



LIBRARIES

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

The Wisconsin horticulturist. Vol. IV, No. 5 July 1899

Wisconsin State Horticultural Society
[s.l.]: [s.n.], July 1899

<https://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/LK2CZCWR3LLUK8T>

Based on date of publication, this material is presumed to be in the public domain.

For information on re-use, see
<http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/Copyright>

The libraries provide public access to a wide range of material, including online exhibits, digitized collections, archival finding aids, our catalog, online articles, and a growing range of materials in many media.

When possible, we provide rights information in catalog records, finding aids, and other metadata that accompanies collections or items. However, it is always the user's obligation to evaluate copyright and rights issues in light of their own use.



CRANBERRY PICKING.— Courtesy of Wisconsin Experiment Station.

The Wisconsin Horticulturist.

VOL. IV.

JULY.

NO. 5.

CONCERNING CRANBERRIES.

The cranberry output of Wisconsin last year was about 40,000 barrels. This was less than half the crop produced in '93, owing to the wholesale destruction of vines by fires a few years ago. Many of the marshes which were then burned over were afterward re-planted with vines and are now coming into bearing.

At the meeting of the Wisconsin State Horticultural Society last winter, the opinion was expressed that cranberries had brought more money into our State than apples and strawberries combined.

In view of the importance of this industry the Legislature appropriates \$250 annually to the Cranberry Association to aid them in their work of experimenting.

At present this Association is testing 150 different varieties of cranberries. Some of the Wisconsin berries are considered the finest in the world.

Propagating from seed is so slow a process that the general practice is to propagate from cuttings. They mow the vines of the varieties they desire to plant, run them through a feed-cutter to make them about two inches long, then sow them over the ground. The marsh must first be made level. After sowing them water is turned on to the marsh to keep them moist and in about six months they will come up like a green crop.

One of the essentials of successful cranberry-growing is a supply of water which can be turned on and off at will.

THE ROOT-KILLING OF NURSERY STOCK.

Prof. E. S. Goff of the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station.

[Read at the meeting of the American Association of Nurserymen at the Chicago Beach Hotel, June 15, 1899.]

The effects of the past winter upon nursery stock in the Northwest are already too familiar to many of us. Stating the results in brief,—where the ground was bare of snow at the time of the severe freeze, and this includes a tract of country covering several thousands of square miles, one, two and three-year-old fruit trees are more or less root killed; in many cases, the loss is complete. The damage has not been confined to the nurserymen, and it will not stop with the nurserymen, for much injured stock has doubtless been planted by would-be fruit growers. The damages have not, as a rule, shown much respect for varieties. Exposure, soil, or other unknown conditions seem generally to have been more potent. Trees growing on sod have probably escaped more often than those on cultivated ground and those in poorly cultivated nurseries have often fared better than those in well cultivated ones, but in many cases of apparent equal exposure, certain trees have been taken and others left.

I can of course say nothing at this time to mitigate the losses that have already taken place, but a somewhat thorough investigation has revealed some facts that may be valuable as a guide to the future. It is true that the blizzard has left in its train a host of anomalies that cannot be explained by any experience or precedent. Many varieties and species that have heretofore been considered not fully hardy have passed the ordeal with less damage than others that have been considered iron-clad. But amid much confusing testimony, a few principles seem to be brought out that it is worth our while to consider.

1. The widespread destruction of roots brings home very

forcibly a fact that has been too often overlooked, viz., that in the breeding of hardy fruit trees, we have two distinct problems in hand, i. e., to produce a hardy top and a hardy root to support it. Neither is safe without the other. We have been trusting to nature to protect the roots by snow, but the past winter is a most effectual reminder that this protection is not to be depended upon. We have said much about our ironclad apples, forgetting that, like the Merrimac in Rebellion days, our armor plates reached only to the ground line. The little Yankee Monitor, at an opportune moment, was able to slip in a lucky shot through the unprotected planking of the Merrimac, and thus to decide the fate of the Rebellion and of Slavery. Jack Frost has acted the part of the Monitor the past winter, and as the result, many of our nurseries have suffered the fate of the Merrimac. The moral is clear enough, however difficult it may be to carry out, and it throws a vast responsibility upon our experiment stations.

The roots of the crab apple are hardier than those of the common apple. Had apple stocks generally been grown on crab seedlings instead of common apple seedlings, the damage from root killing would probably have been greatly reduced. Would not seedlings grown from vigorous kinds of crabs like the Virginia be preferable for root or crown grafting to those of the common apple? The seeds could not of course be obtained so cheaply at the present time, but the crabs are very prolific, and nurserymen could easily grow their own seed. By growing the Virginia crab from seed, in isolated groups, it would in a few generations, at most, come near enough true from seed for all purposes of grafting. If it can be shown that trees thus grown are better able to endure winters like the past, the demand for the trees would doubtless soon create a supply of the seed. In like manner, we should experiment with the Sand Cherry and the wild red cherry as stocks for the cherry, and we should confine the plum to Americana stocks.

2. It is dangerous to leave the ground of the nursery bare during winter. Several correspondents have stated that nurseries and young orchards that had been allowed to grow up to weeds last autumn suffered less from root-killing than those that were well cultivated. This means that the nursery should have a cover crop during winter, and this, in turn, encourages damage from mice. We can easily secure the cover crop by sowing oats about the middle of August, and the mice could probably be prevented by sowing corn soaked in a solution of strychnine, at the commencement of winter.

3. All means should be used to cause snow to remain upon the ground of the nursery during winter. If half of the snow that actually fell up to February the past winter, in Southern Wisconsin, could have been retained, it would probably have been enough to save our nurseries. Planting fruit stock on north slopes that are traversed east and west by frequent evergreen windbreaks would go far toward accomplishing this end. A cover crop on the ground would still further encourage the snow to remain.

4. The superior hardiness of the raspberry as compared with the blackberry has been strikingly brought out in a multitude of cases. Many have reported almost total destruction of the blackberry, while the raspberry was comparatively little injured. The Loudon raspberry among reds and the Older among blacks have established their claims for remarkable hardiness, and if we might judge from the past winter only, there would seem little necessity for giving these varieties protection in the Northwest. Indeed the importance of protection for the *Rubus* fruits has suffered a serious blow the past winter, for many unprotected plantations escaped with as little harm as others, that were well protected. There is great danger that this unique example will be wrongly interpreted, and that many will make it an excuse for omitting protection in the future. But we should remember that it is not the severe cold that

is usually most damaging to the canes of the rubus fruits, but rather the alternate freezing and thawing to which they are exposed in comparatively mild weather. It is the experience of many extensive Wisconsin growers that it pays to protect the raspberry and blackberry, even in comparatively mild winters.

Should root injured trees be sold? This is a practical question, and one which it seems to me, admits of an easy answer. The injury generally proceeds from the tips of the roots backward. If only the fibrous roots are killed, the trees may be transplanted with as much safety as if no injury had occurred, for the fibrous roots are mostly sacrificed in transplanting by our present systems. It would be better for the tree if the fibrous roots could be saved, for the roots, if in a healthy condition, should be alive to the tips. But I do not know that it is much worse to have the smaller roots frozen off, than to have them cut off with the spade or digging machine. I think as much harm may result from digging healthy roots after they have commenced growth in spring, as from a moderate amount of damage by freezing in the soil. But trees that show damaged roots after they are dug should certainly not be sold as sound stock.

What of the future? Shall those of our nurserymen that find themselves cleaned out of fruit stock continue to plant? I spent some hours looking over a nursery in Southern Wisconsin with the proprietor, and after seeking in vain for a single fruit tree that had a live root, he surprised me by saying, "I believe that this spring is the time to plant heavily of nursery stock." While I was surprised, I think he was quite right. The demand for nursery stock has not been root-killed, and winters like the past are certainly not coming every year, though they are liable to come any year. We should profit as much as possible by the experience, and be better prepared for it next time. Root-killing is probably not so rare an occurrence as some

suppose. Probably more or less of it occurs every winter when the ground is bare for any considerable time, but so long as it affects only the fibrous roots, it is often unobserved. Many nurserymen suppose that the death of the fibrous roots in winter is a normal occurrence, but this is probably an error. In the spring of 1898, after a remarkably mild winter for Wisconsin, I examined the roots of nearly all of the trees and shrubs commonly grown in the nurseries of our State and failed to find a single instance in which any large part of the root tips were dead. The spring just past, I again examined the roots of many of those same species, and found that in only a few of them did the root growth start from the tips. Indeed, the only case found of a fruit tree that started growth from the tip was a single specimen of the Whitney crab. Several roots of the Virginia crab were found to have started growth very close to the tip, but in no case examined were the root tips alive. In the very hardiest species, however, as the box elder, the hard maple and the elm, the root tips were alive. I should add, however, that in certain cases, individual specimens of almost all trees have been root-killed at Madison, the past winter.

✱

Some old apple trees of Santa Barbara were badly scale infected and were sprayed with pure kerosene, and immediately after with a weak solution of caustic soda. The oil routed the scale and the caustic soda then neutralized its power to injure the tree. This may be a useful hint for further experiment. The usual solution of soda is 2 ounces to 40 gallons of water.—Ex.

✱

The "Big 4"—Watchful Eye, Skillful Hand, Thoughtful Head and Silent Tongue.—Rural New Yorker.

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN.

[From a paper read by Prof. H. C. Irish at the summer meeting of the Missouri State Horticultural Society.]

This garden was founded and endowed by Henry Shaw and holds a unique place among American institutions of learning. First improvements were made by Mr. Shaw for his home; a few acres only being improved and beautified for his own pleasure. As these acres grew more attractive, the public took so much interest in the place, that about 1858 Mr. Shaw decided to convert them into a scientific institution. About the same time he secured from the state legislature an act enabling him to place the garden under the management of a board of trustees. From this time the garden made a systematic and steady advancement under the direct supervision of the founder until the time of his death. In 1866 Mr. Shaw established a park adjacent to the garden, which he deeded to the city on condition that a certain sum of money be given annually for improvement and maintenance. This covered a tract of 300 acres—what is now known as Tower Grove park. In 1883 Mr. Shaw established a school of botany as a department of Washington University. Mr. Shaw died in 1889 and left most of his estate, appraised at one and a third million dollars, as an endowment of the garden, mostly of real estate. There are fifteen trustees who perform their duties without compensation. Gardening operations are in immediate charge of a director, assisted by a head gardener, botanical and horticultural assistant. The garden proper contains forty-five acres, divided into decorative portion, arboretum, fruiticetum and vegetable gardening. Among the many features is what is known as "Grandmother's Garden"—a collection of many of the hardy old-fashioned plants; also ponds in which water plants are grown and several rockeries. By direction of Mr. Shaw's will six scholarships were established by the trustees—and at first a course of study arranged for six years—afterwards changed to four. Each

student has a cash allowance of \$200 first year, \$250 the second year, and \$300 for each succeeding year. One position is filled by the nominee of the Missouri State Horticultural Society, one by St. Louis Florists' Club, and the remaining four by competitive examination. All must be young men between the ages of 14 and 20 years of age, good character and possess at least a good elementary English education. The regular course of study requires nine or ten hours manual work each day for first year, and during last three years, five hours per day in general gardening under head gardener; pupil is transferred to various departments according to merit and thus becomes familiar with all branches of the work. Balance of time—or one-half each day during last three years—is given to horticultural instruction, lectures, courses of reading, field observations, etc. Course covers 924 exercises for each student—floriculture, vegetable gardening, fruit culture, forestry, landscape gardening, surveying and drainage, bookkeeping, economic entomology, general botany, botany of decorative plants, hardy wood plants, fruits, vegetables and weeds, economic mycology, vegetable physiology and special thesis work. Nineteen students have been admitted to the scholarship course since its inauguration in 1890. In addition to these garden scholarships any suitably prepared pupil—lady or gentleman, may be admitted as a tuition student, and is entitled to the same certificate as a scholarship pupil on completion of prescribed course and examinations. Four students have been admitted under these conditions.

The aim is to teach the principles and the actual practice of budding, grafting, pruning, propagating, etc., of as large a variety of important plants as possible. In addition any horticulturist or botanist may have free use of the facilities the garden has for advanced study. Many have taken advantage of these opportunities. From actual count of visitors passing through the gates each day for the past few months it is estimated that from 100,000 to 150,000 peo-

ple visit this place during a year.—Western Fruit-Grower.

The Director of Shaw's Garden is Prof. Trelease formerly a professor in the University of Wisconsin, and at one time Secretary of the Wisconsin State Horticultural Society.—Editor.

STRAWBERRY LEAF ROLLERS.

Many letters have been received from different states asking for remedies to destroy this pest. It is one of the oldest enemies of the strawberry and multiplies with great rapidity wherever beds are allowed to stand from year to year, without burning or spraying.

Prof. Weed describes its life habits as follows:

“A small brownish moth lays the eggs on the leaf early in June, which soon hatches and begins to spin its silken thread, rolling up the leaf where it eats out the inside causing the leaf to turn brown and die. It pupates early in July and soon begins laying eggs for the second brood and burning should take place at this time when they are all destroyed.”

If the spring-set plants are troubled they should be sprayed with 3 ounces of Paris green to 50 gallons of water, to which has been added the milk of four pounds of lime. If this poison is on the leaf when the egg is hatched they will be effectually disposed of, but if the application is delayed until the leaf is rolled and worm protected by the silken web it will do little good, as the poison will not reach it.

The remedy is then to go over the bed with a heavy land roller and mash them in the leaves. The rolling will not materially injure the plants and since the worm is soft and easily mashed very few will escape.

If no roller is available a man with a big foot can step on the plants or use the back of a hoe to press the life out of the insect.—R. M. KELLOGG in Western Fruit-Grower.

MONTANA METHODS WITH THE CODLING MOTH.

The treatment recommended by the Montana Fruit-Grower is as follows:

The bands on trees to catch codling moths should now be placed as the first brood of the larvæ will soon begin its pilgrimage up and down the trunk. Use burlap bands made from four to six inches in width and fastened with a carpet tack so that the worm can crawl under the folds of the band either from above or below. Early in July begin to examine the bands and destroy all larvæ that may be found under them. Keep up the search every ten days and thus capture much of the three annual broods. Spray the trees with arsenical poisons after each rain at intervals of a week or ten days and by keeping up clean cultivation the ravages of the codling moth will be largely overcome. After September 15th the bands may be left off as larvæ thereafter will pupate for the winter and may be destroyed at any time before spring.

UNCLE SAM'S REMARKS TO ICHABOD.

Ichabod, my boy, methought I heard you speak of your father this morning as "the old man." You are eighteen years of age, are you not? Just so. That is the age when callow youth has its first attack of big-head. You imagine at this moment that you know it all. I observed by the cut of your trousers, the angle of your hat, the tip of your head, the flavor of your breath and the swagger in your walk, that you are badly gone on yourself. This is an error of youth which your uncle can overlook; but it pains him sorely to hear you speak in terms of disrespect of one you should never mention save by the sacred name "father." He may not be up to your style in the modern art of making a fool of himself, but ten to one he forgets more in a

week than you will ever know. He has borne a good many hard knocks for your sake and is entitled to all the reverence your brain can muster. By and by, after you are through knowing it all and begin to learn something, you will be ashamed to look in the glass, and wonder where the foolkiller kept himself when you were ripe for the sacrifice. And then, when the old man grows tired of the journey and stops to rest, and you fold his hands across his bosom and take a last look at a face that has grown beautiful in death, you will feel a sting of regret that you ever spoke of him in so grossly disrespectful a manner; and when other sprouts of imbecility use the language that so delighted you in the germinal period of manhood, you will feel like chasing them with a thick stick and crushing their skulls to see if there is any brain tissue on the inside.—Montana Fruit-Grower.

A FEW NOTES ON FLOWERS.

We have the only Golden Elder in this vicinity. It appears to be as hardy here in Baraboo as the native Elder, and its bright foliage attracts much attention. But it has one serious fault, the tips of the leaves turn brown. Last Sunday we sought in vain for enough perfect sprays to fill a vase for church. It is not the effect of the winter, for we noticed the same thing last year. Neither is it the effect of drouth, for rain has been abundant, not to say superabundant. Who can give the cause and the cure? We have noticed another peculiarity,—only the leaves on the sunny side are “golden;” on the shady side they are green. It is a beautiful shrub, nevertheless, one with which we should be loth to part.

One of the really hardy perennials is the Chinese Bell-flower, *PLATYCODON GRANDIFLORUM*. Ours had no winter

protection, but suffered no harm and on the first day of July the great blue bells began to open, averaging three inches in diameter. A desirable plant.

The White Pond Lily of the Eastern states is one of the sweetest of flowers, as well as one of the most beautiful. But the pond lilies which we have seen in Wisconsin, although in appearance the exact counterpart of their eastern sisters, lack fragrance. The Madison lilies and those of Waukesha County have a faint perfume, but the Sauk County lilies have none. To eastern visitors our inodorous pond lilies are as disappointing as a scentless rose.

All honor to the *Rosa rugosa*! Editor Hinkley of THE FRUITMAN [Iowa] says: "We take pleasure in the thought that we have scattered thousands of the *Rosa rugosa* in this section. While scores of varieties, lovely but tender, are dead this year, the *rugosa* takes the honors, with its half double, crimson, tea scented blooms."

MR. HOXIE'S REPLY TO MR. PHILIP'S LETTER IN THE JUNE
HORTICULTURIST.

"Oh! that mine enemy had written a book!" This is from the ancient writings and even now, if some one commits himself to the critics by writing, how we do like to go for him! Now I do not like to dodge a fact behind "my opinion," for what I said about the old Wolf River I supposed to be a fact; but if the tree is dead, peace be to its remains and glory to the surviving progeny, because the size and beauty of the fruit has given our State renown, for the apples have been the admiration of thousands. Now it may be a nice thing for the rest of us old fellows to die off and give the younger ones a chance, but wait awhile there are only a few left.

The Seedling Duchess.—Yes, Mr. Zettel sent some to the World's Fair that in "my opinion" were altogether better than the parent—equal in quality and much better keepers, but as to hardiness in other localities I cannot say. Adaptability to special location is a great thing to the orchardist. I have a few of the Waupaca seedlings which were the gift of our old friend, Mr. Springer, and I supposed could stand 40 degrees below zero, but now they are VAINLY trying to live.

And this leads me to ask here, as many have asked me: "What have you got now that are all right? my orchard looks sick." Why don't our nurserymen and fruit growers report? The wisdom of the world comes just as much from the adversities as from present victories.

Grapevines, five or six varieties in my garden and all dead, on flat land, gravel subsoil; some were well covered and others were not; all shared the same fate; two or three are making a feeble attempt to send out a new shoot or two. Some roses well covered are dead, and among these a fine crimson Rambler,—root-killed, for when it was uncovered the wood looked fresh and vigorous.

Speak up, boys, tell us all about these things. It may be that Prof. Goff with his "brush pile," at the summer meeting, told us all about it, but that does not include ALL the brush piles of other localities.

B. S. HOXIE.

Evansville, Wis.

✱

Here is a good way to clean carpets without taking them up: Sweep thoroughly first; then put two tablespoonfuls of ammonia in a pail of water, and with a brush, not too stiff, scrub the carpet carefully. Wipe with a cloth; change the water frequently. Open all the windows and doors until the carpet dries. It will not take long.

MR. LOUDON'S SEEDLING CHERRIES.

To begin with we may as well tell you that we had some beautiful clusters of these cherries put away to be photographed for the Horticulturist. But when we went to get them nothing was there but leaves and twigs, every cherry gone. It wasn't birds, it was a boy and two girls.

The cherries are sour, but the quality is excellent, a clear, pleasant acid, free from bitterness or astringency.

Mr. Loudon sent us two varieties, one a seedling of the English Morello, the other of Montmorency. We canned a few of them and found the canned fruit fine, free from the slightest suggestion of the "wild" flavor which is apt to be noticed in our hardy cherries.

Next to their quality we were impressed by their prolificness. We counted a dozen cherries in one cluster and several other clusters nearly as large on the same twig. The stems are short, another good trait. The skin is tender, the stones small and the pulp thick and juicy. One can eat them without any gruesome reminder of "skin and bones."

Following is a letter from Mr. Loudon:

EDITOR WISCONSIN HORTICULTURIST:—I have sent you these samples of two varieties of my seedling cherries. I wish they were fully ripe to give you an idea of their quality. I have sent some sprays so you can judge of their productiveness.

I have in my collection of cherries of my own originating some nine numbers. All are remarkably productive of extra-size fruit, one-third bigger berry than any Morello that ever preceded them. The various numbers begin to ripen with the Early Richmond and come along in succession so as to prolong the season to about five weeks. The early varieties are all in size of berry equal to the samples sent you. The trees all stand in a June grass sod. I do not

approve of such treatment; it came about when I was confined to the house with broken bones.

Mr. Geo. J. Kellogg in a great hurry grabbed a twig to show at the Summer Meeting. It was one of my early to ripen. He did not see the trees in their best condition; they had been picked from twice, the birds having had the lion's share also.

The trees are quite hardy. All are nine and some are eleven years from the seed.

F. W. LOUDON.

Janesville, Wis., June 29.



FACTS LEARNED FROM THE KANSAS "APPLE KING."

EDITOR WISCONSIN HORTICULTURIST:—

At the Omaha Exposition I learned something of the great commercial orchards of Missouri and Kansas that I presume will be of interest to Wisconsin fruit growers. Mr. Arthur T. Nelson, Superintendent of Missouri Fruit Exhibit and a resident of Lebanon, Mo., stated his choice of apples for commercial planting to be York Imperial, Robinson Pippin, Minkler, Ingraham, and Gano.

Mr. Fred Wellhouse, Superintendent of Kansas Fruit Exhibit, gave his choice as follows in order of preference: 1st Ben Davis, 2d Missouri Pippin, 3d Jonathan, 4th York Imperial, 5th Gano, 6th Winter Winesap.

Mr. Wellhouse and his sons are the apple kings of the world, having 1640 acres in eastern Kansas. He gave me the statistics of his crops on the 420 acres first planted, as follows: 120 acres planted 1876, 160 acres 1878 and 160 acres 1879. These in 1880 yielded 1584 bu.; 1881, 3887 bu.; 1882, 12037 bu.; 1883, 12388 bu.; 1884, 11726 bu.; 1885, 15,373 bu.; 1886, 34909 bu.; 1887, 33790 bu.; 1888, 20054 bu.; 1889, 14307 bu.; 1890, 79170 bu.; 1891, 63698 bu.; 1892, 978

bu.; 1893, nothing; 1894, 47374 bu.; 1895, 59138 bu.; 1896, 784 bu.; 1897, 3758 bu.; 1898, estimated 5000 bu.

The trees are planted 16x32 feet. No pruning is done. Trees branch at one and two feet from the ground. Five-sixths of the apples are picked without ladders.

Yours cordially,

A. L. HATCH.

THE JUNE MEETING.

MRS. EDITOR:—

“EUREKA!” We found it, on the banks of the Fox, a quiet inland town, with one of the liveliest Horticultural Societies of our State. Delegates came by boat from Oshkosh, 22 miles away, and by rail to Rush Lake Junction, 7 miles, where we were met by carriages. From start to finish the convention was one round of ovation and nothing was left undone for the comfort of the guests.

The meeting was called to order on time and President Johnson gave us the opening address. As Dr. Loope was away Mrs. Brooks, president of the Rushford Society, gave us a hearty welcome and, as Dr. Loope said afterward, we “went right in and took everything in sight.” Secretary Philips responded and the convention settled down to business. The program was carried out fully except one or two papers.

Nothing before the convention was of so much interest as the effects of last winter. The general root-killing by the dry freeze, for want of snow and moisture, was the greatest Wisconsin has ever known. The two southern tiers of counties suffered most. Mr. Coe reported the worst destruction for his district. Wherever the ground had two inches of snow through January and February, the orchards, nurseries, gardens, clover and grain fields escaped.

G. J. Kellogg gave a report of the rainfall for the last

21 years, showing the precipitation for the months of September, October and November. This gave the key to some of our worst seasons of loss when the ground froze up dry. Prof. Goff gave us a very interesting report of what we had left, after the severe dry freezing of the winter. Mr. Philips reported only one variety of the 35 apples in the trial orchard at Wausau that would have to be replanted. The thermometer registered at Wausau 44 below zero and for the winter 599 below, but they had 16 inches of snow. The opinion prevailed that with dry falls we must apply heavy mulch early in winter for nearly everything. More time was given to this question because it was the most vital to our interests.

Interesting letters from absent ones were read and while the delegation from the state was not large the local attendance and a big turnout from Omro Horticultural Society made things lively from first to last. The time of the convention was just right for our northern strawberry crop and we did not have to import berries for the table supply.

J. M. Smith's Sons made the best exhibition they have had for years, both in fruits and vegetables, but G. J. Kellogg & Sons took 1st on collection of 10 varieties of strawberries and many other premiums, also 1st on 6 varieties of gooseberries, but the fresh picked strawberries in nearly every case took 1st on plates. There were 16 competitors for prizes and nearly one hundred entries.

On the second morning the visiting guests were given a ride to the 40 acre fruit farm of Parsons & Loope and it was a sight to be remembered to see the Longfield apples loaded to breaking, a goodly showing of Wealthy, McMahan, Duchess, etc., and the fruit seemed little infested with insects. There were acres of strawberries which were giving good returns, but to think of making money on small fruit and carrying it 28 miles overland to market was a most discouraging feature, still they made it pay; and their acres of raspberries will give them lively times later on. Every-

thing had wintered well, very little root-killing and while the thermometer ranged from 20 to 46 degrees below zero everything above ground wintered without injury. This proves that it is not the cold that kills but other conditions of the atmosphere in winter.

It will not be necessary to give all the good things of the summer meeting for then your readers would get the benefit without attending. We shall expect some of the best papers later on in your columns. J. Perriam of Chicago and A. Simonson of Racine were with us during the meeting and a better Summer Convention I do not remember, considering the local attendance and the large exhibition of fruits.

A DELEGATE.

LETTER FROM MR. J. S. STICKNEY.

[Read at the Summer Meeting.]

Lake Keesus, Wis. (near Merton), June 17th, '99.

FRIEND PHILIPS:—

Your request of 10th inst. is only one of many which have come to me, all making me wish that you would ask something easier.

Any and all the observations that I can make do not warrant me in reaching any fixed and positive conclusions, except the two general ones with which we have long been familiar, viz.: going into winter with roots too dry is dangerous. Late cultivation on over rich land (which few of us are troubled with), producing luxuriant growth late in the season, is also dangerous. With reasonable choice of varieties he who avoids these two dangers will be able to bear the other ills that may come to him.

Here are a few illustrations. In our younger orchard, 4 years planted, in 400 McMahan about 20 are dead, 10 more ANXIOUS TO DIE, balance healthy and vigorous. In 60 Duchess we find about the same conditions and proportions.

Cause (I think) condition and maturity of wood on going into winter.

In an older orchard, 8 years planted, mostly McMahan, all standing in an old plantation of currants, thoroughly cultivated up to July 10th, 5 dead, all others prosperous and all that did not bear heavy last year carrying a good crop of fruit.

In our older orchard, 15 years planted, there are few deaths and none wanting to die, save a few that bore too heavily last year. This orchard was cropped with peas, part harvested and part fed off by hogs, was all fall plowed, and is now in peas to be fed off as soon as ready. When fed off will be immediately sown with crimson clover, veitch, peas, red clover, or SOMETHING ELSE! to be plowed under late in fall; trees making good growth and we mean to **DESERVE** a crop of fruit next season.

In our garden red raspberries suffered badly. Black, very little; cause, later growth and immaturity of red.

Here at our lake cottage 50 feet above the lake on gravelly soil, 50 per cent of the hickory and white ash are dead, 25 per cent have not yet decided whether to live or die (only a question of brief time), and the balance don't look happy; cause, too dry at the roots.

Well, what are we going to do about it? All will answer, **DO THE VERY BEST WE CAN** and each will work out results in his own individual way. One thing we shall **NOT** do. **WE SHALL NOT DO WITHOUT FRUIT.**

Cordially,

J. S. STICKNEY.



Wallace: "I see that the aeronauts have discovered that a woman's voice ascends to twice the height attained by man's." Ferry: "I wonder if that is the reason so many men let their wives do all the praying?"—Cincinnati Enquirer.

HOW SHALL WE INDUCE YOUNG MEN TO JOIN THE STATE SOCIETY?

By Frank Stark of Randolph, Wis.

[Read at the Summer Meeting.]

I saw by the program that Mr. Philips had put me down to solve, if possible, this problem. I know Philips did it because no one else would do such a thing. So I have written a little in an attempt to fill the number.

How? Yes, that is a question with which older heads than mine could grapple unsuccessfully until the young men became middleaged men,—advance theories and plans by the quart or case and still this would be an open question.

Perhaps the time would not be entirely wasted if I should tell how I became a member of this society and the pleasures and profit derived therefrom, especially the pleasures.

At the time I joined the Society, two years ago at Omro, I knew nothing of it except from reading an old Annual Report; had never conversed with a fruit grower and my bed of strawberries of one fourth of an acre, consisting of twelve varieties, was the largest patch I had, as yet, seen. Seeing a notice in our O. J. FARMER of a meeting of the State Society to be held at Omro, I drove to Ripon, thirty miles, arriving just in time to take the daily train for that place. The circumstances surrounding that trip I shall certainly not forget as long as I can remember them.

I was a stranger to every one, as was everyone to me. But before I left I made acquaintances to which memory frequently carries me back, with a warmer and more hearty regard for the people at large than I had hitherto felt or expressed. It seemed as though the people with the kindest hearts and purest souls had joined the society, or had they been made so by becoming members of it?

The little attentions paid me at that time, perhaps un-

noticed by others, made a great impression on my rather youthful mind. How royally we were entertained as if each one of us was a governor! The ladies were real kind to me, too, some even stopping to talk to me. One in particular I remember, who, at the banquet, offered to exchange her dish of ice cream for mine which was just about perfect. I soon discovered that my newly acquired cream had a peculiar taste which she had not detected. Of course she hadn't or she never would have traded!

How surprised was I when the announcement of committees was made with myself as one for judging vegetables alongside of Mr. Read and another man. I had raised garden truck for the family and could tell a vegetable oyster from a parsnip. Several hundred acres of peas are annually raised around Randolph, so I could tell a poor pea from a good one. On the whole we completed our arduous task after a fashion. Just ask Read.

And such berries as were there! I had never seen their equal, however have beaten them on my own grounds since, but perhaps would not if I had not seen those large ones there. It rather made me feel that I could somehow do even better than Strawberry Kellogg of Janesville.

At the following Winter Meeting I observed new faces belonging to names which were familiar to me after reading the old report referred to. I have forgotten the name of the elderly gentleman from Minnesota but I shall never forget his kindly face and some of the things he told about plums. He seemed to know about all that was necessary to raise any variety of plum, yet used his microscope in his work as though he could always learn more.

I was driving through the country northeast of us several years ago and stopped at a place to get a large apple which was hanging on a tree hard by. It was the largest apple I ever saw. They told me it was an Alexander. I have since learned that our E. H. S. Dartt used to live there and propagated and grew those very trees. Away off

up in the sand where a prairie farmer could scarcely raise a disturbance, or even an umbrella, were growing those thrifty trees, monuments of the man who had long since left for more fertile soils. The man of "girdle-your-trees-to-make-them-bear" fame could not have found a better place to plant trees. A man by the name of Hoenail now lives there but he never "nails" his orchard with his hoe or cultivator either.

The discussions at the annual meeting were sometimes spirited and sharp. If an agent for eastern grown stock had been there he would have been roasted. That reminds me of the urgent requests of our paper to increase the membership of the Society. I had such a chance once when a young man came to me asking about the society to which I belonged, thinking perhaps it was where I got the little I knew about fruit raising. He was an agent for an eastern firm of nurserymen. I treated the question as thoughtfully as possible. First I asked myself the question the Odd Fellows ask, only it was "Will he make a good Wisconsin Horticulturist?" I said, No. He would always handle eastern grown stock and the Society would make it hot for him at Madison even at -40 degrees. I knew he couldn't be converted, he was Welsh. Do you think any one could make friend Philips believe he had been secretary long enough?

It was urged at one meeting that originating new varieties of berries be encouraged. This spring I noticed a small strawberry seedling between the blackberry rows which had wintered without protection of any kind except a little snow now and then. I was kind to it, tickling its roots occasionally which brought out its leaves rapidly. At blooming time it was so small it did not blossom, so I don't know whether it is staminate or pistillate. I have transplanted it and am inclined to believe it is pistillate as twenty-eight runners have started, up to the present time. Think this will bear watching whether it bears any berries

or not. For a novelty I set out a high bush cranberry bush. It looked last winter as though something had tried to climb it. It has since died. Couldn't stand the climb it.

I might go on telling my experiences and failures but they are so far behind that they would be of use to no one. I know that I have been materially benefitted by belonging to this organization. My horticultural horizon has been broadened very visibly.

There is this that can be done to induce young men to join the State Society. If they are interested in horticulture or beautiful nature, invite them to attend your meetings, give them the glad hand and if they remain awake during sessions they will certainly come again. Above all give them the glad hand. This rule does not apply to the young ladies.



PAPER READ AT THE SUMMER MEETING.

By S. R. Merrill of Appleton, Wis.

A short time since I received a letter from Secretary Philips asking me to write a paper for this meeting. I was very much surprised that he should ask such a thing of me. I tried this one and that one, but all refused, even to my good wife, who had never failed me before in any emergency, but she, like the rest, utterly refused to help me out in this. I remembered reading in the Shiocton News of Secretary Philips filling the pulpit of the Congregational church very acceptably; from that I took courage.

I have never attended one of your midsummer meetings and therefore am not posted in your method of procedure. One year ago when you met at Appleton I was unfortunately away from home, in Kansas. I was deprived of the pleasure of meeting with you and helping to entertain you and also of the benefits of the meeting which I have heard spoken of very highly from everyone who attended. I was

present at the annual meeting at Madison last winter and was greatly pleased with what I saw and heard. It was extremely cold at the time. I asked one of the older members if he did not think the cold weather would be hard on fruit trees and berry bushes. The answer he gave me was, "I am glad of it. This is just what I have been praying for for years." I was surprised. His explanation was that it would do away with lots of tender stuff which they had been fooling with for years for no profit. I have thought of his answer a great many times since.

When spring opened I found that my raspberries were killed back nearly to the ground. I had taken a great deal of pride in caring for them in the fall and they did look fine. I thought surely his prayer had been answered and then the thought occurred to me, "Why should one man be glad of so many others' misfortunes?" From my point of view it looked a good deal like selfishness but I would not like to apply the term to anyone for fear of doing him an injustice. He may have had something deeper and farther ahead that I knew not of. We have a great many things to be glad of if we look at them in the right light. A great many things that we look at as real calamities at the time, are really blessings in disguise, when we are led to see the lessons that we should learn from them, which perhaps we would never learn from any other source and last winter may be one of these blessings. I am in hopes ere this meeting closes to get some light on the subject.

As a delegate from the Grand Chute Society of Horticulture I will in my report say that we have a fine live society of about 100 members, all of whom are interested in the work of horticulture, floriculture and home improvement, all of which go hand in hand. There is a sort of rivalry, if I may state it so (and I think it commendable), in our Society, each one trying to be as nicely fixed up as his neighbor. When we once get this idea started it is won-

derful what an amount of good can be accomplished in a short time and what a benefit, not only to each individual but to the community at large. Where does this impetus start from if not in our little local society that is doing so much in its meetings to create kindly feeling and good fellowship one with the other. We generally have an attendance of from 40 to 80 members and lots of visitors all of whom seem to enjoy it hugely.

We hold our meetings quarterly, once in three months. We meet with one of the members, each one taking his turn in entertaining the society; of course each family takes a basket of good things and when all are combined we have a feast fit for a king. After the stuffing of the inner man we have readings, speaking and discussions on Horticulture and look over the exhibits which are generally quite numerous. I would say right here that we could not make an exhibit of our fruit at this meeting, for it is not ripe. The 18th of May we had a frost and for three nights following, keeping our strawberries back and for some time past we have had very wet, cool weather. The berries are growing all the time but do not ripen. I did not want to bring them here green for fear you would think they were young pumpkins. The other evening a gentleman came along from town. I was in the berry patch. He looked over the fence and asked if we were going to have much of a crop. I told him it bid fair for a big crop if, nothing happened; then his eye caught sight of one. He said, "What is that great big white thing there?" I rolled the vines up so he could see. "Is that a strawberry? Oh my! berries will be cheaper when yours get ripe." He had been paying 10 cts. a box, only just a handful.

Strawberries are, where cared for, a bountiful crop. Raspberries will be a very short crop both red and black. Blackberries nearly all gone, also grapes; some cherries and some apples, but a light crop owing partly to the cold win-

ter and partly to bearing so full last year. A good many dead trees through the country.

We had planned to have a good delegation here, but this is Commencement week at the college. A great many of the old students return for a gala time, to be entertained by their friends, which deprives many of this meeting.



REPORT FROM WOOD COUNTY.

EDITOR HORTICULTURIST:—In reply to yours of 3d, would say that the strawberry crop has been very fine here and will probably be over about the 12th of the month. Prices have been 65 to 85 cents per crate, 5 to 6 cents per box. Raspberry crop will be very light because of winter-killing. There are but few blackberries grown here, but one field that was laid down and well covered is loaded with fruit. Currants will be a light crop. Houghton Gooseberries a fair crop. The Blueberry crop will be one of the largest in years and prices are rather low.

Among varieties of strawberries the new "Dunlap" bids fair to make a reputation for itself. It is a seedling from Mr. Reasoner of Illinois and named after Senator Dunlap, the president of the Illinois State Horticultural Society. It is a perfect-flowering variety, strong, vigorous grower, making a large number of plants, that stand up tall and protect blossoms and fruit. The fruit is as large or larger than Warfield, a bright, glossy crimson with very bright golden seeds. In quality it has no equal. Early, productive and the most attractive berry I have seen. It will be introduced in the near future and every strawberry grower in Wisconsin should give it a trial, for it is one of the best.

Ridgeway gives promise of being one of the promising sorts, a little better color than Clyde. When quality is considered, together with other good points, I would make the best four: Dunlap, Splendid, Ridgeway, Clyde.

Enhance is a valuable berry but is too rough and quality is not of the best.

The best patch of berries in this vicinity is grown by D. Bailey and the best part of it is Parker Earle, some of them bearing their third crop and they are large and lay on the ground in piles. The Parker Earle can't be beat if you only give it the special cultivation that it requires, but it is not the berry for everybody, as many will not pet it as it requires.

Bisel is among the best of pistillate varieties. It seems strange that only a few years ago all of the best varieties were pistillates but of late years all the most profitable ones are perfect flowering sorts, notwithstanding that many have not waked up to the fact yet.

I have over 500 seedling strawberries growing nicely and in a couple of years I hope to be able to make as large a show of seedling strawberries as I have done of seedling potatoes heretofore.

L. H. READ.

Grand Rapids, Wis.

LOOK OUT FOR LOCUSTS.

Minneapolis, Minn., June 30.—Prof. Otto Luggler of the State Agricultural college said yesterday: "I have bad news and here is the messenger that brought it." Opening his hand the professor disclosed a dead grasshopper. He said it was one of the migratory white mountain fellows, and that his coming indicates trouble for the farmers of the Northwest. The professor concluded by saying: "Exchanges throughout the state are requested to give prominence to the fact that migratory locusts have appeared in this locality and may do some damage. The presence of even a few in any agricultural district may be a menace to the entire neighborhood. It will be well to apply drastic measures at once and to heed the advice as to plowing."—Milwaukee Sentinel.

AWARD OF PREMIUMS AT SUMMER MEETING.

Best display of strawberries—G. J. Kellogg & Sons, 1; J. M. Smith's Sons, 2.

Best quart for general cultivation—J. M. Smith's Sons, 1; G. J. Kellogg & Sons, 2.

Best quart of pistillate for market—same.

Best 3 varieties for the farmer—same.

Best perfect bloomer for market—Geo. J. Kellogg & Sons, 1; J. M. Smith's Sons, 2.

Best Warfield—Mrs. Williams of Eureka, 1; Parsons & Loope, 2.

Best Jessie—Mrs. J. M. Franklin of Eureka, 1; G. J. Kellogg & Sons, 2.

Best Haverland—S. O. Pingrey of Omro, 1; G. J. Kellogg & Sons, 2.

Best Bubach—G. J. Kellogg & Sons, 1; S. Pingrey, 2.

Best Enhance—Parsons & Loope, 1; Kellogg & Sons, 2.

Best Crescent—Mrs. C. Cook, 1; Parsons & Loope, 2.

Best Wood—J. M. Smith's Sons, 1; Geo. J. Kellogg & Sons, 2.

Best Eureka—H. Floyd of Eureka.

Best Greenville—S. O. Pingrey.

Best Wilson—J. M. Smith's Sons.

Best Gandy—J. M. Smith's Sons.

Best Wm. Belt—J. M. Smith's Sons.

Best Marshall—Geo. J. Kellogg & Sons.

Best Brandywine—S. O. Pingrey, 1; Parsons & Loope, 2.

Best Glendale—H. Floyd.

Best Wolverton—Parsons & Loope.

Best Saunders—Parsons & Loope.

Best Lady Thompson—Mrs. Williams.

Best Van Deman—Mrs. J. M. Franklin.

Best Splendid—S. O. Pingrey.

Best Manchester—S. O. Pingrey.

Best five other new and promising kinds—G. J. Kellogg & Sons.

Best five that make best show on stems—G. J. Kellogg & Sons, 1; J. M. Smith's Sons, 2.

Best Pomona Currant—H. Floyd.

Best Fay Currant—H. Floyd.

Best Giant Ruby Currant—H. Floyd.

Best show raspberries on cane—G. J. Kellogg & Sons, 1; J. M. Smith's Sons, 2.

Best show gooseberries—G. J. Kellogg & Sons, 1; H. Floyd, 2.

Best seedling cherry—F. W. Loudon of Janesville.

Best Early Richmond cherry—F. W. Loudon.

Best exhibit garden vegetables—J. M. Smith's Sons.

Best peck of peas—H. H. G. Bradt of Eureka, 1; J. M. Smith's Sons, 2.

Best half dozen heads of lettuce—Mrs. A. H. S. Walcott, 1; J. M. Smith's Sons, 2.

Best half dozen bunches radishes—J. M. Smith's Sons.

Best half dozen bunches onions—same.

Best half dozen bunches beets—same.

Best half dozen bunches asparagus—same.

Best six stalks pie plant—Mrs. A. Calhoon, 1; J. M. Smith's Sons, 2.

RUNNERS OF STRAWBERRIES.

It is the practice of some berry growers to cut off the first runners which the newly-set strawberry plants throw out. But we notice that E. A. Riehl advises that the early runners be allowed to grow. He claims that some varieties of strawberries bear the next year's crop only on the early runners and if these are cut off the crop will be a failure.

TREATMENT OF THE BLACK RASPBERRY FIELD DURING HARVEST.

By R. A. Wright in *Minnesota Horticulturist*.

Now if I were to tell you how I treat the black raspberry field during harvest in a season when there is plenty of rain, a very few words would express it all. I simply cultivate once in ten days, to keep the weeds down. During a dry season, however, much more time and labor are required to get the best results from the berry field. As I am a firm believer in the dust blanket to retain moisture, I plan by cultivating to keep a good blanket of that sort. To keep the surface of the soil well stirred, I run my twelve tooth cultivator through the field about every other day, or right after each picking, as the pickers always pack the soil more or less, and by cultivating about two inches deep, the field is in pretty good shape to withstand the drouth. The quality and quantity of fruit harvested fully repay for the extra labor. Although it is not customary in our locality to cultivate the berry field during harvest, I have proved to my satisfaction that the dust blanket pays.

Mr. Wright is confident that he can keep up the size of berries until close of season much better than without cultivation.

✽

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Oh, that meeting at Eureka! "Such good times and we not in them!"

To Henry J. Steop of Eureka was awarded a year's membership in the State Society and a two-dollar premium, for writing the best report of the summer meeting written by a pupil in the public schools.

The list of awards on plants and flowers was not received in time for this issue.

In this number of the *Horticulturist* appears an impor-

tant paper read by Prof. Goff before the American Association of Nurserymen which met in Chicago, June 14.

In the August Horticulturist will be published several of the papers read at Eureka, including Prof. Goff's "Brush Heap of Ninety-nine."

The Grand River Valley Horticultural Society [Michigan] will hold its midsummer meeting at Burton Farm the home of its president, Charles W. Garfield, July 11,—a one-day meeting with picnic dinner.

The Minnesota State Horticultural Society held its meeting at the State Experiment Station, St. Anthony's Park, June 22, with an attendance of 300 or more. The morning was spent in strolling about the grounds and buildings. After a basket luncheon the program was taken up, the general topic being, as at our meeting, "Lessons from the Late Severe Winter." Some 150 plates of strawberries were on exhibition and about forty varieties of edible mushrooms. The mushroom exhibit was under the auspices of the Minneapolis Mycological Society. Mr. Akin of Farmington made a show of seedling apples kept over in the cellar from the crop of 1898.

Apple-blossoms in July! A vase of them stands on our desk as we write,—as fair and fragrant as the blossoms of May.

We would commend to your notice the "pie-juice saver" advertised in our columns. We use it and find it a saver of patience as well as pie-juice.

In case the August Horticulturist should chance to be a week late you may infer that the editor has gone "a-touring."

Omaha is having another exposition this year called the Greater America Exposition, which, according to the circulars sent out, will surpass the Trans-Mississippi Exposition of last year.

Seedling Strawberry Plants!

Having several hundred seedling plants from seed this spring, I have decided to give anyone who would like to experiment with our new varieties a chance to do so at small cost. For \$1.00 I will send by mail post paid 20 of these plants, which will give you twenty different varieties.

Mr. E. W. Cone, the well known strawberry specialist, informs me that a large proportion of seedlings are the equal of varieties already in cultivation and that quite a per cent of them will be improvements, so out of twenty seedlings one can depend on getting several varieties of merit and perhaps of great value. It is seldom that one gets a chance experiment with seedlings like this.

Address,

L. H. READ,

Grand Rapids, Wis.

1870
1871
1872
1873
1874
1875
1876
1877
1878
1879
1880
1881
1882
1883
1884
1885
1886
1887
1888
1889
1890
1891
1892
1893
1894
1895
1896
1897
1898
1899
1900