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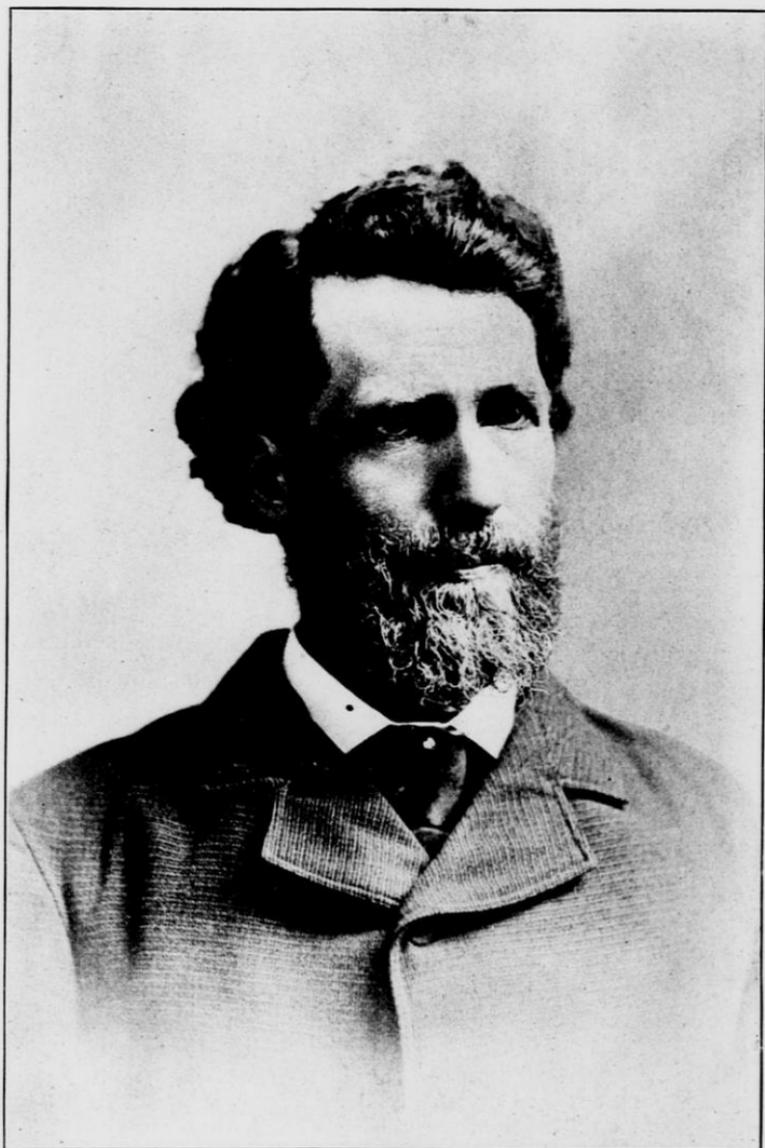
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JOHN RHODES.

# The Wisconsin Horticulturist.

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VOL. III.

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NO. 6.

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## MEMOIR OF JOHN RHODES.

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Some people are born to their vocation, while others are made by force of circumstances. Particularly is this so in horticulture. So many enter this field, not for the love of the beautiful or the happiness it brings to life, but with the expectation of a temporal gain which shall exceed that acquired by following the ordinary walks of life.

The subject of this sketch was classed among the former, a true lover of the beautiful in every sense. John Rhodes was born in Yorkshire, England, in 1841, and died at his home near Union Grove, Wis., June 7, 1898.

He was brought to this country in his mother's arms when a few months old, they settling in the town of Brighton, Kenosha Co., Wis., where he grew up and spent the greater part of his life.

In his boyhood days he planted many beautiful and rare trees on his father's farm. These stand today, living monuments to his memory.

He was acknowledged and quoted as the standard authority on horticulture for Southeastern Wisconsin.

Mr. Rhodes was an active Farmers' Institute worker, and backed up all his statements by one of the best kept and nicest arranged farms the writer ever put foot on.

He leaves an estimable wife, one son and one daughter to mourn his loss.

It were well had we more such men to teach us the way to enjoy and get the good things out of life.

W. J. MOYLE.

Madison, Wis.

## PANSIES AND PANSY SEEDS.

By William Toole, a Pansy Specialist.

[This valuable paper was read at the meeting of the Horticultural Society of Northern Illinois.]

“It is not the object of this paper to encourage anyone to undertake the raising of pansy seed for profit, as experience has not favored any such thought. It shall be our aim, however, to consider points of interest to those who wish to hold to a standard of quality existing varieties, to improve the same, or to establish new varieties.

Young plants seed most freely, giving the best flowers, and, consequently, the best seed, so we may better depend upon early plants started in the greenhouse, or wintered under frames or other protection, or those from later spring sown seeds which commence blooming by mid-summer and have been strengthened by having the blossoms picked off until late in August, yielding seeds from then to the close of the season. Pansies seem to need the aid of insects for pollination, and are visited by them most freely early and late in the season when other flowers are scarce.

Seeds should be gathered just before the pods separate and close up. If neglected they scatter about, and if gathered too soon they are light and worthless. Seeds ripen in from sixteen to twenty-five days from the time when the flower was fully expanded, and even less time in hot, dry weather. The pods should be hung up to dry in little bags of cheesecloth, or other fabric, not open enough to let the seeds through. The bags should not contain more than a cupful of pods, and the drying needs to be closely watched, lest they become mouldy and spoiled in the operation.

If dried in open receptacles the seeds scatter in all directions, leaving very few in place. When convenient, after drying the pods should be separated from the seeds with a sieve and then crushed with a rolling pin to loosen the few seeds held fast. These also should be sifted, and then all may be cleaned by blowing. If saving a mixed lot of

seeds, pull out all plants not up to your standard of quality. Allow no flowers to be picked from the plants chosen for seed-bearing, else you will find those most beautiful are the ones always picked, leaving the more common flowers for seed.

Note also which plants seed most freely, and you will soon see that pansies "run out," as the saying is, because some plants give most of the seed, until in a few years many kinds are crowded out by those more prolific, and, as a rule, those more nearly like the original type are the ones to seed most freely. If a market could be found for all the common pansy seed that could be grown, there would be more profit in raising them at low prices, than from the more choice kinds at higher prices.

Select only those most nearly to your ideal of what you wish to attain to, rejecting all that are not up to your standard of form and color.

Perhaps it may be expected that something shall be said about artificial crossing, or, as some might say, hybridizing, but the pansy shows so much tendency to change in new directions, and crossing is so freely done by bees that it has not seemed desirable to transfer pollen by hand.

The tendency to reversion, or atavism, the animal breeders would call it, is the strongest influence we have to contend with in fixing new varieties or maintaining old ones. In fact, there seems to be a good deal of analogy between animal and plant breeding, and after a variety has once become established it does not seem so hard to hold it as to establish a new variety.

If seeds are sown from a plant showing a decided departure from the parent variety, there will often be a break to old kinds showing little resemblance to the nearer parentage; but we must select whatever plants we find having the characteristics we wish to establish, and the next result of sowing will give a larger percentage of what we wish to get.

An important thing to observe is extra care of our seed-

lings, that if possible, every seed may become a plant, for these new departures from what we have are not likely to be so strong constitutionally, as the variety may become when perfected; and if any plants fail to mature, it will almost certainly be those most like what we are striving to breed to, leaving with us those nearer like what we have bred from.

I think this is the case with other varieties of flowers—that constitutional vigor becomes stronger, as varieties are more established.

In striving to improve the pansy, we must have in mind size, form, substance of petals, color and markings, and of these qualities, form and substance are probably most difficult to hold. We may have a flower which is satisfactory in size, novel or beautiful in shading, and yet persists in reproducing the long, angular faces, such as artists love to show in pictures. I have in mind to bring out an unique or grotesque class of pansies, when it is convenient to grow such far enough from others that they may not influence our standard kinds. In caring for a single variety, the amateur has an advantage over the professional grower who cannot well isolate seventy or eighty varieties sufficiently to avoid all dangers of mixing. We have, however, the advantage of breeding to kind, that through persistent selection a variety comes reasonably true in face of surrounding influences.

Occasionally we find individual flowers, differing from others on the same plants, such as a tendency to doubleness, two flowers on one stem, and sometimes a decided difference in markings. I have never tried to see whether these could be reproduced from the pansy, but some years ago an experiment with *Phlox Drummondii* convinced me that these individual flower differences are persistent. Noticing two double flowers in one cluster, they were protected and marked. The seeds from these two flowers were planted the next year, and we had six or seven plants yielding a

good sprinkling of double flowers. Some Pekin ducks closed out the experiment.

Those who wish to derive pleasure from experimenting with new varieties need not confine themselves to pansies. There seems to be no limit to the possibilities of the *Petunia* which we had only in two colors about forty years ago. The zinnia would be a much more popular flower than it is if we had more of the best, and such a chance there is to improve some of our native wild flowers. The native phlox of our prairies, *phlox pilosa*, shows enough tendency to variation to encourage the hope for much improvement. The wide range of shades already possessed by our native *lilium superbum* persuades us that we may yet have its flowers in wonderful richness of color. And then we have our wild asters and golden rods. What wonders might be created from the asters! The Nova Angla aster may be had in bloom the same season of planting the seeds and it is probable that most of the other species could be grown as annuals.

Baraboo, Wis.

#### A GOOD HOMEMADE INSECTICIDE.

This season has been a very favorable one for bugs, worms and aphides on a good many kinds of shrubbery, especially roses, and we have had to fight for our plants. Paris green kills the insects, but it quite often damages the plants. Hellebore is of but little use unless it is perfectly fresh, and that we can't be sure of. Kerosene emulsion is good, but it is difficult to prepare. I have been using an insecticide made from the ordinary Ivory soap of daily use in the household, and am highly pleased with it. It kills the pests, and does not injure the plants, is cheap, easy to prepare, pleasant to use, and is always at hand. One-quarter of a pound of the soap will make five gallons of the solution. Shave it up in fine strips, and cover with water,

and set it over the fire until it liquefies. Then add it to the quantity of water named, and apply it to the bushes. Be very sure that all parts of them are reached by the application. A florist's syringe or a portable spray pump applies it most satisfactorily. It is a good plan to have one person bend the bushes over while another puts it on. It is very important that it gets to the underside of the foliage. I use the infusion in the greenhouse, also, but here I use eight gallons of water to a quarter of a pound of the soap. I am confident that those who try this insecticide will be delighted with it. One thorough application, early in the season, was sufficient to rid my roses of aphides and worms, while those of my neighbors who used no insecticide had their bushes almost entirely ruined by them.

EBEN E. REXFORD.

Shiocton, Wis.

#### PLANT YOUR BULBS EARLY.

In the culture of bulbs it is well to remember that "many failures can be credited to too late planting."

In our Wisconsin climate the bulbs should be planted early in September if we would have an abundance of crocuses and tulips and hyacinths next spring. The last of August is none too early for planting lily bulbs, especially *Lilium candidum* and *Lilium Harrisii*.

Last September we planted a little bed of *Chionodoxa*, or *Glory of the Snow*, in a corner by the front steps, where in April their delicate, star-like flowers, blue with a white center, gave pleasure to all who came to our door.

What do we live for, if it is not to make life less difficult to each other?—Geo. Eliot.

## THE JESSIE STRAWBERRY IN NOVA SCOTIA.

EDITOR WISCONSIN HORTICULTURIST:—

Thinking that all the members of our Society are interested in the products of Wisconsin and more especially in the fruits we have originated, I give an extract from a letter just received from Rev. J. Scholfield, formerly a resident of Evansville but now of Brantford, Canada. Mr. Scholfield is always interested in horticultural matters and attended some of our meetings when living here. His letter of July 15 gives me some account of his trip to Nova Scotia via Buffalo, Boston and the ocean voyage of two hundred twenty miles, as a delegate to a ministerial convention. He says, "Tell Mr. Loudon when you see him that the Jessie Strawberry is the favorite there; you can hardly get anything else. Mr. Loudon would be delighted with them, for I doubt if he could match them in size or shape, but above all in quality. I must say I never tasted strawberries with so fine a flavor anywhere. The climate must be especially adapted to them. They are still shipping them to Boston where they bring the highest price of any berry in the market, 10 cts. a box. They shipped over a ton on the boat I came back with."

I notice by a late number of Orange Judd Farmer that of the eleven apple growing States there will not be an average crop, and a letter from a fruit dealer of Quincy, Ill., makes inquiry about apples in Wisconsin, summer and fall, as the supply is short there. Of course I gave him the address of some of our fruit growers. My advice is, as it always has been, take good care of the apple crop and never under any circumstances ship unworthy fruit. Some localities in our State have already a local reputation among a few dealers as furnishing fine fruit, but we yet have a reputation to earn in the general market, for we can and do produce some as fine fruit as can be grown anywhere. I trust those having the exhibit in charge at Omaha this fall will see to it that this fact is made apparent to all.

B. S. HOXIE.

Evansville, Wis., July 22, 1898.

## BLIGHTED HOPES.

W. J. Moyle.

I have just returned from the orchard where I have been viewing the cremated remains of the following individuals, two Gakovske, one Bessemianka, one Chinese' d Engery and one Idaho. These are all Russians but one, the last on the list. Still we are not at war with Russia. If they had been of "Spanish blood" we could have looked on with considerable satisfaction as we saw them go up in smoke, offered on the shrine of that terrible and much feared god of the horticulturist, *Micrococcus amylovorus*, or, in plain English, "pear blight."

It struck our orchard the latter part of June and, as it found everything in a favorable condition, "it did us much harm."

These trees were hanging full of little pears the size of large marbles, when first attacked, and so rapid was the progress of the disease that in less than two weeks some of them were dead even into the roots, as we found in digging them out.

We had all our bacteria doctors out; all could diagnose but none prescribe. In the midst of our dilemma it was noticed, however, that our American varieties were not nearly as susceptible to the disease; they appear, as you might say, to be "immunes." A Wilder Early, while affected, was saved by a prompt use of the knife and now hangs full of little beauties, the admiration of every visitor. Two trees of Vermont Beauty stand out in bold defiance without a blemish, while the Russian pear trees have wilted down on every side.

The blight has also been very destructive among our apples and we are learning many valuable lessons.

Pear trees of American origin are to be preferred to Russians every time for Wisconsin planting.

Agricultural Experiment Station, Madison.

## CURRANTS.

Following is the Rural New-Yorker's report of new varieties which they have tested:

**POMONA.**—From the Storrs & Harrison Co., March, 1893.—The bush is a strong, upright grower, and in this respect is superior to Fay. Fully ripe July 5. It is as fruitful as need be desired. Currants are of medium size, bright red color. Racemes often long, bearing over 20 berries.

**WILDER.**—From S. D. Willard, October, 1895.—The bushes are strong, upright growers. They are more vigorous than the Pomona, and highly productive. Berries average larger, racemes about the same length. They are not so sour, but the Pomona having more acidity and a higher flavor, would make better jelly.

**WHITE IMPERIAL.**—From S. D. Willard, October, 1895.—Bush a strong, upright grower. Berry the size of Wilder, racemes the same. Color translucent, yellowish white, and of fine quality, better than that of either Wilder or of the Storrs & Harrison Co.'s. One of the best whites.

**FILLER CURRANT.**—From J. H. Hale, April, 1895.—Bush an upright, strong grower, with extra large leaves. Berries not quite as large as Wilder, and slightly darker red. Rather more acid than Wilder.

**MOORE'S RUBY.**—From Ellwanger & Barry, April, 1883.—Currants the size and color of the Storrs & Harrison Co.'s. Racemes longer, high quality. Bush an upright, strong grower, without any of the sprawling habit of the Fay.

**FAY.**—The berries of this variety are larger than those of any of the foregoing. The plants are more injured by the currant borer, and the habit is more sprawling.

**NORTH STAR.**—April, 1894.—This variety is very prolific, but the currants are no larger than those of the old Red Dutch; not recommended.

**RED CROSS.**—From C. A. Green, October, 1895.—Strong, upright plants. Berries about the size and color of Wilder, though less acid; racemes no longer.

## LETTER FROM APPLETON.

The Summer Meeting—The Strawberry Bed.

EDITOR OF WISCONSIN HORTICULTURIST:—

A few days ago I received a marked copy of the Wisconsin Horticulturist, for which I send thanks. It was the first time I had seen a copy of your excellent paper, not being a member of the State Horticultural Society myself. As my son who lives with me is now a member, having joined the Society at the late meeting held here in Appleton, the Horticulturist will come to us regularly; otherwise I myself would be a subscriber.

I should have enjoyed meeting with you on that occasion, had I been able to do so, but muscular rheumatism has confined me to my home for years, and the only way I can keep up with the procession is to read in the papers what the leaders are doing. We are all glad that our beautiful city so captivated the hearts of the fruit growers of Wisconsin. In one respect the date of the meeting fell unfortunately, at the time of the commencement exercises of Lawrence University; otherwise the attendance would have been much larger. As it was it was a great treat to our people to meet so many of the leading horticulturists of our State who have placed Wisconsin in the front ranks as a producer of small fruits. The strawberry crop in this section was never greater than this year. The yield was large and the berries were fine. Prices were low, yet I think on the whole satisfactory.

The bright side of our business is the increased consumption of fruit by the people. There has been a great change in the last fifteen years in this respect. I think this will continue until fruit will be considered as necessary in the daily fare as bread and butter. To my mind the future is promising to the careful and painstaking grower, especially to those who have a home market and can place fresh picked fruit daily on the tables of their customers.

As proof of our faith in the future we improved the opportunity of the fine rain that came to us the 19th of

July to plow out our old strawberry bed according to plan as described in the Strawberry Culturist and the Horticulturist. This plan is a decided success with us, and our old bed that was renewed a year ago outbore our new plantation this year and the berries were nearly as fine as in the new fruiting bed. The bed plowed out last week is coming on nicely, and we expect notwithstanding the hot dry weather we are now having to get it in pretty good shape by the first of October. Some of our neighbors have got no further than to mow their old beds off thus far, and some have not done that much in the way of renewal. Here is where promptness counts. Two weeks time lost in July can never be regained. I am quite sure our lack of success in strawberry growing comes from immature plants more than any other cause, unless it be from spring frosts or lack of moisture at fruiting time. Our short growing season along with our hot sunny days that may be prolonged into a drought about the first of August make it imperative that we "take time by the forelock" and get our plantations in shape at the first opportunity. As soon as picking is done the first good rain that comes to soften the ground and make plowing possible, should be improved. To this end our team and plow should be ready at the opportune moment. Right at this point is the dividing line between success and partial if not entire failure.

H. E. MCGREGOR.

Appleton, Wis.

#### FORMERLY A PROFESSOR IN THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN.

Mrs. Clara B. Colby is the first woman in the United States to receive a war correspondent's pass. She is the wife of Major-General Colby, and will accompany her husband to the front. At present Mrs. Colby goes in the interest of her own paper, *The Woman's Tribune*, of Washington. She is not only an editor, but has received distinction as a lecturer on civics, literature, dress and woman suffrage. At one time she was professor of Latin and history in the University of Wisconsin; she has recently founded a public library in Beatrice, Neb.—Independent.

## UNCLE SAM'S NEW TERRITORY.

## Free-hand Notes on Hawaii.

Mr. C. E. Haskins, a prominent horticulturist of Oregon, spent the time from October, 1897, to June, 1898, in the Hawaiian Islands, on a tour of investigation and pleasure, and has written the following letter to his friend, H. E. Van Deman, which we publish, in part, by his permission:

A German horticulturist took to me, and we went all over the islands together. I formed the acquaintance of all the officials in the agricultural and pomological departments, and saw all of their many kinds of fruits, nuts, plants, etc. I found them all very interesting, but must say that I was surprised to find that there was no such thing as a nursery such as we have, in all the Hawaiian Islands. No fruits are grafted or budded, as we do in the United States. They simply plant the seeds and trust to luck, just as our grandfathers did with the old seedling apple orchards. I did some budding of oranges, and grafted some mango trees, and found it as easily performed and as sure as at home, if everything was properly handled, and at the right time.

Fruits vary from seed here as elsewhere, and I found some of the finest individual varieties among the mango trees as well as among other fruits. But after learning all I could, I do not think it would pay to grow anything in the fruit line, and ship it over 2,000 miles to market; but for home use, it would pay to grow better fruits. In traveling over the islands, I would find some one who would recommend something as the finest in the world, and I hoped to find an orange worthy of sending for testing in the United States, but I found nothing. There are many kinds of fruits growing there that will not grow in any part of the United States on account of climate, but on looking the trip all over, I never before passed eight months so pleasantly in my life.

Sugar growing is really all that the islands are worth.

To help commerce is the reason the white people asked for annexation. Eight islands are inhabited, but four of them are nearly all rocks, and afford but little chance for even the natives to live. Kauai, Oahu, Maui and Hawaii are really all that are of much value, and all of these have high and steep mountains in the centers. In fact, all the land that is of any value is a strip from one to five miles wide around the edge near the sea, where the cane is grown. Sugar is produced by contract labor, Portuguese, Chinese and Japanese, at about \$7 per month, and the laborers board themselves. One woman is found to about every 13 men. No one can pass from the Hawaiian Islands without a passport, and only at Honolulu and Hilo can a ship land. So you can see how easy it would be to maintain slavery, where one would have to swim one-half a mile through breakers over sharp coral reefs to get on a ship. Besides, each landing has police.

To tell the truth, a recital of all the conditions would not help your opinion of the Hawaiian Islands. I admire the government, in some respects, and believe that it would be better should we pattern from them somewhat. I do not think I ever saw a more shrewd people; they are not there for fun, and I find a whole lot of their printed information for the public is humbug. The number of square miles in all the islands is 6,740, and not one-tenth of them is fit for people to live on. The national debt is about \$4,000,000, or nearly \$600 for every square mile, lava flow and all.

The climate is as good as I could make it if I were to try. The land that is good is wonderfully good, and the rest the poorest I ever saw. So to make it short, the finest conditions of climate, soil, fruits, and other products, social, political, etc., can be found; also the worst in the world.

The political conditions for the masses are bad, and after learning all I can, I do not know what to say about them, but think there will be a revolution of some kind before many years. If contract labor be stopped, it will be almost death to their sugar interests, and with it, will end a

worse slavery than ours ever was. The clashing nationalities will be hard to control. In short, I can not convey an intelligent idea of the conditions in a short letter like this.

We could not have been thrown among more pleasant people. They did all they could do to help us have a good time. They are the most loyal people to Hawaii I ever met. They do everything possible to turn your head, and they came near turning mine; but I went out of the beaten paths, and saw the bad as well as the good. I am sure you would admire the strange fruits, nuts, etc., found there. There is no fruit in the world so good as the mango, to my taste, yet I could not say I liked it at first. The same may be said of all the fruits grown there. All kinds of fruits can be had 12 months in the year—Papaya, pineapple, banana, custard apple, mango, orange, lemon, fig, palms of all kinds, strawberry, water lemon and many other curious fruits, and in numberless varieties. It is enough to turn one's head. But on the other hand, one feels as though he were in jail out on a rock 2,000 miles from anywhere.

—Rural New-Yorker.

To Clean Wall Paper.—Rub the paper with stale rye bread as if you were using a sponge or cloth. It gives the best results, and makes the wall bright and new-looking. Paperhangers use it to clean wall paper that has been marked.

Observation by an Expert: "I don't wonder January wheat is high," remarked the professor in the agricultural college, glancing at the headlines in the commercial column; "it must be exceedingly scarce. My observation is that there is very little wheat raised in this country in January."

—Chicago Tribune.

## SYNOPSIS OF A TALK ON EVERGREENS.

By W. D. Boynton,

At the Meeting in Appleton.

I am always glad to say a word for the evergreens. I believe in them. Here in Wisconsin we are particularly indebted to the evergreen. We have a great belt of them on the southern shore of Lake Superior; it has brought much wealth to us here in Wisconsin.

As we begin to encroach too heavily upon this supply we begin to suffer from climatic changes; our seasons are not what they used to be; we have not the blanket of snow we used to have; our rainfall is varied; some of our brooks and lakes have disappeared.

Now in Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and South Dakota the conditions were vastly different. They had very little timber, their plains were swept by winds, the moisture was variable; they could hardly raise crops in their early history. These conditions are now better than they were twenty years ago, while conditions in Wisconsin are worse than they were twenty years ago. We have not been careful in husbanding our evergreens. The ax of the woodman and forest fires have swept whole belts of timber away. While in Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska they have carefully set out trees. Most of these people planted evergreens about their homes and were doing it to beautify their premises. Those little plantings have brought about great climatic changes.

Comparatively few evergreens are planted in our cities, as they will not withstand smoke and dust. The great bulk of our evergreens must be planted on our farms. Many plant in straight lines thus boxing the premises in. This rectangular planting should be avoided if possible.

For ornament on the lawn, plant evergreens in groups if lawn is large. Plant single trees on small lawns. The pines are good for this purpose. Norway Spruce is too

coarse for small lawns, but is the best kind for wind-breaks.

One use of evergreens is for screens and hedges. The American arbor vitæ is best for these. It is much better than the wild cedar.

For low ornamental hedges on your street front there is nothing like the American arbor vitæ.

A great many have an idea that they must buy an evergreen that is well grown. Use a light tree that will cost you \$4 or \$5 a hundred and in two years you will have a good full-top tree, whereas if you buy the full-top tree at first it will cost you \$20 a hundred.

Hemlocks do not succeed well here.

The best time to plant is in the Spring, just when the growth is starting.

You can prune evergreens to almost any extent. It destroys the beauty to prune too much. The beauty of the evergreen is its natural growth.



### THE SAN JOSE SCALE QUESTION.

Prof. E. S. Goff.

The San Jose Scale discussion does not die as readily as some would like to have it, and certain persons who were most opposed to the bills before our State legislatures two years ago are now most anxious to have such bills passed. The nurserymen's association that fought the bill before Congress two years ago "with tooth and nail" are reported to have passed a resolution at their recent Omaha meeting urging the passage of the San Jose Scale bill now before that body.

Our Wisconsin bill went by default, because of a single clause, which made the bill to include, beside the San Jose Scale "other specially dangerous insect or plant disease." This clause was inserted because of the danger that the gypsy moth, for the extermination of which the State of Massa-

chusetts has already expended many hundreds of thousands of dollars, might become established in our State, on account of having no insect law that could be applied against it. That this danger did not exist wholly in the mind of the writer is shown by the following paragraph from *The Fruitman*, an enterprising horticultural journal published by Mr. M. E. Hinkley, of Marcus, Iowa.

#### GYPSY MOTH IN THE NORTHWEST.

“While in the Black Hills recently the editor was informed that the Gypsy Moth has appeared there. A. McKirahan of Rockford was out in the forests last summer in company with an entomologist connected with the Lincoln University. The Lincoln gentleman discovered and identified the Gypsy Moth. Patches of dead timber are now pointed out as proof of its ravages. If this conclusion is correct there is reason for the apprehension that the Dakota forests are doomed. The matter is so important that it seems to demand thorough expert investigation at once.”

Experiment Station, Madison, Wis.



#### CHICKENS IN THE FLOWER BEDS.

From *The Rural New-Yorker*.

I am much annoyed by the young chickens of a neighbor, which spend the day on my lawn and among my flower beds. I do not wish to erect an unsightly fence, or go to law if avoidable. Is there anything I could scatter on the ground which would be obnoxious to them and harmless otherwise?

ANS.—We do not know of anything that will keep the chickens away without poisoning them. A lively dog would keep them at home, but he would run over and damage the flower beds. The following poem printed in *The R. N.-Y.* of April 25, 1896, relates the experience of a lady under somewhat similar circumstances. Possibly your neighbors may be touched in a similar way.

A maiden lady owned a piece of ground,  
 And morn and eve in Summer she was found  
 Within her garden. But her neighbor kept  
 A flock of hens, and while she worked or slept,  
 With busy feet they dug her finest seed.  
 In vain she chased them at her utmost speed,  
 And "shooed" and stoned them—quite undignified,  
 The while her neighbor laughed until he cried.  
 But women who can foil the wiles of men,  
 Will not be daunted by a Leghorn hen.  
 The hand that rocks the cradle, still can block  
 Man's ridicule, and give his nerves a shock.  
 Our lady cried a bit—as was her right—  
 Then took some cards and on each one did write,  
 "*Please keep your hens at home!*"—a seed of corn  
 She strung to each. With early break of dawn  
 Back came the hens; they gobbled grain and string—  
 Then back for home they started on the wing.  
 From every mouth there dragged the lady's card.  
 "*Please keep;*" he scratched his head—his heart was hard,  
 But shame cut through it like a knife, and hence  
 His hens no more flew o'er the lady's fence.

#### A CAT FARM.

Mrs. S. M. Barker is reported to have established at Newburg, N. Y., "the only cat farm in the world." The world is rather too wide a place for us to be willing to accept this statement without qualification, but at least Mrs. Barker's cat farm has probably few rivals. She keeps only the very choicest breeds of cats, the pedigree of each one is above suspicion, and only the finest specimens of each litter are preserved. The care with which all are fed and groomed would do credit to a child's nursery, and the prices which Mrs. Barker commands for her stock make one think of the palmy days of Jersey cattle sales. This is not only because the cats bought of her are known to be of the bluest blood of cat-aristocracy, but also because they are so

thoroughly trained in all dainty ways that they are always acceptable for drawing-room pets. Mrs. Barker's animals receive and deserve the highest prizes offered by the cat-shows, and a very large number of the other prize-takers are of her breeding and training.

### THE FERTILITY OF THE SOIL.

If we expect to be farm-thrifty our first law must be to keep up the soil to its maximum fertility. In most cases we have not received our land before a great deal of deterioration—partly by man's agency, partly by water agency. "The soil may be well supplied with nearly all kinds of plant food, but it is impoverished in proportion as any one substance may be lacking, just as a chain is strong only in proportion to the strength of its weakest link. If there is a purchase of some fertilizer which the soil does not require, the cost to the farmer will be increased above the sum really necessary to supply his land. This may be demonstrated by referring to the fact that as clover takes potash from the soil and nitrogen from the atmosphere, a potash fertilizer will be cheaper for the land that has produced clover than will a supply of nitrogen; but all crops that produce seeds will be benefited by phosphates, tho even in those cases much depends upon the kind of soil, and for that reason there is no possible mode of treating all farms alike, which renders it imperative that every farmer study his soil and observe the conditions to which it is subject. When there is an abundant growth of wood, with intense green foliage, nitrogen is seldom lacking in the soil; and if the stalks of plants are strong and the seeds well filled out and plump, lime, potash and phosphoric acid may not be required. These rules are not infallible, however; but they will assist the farmer to a certain extent when he has under consideration the matter of procuring fertilizers." This is in compressed form the best guide possible as to what fertilizer should be applied.

—Independent.

**BARNYARD MANURE.**

It may be said that fertilizers are unquestionably of great value on account of their immediate availability and ease of application and as a substitute for yard manure when this is not available. But the ancient dictum that "the feeding of animals is the most important part of agriculture" surely obtains now as much as it ever did, and that these kinds of artificial plant food are so easily obtainable and applicable to the crops in nowise invalidates the old practice of feeding animals for the manure made, which will never become obsolete.

We have learned very much of late as to that most interesting and generally useful class of organisms commonly called germs or microbes, and especially as regards that known as the nitrogen germ, existing in all fertile—indeed, in all—soils. For as to the latter it may be said, on the strength of the belief of the first scientists, that even the poorest kinds of soil contain enormous quantities, inert though they may be, of nitrogen and need only the inoculation of this invaluable germ to become available. Now this inoculation is performed by the application of manure to the land and the addition of lime, which rapidly becomes carbonated, and thus available for an incalculable increase in the number of these germs. And this, it is believed, is accomplished also through the aid of carbonaceous matters, resulting from their decomposition in the soil.

Of course there are very few sensible farmers who think that the product or manure is a secondary matter as compared with the use of fertilizers, unless in some special lines of culture in which the supply of manure is not available, because live stock is not kept on such farms. Generally we think the idea is to make and use all the manure possible, and then assist it with such and so much fertilizers as may be found to make a profit in the increased yields. The prevailing idea that it pays to procure all the straw possible, to save all and turn it into manure by feeding as much of it as possible with any of the purchased foods and

use the remainder as litter, and thus apply as much as may be possible to the land, is in no way weakened because fertilizers are so easily procured, if only the money required is available. In fact, we must think still that the home-made manure should come first, and then the use of fertilizers of such kinds and in such quantities as the farmer will be sure can be used with profit.

—The Country Gentleman.

### SWEET APPLES FOR WISCONSIN.

We have received but two replies to the question of A. A. Cannon & Son of Marcellon, regarding the best sweet apple for Wisconsin.

REPLY OF HON. CHAS. HIRSCHINGER:—In answer to your question as to the best sweet apple for Wisconsin I will say that I feel incompetent to answer the question. With many years of experimenting with sweet apples I have found nothing better on my soil and site than, first, Kirkwood; second, Tallman Sweet; third, Bailey Sweet; fourth, Sweet Wine or Paradise Winter Sweet. All of those except the first named have proved not hardy enough on some locations; in some parts of the State they have failed to survive the test winters.

The Kirkwood is a seedling of my own and is my dear, beloved, sweet baking apple, hardy as an oak here, but has not been generally introduced, and has not been tested in all parts of the State. Then there is no stock of trees for sale, to speak of, in any of the nurseries. Hence I will fall back on Tallman Sweet, Weaver Sweet and Bailey Sweet, and throw in the Sweet Wine into the bargain, and confess that I am at sea on the best sweet apple for Wisconsin.

CHAS. HIRSCHINGER.

REPLY OF A. G. TUTTLE, THE VETERAN ORCHARDIST:—Weaver Sweet is of good quality but not hardy except in a few favored localities. The "Sweet Pear" is a hardy tree,

but the apple is of very inferior quality, not worth raising. If I were going to plant sweet apples now of any of the *old kinds*, I should plant Bailey Sweet; it is as hardy as Fameuse, a handsome apple, large, and of excellent quality. It blights some, but in my orchard it does better than the Tallman.

I know of no sweet apple better than the Beautiful Arcade. The quality is fine and the tree with me is as hardy or hardier than the Duchess. It blights a little but not much; season early Fall. Visitors to my orchard, who have eaten this apple, have pronounced it the best apple they ever tasted.

But then it is a Russian, and there is no use in recommending a Russian apple. They have to recommend themselves.

I consider the Beautiful Arcade the most valuable sweet apple to plant in Wisconsin.

A. G. TUTTLE, Baraboo.



#### SAMPLES OF NEW FRUITS FROM THE EXPERIMENT STATION.

Through the courtesy of Prof. Goff, of the Experiment Station, University of Wisconsin, we have received some fine specimens of The Logan Berry, the Large Morello cherry and the Baender cherry, a Russian.

The Logan Berry is like a blackberry in shape, but is bright red in color. The specimens sent us were very large and very beautiful. We measured one of the berries; its diameter, lengthwise, was  $1\frac{3}{8}$  inches and its circumference  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches. If the Logan berry were on trial, and we were the jury, our verdict would be,—“a delight to the eye but not to the palate;” but then, tastes differ.

With the Large Morello cherry we were greatly pleased. Similar to the Early Richmond in color and flavor, it much excels that variety in size; our samples meas-

ured  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in circumference. Prof. Goff wrote as follows: "These are two novelties that I think may have value for our State. The Logan berry grows on a plant that somewhat resembles the dewberry, but is less inclined to trail. The plant is fairly productive and the fruit seems to keep well. I have no doubt that it will bear transportation. When fully ripe, it is of very good quality. While I could not advise the extensive planting of it, I feel quite sure that the fruit will sell well.

The Large Morello cherry has fruited with us for the first time this season and is the finest Morello cherry that I have seen. I cannot say positively as to the hardiness of its flower-buds, as the past winter was a mild one. The tree appears to be very productive."

Aug. 5, long past "cherry time," there came another box of cherries, rich crimson in color and excellent in flavor. Accompanying these was this note from Prof. Goff: I send in separate package a few samples of the Baender (Russian) cherry. This variety is of interest on account of its extreme lateness. It is just now going out of season. We have another variety very similar to this, the George Glass, which ripens about the same time or perhaps even a little later. These late varieties will make it possible to extend the marketing season of the cherry to fully six weeks. They appear to be moderately productive but I think the flower-buds are not quite as hardy as those of our late Morello.

Very truly yours,

E. S. GOFF, Horticulturist.

University of Wisconsin.

✽

#### THE OBERST JESSIE.

DEAR MADAME:—

The "Oberst Jessie" led the list again here this season and it is safe to say that the profits were double that of any other variety. The old plants at this date stand up high and vigorous for they are rust proof. I had returns (free of freight and commission) over \$100 for one picking and a

good profit on the whole crop after paying 2 cents per quart for picking. There is quite a dispute here as to its being a new berry or the old Jessie with nature changed by a staminate that got mixed with them at Oberst's. I am inclined to the latter belief as it has taken me four years to get them pure.

Yours truly,

B. R. BONES.

Racine, Wis.

### PRUNING RASPBERRIES.

As soon as the raspberries are past it is best to cut out all old fruiting canes to give the young ones plenty of light and air to ripen them for a good crop next year. It is hard to find time to do this at this time, but if it can be so managed it pays well to do it rather than wait until later on. Any canes, too, that have been trodden down must be tied up or supported so they can get the light and air, and if too many young canes are forming to a stool or root, cut out the weaker ones also. We do not care to leave more than five or six to a stool, if they are planted in rows; perhaps a few more if planted in clumps and kept so; but this is not the most profitable way to get the most from the space occupied.

—American Gardening.

### CANNING FRUIT JUICE.

Do not forget to can some blackberry juice for blackberry blancmange, and some plum juice for sherbet.

Obtain the blackberry juice by heating the berries in a very little water until they are soft, then straining the juice as for jelly. Heat this juice, without sugar, until it boils, then can.

Proceed in same way with plum juice, only pour boiling water over the plums before cooking them and throw away the water; this will remove part of the astringency of the skins. Then cook the plums slightly, strain the juice as for jelly, heat to boiling and can.

## WAYS OF USING OUR NATIVE PLUMS.

Some Recipes Collected by Prof. Goff.

By "native plum" we mean those cultivated plums that have been derived from the wild plums of this country.

Prof. E. S. Goff, horticulturist of the University of Wisconsin, has sent us for publication some methods of utilizing these plums, with the laudable purpose of increasing the demand for them.

These recipes have been contributed by several ladies who have had long experience in using the native plums. The harshness of the skin and stone of some native plums is readily removed by steaming them in an ordinary cooking steamer until the skin cracks; or pour over them boiling water to which has been added common baking soda in the proportion of half a teaspoonful to a quart. The thicker-skinned varieties may be readily peeled by placing them in boiling water 2 or 3 minutes. The recipes follow:

Drying—De Soto, Wyant and doubtless other varieties may be pared, pitted, spread on plates, lightly sprinkled with sugar and dried, first in the oven and later in the sun. Cook like dried peaches.

Plum Jelly—The fruit should be gathered when only partly ripe—about half colored. This point is very essential. Put plums in a large granite or porcelain kettle—the latter is best—with barely enough water to cover them. Cook until tender but not until they are in a pulpy mass. Having previously covered a large jar with a cloth, strain the fruit in and let the juice drip through, but do not squeeze. When all has drained through, strain once or twice more, through another cloth, until the juice is perfectly clear. To one measure of juice provide one measure of granulated sugar, but do not put together at once. A very important point in the making of all jelly is that only a small quantity should be cooked at one time. Into a medium-sized kettle put, say, 4 tumblers of juice; let it boil briskly 15 or 20 minutes, then add the 4 tumblers of sugar, and in a very short time—usually from 3 to 10 minutes—

the jelly will be finished, light, clear and delicious. To test the jelly, dip a spoon into the boiling juice and sugar and hold it up; when the jelly clings to the spoon in thick drops, take it off quickly and put into jelly glasses.

Plum Preserves—Use plums that will peel, like Wild Goose or Pottawattamie. No water is required if the sugar is allowed to remain on them long enough to draw out the juice. Boil until the syrup is clear and as thick as honey.

Another recipe—Take equal weights of fruit and sugar, place in stone jar—a layer of fruit, then a layer of sugar—alternating thus until quantity desired is reached. Let stand over night; in morning drain off the syrup that will have formed into porcelain lined kettle, place same over the fire and let syrup come to a boil, then pour it over the fruit in jar again; repeat this every other day until the fourth heating when fruit and syrup are both put in kettle and boiled for a few minutes. Place same in glass jars while hot, seal and put away in some cool and preferably dark place.

Still another recipe—To each pound of plums add a pound of sugar; put the fruit into boiling water until the skins will slip; peel and sprinkle sugar upon each layer of fruit in a bowl, allowing them to stand over night; then pour off the juice, bring quickly to a boil, skim and add the plums; cook very slowly till tender and clear, which will take about  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour; take them out carefully and put into a pan; boil the syrup a few minutes longer till it thickens; pour it over the fruit; seal or tie them up.

#### REPORTS OF THE BERRY CROP.

##### WISCONSIN HORTICULTURIST:—

The season of 1898 has been all that could have been desired for small fruits and yet the crop has not exceeded very much the crop of 1897, which season gave us ice the last of May and frosts in June. This year we had heavy

frosts the 6th and 7th of May and a light frost the 17th, and none later.

Our rainfall was, April, 1898, 2 inches; May, 3 inches; June,  $7\frac{3}{4}$  inches; July,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches; first 6 days in August, 1 inch. We had splendid weather all through the five weeks of strawberry picking. The first eight days of June the thermometer ranged from 45 to 88; minimum mornings 45 to 58; maximum 1 p. m., 81 to 88. Then for eight days the thermometer did not reach 80 but once. The balance of June, only six days, the thermometer went above 80, the hottest being June 24th, 89 degrees.

First strawberry bloom about the first of May; first ripe strawberries June 3rd; first marketed June 6 at  $12\frac{1}{2}$  cents. Prices gradually falling till June 20th when the market became demoralized and good fruit sold the same as poor at 50 cents per 16 quarts. Good fruit found more ready sale but all went hard. The flush of the crop was June 22nd when some dealers bought at 2 cents per quart, and nice fresh fruit. We sold nothing at less than 40 cents per 16 quarts. We made a few shipments that brought us \$1.00 per case while from one shipment we have never heard a word. We drove 25 miles one day for country trade but we had furnished so many with plants that the effort did not pay. Our market rallied to 75 cents per case before the close of the strawberry season; our last sales were July 7th, while we had strawberries for a week later.

Our first raspberry sales were June 30th, Turner and Thompson's Early, and we shall continue to pick Loudon till Aug. 20th. Prices of raspberries started at  $12\frac{1}{2}$  cents and ran down to 75 cents per 16 quarts; rallied again to 10 cents per quart.

Currants and gooseberries have been a drug in the market; thousands of quarts have rotted on the bushes, while what have been picked have barely paid the cost of picking and boxes. Downing bushes have yielded 16 quarts to the bush. Downing gooseberries shipped into our market from Ripon sold at 25 cents per 16 quart cases.

Apple windfalls, of Oldenburg, sold at 50 cents per

bushel, hand picked at 75 cents, but the market, at this writing, Aug. 6th, has dropped to 40 cents per bushel. We have trees of this variety that have borne a very full crop but we never knew so many that dropped (when one-fourth to one-third grown) as this year, and that on well cultivated and highly manured ground; those in pasture sod have borne nothing. The terrible gales of July 19th and 20th blew off about one-half of the crop then on, but we picked, this date, six bushels per tree of very fine Oldenburg. Yellow Transparent has carried a heavy crop of fine fruit to maturity and has suffered very little from blight; some trees we sprayed too strong, the injured foliage preventing full sized fruit. Wolf River that bore full crops in 1897 are again loaded to breaking, as also McMahon. Whitney a heavy crop of very imperfect fruit. Winter apples fairly well loaded.

GEO. J. KELLOGG & SONS.

Janesville, Wis.

DEAR MADAM:—

You requested a report of the different kinds of fruits in this vicinity and the price for picking. Strawberries per case, 80 cents; raspberries per case, \$1.25; cherries per case, \$1.25; currants per case, 60 cents; blackberries per case, \$1.25. Price for picking fruit, one cent per quart.

M. H. BURNHAM,

Sec. Waupaca Co. Hort. Society.

WISCONSIN HORTICULTURIST:—

In reply to your request I have made some inquiries about the prices paid for berries and for picking. Strawberries were a large crop here and were very low; sold on the average for 60 cents per 16-quart crate. Price paid for picking one cent per box. Red and black raspberries were not so plenty owing to the dry weather; sold for 80 cents per 16-quart crate. Blackberries are a short crop; price paid is \$1.00 per 16-quart crate. Pickers of raspberries and blackberries were paid one cent per box.

Omro, Wis.

O. W. BABCOCK.

## THE BERRY CROP IN DOOR COUNTY.

The berry season is now over or nearly so, and we can look back and heave a long sigh to think of what might have been.

As far as the crop of strawberries was concerned it was all right. The yield was immense, with large, fine looking berries, a little soft, to be sure, for rain was abundant throughout nearly the whole season. The season was a long one; here at home we had berries on the table for just six weeks.

About fifteen thousand cases were shipped from Sturgeon Bay that averaged between fifty and sixty cents per case, clear of commission and shipping expenses.

Quite a number of new varieties were tested here for the first time. On my father's place thirty odd varieties were fruited. Of all these Warfield No. 2 takes the lead for a money making variety. It will yield more bushels of good, sound marketable fruit than any imperfect variety.

I will give the measure of some of them as taken in the field: Clyde; the best of all the perfect varieties as fruited here. A splendid grower, no rust, stands drought remarkably well. A good plant maker but not an excessive one. Fruit large and holds out well in size till end of season. Season early till late. The yield was simply immense of large, handsome, firm berries.

Splendid; this was next to Clyde and was good in every respect; will make a splendid fertilizer for the Warfield.

Brandywine; this gave some very nice, large, firm berries but hardly enough to be profitable.

Wm. Belt; this gave a good crop of late berries but were quite soft; a good, thrifty grower.

Lovett; this did quite well but I hardly think it equal to Splendid.

Rio was the best early and was very good; a good yielder of very nice berries.

Glen Mary, Mary and Michigan rusted badly.

Bisel, Fountain and Barton's Eclipse did fairly well.

Sparta and Enhance are too rough to look well.

Timbrell does not color.

Of the older varieties Bubach was simply immense. Haverland was good but both are too soft for shipment. Beder Wood was good this year, and even Van Deman did better this year although the sun cooks the late blossoms.

We are trying nearly all of the new varieties as they come out hoping to get something better than we have now.

Red raspberries were a good crop and brought good prices. Marlboro and Cuthbert are the standard varieties grown. Black raspberries were caught in a dry spell that made the crop rather poor in quality.

Blackberries are just coming on and promise a good crop.

Cherries were a good crop but prices were very low. Currants and gooseberries were not worth much. A large crop but poor prices.

Plums and apples are not ripe yet but the crop will be very large and of good quality.

At some future time I will tell of the methods used by our Door County fruit growers, who are making a success of growing fruit. Door County is yet young in the business but she is bound to get there with both feet as we have good, cheap land and a climate that cannot be beaten in Wisconsin.

GEO. M. TONG.

Sturgeon Bay, Wis.

#### EDITORIAL COMMENT.

“Corn and oats are splendid  
Grand crop of wheat;  
Summer crop of islands  
Can't be beat.”

The Fruitman states that Prof. Budd, after twenty-three years of service as Professor of Horticulture at Ames College, now resigns the position.

We have just visited Mr. Tuttle's Russian orchard for the purpose of seeing the Beautiful Arcade which Mr. Tut-

tle considers the best sweet apple for Wisconsin. We saw several trees of that variety loaded with fruit. The apples resemble the Duchess in size and color, but are very sweet, with a fine, rich flavor. Their season is September, but they can be kept some weeks later. They are remarkably uniform in size.

A tour among the blackberry fields around Baraboo discloses the fact that the Badger is the variety most largely planted in this vicinity, although there is a goodly sprinkling of Stone's Hardy and Ancient Briton. One grower has in addition to these three varieties, four more, Agawam, Western Triumph, Taylor's Prolific and Erie. The Agawam is of medium size but sweet; Taylor's Prolific he finds unprolific; Western Triumph he likes, it being a great bearer and of good quality, though rather soft for shipping; his favorite for a market berry is the Erie, which is a giant in both cane and fruit; "the large size of this berry sells it at sight;" it is firm enough to ship to the ends of the earth we should judge by the specimens we tasted; sweet when ready to fall from the bushes, but sour as a lemon in all the previous stages. We cannot recommend the Erie.

Mr. Peter M. Gideon, the venerable horticulturist of Minnesota, originator of the Wealthy apple, recently lost his residence and its contents by fire, unprotected by insurance. The Minnesota Horticultural Society at its Summer Meeting presented him with \$100 as an expression of sympathy.

The thanks of the Wisconsin Horticulturist are due Geo. J. Kellogg & Sons of Janesville for a box of fine roses, picked Aug. 9,—Paul Neyron, Gen. Jacqueminot, Coquet de Alps and several other varieties; also sprays of Spirea Bumalda.

Aug. 4, thirty-two friends of Secretary Philips and his wife and family went out to their place to have a picnic and see the apples.

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