument for children and children's children. The body of the tree is over four

feet in diameter with low spreading branches, affording ample shade for the annual gathering of uncles, aunts, cousins and other relatives now numbering sixty or seventy.

And now, my dear editor, and readers of the Horticulturist, perhaps I have taken more space than I should with this wayside sketch, but when I see such homes which stranger hands have not desecrated and children widely separated, but each with care for the other's enjoyment and happiness, then I wish there were more homes like this where all are poets,—may be not all writers of verse like William Cullen Bryant, but all poets in nature. My plea and plead has always been for a bit of wildwood on every farm. All may not have the same inborn desire to collect trees and plant them out that Mr. Bryant had, and the family to keep the groves as God's first temples; but is there a stronger incentive to keep the ancestral home, than to make that home such a spot as I have so faintly described?

ANOTHER APPLE YEAR.

According to the old saying that if the trees are covered with frost on Christmas morning we will surely have a large crop of fruit, the coming spring of '99 will also be a great fruit season for Wisconsin, notwithstanding the immense crop of '98. This is of course a remarkable occurrence. Yet every indication points to this conclusion.

For all of the great crop of '98 our trees, vines and plants made and ripened a splendid growth of wood and fiber. The months of June and July were so very favorable that trees, even overloaded with fruit at the time, set an immense crop of fruit buds. The fall was very favorable and they are full and plump, well developed for blossoming. A great rainfall the past fall and the ground frozen with a fair covering of snow insures moisture for spring development. This with occasional warm and moist spells like that which created the beautiful frosts of Christmas morning, which stayed on the trees till after noon, has and will

preserve the moisture in the woody fibers and buds.

Our small fruit beds never went into winter quarters in better shape and with less thawing and freezing than did they the last fall. Even the sluggard's strawberry vines have not needed artificial protection yet. (But they will no doubt before April 1st).

So according to my observations, which are quite extensive, I predict an elegant crop of fruits for Wisconsin in '99.

A. D. B.

Waupaca, Wis.

COBEA SCANDENS.

[Written for the Wis. Horticulturist.]

Of the many ornamental climbers grown as annuals perhaps there are none more useful for shade and beauty than the *Cobea Scandens*. Clinging by tendrils to any crack or projection and branching freely, the vine soon covers a considerable amount of surface with a dense mat of dark green foliage, making a very satisfactory shade for the porch or veranda.

Its large nodding and swaying flowers are purple, of bell shape, on long stems and, with a few sprays of the foliage, are quite ornamental in a vase for table decoration.

There is a white variety which is not nearly so strong a grower as the purple.

The *cobea scandens* is scarcely ever troubled with insects and keeps bright and fresh in hot, dry weather when mountain fringe and morning glory alongside are suffering from red spider. It is useful as a vase or window-box plant, where it may be allowed to droop over the sides or trained to climb as desired.

Grown as a window or greenhouse climber it shows that it is truly a perennial. But for outside summer growth it is best treated as an annual and may be propagated from cuttings by the amateur, but still better from seeds.

The seeds should be started early in March and if giv-

en room will make fine plants for May planting, being transplanted into boxes or shifted to larger pots. While trained to climb, they should be pinched back to promote branching.

The seeds are difficult to germinate and should be set in the soil edgewise to facilitate their coming up; but a few plants will suffice for a large porch.

To secure a luxuriant growth rich soil must be given and a reasonable amount of water if weather is dry; but it is not fastidious about soil, will fit itself to its surroundings.

Although susceptible to sharp frosts in the spring it is quite hardy as compared with morning glory and such tender stuff. In the fall it will bear quite sharp frosts and look fresh and green after the beauty of most ornamental plants is gone.

A PREVENTIVE OF THE "GRIP."

A Madison physician is reported to have said that gargling the throat with a solution of boric acid would sometimes prevent an attack of "grip." When the epidemic is around it is a wise precaution to gargle the throat and rinse the mouth frequently with this solution; also snuff it up the nostrils. With children too young to gargle apply carbolized vaseline to the inside of the nostrils.

A lady writes in *Farmer's Home*: "My father was a physician, and he always had my mother keep a gargle of salt and borax water to lave the mouth and tonsils and throat, and said it would prevent children contracting diphtheria. He said borax destroyed fungi, and prevented the growth of bacteria and germs. He would say keep a box of powdered borax in your bath room, and in your kitchen, and in your medicine chest, and use it freely in sore throat, irritating coughs, and for gargles, and you will find that you will have less sickness. My mother kept a bottle of it made and ready on the washstand."

“There is nothing better for simple sore throat or tonsillitis than a gargle made of a pint of water, one teaspoonful of salt, and one-half a teaspoonful of borax. It is ready to use as soon as the ingredients have dissolved, and will do no harm if a little is swallowed.”

“Hot water applications reduce inflammation and allay pain. Cloths wrung from hot water, or a bag filled with hot salt, will often cure toothache and neuralgia.”

“For cuts or wounds of any kind, wash with water in which borax has been dissolved, and keep cloths wet with a strong solution of borax and water on the injured part.”



AWARDS ON WISCONSIN FRUIT AT THE TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPOSITION.

EDITOR HORTICULTURIST:—

While waiting to see Mr. Coe's report of awards at Omaha published in this magazine, I have received from Omaha the following diplomas and honorable mention with bronze medals enough to go around but no silver or gold medals. They came by express and, as it would be unsafe to send them in a mail pouch, unless ordered sent by express I will deliver them at the winter meeting to the owners or on their orders.

These awards will probably not all give satisfaction as in some cases the collector of fruit was awarded a medal instead of the actual grower. In my own case, what I took from home or sent I made no charge for and what specimens I bought and paid for from society's funds I did not consider the growers would expect any premium for, as the cash they received would buy more than a bronze medal. They are as follows: L. G. Kellogg, bronze medal for fall and winter apples; F. L. Barney, bronze medal for fall and winter ap-

ples; Franklin Johnson, bronze medal, fall and winter apples; F. H. Chappell, bronze medal, fall and winter apples; E. S. Goff, silver medal, fall and winter apples and Russet apples; Wisconsin State Horticultural Society, gold medal for exhibit of pears, peaches, plums, etc.; Joseph Zettell, silver medal for collection seedling apples; Wm. Fox, silver medal for collection of grapes; G. G. Freeborn, bronze medal, fall and winter apples and Russet pears; Fred Hardin, bronze medal for seedling and named apples; B. S. Hoxie, bronze medal for collection of apples; Asa Thrope, bronze medal for peaches, plums, apples and grapes; Wm. Toole, silver medal, fall and winter apples; D. E. Bingham, bronze medal for plums, apples and strawberries; S. I. Freeborn, silver medal, fall and winter apples and Russet pears; Chas. Hirschinger, silver medal, fall and winter apples; W. J. Moyle, bronze medal for peaches and seedling pears; Geo. B. Smith, bronze medal, fall and winter apples; Henry Tarrant, bronze medal for collection of apples; Wisconsin State Horticultural Society, silver medal for exhibit of apples grown in the state; Experiment Station, Madison, Wis., silver medal for display of plums; to the Omro Horticultural Society, silver medal for fall and winter apples; A. J. Philips, silver medal for exhibit of winter apples. Honorable mention is made of T. E. Marshall's exhibit of plums and apples. Honorable mention is made of Kelly Bros., of Mineral Point, collection of apples. Honorable mention is made of Wm. Howlett's collection of apples. Honorable mention is made of Wm. Banker's, Sturgeon Bay, collection of apples.

This concludes the list of awards and I notice by some oversight no mention is made of a box of very nice apples sent by A. D. Barnes, of Waupaca; they came the day before the undersigned left for home and contained fine specimens of N. W. Greening and Wolf River, besides several other new seedlings.

These diplomas are well gotten up and will make a nice picture when framed.

A. J. PHILIPS, Secy.

LETTER FROM A DELEGATE TO THE FARMERS' CONGRESS.

TO THE WISCONSIN HORTICULTURIST:—

By commission of Governor Scofield as a delegate from Wisconsin to "The Eighteenth National Farmers' Congress" at Fort Worth, Texas, I find myself a guest of this great empire called a "state." At the close of the Congress proper, the people of Fort Worth and certain other points within the State tendered an excursion to the delegates, numbering some 350. The excursion extended nearly 1200 miles through the State, including Houston, Galveston, Victoria, Cuero, San Antonio and Waco, at each of which places we have been welcomed most royally. Space will not admit of an extended outline of our journeyings.

We were almost continually in the midst of the beautiful Florida or Spanish moss as it hung in graceful festoons from the Live Oak, drawing its sustenance from the air. Another delight to the eye was that very remarkable parasite, the "Mistletoe," planting itself in the barks of trees and living from their sap. These and the beautiful roses in full bloom, as well as many other flowers, green peas and other vegetables just ready for use, and many semi-tropical fruits fresh from the mother plants, have all made me wish again and again that my Wisconsin friends and especially those of the State Horticultural Society were with me. It will certainly be a journey that I shall long remember with pleasure and profit.

We are nearly finishing our Texas ramblings and shall hope to start from Fort Worth for home Thursday evening, Dec. 15th. The sweetest pleasure of all will be to again mingle with family friends and take up home affairs and the active duties of life. The weather has been unusually inclement for this latitude. With the possibility of inflicting more on your readers at some future time I will close for the present.

W. L. AMES.

Oregon, Wis.

THE MINNESOTA MEETING.

Perhaps I owe the Horticulturists of this state an apology for not reporting my attendance at the Minnesota meeting held at Minneapolis Dec. 6-9. I think it more appropriate that I should make a report in full at our meeting in Madison in February. Hence will only say at present that we had a most interesting and a profitable meeting; that I learned many things which may and will be of benefit to our Wisconsin interests; that the Minnesotans are a wide-awake set of horticulturists, bound to make a garden of Eden out of Minnesota; that they are cordial, friendly and generous, hospitable and true. I feel greatly honored as the delegate from Wisconsin.

Cordially Yours,

A. D. BARNES.

HOW ONE FLORIST FILLS HIS MAIL ORDERS.

“After the orders have passed through the office they are placed in the hands of the order clerks, who keep the tables in the packing-house filled with plants ready for the packers. Each order is kept in a small flat box by itself. The plants then are passed through the hands of a force of boys, who shake the soil from the roots of the plants, dip or wash them in water, and pass them on to the packer. The packer must be a man of considerable judgment, and not only must he exercise what judgment he has, but must be acquainted with the different plants he is handling. He wraps the roots with moss which has been previously dampened, then wraps the plants in several thicknesses of paper and places them in the paraffin-lined strawboard or wooden boxes, ready to be tied up, addressed and mailed.

In this manner thousands of plants can be handled daily with a moderate force of men and boys.”—Exchange.

A TRIP TO THE FRUIT BELT OF MICHIGAN—CONTINUED.

I promised to tell you something about the other fruits as I saw them in Michigan. Well, in the first place, no one who has not been there can realize the vast amount of peaches raised there. We were in Ludington during Saturday and the peaches commenced to come in at six o'clock in the morning and continued to come without a break until nine o'clock at night, loads and loads of them. One buyer who was buying for a Green Bay and Marinette firm sent over two thousand three hundred bushels of fruit on the steamer I came back on and most of it was peaches; there being sixty-five hundred baskets of peaches.

The price paid the grower was from nine to thirteen cents per one-fifth bushel basket. One grower puts up his peaches in baskets made entirely of slats, so you could see them all around. He put up only nice fruit and got two cents more a basket than the others.

Let me say a little about the peaches as I saw them growing. It is not uncommon to see forty, eighty or even one hundred acres in a solid peach orchard.

The land is very light around Ludington, being mostly sand hills. Here we saw bearing orchards twenty years old which had not received the least bit of fertilizer during that time.

They cultivate their orchards very thoroughly with harrows and in most orchards you could not find a single weed or tuft of grass. They prune a great deal and on the whole take very good care of their orchards. Mr. Smith Hawley, of whom I spoke in a former article, sprays his peach trees just as thoroughly as he does his apple trees and claims that he has conquered that dread disease, "curl leaf," by spraying.

As to varieties, I saw several orchards of Crawfords being cut down; they are unproductive after they get old. Conkling is a very nice peach. Stump the World is very large. Barnard peach was just in market when we were there, and while not a very pretty peach is good, especially

for canning. It was the first time I had enjoyed the privilege of eating all the peaches I could eat, fresh from the tree, and "you bet" I had a feast.

Not so many plums are raised in the section we visited, but further north a great many are raised. In one grocery store we saw a purple plum that weighed five ounces and four of them would have weighed a pound. The gentleman who owned the store raised them, having a ten acre orchard. He did not know the name of them but another grower thought they were Prince Englebert.

We saw some fine large pear trees but I think the nicest I saw was a Flemish Beauty tree in Mr. Hawley's orchard. Buyers were paying sixty-five cents per bushel for pears then.

In the small fruit line I was somewhat disappointed. They told me that strawberries did not pay and we did not see many beds. A Mr. Sheldon that we visited was a kind of specialist in strawberries. He uses a very narrow row and claims he could not get a crop by using a wide row, on account of dry weather.

Over there it is not at all necessary to cover in winter or even to mulch in summer. A great many raspberries are raised. We saw several ten-acre patches of red raspberries, but not many black raspberries or blackberries are raised. I did not think the small fruit was as well taken care of as the peaches. They do not pinch their raspberries back in summer but wait until spring and cut them back. Well I think I have made this article long enough so will bring it to a close.

GEO. M. TONG.

Sturgeon Bay, Wis.



Tommy: "My mamma gives me a birthday party next week. Did your mamma ever give you one?" Lucy (contemptuously): "Oh, yes; more than fifty."—Frank Leslie's Weekly.

BERRIES.

By A. M. Johnson, North Greenfield, Wis.

[For the Wisconsin Horticulturist.]

I tried to sell berries, the best ever grown,
To a man who was rich and had money to loan,
But he said, "No, I thank you, I don't wish to buy;"
Yet I saw that his wife turned away with a sigh,
Then he said, "Too expensive for our folks to eat,"—
Then he lit his cigar and he walked down the street.

I then saw a man who was smoking a pipe,
I told him my berries were nice, fresh and ripe;
He said, "I don't like them, I don't want to buy;"
But his children around him were ready to cry,
So he said, "I am poor and it's tough pulling through,"—
Then he got his tobacco and took a big chew.

I tried to sell plants to a farmer one day,
But he looked up and said, "Oh the berries don't pay."
I told him how nice, then, such fruit was to eat;
He said, "Yes, I know, but I'd rather raise wheat,
And when you have berries sometime in July
Just bring them around and a few I will buy."

So I took him some berries as fine as e'er grew,
And he said, "Sure enough, I will buy just a few;"
So he bought a few berries to can and to save,
Though I saw that his wife was then looking quite grave
And I knew she was thinking how nice it would be
If berries, like water, were plenty and free.

Now don't be so selfish whoever you are,
Although you yourself would prefer a cigar,
But let your dear wife and your dear children, too,
Have berries and berries the whole season through,
And when you have seen them so happy and gay
I know that you'll never say berries don't pay.

TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL MEETING OF WISCONSIN STATE
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

This meeting will be held at Madison, Feb. 6-10, 1899, in connection with Wisconsin Forestry Association and the Alumni Meeting of the Short Course in Agriculture.

Particulars of reduced rates will be published in the printed programs as soon as details are arranged. Be sure to get a certificate when you purchase your ticket and hand it to Secretary Philips as soon as you reach Madison.

Premiums will be given on exhibits of apples and potatoes about the same as last year, with Franklin Johnson as Superintendent and all entries to close at 3 o'clock P. M. Tuesday.

The first meeting of the Horticultural Society will be held Monday evening, to settle up the business of the Omaha Exhibition. Most of the Executive Committee are expected to be present and all interested are invited.

Headquarters will be at the Capital House as usual.

PROGRAM.

TUESDAY, FEB. 7.

9:00 A. M. Appointment of Committees.—Ten-minute Reports of Omaha Exhibit by A. L. Hatch, Wm. Toole, A. J. Philips, L. G. Kellogg and R. J. Coe.—Fifteen-minute Report from Observations by an Outsider, Geo. J. Kellogg.—Discussion on the foregoing.

11:00 A. M. Report of New Trial Orchard, A. J. Philips and Henry Tarrant.—Report of Editor of The Wisconsin Horticulturist.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON.

1:30. Reports of Committees of Observation. — Reports of Local Societies. — Communication from Prof. W. A. Taylor, Washington, D. C.—Discussion on Legislation on San Jose Scale; against Fraudulent Tree Agents; to Establish Another Trial Orchard; and to Repay Money Spent at Omaha.

TUESDAY EVENING.

Papers by State Forestry Association.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 8.

- 9:00 A. M. Reception of Delegates from Other Societies.—Reports of Delegates to Other Societies, Mr. Hoxie to Illinois, G. J. Kellogg to Iowa, A. D. Barnes to Minnesota.—Immediate Care of Plants and Shrubs we Buy, Wm. Toole.—Orcharding in the Northwest, J. M. Underwood, delegate from Minnesota.—Plea for Quality in Fruits, Prof. E. S. Goff.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

- 1:30. Papers by Wisconsin's Quartet of Veterans in Horticulture,—Currant Experiences, Ex-President J. S. Stickney; Our Northern Apples, Origin and Description of, J. C. Plumb; The Future of the Small Fruit Industry, G. J. Kellogg; Report of the Russian Interstate Committee which Met at La Crosse, A. G. Tuttle.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

- 7:30. The Future of Wisconsin Apples, Dr. T. E. Loope.—Town and County Improvement, Mrs. Anna B. Underwood, Lake City, Minn.—Recent Travels in Russia, Western China, Siberia, &c., in Search of Plants and Seeds for the Department of Agriculture, Prof. N. E. Hanson of South Dakota Agricultural College.

THURSDAY, FEB. 10.

- 9:00 A. M. President's Annual Address.—Reports of Secretary and Treasurer.—Recess to pay dues and join the Society.—Election of Officers.—Some Things I have learned the Past Season, E. H. S. Dartt.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

- 1:30. What I am Doing with Native Plums, W. H. H. Cash of New Lisbon.—Plums the Past Season at the Madison Experiment Station, Frederic Cranefield.—Plums at Sturgeon Bay, A. L. Hatch.—Cherries in Central Wisconsin, L. G. Kellogg and A. D. Barnes.—

Cherries in Southern Wisconsin and on the Lake Shore,
Henry Tarrant and W. J. Moyle.

THURSDAY EVENING.

The Program will be very interesting, under the auspices of the Short Course Alumni.

FRIDAY MORNING, FEB. 11.

9:30. Small Fruits at Sparta in 1898, by the Delegate from the Sparta Society.—Small Fruits in Southern Wisconsin, A. J. Edwards; Small Fruits in Eastern Wisconsin, H. H. G. Bradt, of Eureka.—Unfinished Business.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

Meeting of Executive Committee.

"YOUNG MAN, THERE IS ROOM AT THE TOP."

If among our readers there is a young horticulturist ambitious to be foremost in his profession, and willing to work and study faithfully for four years, let him write to Prof. Trelease, Director of Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, for the "Announcement Concerning Garden Pupils."

These pupils must be young men between the ages of 14 and 20 years, must "lead a strictly upright and moral life and be courteous and willing in the performance of all duties prescribed."

Arrangements can be made which will enable the applicants to take the examinations without going to St. Louis. Candidates are examined in English grammar, reading, writing and spelling; arithmetic; and geography. Tuition \$25 per year. Board in the garden lodge about \$13.00 per month. Pupils not taken for less than four years which is the regular course. Applications must be in the hands of Prof. Trelease on or before the middle of February. Only a limited number of pupils can be received.

THE WISCONSIN HORTICULTURIST FOR 1899.

The motto of this magazine is "Grow."

The aim of the management is to make each number better than its predecessors. It is our purpose to go forward and not backward in 1899.

Will you not lend us a hand at securing new subscribers? Drop us a Postal for terms to agents.

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Our old friends are renewing their subscriptions, and are writing pleasant words of commendation. Give us a trial. Address,

THE WISCONSIN HORTICULTURIST,
Baraboo, Wis.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Our magazine is late this month on account of delay in receiving the program of the Winter Meeting.

Senator Justin S. Morrill of Vermont, the oldest member of the United States Senate, died Dec. 28 of pneumonia following an attack of lagrippe. He had been in congress 43 consecutive years. Senator Morrill was the author of the bill granting land to agricultural colleges, hence was known as the "father of the agricultural college."

A fruit-grower from the State of Washington called at our office yesterday. He is shipping apples from his orchard in the vicinity of Spokane, to New York and Boston. His contract requires all apples to be of good size, none less than 2½ inches in diameter.

We are in receipt of the 1899 Price List of Geo. J. Kellogg & Sons of Janesville, Wis. With commendable thoughtfulness these gentlemen accompany their price list by a large, four-page circular giving cultural directions, so that he who buys may also know how to plant. The directions are good, too, embodying the experience of more than forty years of fruit culture.

Is Wisconsin going to let Minnesota and Iowa and Michigan and Illinois out-rank her in the size and influence of their State Horticultural Societies? This will surely happen if Wisconsin horticulturists keep aloof from membership in our State Society. Come to the annual meeting the second week in February, gentlemen, and give the Society the benefit of your criticisms, your suggestions and your vote.

With the beginning of the new year Prof. Charles Craig succeeded Prof. J. L. Budd as professor of horticulture and forestry in the Iowa State Agricultural College.

Prof. Budd will now devote his time to the revision of Prof. Downing's "Apple Book," with the help of notes left by Prof. Downing, who died about eight years ago, bequeathing his large horticultural library to Prof. Budd.

A New Jersey man has invented a new farm and garden implement called a "meloer," which takes the place of the plow, the harrow and the cultivator combined.

Boston has successfully tested a salt water system of fire protection. Pipes have been laid from tide-water through a thickly settled portion of the city. A fire-boat located at Central Wharf forces the water through these pipes to hydrants. The test proved the system much more efficient than the steam fire engines and city water.

VALUE OF THE EGG IN SICKNESS.

The value of egg albumen as food in certain diseased conditions is pointed out by Dr. C. E. Boynton. When fever is present and appetite is nil, the white of an egg, raw, serves both as food and medicine. The way to give it is to drain off the albumen from an opening about half an inch in diameter at the small end of the egg, the yolk remaining inside the shell; add a little salt to this and direct the patient to swallow it. Repeat every hour or two. In typhoid fever this mode of feeding materially helps us in carrying out an antiseptic plan of treatment.—Ex.

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Note—Frontispiece of Dec. issue of this Journal illustrates
our "NEW PROCESS" plates.

