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VOL. II.

FEBRUARY, 1898.

NO. 12.

The Waisconsin Borticulturist...

Issued Montbly.

Under the Management of the

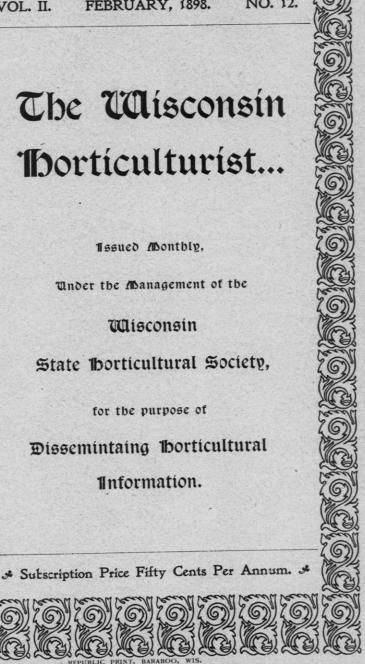
Wisconsin

State Borticultural Society,

for the purpose of

Dissemintaing Borticultural

Information.



The Misconsin Borticulturist.

[Entered as second class matter in the Post Office at Baraboo, Wis.]

A monthly magazine published under the management of the State Horticultural Society.

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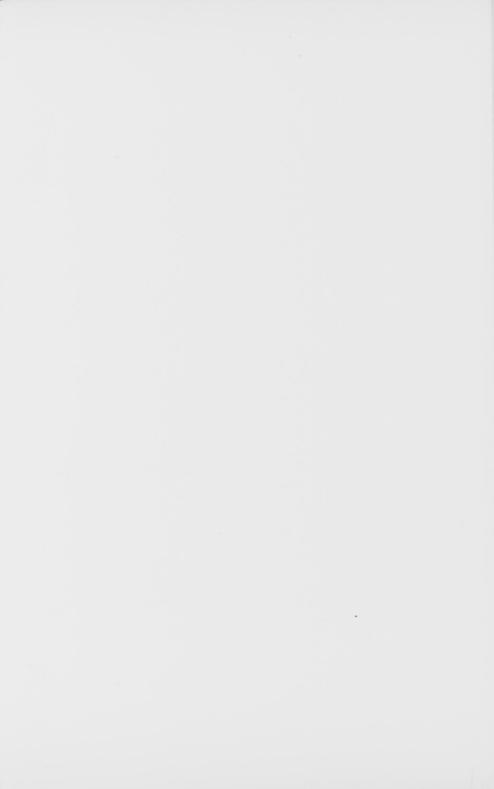
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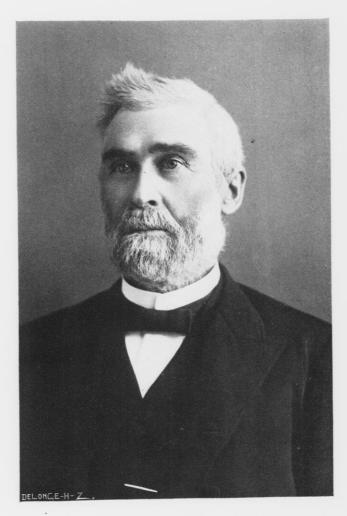
MRS. FRANKLIN JOHNSON, Editor.

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B. S. HOXIE.

The Ulisconsin Iborticulturist.

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FEBRUARY, 1898.

NO. 12.

B. S. HOXIE.

[Written by one who has known him for half a century.]

"He shall be like a tree" sang the Psalmist of the coming man, the highest type of the race.

The tree that lifts its fearless face to heaven, spreads its branches in all directions—developing symmetry of form, lending strength and beauty to the landscape—and sends its roots into the earth to feed from a hundred springs, was never grown in a box, nor cut by conventional pruning knives; it has been free to grow as God designed it.

Mental and moral largeness is distinctively the birthright of all men, yet all men do not attain it; some become dwarfed in the training, while others rise to exceptional moral height, and still others never put forth root or branch in the direction of free growth.

A noble man, divinely planned, is an important factor in advancing the interests of the community in which he lives and of the State of which he is a citizen, and every movement with which he associates himself receives the stimulus of his strong individuality. Such has been true, in a marked degree, of the subject of my sketch.

Some one has said that "one can be too near a period or a man, to give a just, historical perspective to either." However true this may be, I feel sure that posterity will be grateful for this brief tribute of esteem to the life of one whom I have known so well, and who has given to my life the impetus that has brought the little success I have gained.

B. S. Hoxie was born in Ornesville, Maine, August 6,

1827. He came to Wisconsin, with other members of the family, in 1846 and located at Cooksville, Rock Co., where he attained his majority and cast his first vote for president. He was married in Cooksville and it was there that his three daughters were born and grew to womanhood. He removed to Evansville, where he now resides, in 1884.

Mr. Hoxie was early identified with the temperance cause. He was a charter member of a Division of the Sons of Temperance at Cooksville during the first years of that organization's existence. He held the office of Grand Worthy Patriarch for two years, and was a delegate to the National Division in 1864. He was for many years a prominent member of the Good Templars and, as a matter of course, is a firm advocate of the legal prohibition of the liquor traffic, although his political affiliations are with the Republican party.

Mr. Hoxie's profession is that of contractor and builder. The graded school building, the Episcopal church and several of the finest residences in Evansville, as well as the new City Hall, are evidences of his ability. His early life was spent on a farm, and to that early training is due his love for and interest in all matters pertaining to agriculture and horticulture. While his vocation is that of a builder, floriculture and horticulture comprise his avocation, and his library is well filled with writings from the best authorities on his favorite topics. He has been a constant subscriber to five or six of the leading agricultural papers and a regular paid contributor to a number of them, besides having been editor of the horticultural department of The Wisconsin Farmer for three years.

He has been a member of the Wisconsin State Horticultural Society for twenty-five years and has not missed one of its annual meetings during that time. He rendered efficient service to the Society for six years as its corresponding secretary, was then elected to the position of recording secretary, which office he held for six years, and had charge of the State horticultural exhibit at the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893.

Mr. Hoxie did much to build up and advance the interests of the Society while he was its secretary. He introduced a resolution calling for the appointment of a legislative committee to introduce a bill providing for Arbor Day and was one of the committee to draft the bill. Foreseeing the good that would be accomplished in our schools by the observance of this day, he labored earnestly to place the work, where it manifestly belongs, under the direction of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Mr. Hoxie is an ardent admirer of nature's scenery and for many years he has been studying the problems of Forestry, how to conserve our forests and prevent their wanton destruction. At his suggestion and through his efforts, a call was issued in 1893 for a meeting of all who were interested in the subject of Forestry, which resulted in the organization of The Wisconsin Forestry Association, of which Mr. Hoxie is now the president. He has been identified with the Farm Institutes from their beginning, not only as one of the workers, but has also been called upon to contribute articles to papers published in other states, demonstrating the benefits to be derived from this practical school for farmers.

While most of Mr. Hoxie's literary productions have been on agricultural and horticultural topics, he has also contributed articles for the Trade Journals of his profession, for it is one of his aims to keep pace with the times in the Builder's art.

It is a wonderful qualification, to the one who possesses it, to be able to touch the lives of others to fine issues. Mr. Hoxie has that ability in a remarkable degree, and many young men and young women owe their success in life to the impetus they received from him.

His is a symmetrical character. He is a man of good judgment and rare discrimination; broadminded and liberal in his religious views, ever willing to accord to others the same freedom of thought he demands for himself; brave in his defense of the right and fearless in his denunciation of the wrong.

GRAPE NOTES FROM SOUTHERN WISCONSIN CONTINUED.

In setting out a vineyard the first important point is to know the best varieties. Each may have its choice of soil and climate. I only undertake to describe those in our own vineyard. In nursery catalogues the price attached to each variety is no criterion whatever by which to know the real value of each sort on the list. To illustrate: Some years ago the Concord was listed 10 cts. each, Niagara \$2.00. In our garden one Concord is worth more than four Niagaras, because it bears a good crop each year, while the Niagara fails, three years out of four, through mildew, grape rot, or cold winters. The Delaware was once sold for \$3.00 each. We have only two left and they are not worth garden room.

The worst enemy to the grape here is downy mildew. Some enthusiast will say why don't you get a spray pump and spray the vines. My friend, we have the spray pump but shall not use it because we have learned to plant varieties which do not need it. All points considered, Worden and Concord are still at the head of the list and should outnumber all the others.

To make an interesting collection the following varieties would be added,—Moore's Early, Salem, Moore's Diamond, Pocklington, Massasoit, Agawam and Diana. The two last have peculiar flavors not to everybody's taste. The foregoing list does not include all the varieties of merit, but has been selected from a list of over thirty sorts thoroughly tested on our grounds.

It is the new and untried sorts which cost the most money and by which the public are most unmercifully swindled. Among the most promising of the new candidates for public favor are Alice, as a long keeper, and Campbell's Early and McPike for quality. Should any of these prove superior to Worden, we all want them. But my experience is, that it takes several years to develop all the latent "cussedness" which may be lurking in an untried fruit.

We usually plant vines ten feet apart in row, and if the

rows are ten feet apart, an acre should produce, when in full bearing, three to three and a half tons of fruit annually. Vines may run on the ground the first year; second year tie to a bush or stake; third year put up a trellis.

JNO. RHODES.

Union Grove, Wis.

GRAPE NOTES FROM NORTHERN WISCONSIN.

The Janesville Grape.

The market with us is generally glutted with grapes, and Concords bring about twenty cents per basket. They are generally very ripe, so they will not sell well; and there is where the Janesville comes in. It is early and rather tart and makes the best jelly of any grape we grow.

It is perfectly hardy here with us. I have left the vines on the trellis all winter, and they were in good shape in the spring and bore good crops that summer.

I get forty cents per basket for the Janesville when Concords are selling at twenty cents. There is more money in them for me than any other grape that I can grow.

. The Agawam is the best grape that I grow for table use.

J. F. CASE.

Eau Claire, Wis.

LONGFIELD APPLE.

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A. G. Tuttle, of Baraboo, when interviewed about the Longfield apple at the recent Horticultural Convention in Madison, said: "I would rather have it than any apple which has originated on this continent that can be grown in Wisconsin. I have a better opinion of it than I had some years ago. I have grown it for twenty years. It bears abuse and is hardier than Duckess; it is an enormous yielder. I have 200 trees, set four and five years, and they have borne a moderate crop of apples larger than Fameuse."

THE LOUDON RASPBERRY.

What Matthew Crawford says: "I have been satisfied in my own mind for a number of years that the Loudon raspberry is not only the best, but very much the best red raspberry in the market. So it pleases me to see that in a fair test alongside of a number of others at the Hatch Experiment Station of Massachusetts it is away ahead of all others in hardiness, vigor, quality, large size, yield and firmness. It yielded 49½ quarts from 25 plants; whereas Cuthbert yielded only 16⅔ quarts, and King 5 quarts."

"The station has the following to say concerning the Loudon: 'A very vigorous and productive variety. It was very little injured by the past winter, while many of the standard varieties suffered severely. Fruit large, firm, bright crimson; quality best. The most promising variety in the station collection." —Crawford's Catalogue.

What J. H. Hale of Connecticut says: "For years Cuthbert has easily held first place as the one best generalpurpose raspberry; yet it is a little too tender for northern latitudes. Loudon, a seedling of Turner crossed with Cuthbert, is now crowding for first place, and many there be who think it is already won. It is rather more stocky than Cuthbert, but not quite such a rampant grower; canes of purplish red color, quite in contrast to the yellowish brown of Cuthbert. Very productive of extra large, dark red, firm berries, possessing the better qualities of both Cuthbert and Turner, with few, if any, of their marked defects. Loudon certainly is the largest, firmest and best flavored mid-season red raspberry now well tested."

What Coe and Converse of Wisconsin say: "By far the best sucker variety we have ever grown. It is very large, beautiful in color, of extra quality, and wonderfully productive of very firm berries that will stand long shipments and arrive in fine condition."

A. J. Philips, Secretary of Wisconsin State Horticultural Society, says: "As to size, no red berry I have seen equals the Loudon. The first thing that attracted my attention was its productiveness, which I compared with the other red raspberries on twelve different fruit farms, and in every instance the Loudon was loaded with fruit heavier than any I saw, and in many cases one third heavier would not be placing it too high."

Ford and Son of Ohio say: "Originated by the venerable F. W. Loudon of Wisconsin. It is a seedling of the Turner crossed with the Cuthbert. Canes like the Turner, are almost destitute of thorns, and hardy; has fruited in cold Wisconsin for nine years without a miss. The fruit is larger than the Cuthbert; drupes larger, of a brighter color, firm, does not crumble when picking."

What James Vick's Sons say: "This new variety of red raspberry has now been well tested in many localities, and there is an agreement among practical fruit growers that it is an advance beyond the best of the well-known standard varieties. Hardier, better, and more productive than Cuthbert, and the berries are larger and the drupes longer. Berries firm; bright red; cling to the stem and do not crumble in picking; splendid shipper."

C. E. Tobey of the Thayer Fruit Farms of Sparta, speaking at the Farmers' Institutes last winter, expressed the opinion that the Loudon was destined to become the leading red raspberry of Wisconsin.

The editor requests all who are growing this raspberry in Wisconsin to take especial notice of its behavior this year and report to the Horticulturist at the close of the season. We desire especially to hear from points in the northern part of the State.

NEW STRAWBERRIES FOR TRIAL.

The Nick Ohmer is the new berry which Matthew Crawford is introducing this year. He thus describes it:

"For market, for home use, or for exhibition, this is probably the greatest berry ever offered. It is certainly the most desirable variety that has come under my observation. It is my candid opinion that all who grow the Nick Ohmer will be astonished at its healthy, vigorous growth and great productiveness. The fruit will be a surprise to all who see it, being of mammoth size, beautiful form and color, and excellent quality.

"It has grown here for three years, and I do not remember to have seen any rust on it, but, of course every variety will rust under certain conditions. I have sent it to a number on trial, and have yet to hear the first unfavorable report. I have no other expectation than that it will become one of the leading varieties, and if restricted to a single one, it would be my choice.

"The plant is very large and stocky, sending out plenty of strong runners. It is probably not surpassed in healthy, vigorous growth and great productiveness by any variety. It has a perfect blossom. The fruit is of the very largest size, a giant among strawberries. It is never misshapen. Its only departure from the regular, roundish, conical form is when, under high culture, it is somewhat triangular. It is dark, glossy red, firm and of excellent flavor."

The Clyde, the Margaret and the Wm. Belt are still enthusiastically praised by Eastern growers. Let us give them a thorough test in the different sections of Wisconsin this year.

Of the Margaret, E. C. Davis, a fruit grower in the vicinity of Northampton, Mass., writes: "I am having the best berries ever seen around here, this season, with the Margaret almost out of sight of all others, in beauty, quality and productiveness. July 4th I picked eight baskets from the row, and with a few friends we had an Independ-

ence Day dinner, christening it 'the feast of St. Margaret.' The following Monday the same row yielded four heaped baskets. I'm glad I don't know what the total yield was, for if I did and should tell it, people would say that I could leave Ananias and Sapphira in the shade. But it was simply immense, and I'll drop it there."—Crawford's Catalogue.

Of the Clyde J. H. Hale speaks thus: "It heaped its huge berries one upon the other in greatest profusion everywhere—great big, rollicking fellows, as perfect in form as the small end of a hen's egg—the most uniformly symmetrical lot of berries I have ever seen, with not one single or imperfect berry from beginning to end of season. Clear, light scarlet color; beauties in every way. Moderately firm and of fine quality."

The Wm. Belt and the Brandywine were disappointing in Wisconsin last season, but last summer with its erratic weather hardly furnished the conditions for a fair test.

BEST VARIETIES AND IN WHAT PROPORTION SHOULD A SMALL FRUIT FARM BE PLANTED.

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F. C. Edwards, Ft. Atkinson.

Success being the object striven for, some latitude must be given to the persons discussing this wide question.

If the person who is to operate this fruit farm is an amateur he had better plant few acres to start with, because he has a business to learn as surely as a doctor or lawyer. With an increase of knowledge he can increase his acreage; but let a thorough experimental knowledge go first.

If he does not do this he is about as sure to fail as any man under like circumstances in business or professional life. The man who makes a success in life today, is the one who understands and personally looks after the details of his business or profession.

The amount of land should range from ten to forty

acres according to the amount of responsibility and work you wish to shoulder and how much help of your own and hired help you wish to employ.

Do not use more than one-half of all your fruit farm at any one time in fruit, as rotation of crops in small fruit is just as necessary as it is on a grain and stock farm. For rotation insures health to the stock and profit to the cultivator.

Large small-fruit farms do not pay any better than large grain farms, and in fact the past year the advantage was in favor of the large stock or grain farms, as their product was capable of being held till the market could use the product and on fruit farms large quantities went to waste.

This fruit farm must produce the living for the family of those that are operating it, in cereals and all necessaries for the table, such as the whole line of vegetables, grains, etc. (with a possible exception of wheat), as well as the feed for the horses, cows, poultry, etc. There should be such a remainder sold as to at least cancel all grocery bills. If the farm does not do this the owner is apt to be a living skeleton financially. Gentlemen, you can plainly see I am taking the conservative side of this question, with experience all over our State to back my statements.

WHAT VARIETIES TO USE.

This depends somewhat upon your soil. But suffice to say, use staple sorts of all kinds of small fruit and not follow after strange gods. But to all rules there are a very few exceptions. Use new sorts in a small way and do not bury all your business profits in experimenting. Care and soil figure more for success than varieties. This is nicely illustrated by some patents being not as good as the original without the patent improvements.

The varieties recommended by this society are a concensus of opinions of the leading fruit men of our State. I will mention a few of them:

STRAWBERRIES: Warfield and Crescent, and for the perfect

blossom Wilson, Splendid, Enhance, etc. But what perfect blossom sort you should use depends largely upon your soil.

Cuthbert, sandy soil; Loudon, good new sort; Marlboro, prairie soil.
Columbian and Schaffer.
Ohio, Older, Kansas and Gregg.

CURRANTS: Victoria and White Grape.

GOOSEBERRIES: Downing.

BLACKBERRIES: Snyder, sandy and clay soils; Ancient Briton, prairie soils.

GRAPES: Concord, Worden, Brighton and Niagara.

The time has not come, and I hope it never will, when we use anything but natural manures in Wisconsin, aided by clover in our rotation.

The location should be near some town or village having railroad facilities and plenty of help in harvesting the fruit, with low soil, having good drainage and composed of at least $\frac{1}{3}$ sand, $\frac{1}{3}$ clay and $\frac{1}{3}$ decomposed vegetable matter, largely humus. This composition constitutes as good a soil as can be found.

WHAT PROPORTIONS OF SMALL FRUIT?

No positive proportion can be stated; this depends upon the demands of your market and what competition you have to meet. The answer to this question we have to learn by a close touch with our business. It is not what kind of fruit I like, but what my customer wants, although the customer's taste is capable of being educated to a certain extent in the appreciation of new sorts. To illustrate, because I like the Norman horse it does not follow I should not raise a hackney or Clydesdale if the market calls for these breeds.

The small fruit farm should be so divided among the fruits of different season, that an equal bulk of product should be ready each day for market, with few weeks of rest, from the time strawberries ripen till grapes are gone. To approximately get at this matter I would say, on 16 acres of fruiting land there should be: 3 acres of strawberries, 2 of red raspberries, 2 of black raspberries, 1 of purple raspberries, $1\frac{1}{2}$ of currants, $\frac{1}{2}$ of gooseberries, 4 of blackberries, 2 of grapes.

Much fruit goes to waste each year by improper picking

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and by not putting it into neat packages and placing on the markets in the right manner. This is a part of the business to be learned by experience largely and does not fall under the scope of this paper.

Fruit consumption is largely on the increase in the west. At one time the city of Fort Atkinson or Jefferson would use only a few cases per day, now they use in the fruiting season several wagon loads per day. This in my opinion is the history of all other towns.

The small-fruit farm owner and operator should look to the home markets for sale of his crop, as they are now, and will be in the future, the largest consumers at a reasonable profit. Do not deceive yourselves too much by the thought that you are going to outstrip the multitude of local growers that are entering this branch of business, and you pay long transportation charges extra.

In conclusion I wish to say: It matters not so much what we do in life, but how we perform what we undertake. There is always room at the top, but below it is a perfect jam on the way to the road called success.

As a summary of all: A person must like his business; attend personally to its many details; choose staple sorts of all kinds of fruit; give good clean and regular cultivation to every kind; be always strictly honest in deal and try to acquire proficiency as a salesman; keep good proportions so as to be able to hold your customers' entire trade in fruit; use neat packages filled with clean fruit. Send out good fruit or none at all, and you are on the road we all like so well to travel, called Success.

The way to wealth is as plain as the way to market; it depends chiefly on two words—industry and frugality, that is, waste neither time nor money, but make the best use of both.—Franklin.

"Dah is too many folks," said Uncle Eben, "dat ain't willin' ter share nuffin' but dah sorrers."

*

PICKLE GROWERS AND PICKLE MAKERS.

J. S. Stickney, President of Milwaukee Pickle Company.

From the grower's standpoint there is "money in it," if well and carefully done.

On common land in poor condition, it will all be wasted effort, because the yield will be light and a large per cent. will be ill-formed and knobby, only fit to throw to the pigs —and not very fattening for them.

In this business, the reasoning that if one acre will pay, five acres will pay better, does not hold good, because the necessary conditions are rarely maintained on five acres. Among our growers the most successful are the owners of ten or twenty acres who have plenty of cheap labor to do the picking. They manage to gather manure for from one to two acres; the vines are carefully tended and the picking done thoroughly and often. With this treatment \$200 per acre is not uncommon, while with the reverse \$50 per acre is not always reached and \$51 in labor may have been expended.

To the quarter-section farmer this \$200 per acre looks tempting and he decides on five acres as a "side show;" so he "shies" a hundred loads of manure from some hungry farm crop, plants his cucumbers and cultivates fairly well until they commence to fruit, then he discovers that he is short of help. Just then harvesting, threshing or some other farm work asserts itself and the cucumbers have to wait. With a few such waits go the profits of the whole season.

From the maker's standpoint also there is "money in it" if favorable conditions can be maintained.

First he must gain the confidence of his growers; then he must educate them to produce just the quality of goods he needs—and also to produce them profitably to themselves.

With us this was the work of years, requiring all the "special pleading" of which we were capable. Now things go on harmoniously. We think our growers count us necessary to their yearly income. We know they are necessary to ours. This constitutes an excellent bond of union.

While this income is what we strive for and generally gain, some obstacles have to be met. These also are about equally divided.

The grower must conquer numerous insect enemies and adapt himself as best he can to drouth and flood, cold and heat. The packer invests a large amount of cash, buying materials from ten to twenty-four months in advance of his market,—which is always a variable one,—taking chances of impure salt, spices and vinegar and of poor pay when he sells.

Our first ten years was practically a life and death struggle. After that our gains were uniform and satisfactory until 1893. Since then margins have been very small, and one year several thousands on the wrong side. But the past season will give most of that back to us, owing to a short crop of cucumbers in the Eastern States. While we have deep sympathy for our eastern brothers, we still wear a smile.

The average observer is surprised at the magnitude of this business. Our crop last season was 46,000 bushels and ours was perhaps less than one-twentieth of all.

Who eat them? Probably the same people who eat the millions of hogs and cattle that are annually slaughtered.

Is it a good business policy to give a premium or bonus for the establishing of a pickle factory? Decidedly no. 'The men or company that come to you in that way are not the kind you want. They come from very selfish motives, and similar motives are likely to remove them at an early date, perhaps leaving unpaid bills behind.

Wauwatosa, Wis.

Navy beans is a neglected crop in this country, although one which can be made profitable on almost any farm. It pays better than many field crops, and yet we do not supply home demands.

....

OUR GUESTS OF HONOR.

We take pleasure in introducing to our readers some of the prominent men from other States who were in attendance at the annual meeting of the State Horticultural Society in Madison last week.

Foremost among these was Jonathan Periam, of Chicago, a distinguished past editor of the Prairie Farmer. His extensive reading and wide experience fit him to be a "man for counsel" on horticultural topics. Mr. Periam has kindly written for the current number of the Horticulturist a valuable article on "The Canna Tribe," which you will find on another page.

The delegate from the State Horticultural Society of Illinois was F. D. Voris, of Neoga, a man who follows horticulture for pleasure, but deals in grain, hay and agricultural implements for dollars.

Another Illinois man who took an active part in our discussions was Chas. A. Dolton of Dolton.

Minnesota was represented by Clarence Wedge, of Albert Lea, superintendent of the experiment station located at that point. Mr. Wedge is proprietor of the Wedge Nursery; has an orchard of 2000 trees planted to Hibernal and such hardy Russian kinds as can be grown in Minnesota. He also publishes a monthly paper, "Northern Fruits," intended to epitomize the freshest news and experience of northern fruit growers.

Another delegate from Minnesota was E. H. S. Dartt, superintendent of the experiment station at Owatonna. Mr. Dartt is one of our regular annual visitors, and his kindly face and ready wit would have been greatly missed had he failed to appear at our meeting. O. M. Lord, of Minnesota City, came by invitation, to tell us what he knows about plums,—and few, if any, men in the United States know more. He has now in his bearing orchard about seventy-five varieties of plums. Mr. Lord also is superintendent of one of the State experiment stations, having charge of the fruit station located at Minnesota City.

John C. Ferris, of Hampton, was the delegate from Iowa. He has a trial station at Hampton and has been identified with Iowa horticulture more than twenty years; was the organizer of the Northern Iowa Horticultural Society in 1885. He held the office of secretary of that society the first three years of its existence, and in subsequent years was three times elected its president. It must be that Mr. Ferris mingles a little politics with his horticulture, for he held legislative office in Wyoming, and has been a candidate for State Senator in Iowa. He is a contributor to the horticultural literature of the northwest and active in Farmers' Alliance work; is associate editor of the Farmers' Tribune.

*

FLAX OF THE PACIFIC COAST.

A ton of flax straw grown in the Puget Sound region of Washington was sent to a firm of famous flax manufacturers in Lisburn, Ireland, to be scutched and retted, in order to determine the grade of the flax produced. A verv superior quality of straw was produced, says the report of the Secretary of Agriculture, resembling the straw of the famous Courtrai region of Belgium. With the Irish report was received a large assortment of flax samples, the best scutched fibre of which is valued therein at \$350 per ton; but out of the lot sent from Washington, fibre was hackled worth \$500 per ton. This experiment also demonstrated conclusively that it is possible to obtain good fibre and good seeds from the same plant. The success of the experiment has stimulated experiments in other parts of the Pacific coast, and in Oregon, particularly, considerable fibre flax was grown last season.-Exchange.

THE CANNA TRIBE.

Editor Wisconsin Horticulturist:-

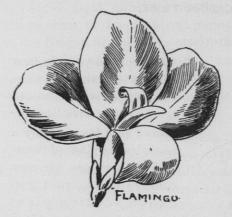


In reply to your request to write something on Cannas and cultivation would say that the *Canna Indica* or Indian shot from simply a noble leaved plant of twenty-five years ago has now come to be the most gorgeous bedding plant known in respect to leafage and especiallyso in respect to the infinite colors and size of its flower trusses.

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They are tender herbaceous perennials, being killed by white frost as to the leaves. The cultivation is exceedingly simple, but in the latitude of Wisconsin they require to be started early, being bedded in the greenhouse covering with three inches of soil about the first of March. When the eyes break and appear well above the soil, separate to single plants, and place in good compost in four-inch pots, to be transferred thereafter into six-inch pots, to be transplanted into the open air from the first to fifteenth of June, say thirty to thirty-six inches apart.

For myself I find that a slight hot-bed gives the strongest and most healthy plants. If neither greenhouse nor hotbed is available, bed the roots out in a warm border, the last of April, and if freezing of the ground is feared cover until the cold snap is passed with litter of any kind. If white frost is feared after the leaves are above ground, cover with a sheet or anything to keep away frost. I have had them in Chicago, by starting early, in full bloom the middle of May, and thence afterwards constantly so until frost in the autumn. Hence the advantage of forcing them early but slowly, until the season of transplanting.



Do not expect success with cannas unless they have plenty of water. I drench the beds thoroughly every two days, after they begin to throw up blooming stalks, and thereafter keep the ground thoroughly moist until frost comes. Thereafter I withhold water to allow

the roots to thoroughly ripen. I had in my garden last season Alphonse Bouvier, six and one-half feet high, and Florence Vaughan six feet, with immense trusses of bloom, individual flowers of the trusses spreading to the extent of four inches, down to the dwarf Nicholson three and one-half feet high, with its delicate trusses of lemon yellow flowers. How easy would it be for every suburban home and every farm garden to be made bright with a bed of these magnificent plants, even where only the pump was available for watering. It would be a labor of love for the girls of the family to look after the watering.

As to varieties for general planting, of sorts, excellent growers and that will stand both hot suns and strong winds, I would name among yellow and red spotted, Florence Vaughan and Queen Charlotte; among crimson, Charles Henderson and Alphonse Bouvier; among salmon, Stella Kanst, and among pure yellow, Nicholson. South Park is a fine scarlet, Midway approaches to a salmon red, Chicago is an excellent red, with great trusses of bloom and a large, broad green green leaf. Columbia is a deep, velvety crimson. Egandale is, I think, the best of the scarlet purple-leaved sort. Of the new orchid flowering sorts, Italia and Austria are magnificent, and Burbank, not only the most magnificent of any yellow yet sent out, but the largest in its individual flowers. Where these three varieties may be protected from excessively hot

noonday suns, they are the perfection of the canna tribe.

While there is nothing finer, seen from near or afar, growing in masses or singly, cannas are not a flower for the bouquet or the vase. They soon get flaccid when cut. But individual flowers, picked from the truss and placed in shallow dishes containing water, will last two or three days in cool weather. As to the size of the individual canna flowers in the truss, it may be stated that they will run from two and one-half to five inches, according to the variety, the truss of flowers ranging from five inches to eight inches in breadth, and from six to twelve inches in height, and the number of flowers to the truss going from ten up to fifty, or more, and opening in succession. The colors range from straw color all the way down through yellow, salmon, and orange, and down through the reds, from light vermillion to carmine, and the deepest purple, with infinite variegations, pencilings, spots, and markings of deep colors on lighter, especially crimson on yellow, the gold banded on red being especially fine, as in the case of Madam Crozy and others. The large flowering sorts vary in height from thirty inches to six feet, the giant varieties, notable only for massive foliage, green, and purple, reaching an extreme height of eight to ten feet. Of the two latter, I consider



C. Discolor the best of the purple foliage sorts, and of the green leaved varieties, C. Gigantea.

Within the last five years I have cultivated perhaps two hundred varieties, and have now forty-six varieties for continued cultivation and trial.

I am not in the trade and sell no plants, but buy

those that strike my fancy from year to year. Very Truly Yours,

JONATHAN PERIAM.

AN ORCHARD INSPECTION LAW IN MICHIGAN-WHAT IT IS; HOW IT WORKS.

By Prof. L. R. Taft, Michigan Agricultural College.

The nursery and orchard inspection law passed by the last Michigan Legislature was prepared by the legislative committee of the State Horticultural Society, at the request of a number of leading fruit growers, with the idea that it would aid in preventing the introduction and spread upon nursery trees and from orchard to orchard, of the San Jose scale and other dangerous insects and diseases.

The enforcement of the law is placed in the hands of the State Board of Agriculture, which is authorized to appoint a State inspector of nurseries and the necessary deputies. The law provides for the inspection of all nursery stock grown in the State, and requires all persons selling stock in the State to take out a license and give a bond for \$1,000 that they will not sell stock that has not been inspected, and that if requested, they will file a list of their customers for the confidential use of the inspector. A per diem fee of \$3 must be paid for the services of the inspector. Nurserymen in other States who sell stock in the State are required to take out a license and give a bond, as well as to have their stock inspected by a State or National inspector, or by some person approved by the Michigan Board of Agriculture. Persons doing a mail-order business, and who have no agents in Michigan, are not required to take out a license, or to give a bond, but their stock should be inspected, and each package must be accompanied by a certificate of inspection. In case a certificate of inspection does not accompany a shipment, the transportation company is required to notify the State inspector, giving the names of the consignee and consignor. The law does not require the quarantining of the trees as has been attempted in other States.

The State inspector is by the law required to examine orchards supposed to be infested with dangerous insects or diseases, and to see that the proper measures are taken. He is also the referee in case a dispute arises between an owner and the Township Yellows Commissioners as to the identity of a disease or insect, or its presence in the orchard.

The law went into effect September 1, 1897, and the Board of Agriculture appointed Prof. U. P. Hedrick, who had had considerable experience with fruit-tree insects and diseases in Oregon, as well as in Michigan, to the office of inspector. He entered upon his duties September 20, and for two months was occupied in the inspection of nurseries. Seventy-five were visited and received certificates, and licenses were granted to a large number of tree dealers and foreign nurseries.

While the nurseries proper were without exception found to be free from San Jose scale, the dreaded insects were found in three places. In one case a florist who had been handling ornamental stock, had planted out a few surplus shrubs near his greenhouse, and some of them were found to be infested, as were some of the neighboring shrubs. The other cases were where tree dealers had planted out surplus trees in their packing grounds, and the scale was found upon them. In these cases licenses were refused and steps were taken to stamp out the insects by the destruction of the infested trees. Several nurseries were found where the trees were infected with "crown gall," and in one case the black peach aphis was present. The destruction of infected trees in one case and their thorough treatment in the other was required.

The San Jose scale has been found in several orchards. Nurseries in other States known to be infested furnished lists to their customers, and by means of correspondence and personal visits, 13 infestations were found in eight counties. In most of them only a few trees were infested, and these were promptly destroyed; but in the others the insects had been there from four to eight years, and in one case had spread from one tree until fully five hundred were infested. Under the law it is hoped that, if other orchards have been infested, they can be located and measures taken to prevent further spread, either by destruction of the trees, or by the thorough use of the proper insecticides.

The fruit growers of Michigan are well pleased with

the law, and expect that, if properly enforced, it will prove of great benefit to them. The nurserymen seem well suited with the inspection feature of the law and while, at first, some of them demurred at the license and bond idea (as they claimed that it grouped them with the liquor dealers), none of them have refused to take out license, and in all cases they have cheerfully aided the inspector in the performance of his duties. As might be expected, they have made free use of their certificates in their catalogues and advertisements.—Rural New-Yorker.

EDITORIAL FROM RURAL NEW-YORKER.

Prof. Taft gives us a clear statement of the new law for nursery and orchard inspection which Michigan has adopted. Fruit growers and nurserymen generally seem to believe that this law will have a tendency to check the spread of plant diseases. It is not expected that the law as it stands at present is perfect. Its purpose is right, but experience will determine what changes or slight amendments will make it stronger and fairer. One possible effect will be to drive small dealers and "tree agents" out of the business, leaving only those who are able to supply certificates and bonds. We hope fruit growers will not place too much dependence upon the certificates issued by the entomologists or inspectors. They must understand that these certificates alone are not a positive guarantee of freedom from disease or insects.

Prof. E. S. Goff has purchased the fruit farm of A. L. Hatch in Ithaca, Richland County. This is the place planted by Mr. Hatch and named by him "Hill Crest." It was from this farm a large share of Wisconsin's exhibit of fruit at the World's Fair in Chicago, was made, for which Mr. Hatch received a medal. Prof. Goff's possession of the farm will in no wise affect his relation to the University or interfere with his work at the Experiment Station, but will serve as a valuable adjunct from which to draw practical examples to illustrate his work in teaching Horticulture.

WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH OUR SURPLUS POTATOES?

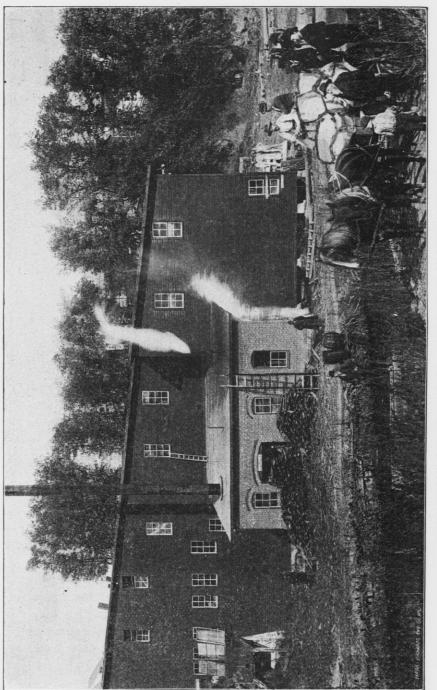
This is a very important question, especially in northern Wisconsin, which seems better adapted to potato culture than almost any other portion of our country.

One way of solving the problem is by the erection of starch factories. On the next page is a picture of the starch factory at Black River Falls, Jackson County. The wagon in the foreground is drawing a load of starch to the railway depot. Prof. Henry in his Hand Book of Northern Wisconsin says: "In years of low prices large quantities of potatoes are turned into starch at these factories, while when prices are high they get but a limited amount, though the starch factory is a good place for disposing of the culls."

DON'T KILL THE BIRDS!

Geo. Raymer, Madison, Wis.

The observations made upon the Blue Jay by Franklin Johnson are exactly true of another bird, usually despised by the farmer, namely the hawk. There are some birds that the average farmer recognizes as friends and others which are just as good friends that are generally hated. A common hawk, of any of the several species in the State, is worth more than ten good cats to catch gophers, mice and moles. The hawk, the owl, the crow and the blue jay are all great destroyers of mice, moles, gophers, chipmunks, crickets and grasshoppers. They are all hated by most farmers and all are as good friends as he has among birds. The woodpeckers are another shamefully slandered family of birds. Indeed, if the little red-headed sap-sucker is excepted, there is not a single bird in this State that does not do many times more good than harm; and even the noisy, homely, and sometimes dirty and annoying English sparrow has much to be said in his favor. The farmer or fruit grower who permits the killing of birds because they get a few grains of corn, a few berries, or occasionally a chicken, would do well to read the exhaustive studies of birds and



STARCH FACTORY AT BLACK RIVER FALLS. Courtesy of Agricultural Experiment Station.

their food being published from time to time by the Department of Agriculture at Washington. A good deal wiser thing to do, than that of killing birds, would be to plant in fence corners and unused places Russian mulberry and wild cherry trees to provide bird food. Plenty of birds will protect the farm crops from worse enemies than birds are by an hundred fold. After fifty years of life in Wisconsin —the paradise of birds—and observing the Blue Jay almost daily through all that time, I have yet to see the first Blue Jay rob another bird's nest. The examination of the stomachs of 292 Blue Jays by the government Department of Agriculture does not furnish the proof of a single case of actual robbery of another bird's nest. So much for that old slander of the Blue Jay.

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VALUE OF SEEDLING SMALL FRUITS.

Geo. J. Kellogg, Janesville, Wis.

Without seedlings there would be very little improvement in any fruits. Transplanting and culture might increase size and quality.

Strawberries were first transplanted from the wild woods and meadows in the seventeenth century. The first improvements were by seedlings of cross fertilization of the European and South American species. There was no marked enthusiasm in strawberry culture till the advent of Hovey and Early Scarlet in 1834. Of 412 varieties catalogued in 1870 there are about ten now to be found.

Strawberry seedling production has become a craze; once start a good thing and the American horticulturist goes wild. For two years I watched a bed of 4,000 seedlings in full fruitage; it would have made a fortune or spent a fortune to have tested and put them properly before the public. I think there are now catalogued one thousand varieties in the United States and Canada. Every originator thinks his pet has something remarkable in it.

The improvements in the last ten years have been very

great; and yet there is no one variety that fills all requirements. I see no way for an amateur to satisfy his tastes in season, size, quality and productiveness, but to plant ten of the best well known varieties and keep ten more of the new on his trial beds. In no other way will he know what is going on and how soon he may miss a bonanza.

In other seedling small fruits there has not been the same improvement as in strawberries, yet the grape has its 1,000 varieties and as many more now coming to fruitage. Probably the Campbell's Early will take the place of the Concord. I know of valuable seedlings now that a few years ago would have contained fortunes. Now the competition is so sharp that some good point of excellence, either hardiness, quality, size, vigor, freedom from disease, earliness or long keeping qualities, or a combination of these qualities, must prove merit, or there is no use in trying to foist the seedling on the public.

Among other small fruits there is a large field open for successful competition by growing new varieties, and especially by cross fertilization. Chance seedlings are no longer worth their cost; we must breed to some specific purpose. The recent experiments of Prof. Budd, of Iowa, show what can be done among small fruits as well as among the roses. The tendency of growers of new fruits is to humbug the American people. As a nation we are a set of humbugs and easily humbugged. We always bite if the hook is concealed and the bait tempting.

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An effective place to put a growing plant is in the hall upon a newel post. The top of this post is usually put in with a wooden peg and is easily lifted off, leaving a flat surface. Have a jardiniere of brass or other metal fastened securely to the post. Place inside of it a pot containing a palm or some plant that does not require much light. By giving it plenty of water it will last a long time and be very ornamental.

ANNUAL MEETING OF STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

This meeting, held in the Senate Chamber at Madison, Feb. 1-4, 1898, was among the most interesting and instructive in the history of the Society. We were glad to see in attendance so many of the revered pioneers of horticulture, and to note that their hearts are still full of the enthusiasm of youth, although their heads are white with the snow of life's winter. We were also glad to see such a goodly number of young men listening attentively to the papers and discussions. Upon these young men who are learning to think with an educated mind and to "dig with educated muscles," the future of the Society depends.

We were proud to have among our speakers Prof. L. H. Bailey of Cornell University. Prof. Bailey's first address was given Wednesday evening. As he came upon the rostrum he was greeted by a storm of applause and the "Wiscohsin yell," the latter by the two hundred students present from the Agricultural Department of the University of Wisconsin. Prof. Bailey has a beauty and force of diction and a personal magnetism which impart a charm to the driest scientific details, and hold the closest attention of a mixed audience from first to last. His subject Wednesday evening was "Education;" Thursday afternoon he gave an address on "Conditions Favorable to the Formation of Fruit Buds." These addresses will be printed in the Annual Report of the Society.

Tuesday evening we met in joint session with the State Forestry Association. Our own Prof. King of the State University gave a very able paper on the Relation of Forests to Agriculture. We endeavored to secure this paper for our magazine but have not yet succeeded, though we are still not "without hope." Other interesting papers were "Needed Legislation Regarding Preservation and Management of Forests" by Ernest Bruncken, and "The Aesthetic and Ethical Value of Trees" by Prof. Gettle of the Department of Education;" the latter was especially fine.

To speak at length of all the excellent papers would

fill our allotted space a hundred-fold. Some of them we expect to print in future numbers of the Horticulturist; two appear on preceding pages of this issue, one by F. C. Edwards of Fort Atkinson, and the other, "Value of Seedling Small Fruits," by Geo. J. Kellogg of Janesville.

The election of officers resulted as follows: President, L. G. Kellogg, of Ripon; Vice-president, Franklin Johnson of Baraboo; Recording Secretary, A. J. Philips of West Salem; Treasurer, R. J. Coe of Fort Atkinson; Corresponding Secretary, W. J. Moyle of Madison. An Executive Committee was also elected in compliance with Section I of the Act of Re-organization.

The Society passed a resolution pledging its "hearty support to the Wisconsin State Board of Agriculture in promoting agricultural and kindred interests," and instructed its Executive Committee to "give Mr. J. C. Plumb all necessary assistance in his work [preparing a history of Wisconsin horticulture], and take such action as is needed to bring the work into harmony with that of the State Historical Commission." Resolutions of sympathy were sent to Mrs. B. F. Adams of Madison and Mr. J. L. Fisk of Omro, who are ill, and resolutions of condolence to Geo. J. Kellogg on the death of his wife, to Mrs. Daniel Huntley for the loss of her husband and to Mr. and Mrs. Geo. McKerrow for the loss of their daughter. Also resolutions of thanks to Mr. Scott, Superintendent of Public Property, and to the railroad officials for courtesies received.

Of the exceedingly interesting entertainment furnished Thursday evening by the Short Course students we shall have a good deal to say in our March issue.

In the exhibit room, one feature out of the ordinary attracted much attention. This was a beautiful collection of drawings by Miss Nellie Tuttle of Baraboo, the young granddaughter of A. G. Tuttle. A special committee of ladies was appointed to examine these. We regret not having their report at hand, but it gave the young lady high commendation, making particular mention of a copy of three

horses' heads and a drawing from nature of ears of corn hung up to dry. A special premium of one dollar was awarded. Miss Nellie's skill is a natural gift, she having had very little instruction.

MRS. FRANKLIN JOHNSON.

AWARD OF PREMIUMS.

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The exhibits at the annual meeting were in a separate room from that in which the regular sessions were held.

The display of apples was not large, no premium being offered this year for "Best display of varieties." The OUALITY of the plates on exhibition was excellent.

The display of potatoes was large and the potatoes were very large. One firm, the Riverdale Seed Farm of Grand Rapids, Wis., had two long tables loaded with potatoes of sixty-six named varieties and nearly a hundred plates of seedlings. Their seedlings of the first year were remarkable for their size and attracted a great deal of attention.

LIST OF PREMIUMS AWARDED FOR PLATES OF APPLES.

Newell, 1st, F. H. Chappel, Oregon; 2d, Henry Tarrant, Janesville.

Hibernal, 1st, A. D. Barnes, Waupaca.

McMahan, 1st, A. D. Barnes; 2d, F. A. Hardin, Weyauwega.

Fameuse, 1st, A. D. Barnes.

Wealthy, 1st, A. D. Barnes; 2d, Edwin Nye.

Scott's Winter, 1st, Edwin Nye, Appleton.

Grimes' Golden, 1st, Henry Tarrant.

Pewaukee, 1st, A. D. Barnes.

Walbridge, 1st, Edwin Nye; 2d, A. D. Barnes.

Windsor, 1st, Henry Tarrant; 2d, F. A. Hardin.

N. W. Greening, 1st, A. A. Cannon & Son, Marcellon; 2d, Henry Tarrant.

Golden Russet, 1st, Henry Tarrant; 2d, A. D. Barnes.

Repka, 1st, F. H. Chappel, 2d, Henry Tarrant.

Longfield, 1st, F. A. Hardin.

Malinda, 1st, Henry Tarrant; 2d, F. H. Chappel.

Tallman Sweet, 1st, Wm. Toole, Baraboo; 2d, Edwin Nye. Utter, 1st, A. D. Barnes.

Plumb Cider, 1st, O. W. Babcock, Omro.

LIST OF PREMIUMS AWARDED FOR PLATES OF APPLES-CONTINUED.

Mann, 1st, Edwin Nye.

Flushing Spitzenberg, 1st, Henry Tarrant.

Arabska, 1st, F. H. Chappel.

Wolf River, 1st, A. D. Barnes.

Winter Seedling, 1st, F. H. Chappel; 2d, A. D. Barnes.

New Seedling, 1st, Edwin Nye.

Crab Apples, 1st, A. D. Barnes.

PREMIUMS ON POTATOES.

Best display, not to exceed ten varieties, 1st, Riverdale Seed Farm, Grand Rapids; 2d, J. M. Smith's Sons, Green Bay.

Best new seedling originating in Wisconsin within two years, 1st, Riverdale Seed Farm on No. 11; 2d, Riverdale Seed

Farm on "Yukon."

- Best half peck early, 1st, Riverdale Seed Farm on "Early Michigan;" 2d, Waupaca Seed Potato Co. on "Bovee."
- Best half peck late, 1st, Riverdale Seed Farm on "Wilson's First Choice;" 2d, Riverdale Seed Farm on "Enormous." We have not room for the long list of specials.

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EDITORIAL COMMENT.

We wrote to a subscriber in Excelsior, Minnesota, asking whether there was any "pink butter" on the market there. He has searched in vain for it—cannot find spurious butter of any color. He writes that after the law was passed requiring oleomargarine and butterine to be colored pink Armour shipped two carloads to Duluth, which were seized by the internal revenue officers. Armour took the matter to the Supreme Court, which sustained the law in reference to the color. This seems to have effectually barred out artificial butter from Minnesota.

In another column you will notice that "Hill Crest," the fruit-farm in Ithaca formerly owned by Mr. A. L. Hatch, has passed into the hands of Prof. Goff. Mr. Hatch, having purchased Prof. Goff's interest at Sturgeon Bay, has removed to that city, where he will devote his attention to fruit culture.

We would like to request a personal favor of every reader of this number of the Horticulturist. Will not each of you try to secure at least ONE NEW SUBSCRIBER? You will notice our liberal premium offer to new subscribers. We make liberal club rates. Write to us for them at once, if you think you can get up a club. Address all communications to

THE WISCONSIN HORTICULTURIST,

Baraboo, Wis.

Business Announcement--Read This!

The Wisconsin Horticulturist is a WISCONSIN MAGAZINE, issued under the auspices of the Wisconsin State Horticultural Society. In order to introduce the magazine into a large number of homes we have put it at the low price of fifty cents per annum, and offer a fine collection of premiums. Every new subscriber can take HIS CHOICE of the following premium offers:

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1 packet of the new bean, Mammoth Pearl; 1 packet of the new pea, American Triumph; 1 packet of the new forage plant (Panicum Kros Galli, Gigantic); 1 packet of the new potato. Rex; 1 packet of tomato seed; 1 tuber of new potato, Reed's Early Snowball. This entire collection as a premium to a new subscriber.

"STRAWBERRY PLANTS."

We offer as a premium with the magazine, to each subscriber, twelve plants of any of the three following varieties of strawberries, all new and popular: Wm. Belt, which is highly en-dorsed wherever tried; Clyde, "Hale's pet," wins a recommendation on first trial; Glen Mary, a beautiful berry, a general favorite. These three are all perfect flowering varieties.



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The following three choice vines will be sent to every new subscriber who chooses them:

1 Worden, admitted to be the best black grape for the "Northwest."

1 Massasoit (red). One of the best of "Roger's Hybrids," an early grape, very hardy and productive. In a vineyard of a great many varieties, the writ-er's preference is the "Massasoit."

1 Moore's Diamond, a beautiful green grape that ripens early, of good quality and one of the best green grapes for Wisconsin.

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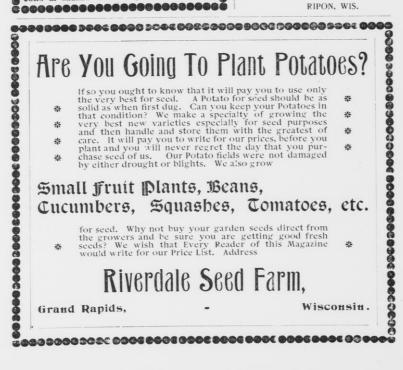
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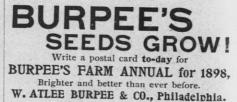
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