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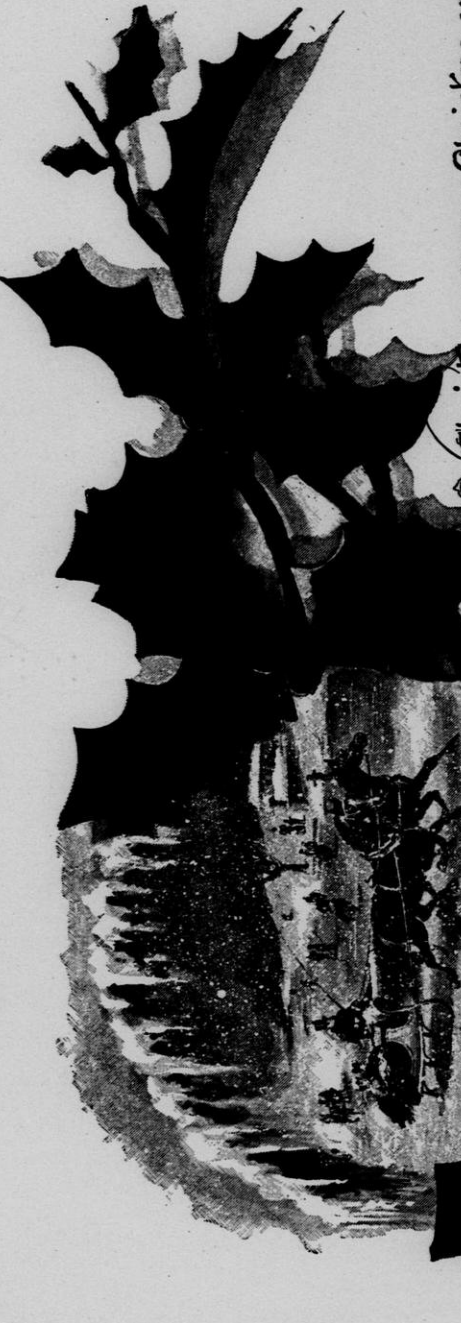
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O Christmas merry Christmas!  
This never more can be,  
We cannot bring again the days  
Of our unshadowed glee.



But Christmas happy Christmas,  
Sweet herald of goodwill,  
With holy song of glory  
Brings holy gladness still.

# The Wisconsin Horticulturist.

VOL. III.

DECEMBER.

NO. 10.

## WISCONSIN STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

### Officers for 1898.

L. G. KELLOGG, President.....	Ripon
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PROF. E. S. GOFF, Wis. Agricultural Exp. Station.....	Madison



### CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS.

"Yield up your green, O trees,  
To make a Christmas crown!"

Personally we do not like any kind of floral decoration at Christmas. Bring "flowers, sweet flowers" for Easter, for weddings and for all summer festivals, but at Christmas give us the "Christmas green." And do not decorate too heavily.

For the home nothing is prettier than the creeping ground pine or club-moss (*Lycopodium clavatum*). Festoon long sprays of this over the tops of the doors and windows and around a picture here and there. To drape *all* the pictures would give too much sameness. If you cannot procure the *Lycopodium* hang wreaths of holly about the room and drape the pictures with smilax or ivy or other delicate vines.

A small jardiniere containing a young, green, growing

plant is an ideal decoration for the Christmas dinner-table. In lieu of such a plant a very pretty effect can be produced by arranging evergreen twigs and bitter-sweet berries in a large fruit-dish and placing the dish upon the center of the table in the midst of a wreath of holly or smilax.

For church decoration use stately palms and heavy ropes of evergreen which are better than the slender sprays of *Lycopodium*. These are made by binding sprigs of evergreen on to strong cords, and are fine for twining about pillars or festooning from chandelier to chandelier. The making of yards and yards of this trimming is delightful if the lad or lassie you like best chances to be on the same committee with you.

M. C. C. J.



#### FLORAL NOTES.

WORMS AND INSECTS in the soil of house-plants may be killed or expelled by the use of lime-water prepared as follows: Take a piece of lime as large as an ordinary teacup. Let it be perfectly fresh—this is important as air-slacked lime is useless. Put it in a pailful of water, and let it stand till it dissolves. Then pour off the water, allowing the sediment to remain in the bottom of the pail. Apply this lime-water to your plants, using enough to thoroughly saturate all the soil. If this is not done no benefit can be expected from its application. Enough must be used to go where the worms are. If one application is not sufficient make a second or a third one. There is no danger of injuring the plant as not enough lime can be held in suspension by the water to do this, so do not be afraid of using it liberally. The insects infesting the *Chrysanthemum* may be banished by the use of Fir Tree oil soap.

—EBEN E. REXFORD in *Ladies' Home Journal*.

OLD CHRYSANTHEMUMS.—The best thing to do with them after they are through blossoming is to throw them



away. But if you wish to grow "large bushes" repot your plants in fresh compost after removing all but five or six suckers, and let them grow through the summer. However the blossoms will not be nearly as fine as those produced by young plants.

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POTTING PLANTS.—Many imagine that by simply removing a plant from its summer bed and placing it in a pot, with abundance of water and a high temperature, all the requirements of nature have been complied with. Alas, for the disappointment in store for one who pursues this course. The vigor of a plant is due to a mass of tender, fibre-like rootlets. When the plant is removed from the ground these fine fibres or working roots, as they are called, are broken off and must be replaced before the plant can recover its vigor. An English gardener says: "If we remove a Rose-bush from the border, put it into a pot, deluge it with water and then subject it to light and a heated atmosphere, the result will be that in a month or so it will be useful only to the spider whose suspension bridges will connect the dead branches. Had we taken the same plant, potted it in the same manner, watered it once and well, having previously cut down all the branches to within two inches of the main stem, and allowed it in this state to remain for three months in a cool cellar, the result would have been different. The pot by that time is full of working roots and the introduction of the plant then to light and heat causes new wood to form and buds to start in a way which is astonishing to a novice."

As to the soil for potting, avoid clay. Sandy loam enriched by the compost from an old hot bed will do very well for most plants.

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A NOVEL ROOM DECORATION.—One who desired to have a few house-plants but had wearied of flower-stands and brackets, tried this for a change. Having a large vase on the lawn which was useless in the winter, he removed it to the house and filled it with good soil. He then made a care-

ful selection of plants, choosing those which could endure the heated atmosphere of a sitting-room, and placing vines or drooping plants near the outer edge of the vase. He kept the vase in a cool corner away from the light until the new rootlets began to form, then placed it in front of a window. It soon became a "thing of beauty" and was much more easily cared for than the same number of plants in separate pots.

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The Petunia is a very satisfactory plant for winter blooming in the window. Plant it in a rich, light soil, give it a fair supply of water and spray the foliage regularly.

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The Silver-leaved Geraniums are not as strong growers and will not thrive as well under adverse circumstances as the green-leaved varieties. They like a moist atmosphere and plenty of sunlight, and a little Jadoo liquid or weak manure water, occasionally.



#### A TRIP TO THE FRUIT BELT OF MICHIGAN.

[If you own an apple-tree you should read this letter.—  
ED.]

EDITOR WISCONSIN HORTICULTURIST:—

It was my good fortune to be able to visit the fruit region around Ludington during the month of September. I made some observations which I thought perhaps might be interesting to some of your readers and so submit the following:

In company with Mr. John Marshall, one of our Door County fruit growers, I crossed Lake Michigan, a distance of about 85 miles, to see the wonderful fruit grown in Michigan. We landed at Ludington early in the morning, so had plenty of time for observation. I can not begin to tell you of all we saw but will only mention the things that impressed me most.

I had never been in a peach country before and of course

it seemed wonderful to me to see acres and acres of peach orchards loaded with fruit. We drove out eight miles into the country and it was nothing but a continuous orchard. The last man we visited said he could take us for miles and not get out of an orchard except to climb over the fence into another one.

As soon as we landed we asked to be directed to some practical fruit grower that was making money out of the business and were directed to Mr. Smith Hawley about eight miles out. We found Mr. Hawley a very energetic and practical man as well as a hospitable one. He is not one of the largest growers by any means, but I should judge by what I saw that he is one of the very best.

We first visited the apples and while I was delighted with the peaches I saw nothing that took my eye as did those apples. Here were rows of Rhode Island Greening, Baldwin, Canada Red, Spitzenberg, Wagener, Maiden's Blush and many others. The trees were loaded down but still not so overloaded but what the fruit was large and well formed. The crop had been thinned by taking off over one half of the fruit that had set. Mr. Hawley believes in thinning everything in the line of tree fruit. His argument in favor of thinning was the best I ever heard. He said, "It takes no longer, even not so long, to pick one half of the fruit off when about the size of marbles than later, and then your fruit is first-class, and your trees are not so full as to break down." Then we came to some Fameuse trees and I said, "Can those be Fameuse so large and not a single spot of scab?" He offered to bet with me that there was not a single scabby apple on any of his trees. I also noticed that every tree was perfectly healthy and every leaf seemed perfect. I asked the reason and he answered, "*Spraying.*" He said, "I was the first man in this country to spray and I know what it has done for me; I would no more think of trying to raise apples without spraying than I would of trying to raise pigs without feeding." I could

not find any wormy apples either, although worms were bad in Michigan this year.

It will not be amiss to give his formula for spraying. He sprays the first time very early in the spring, even as soon as the first of March sometimes. For this spraying he uses a very strong formula, eight pounds of vitriol and eight pounds of lime to fifty gallons of water. The next time he sprays just as soon as the petals have well fallen. For this he uses four pounds of vitriol, four pounds of lime and four ounces of Paris green to fifty gallons of water. He sprays again about one week later using the same formula as for the second spraying. He says do not be afraid of using lots of liquid. Drench the trees well on all sides and don't put it off because of wet weather but spray even while raining.

Does it pay him to spray and thin? Well I should say so! Lots of apples were bought in Michigan during September for 25c per bushel, but his did not have to be sold for that! He was cutting down some of his peaches that were seventeen years old and was going to plant apples; but I think he is making a mistake in varieties, as he is going to set out quite a number of Pewaukee and Longfield.

In another article I will tell about peaches, pears and small fruits as I saw them.

GEO. M. TONG.

Sturgeon Bay, Wis.

#### A FEW THINGS TO THINK ABOUT.

Is it a fact that Wisconsin is an apple growing state? Have there been thousands of barrels of apples shipped out of the state within the past three or four months? And yet right in the exact center of the state, in a city with three lines of railroads running through it, you cannot buy a barrel of Wisconsin grown apples for love or money.

Brother Horticulturists, what is the trouble? Are you all tumbling over each other to see which can get his apples



out of the state the quickest? Well, I hope if that is the case you are sending them somewhere where the crop was a failure this year, for certainly some one ought to have a chance to eat good apples and if they are sent out to sections of the country where their crop was a failure, the people will appreciate the fact that Wisconsin can grow apples when they can not. Thus it may be the means of bringing lots of would-be apple growers to our state to settle.

But just stop and think a moment. If we can grow apples in Wisconsin in as large quantities as has been done this year, does not "Charity begin at home," and wouldn't it pay to look after the markets in our own state first? Certainly when any old thing that looks like an apple at all will bring from thirty-five to fifty cents a peck, it does seem that good nice apples grown here in Wisconsin ought to be worth as much as a claim on the Yukon, if they were marketed in some of the cities of our own state. There are probably from twenty-five to one hundred places of 1,000 inhabitants or over, right in our own state, that haven't seen a Wisconsin grown apple this fall, since the Duchesses were gone, at least. Don't you think it would pay to look after the home markets better?

L. H. READ.

Grand Rapids, Wis.



#### CAUSE OF WINTER KILLING.

A. G. Tuttle, Baraboo, Wis.

[The thoughts embodied in this article were originally given by Mr. Tuttle before the Minnesota Horticultural Society in 1886. Later experience has served to strengthen these convictions.—ED.]

The destruction of orchards during the winter of '84 and '85 was very general, not only in the northwest, but in regions farther south and east.

Eminent horticulturists throughout the country gave



their views of the causes that operated to produce the destruction.

Before giving any views of my own I propose to examine some of the causes assigned.

It was claimed by many that the warm weather in the fall held out so late that the sap was forced into circulation, which being succeeded by freezing, destroyed the trees. If such was the fact, why were a very large proportion of the trees injured killed only on the north side, while the south half was not injured and produced a fair crop of fruit? If the sap was forced into circulation by the prolonged heat in the fall, it should have been in more active circulation on the south half than on the north half of the tree. Of all the trees the Duchess of Oldenburg and other Russian fruits should have been the first to start into growth, as they finish their growth earlier and, having had a longer season of rest, should have been the first to commence growth; and yet that class of trees suffered very little, if any, injury. The Transcendent crab, always the first to put out leaves in the spring, should have been the first to be forced into growth in the fall, but among them we hear of no injury.

It has often been said that trees suffer injury when the warm weather in the fall does not hold out late enough to mature the wood, so that between too little and too much heat in the fall the tree stands a very narrow chance of living. Were it not true that we have a class of trees unaffected by these conditions we might as well give up the business of growing fruit.

Another reason given was that nurserymen in grafting cut off the tap root, consequently the roots of the trees do not penetrate below frost. If the hardiness of a tree depends upon the depth its roots penetrate the soil, the pear, of all trees, should be the hardiest, for every one knows that it sends its roots deeper into the soil than any other fruit tree.

There was very little root-killing of trees by the cold of those severe winters. I found the roots of all the trees

that were killed, so far as I examined them, to be in good condition and I can see no reason why the killing of the top should be the fault of the roots, so long as the roots are in good condition. Orchard trees do sometimes, though very rarely, kill in the root. Seedling trees that have never been shorn of the tap root suffer equally with others. As an evidence that they do not require a tap root to insure hardiness, we find that trees growing the farthest north, close upon the confines of perpetual frost, such as the fir, spruces and pines, do not have any tap root and their whole system of roots is spread just below the surface of the ground.

Another reason given was that the trees were in a starved condition and so enfeebled by it that they were easily destroyed. There seems to have been quite a difference in the kind of trees starved; while one came through in good condition another was killed. I had twenty-five trees of one variety that had been in June grass sod for twelve or fifteen years which never passed a winter apparently in better condition, and bore the following season more than double the quantity of fruit of any season before.

A tree half hardy may survive under favorable conditions of soil and culture and climate that would fail with unfavorable conditions and neglect.

If ever fruit growing in this great Northwest becomes permanently a success it will be when we have a class of fruits that need no petting and are able to flourish under neglect and extremes of climate.

As with animals, so with trees and plants, one will live and flourish where another will die.

Many think that the injury done to trees is by freezing and thawing in the spring. In portions of our country where there is freezing and thawing in rapid succession during the whole winter, they grow all varieties of the peach, plum, pear and cherry and also the most tender varieties of the apple. In those parts of the northern states where the mercury seldom falls much below zero all these

fruits are successfully grown, and in many portions this freezing and thawing during the whole winter is similar to what we have in the spring.

There is one other reason given for the destruction of our trees. It is the claim made by the dishonest tree peddler, that the reason trees kill is because they are grafted in the root, and that trees budded above the surface of the ground will be perfectly hardy. Any one knows who has had any experience with seedlings exposed above the surface of the ground, that not one in a thousand will prove hardy and that the seedling root placed below the ground will be much more likely to live than when exposed above the surface. The seedling in the root graft has the same protection we give tender vines and shrubs when we cover them with earth. And then, too, the hardy cion, most of it placed below the surface, will send out roots that will insure the life of the tree though the seedling root should kill.

Probably there always will be these traveling sharks prowling over the country doing a large business by pure unadulterated lying.

Some thirty years ago I wrote an article on "Orcharding in Wisconsin." It was given as my opinion in that article that the *very extreme and long-continued cold* of some of our winters was the principal cause of injury, and now after the lapse of more than a quarter of a century, carefully noting the effect of the extremes we have passed, I am still of that opinion. Every cold winter when we have had many days in succession of very extreme cold, and when on some of these days the mercury did not rise above twenty below zero at midday, I have always found injury soon to follow. In every case the extreme cold winters have been those most destructive. If we place a foliage plant in the open air with the thermometer at zero, it is soon killed and we do not hesitate to say it froze to death. The Baldwin, Greening or Spitzenberg apple kills in a dry atmosphere with about the same degree of cold that destroys the peach.

That our trees freeze to death I have not the least doubt,

but why one kills and another does not, is something I don't understand and probably never shall.

Prof. Budd claims that trees freeze to death by the expansion of the sap in the sap cells caused by severe freezing. This is an old theory and one I could never accept. That portion of the tree containing the sap vessels is as easily frozen as a potato, and I can see no reason why the sap should not be as thoroughly frozen and expanded with the thermometer at zero as at thirty or forty below, and yet with the mercury at zero we suffer no injury.

It is not necessary for us to be able to explain why one variety kills and another does not; the fact is all that is necessary for us to know until we are able to go back in creation to the great first cause and explain the phenomena of its existence. We shall find many mysteries in nature we cannot solve. Science can only reveal to us a few faint glimmerings of that effulgent light that shines beyond the reach of human vision. Only in another state of existence, if ever, shall we be able to comprehend the wonderful mysteries that nature withholds from us here.

Let us accept the facts as they present themselves rather than adopt a theory and spend all our energies to make facts conform to it.

I made a thorough examination of my shrubs and vines the first day they were thawed after the severe cold; the injury was as apparent then as it was a month afterwards. The evidence was as conclusive to me that they had frozen to death as it would have been had I found a person who had perished in a Dakota blizzard. I would as soon have entertained the idea that the person died of sunstroke or fever as that thawing killed the trees.

Vines, shrubs and small fruits can be protected, but our orchard fruits should be sufficiently hardy to withstand any amount of cold we may be liable to have.

Of varieties that can withstand the cold we will speak in a future number.



## OMRO CHRYSANTHEMUM SHOW.

EDITOR OF THE WISCONSIN HORTICULTURIST:—

The Fourth Annual Chrysanthemum Show and Fair held by the Omro Horticultural Society, Nov. 16, 17 and 18, was all that we could wish for. The weather was very favorable and the effort made to show what could be done in the way of growing fruits, flowers, grains and vegetables met with excellent success. The attendance was good so that in finances the Show was also a success (for an empty treasury would mean failure). This society does not intend to make any money by holding these shows, but wishes merely to pay the expenses incurred and we charge the small price of ten cents for each admission.

There was a good display of plants and Chrysanthemums, but the flowers were not as large as they usually are, owing, I think, to a lack of sunshine during the month of October. J. C. Vaughan, of Chicago, Isaac Miles and James Lewis, of Oshkosh, sent us some very fine cut flowers, comprising Chrysanthemums, Roses and Carnations, which we appreciated and they were also greatly admired by the visitors.

The display of fruit was excellent. There were more than 125 plates of apples on exhibition and some samples of pears and grapes, all grown by farmers living near Omro. We felt very proud of this display. The grains and vegetables were also fine.

In fancy work and the arts there was a great interest manifested and the display would vie with cities of a larger growth.

We had about 250 entries, besides many articles brought in to show what could be done, which did not come in our premium list.

The little folks contributed nobly in what they could do, and all working together made this the most successful affair of the kind that we have held, all feeling repaid for the time spent in working for this show.



Our judges were: Fine Arts, Mrs. E. P. Sawyer of Oshkosh; Fruits and Flowers, James Lewis of Oshkosh; Grains and Vegetables, G. L. Finkle, J. H. Finkle and F. Spencer of Appleton,—which gave general satisfaction. We were pleased to have a number of visitors from away and would have been glad to have entertained more if they had attended. We were disappointed that not one of our State Horticultural officers was present, for we fully expected that some of them would come.

Friday evening was devoted to an entertainment and banquet, the program being furnished by the talent in our local society, and thus closed the fourth attempt made in this line by the Omro Horticultural Society, which was pronounced by all a complete success.

MRS. JOS. D. TRELEVEN,  
Secretary of Omro Horticultural Society.



## A CHRISTMAS STORY FOR THE YOUNG FOLKS.



### THE WOES OF A TREE BROWNIE.

"More than 150,000 Christmas trees were shipped from the northern Wisconsin pine woods this year."

It was a brilliant December morning. Old Boreas had been down from the north and laid a mantle of snow over the shoulders of Mother Earth, covering everything rude and unsightly with its fleecy purity, effacing every spot and stain, every mark of summer's decline and autumn's decay.

Then Jack Frost, that great scenic artist, laid some of his most wonderful decorative touches on tree and shrub, on stump and stub and twig. Every weed even blossomed with frost flowers, while the branches of spruce and fir were graceful, plummy wreaths. The bare branches of maple and elm were silvered over and star-spangled, every stump and

stub had its snowy robe and silvery crown, each sprig and spray drooped with a feathery plume.

At dawn the sun looked down and smiled to see the wayworn old earth he left the night before with all the marks of summer's toil and autumn's decay upon it, by Jack's labors transformed to fairy land. And his smile touched the scene to untold splendor. Diamonds and jewels of pearl and amethyst encrusted each wreath; work of silver filigree encircled each trunk and stump. Creation or conception of man never equaled Jack Frost's transformation scene with the sun as illuminator. Even the glories of the illuminated Court of Honor paled beside this beautiful fairy scene.

The Frost Fairies too were out in their robes of snowy frost-lace and icy jewels. For they are great favorites with their stern old Uncle Jack. And though he is a savage old fellow to meet on a cold winter night and will give your fingers or nose an unmerciful twinge, still he is very good to his fairy nieces, taking them with him wherever he goes and furnishing them their spangled lace robes and icy diamonds.

On this morning of which I write, one of the sprites, in a lovely crepe frost dress, had perched herself on a plummy limb of spruce to better view the brilliant scene. She heard a soft little sigh and on turning her head beheld the oddest looking little brownie you ever saw. He wore a tight little green suit and the funniest peaked cap. But such a sorrowful looking little face the frost fairy had never seen.

"Why, what is the matter, brownie?" asked the fairy, for though the frost fairies look cold and icy they are really tender and easily melted. "How can anyone be in trouble such a lovely morning?"

"I am crying because Christmas is coming," the brownie replied.

"Crying because Christmas is coming! Why every one is so glad because it is so near. The children talk of Christmas trees everywhere I go."

"Oh yes," said brownie, "that is just the trouble.

Don't you see they have taken our tree for a Christmas tree? And all the others in the grove? Look around you."

The frost fairy looked and saw that the place where they were had once been a large grove of spruce and fir but now there was nothing left except some of the lower branches and the stumps.

"Oh, our beautiful trees are gone, all gone. The brownies have no homes now," and he sobbed afresh.

"Don't cry so, brownie. What is your name? Mine is Starena Frost."

"My name is Spruce Billee. Oh dear! what good is a name or anything else! My beautiful tree! Oh dear! And some of the brownies have gone with it. They will all die. Do you know what the people do with the trees when they take the presents off them?"

"Yes, I know," said Starena. "They throw them out in the back yard and the garbage man comes and gets them and burns them. Sometimes the children make bonfires of them."

"Yes, and all the brownies that went with the trees are burned with them just as the pine brownies were," said Billee. "Do you think the children would enjoy their presents if they could see the poor sorrowful little folk clinging to their Christmas tree, heart-broken and hopeless and frightened nearly to death by all the noise and lights?"

"Oh I don't know; I guess they would try to catch some of them if they knew they were there," Starena replied.

"Human folk are very selfish; they never think of any one but themselves," said Spruce Billee.

"Well," said Starena, "they do give something to poor people Christmas day and try to give them a good dinner."

"Yes, but they always keep the best for their own children. And there are 365 days in the year. What do they do on the other 364?"

"Well, I go north in the spring and I can't tell what they do in summer time. What did you mean about the pine brownies being burned?"

"Oh that was a terrible thing, but the spruce brownies will all go in the same way. There was a very learned man came to see the burned district, a scientist, his friends called him, and he said while he stood looking at the ruin, 'This comes from man's cupidity and selfishness. These will go in the same way,' and he pointed at our trees. They have gone, all gone, and I shudder when I think of the fire."

"Tell me about it, Spruce Billee."

"Do you see that dreary waste just beyond our grove? There is nothing there now but a few blackened stubs. Jack Frost has covered the desolation over with his fairy work, but the blackened scars are beneath it. That was once the grandest forest of pine ever seen. The pine brownies lived there and were very proud and haughty, for their trees were so noble and stately, there was nothing like them in the whole land. We did not envy them for our trees were more graceful and much more comfortable to live in than their great tall trees. So we were all content and lived very happily, until some men came through the forest and admired the pines. 'The nicest pine I ever saw,' one said. 'A regular bonanza,' said the tall one. The pine fairies thought it must be something very nice to be a bonanza. The next winter the men came back and brought a perfect army of workmen and horses, oxen and sleighs. The pine fairies were pleased to see them and told us in glee that the man who called them a 'bonanza' had come there to live. The men cut down a few of the trees and built them a house to live in. And then comes the terrible part of it. They kept right on cutting those noble pines, cutting them up and piling them on their great sleighs. They would haul them to the river and roll them onto the ice. When the spring came there was not a nice pine left, not one."

"How the brownies would shriek when their homes began to fall. And then they would stay in the worthless tree tops all bruised and broken."

"The men went away in the spring and left the tops and rubbish right where it fell."



"Oh the poor pine brownies! Many of them died. Some staid in the dry tops. In the fall another man came and brought a woman and a girl child. I think he would have made a home there but for the terrible thing which happened. They were poor people and they lived in the house the men built. Every day they worked picking up the rubbish and burning it until they had a small place clear. One day the man went away and left the woman and child there. Then the wind began to blow and scatter the fire among the dry tree tops. Soon the Storm Demon came howling by. He was very angry to find the beautiful forest gone; he shrieked and howled; he grasped the fire and hurled it from branch to branch. The woman was sadly frightened and seizing her child tried to escape from the place. But the Storm Demon saw her and hurled a wreath of flame at her. It wrapped her round and round until she was but one writhing, shrieking mass of flame. Then she fell to earth and all was still.

"But the fire raged on. The pine brownies all perished in the flames and there was nothing left of the forest but a seared and blackened waste. O, it was awful."

"But how did your grove escape?"

"The wind carried the flames away from us or we might have been severely burned," replied Billee. "The man came back and his grief was terrible. After some days he went away and we never saw him again. The Scientist I told you of and a friend came to look at the ruins and they talked of many things of which I never heard before. He seemed to love the trees and to think they were for something more than to cut down and destroy. I thought the men people never cared for anything but to destroy, for they always cut down the trees and kill the animals and the pretty birds. But he said it was a crime and shame to destroy a beautiful forest in such a wasteful manner, that men for the sake of a few dollars were making a desert waste of the country, that this was the cause of the drouths and the destructive fires with such terrible loss of life. And then he



told of one where 300 people were burned just as that woman and baby were. Just think! 300 men and women and babies screaming, shrieking, writhing pillars of flame."

"I know it must have been terrible. But how can you remember so much? I never could."

"Ah! Starena, if it concerned your home and life, the lives of all your race, it would burn itself on your memory as the fire has seared these remains of the forest. I was as light-hearted and free as you are, once, but the terrible things that I have seen have saddened me. This wise man said: 'Experience teaches a dear school. But fools will learn in no other.' What do you think he meant by that?"

"O!" said Starena, with a little flirt of her head, "don't ask me what men people mean! They are the queerest creatures! If they make a feast, they always ask those to come who have plenty to eat; they never ask the hungry. And if they make presents they always give to those who have more than they can use; they never give nice things to the needy. And if they see anything beautiful they want to get it and lay it away somewhere out of sight. Why the men people have not half as much sense as the squirrel; he never puts anything away but what he needs."

"Well," said brownie, "I don't know anything about their doings, but this learned man said that men were not satisfied with cutting the pine, but were taking all the large spruce for wood and the lovely small firs and spruce for Christmas trees; that thousands of trees were destroyed every winter just to give rich children one day's pleasure; that soon our forest lands would be desolate wastes, and droughts and fires would have their sway. Then the race of tree brownies will disappear. There will be no shy, pretty squirrels, no clumsy old hedgehogs nor graceful deer in the woods, no bright birds to flash through the trees, nothing but a desolate black waste like that over there."

This is the tale Spruce Eillee told to Starena, the frost fairy. Starena whispered it to me one lovely frosty night when the stars glittered and the frost fairies danced.

I have told it to the children so that they will have compassion on the poor tree brownies and try to induce the men people to leave them their beautiful evergreen homes, and our lovely forests to us.

ADDIE NISBET WOLCOTT.

Appleton, Wis.



### HOME-MADE CHRISTMAS CANDIES.

The whole "trick" of successful candy making depends upon the boiling of the syrup, or "fondant," as it is called. Select only clear days for candy-making—dampness being fatal to the best results.

TO MAKE THE FONDANT.—There are three things that can interfere with successful results: First, stirring, moving the cooking-vessel or even jarring it after boiling begins; second, allowing the crystals that form around the sides of the pan to drop back into the syrup (which later will cause granulation of the whole); and third, cooking too much or too little. A little thought will manage the first point, a wet brush or little cloth tied tightly on a stick will care for the second, and experience will insure the right management of the last.

Into a copper or porcelain-lined saucepan put one pound of granulated sugar (do not attempt a larger quantity at a time), one cupful of water and one third of a teaspoonful of cream of tartar; stir until the sugar *only* is dissolved—then touch not, only to carefully wipe off the crystals as they form on the sides of the pan, or to very gently remove any scum that may collect. At the end of ten minutes begin testing by dipping a silver teaspoon into a bowl of ice-water, then gently taking out a little syrup and returning to the water. As soon as you can roll a soft ball—that is, when you can really form a ball, a soft one, of the syrup so taken—the syrup is done. Now instantly remove the saucepan and stand it in cold water, or pour the syrup into a slightly buttered platter to cool.

As soon as the point is reached when you can bear your finger in it *with comfort* begin to stir with a wooden cake spatula or beater, stirring until a milk-white, creamy mass is formed, too thick to stir. Now knead until it is soft—that is, pliable and smooth—when it can be put into a bowl, covered with a damp cloth for future use, or used at once. If the stirring develops a hard, granular or lumpy mass you have boiled the syrup too long, and must add water and try it over again. If it remains semi-liquid, or too soft to knead after stirring, you have not boiled it long enough. “If at first you don’t succeed try again.”

CREAM WALNUTS.—Roll balls, flatten, and press a half of an English walnut-kernel on top of each.

CREAM ALMONDS.—Take a bit of fondant the size of a large hazelnut, press into it an almond and roll about between the palms of your hands into a round or oblong shape.

CREAM DATES.—Remove the stone and fill cavity with a ball of fondant.

CHOCOLATE CREAMS.—Roll a quantity of little balls of the fondant, flatten them slightly, then dip each one into melted chocolate, holding the ball on the end of a hat-pin.

NUT CANDY.—This candy can easily be made by the little folk of the family; for here failure is not possible if the simple directions given are followed. Into a spider pour one heaping cupful of granulated sugar; stir (a cake-turner is best for the purpose) until it is melted, then add one cupful of any kind of nut-kernels; mix them in the syrup, and pour into a pan that has been dipped in water. Do not melt sugar too fast, and stir *constantly*. It will first “ball up,” then a little will melt, and so on until there is only syrup, which will be slightly brown. Put the nuts in as soon as the sugar is all melted.

It was not an agricultural editor who wrote: “Pumpkins are said to be fattening for hogs, but we have never tried them ourselves.”—Boston Transcript.

**ARE WE TO HAVE ANY MORE COLD WINTERS?**

Judging from the past we may be close to one now.

In 1832 the Mississippi froze over at Memphis, Tenn., so that they crossed the river with teams. Thermometer 18 degrees below zero.

In 1844 the Mississippi was frozen over at Dubuque, Iowa, in April.

1855 and 1856 were two extremely cold winters, the first with very little snow, the second with three feet of snow on a level. These two winters played havoc with most of the early-set orchards, planted chiefly with Eastern varieties.

1864 broke the record for cold. The thermometer at Louisville, Ky., registered 16 degrees below zero the first day of January, the coldest day on record there.

1872 was not so extremely cold, but no snow and many trees root-killed.

1884-85 was a winter of extreme and long-continued cold. Many trees that had passed the former hard winters uninjured were destroyed.

A. G. TUTTLE.

Baraboo, Wis.

**A VISIT TO THE TRIAL ORCHARD AT WAUSAU.**

I received a letter from Secretary Philips saying he would visit the orchard at Wausau on November 17th and asking if I could accompany him, which I did.

Meeting Mr. Philips on the train at New Lisbon at 4:45 A. M., we arrived at Wausau about 8:40, were met at the train by Mr. E. Single, who conveyed us to his home and introduced me to Mrs. Single. Mr. Philips needed no introduction; he proceeded to make himself at home on his arrival. We then in company with Mr. Single looked the orchard over. The weather was fine, no snow as yet; but at home we had had two snow storms; the ground was frozen that morning but the next day teams were plowing.

The location of the orchard site is admirable, on a good



highway running east and west, and a second one in sight, only a few rods to the east, running north. It is a very slightly location, having a slight elevation from the highway and gently sloping partially to the northeast with a schoolhouse in the corner, or rather the schoolhouse yard is bounded by the orchard west and north. I think the orchard will be instructive and appreciated by the rising generation!

On my return to Wausau I did not notice a better location. I have to congratulate the committee who located it. The soil seems well adapted for fruit raising, judging from the growth of the young trees. I never saw any trees make a finer show for the time they have been set, three years, or three seasons' growth, the first trees being set in 1896. The Plum trees set that year have a remarkably heavy growth and appearance, I think rather more so than those set at home and vicinity. All trees are doing well with an occasional exception. The plan the committee adopted in the experimental part of the orchard is wise, in setting three trees of a variety in the same row, Nos. 1, 2 and 3. No. 1, a root-grafted tree from the Nursery; No. 2, a root graft, or rather several of them, and the most promising one to remain after they are large enough to set out in orchard; No. 3, a Virginia crab tree to be grafted in the limbs the second and third year from the setting of the tree; then Nos. 4, 5 and 6 repeated; and so on to the end of row. Secretary Philips began the grafting last Spring and as much as ninety per cent or more are growing and doing well. Next Spring the balance of limbs needed, to be treated the same; and then the balance of limbs and top to be cut off and the tree is worked over to what I think will be the best and hardiest orchard tree. I shall watch this experiment with great interest. It will be a great object lesson for all orchardists in a few years. In addition the Secretary has kept a record of all trees furnished, by whom and where grown, so that it might be seen if trees from any particular locality are more hardy or productive than others. I see no sign of blight on any of the trees. The Cherry



trees that were set in 1897 are healthy, stocky trees and promise well. The Plum trees set last Spring have taken hold and are about all living, also some Plum grafts that were set. I saw but one Pear tree on the plat. I would recommend that one dozen Pear trees of the hardiest varieties, two of a variety, be set next Spring; not that I think they would do as well as Pear trees do in the southeastern part of the state or anywhere along the Lake Shore, but would recommend to try a few.

From an orchardist's standpoint am well pleased with the location and experiments made so far, and every year interest will increase. With the large area of good land in that section of the State suitable for orchard purposes this orchard will be an object lesson for the inhabitants of central Wisconsin and a benefit to the whole State.

After making examination of the different varieties of Apples and re-labeling others we adjourned for the day as the shades of night were upon us. We were pleasantly entertained in the evening by our host and his wife inviting in their neighbors whom Mr. Philips had met on former occasions.

Next morning we were at the re-labeling again and I left him before noon, busy, as I had to take the train for home. Mr. Single drove me to the station and having a little time he took me over a veneering-mill, as I had expressed a wish to see it.

Mr. Philips remained one day more to enable him to make a plat of the new part, plum and cherry plantation, set last spring; also to see about some protection against mice in that portion of the orchard not having lath protectors placed around the trees yet.

Mr. Single, our orchardist, is interested in the business and has, under the instruction of Mr. Philips, commenced to learn to graft, with fair success. Hoping he may remain on the farm, I must close this over-long letter.

HENRY TARRANT.

Janesville, Dec. 1, 1898.

WORK DONE IN THE SHORT COURSE IN AGRICULTURE AT  
THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN.

P. J. Drissen, a Short Course Student.

The Short Course in Agriculture affords great opportunities for the young farmers, especially of Wisconsin. To make it convenient for every young farmer to take this course the expenses are very low and the term is held during the winter months. It is especially a good thing for young men who want to start out into the field of life for themselves and are willing to work, as numerous calls come in to the manager, Mr. Moore, from dairymen, horticulturists, general farmers, etc., for young men who have taken the Short Course and they are offered responsible positions with good salaries.

Prizes in cash and medals are annually awarded to the students showing the greatest degree of proficiency in the different branches. The medals awarded for stock judging alone amount to \$350 annually. Last year students judged stock at thirty-six of the County Fairs in Wisconsin.

The Short Course is in charge of Mr. R. A. Moore, which alone would give it prestige, as all who know Mr. Moore know that he is an earnest, energetic and enthusiastic worker. He fills the boys with enthusiasm and gives them new energy and willingness to work. That he has done a great amount of good for the College is evident by the praise extended him from all sides. A better man for this important position could not be found.

The different branches of work taken up are as follows: Feeds and Feeding, Breeds and Breeding, Veterinary science, Plant Life and Horticulture, Agricultural Physics, Stock judging, Farm dairying, Economics of agriculture, Blacksmithing and Carpentry, Book-keeping, Bacteriology, Agricultural Chemistry, Parliamentary practice and debating. As space will not permit a full description of all of these branches, I will treat of one of the most important, namely, Horticulture.

This branch is under the direction of our excellent in-

structor, Prof. E. S. Goff. It is found necessary to have two assistants to carry out the work properly. The first year course in horticulture consists of sixty lectures given by Prof. Goff and as many hours of work in the laboratory. The Professor has written and published a book entitled "Principles of Plant Culture," which is used as a text book by the students. It is a very valuable book, a book that should be read by every farmer and horticulturist. The students have an opportunity to study a great many kinds of plants and flowers as the plant house contains many hundreds. Students taking second year work are each given a small patch of earth and are allowed to plant seeds and grow different plants for themselves.

The work done in the laboratory must not be overlooked as this is one of the most important parts of the course. This work is of great benefit as many valuable things are learned about the different plants and seeds, which are carefully examined under the microscope and the different parts noted. It brings the young men into the habit of observing very closely the works of nature.

They are also taught the art and science of pruning fruit trees, setting out young plants, as cabbages and strawberries, making hot-beds, testing seeds, making kerosene emulsion, making plant and tree protectors, etc., etc. Hundreds of other things, too numerous to mention, and equally valuable as the above, are daily learned by the Short Course Students.

A full description of all the branches taken up in the course can be found in the Short Course circular which can be had by writing to Mr. Moore.



"My little man, aren't you pleased to have a new baby brother, or did you want a little sister?" "If it was all the same to the Lord, I preferred a goat."—Scribner's.

**PRESIDENT M'KINLEY ON HORTICULTURAL MATTERS.**

[From his Message.]

**FOREST RESERVATIONS.**

"The lands embraced in the eleven forest reservations, which were suspended by the Act of June 4, 1897, again became subject to the operations of the proclamations of February 22, 1897, creating them, which added an estimated amount of 19,951,360 acres to the area embraced in the reserves previously created. In addition thereto, two new reserves were created during the year, the Pine Mountain and Zaca Lake Reserve, in California, embracing 1,644,594 acres, and the Prescott Reserve, in Arizona, embracing 10,240 acres, while the Pecos River Reserve, in New Mexico, has been changed and enlarged to include 120,000 additional acres.

"At the close of the year thirty forest reservations, not including those of the Afognac Forest and the fish-culture reserve in Alaska, had been created by Executive proclamations under Section 24 of the Act of March 3, 1891, embracing an estimated area of 40,719,474 acres.

**FOREST CONTROL.**

"The Department of the Interior has inaugurated a forest system, made possible by the Act of July, 1898, for a graded force of officers in control of the reserves. This system has only been in full operation since August, but good results have already been secured in many sections. The reports received indicate that the system of patrol has not only prevented destructive fires from gaining headway, but has diminished the number of fires.

**SEEDS AND TREES.**

"The Department of Agriculture has been active in the past year. Explorers have been sent to many of the countries of the Eastern and Western Hemispheres for seeds and plants that may be useful to the United States, and with the further view of opening up markets for our surplus products. The Forestry Division of the Department



is giving special attention to the treeless regions of our country, and is introducing species specially adapted to semi-arid regions. Forest fires, which seriously interfere with production, especially in irrigated regions, are being studied that losses from this cause may be avoided."

#### BEET SUGAR.

"Nation-wide experiments have been conducted to ascertain the suitability as to soil and climate and States for growing beets. The number of sugar factories has been doubled in the past two years, and the ability of the United States to produce its own sugar from this source has been clearly demonstrated."



#### HORTICULTURE AT THE STATE FAIR.

By L. G. Kellogg, President of State Horticultural Society.

As Superintendent of the Department of Horticulture at the State Fair, an apology is due the editor of our magazine, as well as its readers, that a report was not sent in for the October issue.

With no funds in the treasury it was with reluctance that the State Board of Agriculture assumed the responsibility and decided to hold a fair in 1898. With this condition of the treasury it was imperative that expenses and premiums in all departments be kept as low as possible and yet induce exhibits that would do credit to a State Fair.

Taking into consideration the small amount of money offered as premiums in the Horticultural Department, there was a magnificent display of fruits, plants and flowers, nearly every foot of space in this department being occupied. This reflects great credit on the exhibitors in assisting the State Board of Agriculture to make a success of their first State Fair.

Every assurance has been given us that the premiums in the Horticultural Department for next season will be increased to an amount that will be not only proportionate to

other departments, but will justify the exhibitor in the expenditure of time and money in making a commendable exhibit.

### ANNUAL MEETING OF MINNESOTA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

This meeting was held in the court house in Minneapolis, Dec. 6-9. The delegate sent by the Wisconsin State Society to this convention, A. D. Barnes, will probably report at our winter meeting in Madison.

From other sources we understand that this was the most profitable, enthusiastic and harmonious gathering of the society in years.

The program was certainly very appetizing, making one who read it hunger to partake of the intellectual treats it offered. We noticed that a subject was announced for each session with a number of five-minute speeches on each subject. The debate on "The Legislature versus the Tree Shark," is said to have waxed warm, but resulted in the adoption of the following resolution:

"Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to draft a bill to present to the state legislature to regulate the introduction and sale of nursery stock within the state."

Prof. Green and his class in Horticulture at the State Agricultural College had charge of the last evening session. There was music by the college band, essays on various subjects, music by the college orchestra, a dumb-bell exercise, an exercise with Indian clubs, and some stereopticon views, including the homes of prominent Minnesota horticulturists, collected and exhibited by Prof. Green.

The convention stood on the court house steps and had its picture taken by a newspaper photographer. We have had the good fortune to see one of the pictures and have to acknowledge that in the matter of good looks it scores a few points ahead of a Wisconsin winter convention—probably because there were more ladies in it. M. C. C. J.

## THE FARMERS' NATIONAL CONGRESS.

This great congress of farmers held its eighteenth annual meeting at Fort Worth, Texas, commencing Dec. 6. It is a delegated convention, the delegates being appointed by the Governors of the respective States, one from each congressional district. Hence among the delegates were representatives of all the states and territories of the Union and also of several of the Canadian provinces.

The congress was opened with prayer, which was followed by addresses of welcome and the roll call by States. Then all settled themselves expectantly to listen to the address of the president, Ex-Gov. Hoard of Wisconsin. We can all imagine the pride of the Wisconsin delegates in Gov. Hoard's eloquent championship of farmers and in his earnest words of counsel. Here are a few of the things he said:

"We are just beginning to feel, as a people, that agriculture is an intellectual as well as a manual pursuit. Some of the questions for this farmers' congress to ask of itself are: What can we do to promote farm education? What can this congress do to promote wise legislation in the state and national legislatures to this end?

This congress can stand up and rebuke, in no measured tones, the prostitution of agricultural necessities and progress to political favoritism. It can and should demand of the national government the taxation to extinction of all counterfeit food products.

An imitation is a counterfeit, and a counterfeit is a fraud per se, and should have no rights before the law as against an honest product of the farm. No matter how many hired chemists assert to the contrary, counterfeit food products are a menace to the health of the public, and the prosperity of the farmer, and the nation. In every state there is needed a dairy and food commission to act as a bureau for the enforcement of good laws against food, drug and drink counterfeiting.

We must not forget that a part of our duty is to stimu-

late a broader and deeper growth of agricultural citizenship. We have something more to live for than a living. Every other profession pays large respect to the intellectual power and development. Have they secrets more profound to solve than we? Have they problems more difficult to comprehend? No. The farmer stands daily in the presence of God's laws, the most profound, the most subtle of all laws to interpret. He shrinks from such contention, for he realizes his lack of intellectual training. He submits to unjust laws and systems of taxation. He sees personal property largely exempt and landed property grievously burdened, yet he knows that the true basis of all taxation is the dollar's worth of property, without regard to its character. For his own success in business he must be better educated as a farmer. He needs so much, and the country needs still more from him, a higher intellectual comprehension of what it means to be an American farmer and an American citizen."



#### EDITORIAL NOTES.

Plan to attend the winter meeting of the State Horticultural Society which will be held in Madison early in February.

Have you read the "Trip to Michigan" in this issue? We hope that more of "our folks" will go a-visiting, with eyes and ears alert, and tell us what they see and hear.

We notice that Prof. Henry, of the University of Wisconsin, was in attendance at the Farmers' Congress at Fort Worth, Texas, and addressed the Dairymen's Association.

L. H. Read, of Grand Rapids, Wis., was on the program of the Ohio State Horticultural Society held in Euclid Dec. 7-9. He took along 200 varieties of potatoes and over 100 kinds of beans for exhibition. After this meeting Mr. Read will visit his old home in Vermont, returning in time for the Illinois State Horticultural Convention, where he is to talk on "Plant Breeding."



That article on "Home-made Candies" is worth the price of the magazine for a year. The candies are equal to the costliest French kinds.

Secretary Philips is one of the favored few whom Gov. Scofield sent to Fort Worth as delegate to the Congress.

Wm. Toole was appointed delegate to the Farmers' National Congress, but could not go on account of pressure of work at home.

President Kellogg appointed B. S. Hoxie to represent our society at the annual meeting of the Northern Illinois Horticultural Society, held in Galva, December 13 and 14.

Geo. J. Kellogg, of Janesville, was our delegate to the Northeastern Iowa Convention at McGregor, Iowa.

Are you looking for a Christmas present for your wife? See advertisement of "Ideal Steam Cooker" on second page of cover. People who have used it say it excels for canning fruit. Several quart jars filled with fruit can be placed in the steamer and all cooked at one time, over one burner.

Secretary A. J. Philips, of West Salem, Wis., writes: "Please say in December Horticulturist that if any local society does not receive its quota of reports it is because its secretary has not complied with the law and sent the annual report of the society, the names of officers and number of members."



#### BUSINESS ANNOUNCEMENT.

The subscription price of The Horticulturist still remains fifty cents per year, notwithstanding the assurances of many readers that the magazine is "worth more." New subscribers can, as heretofore, have their choice of the following premiums: Six fine gladiolus bulbs, or 12 choice strawberry plants, or 3 grapevines, or a collection of garden seeds.

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