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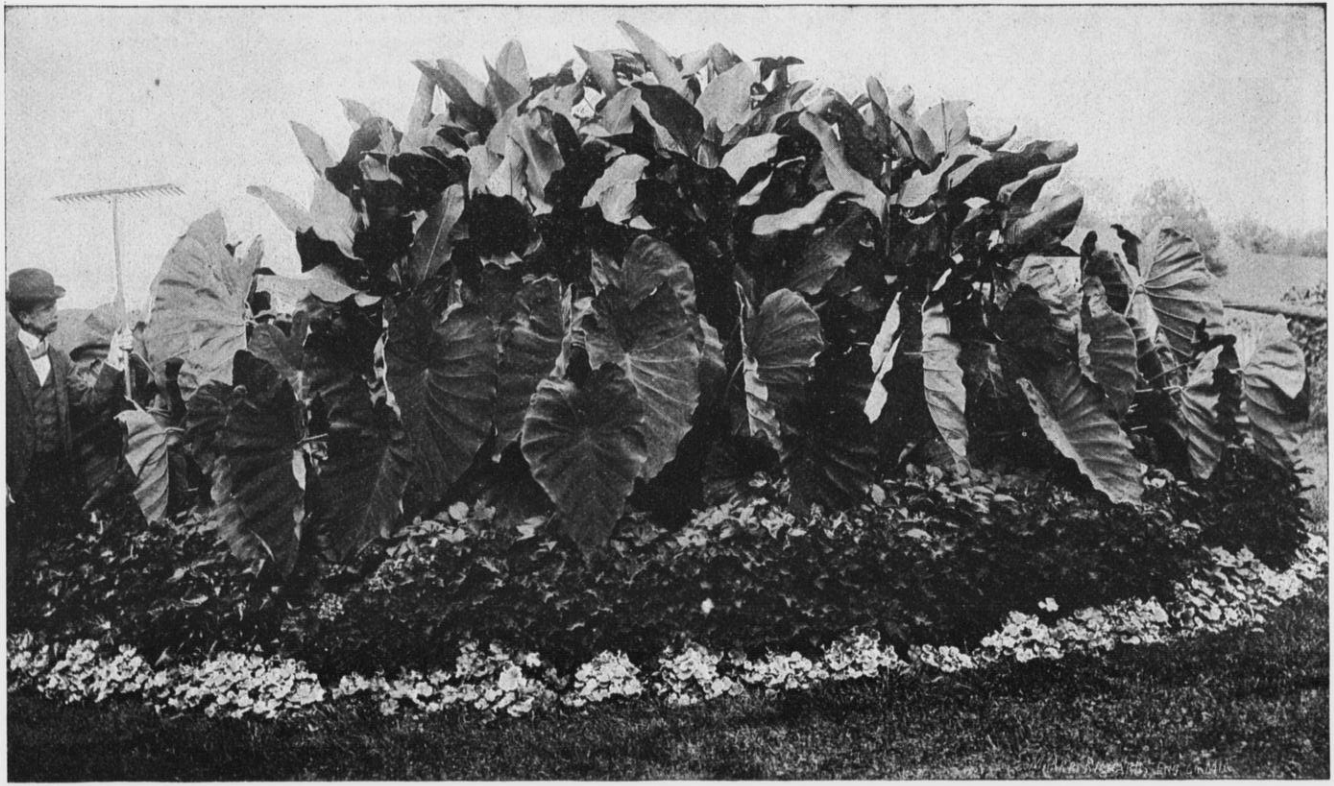

The Wisconsin Horticulturist.

VOL. II. AUGUST. NO. 6

A SUB-IRRIGATED FOLIAGE BED.

Our frontispiece represents a foliage bed growing on the farm lawn at the Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Wisconsin.

This bed is twenty-two feet in diameter, and is watered as often as desired by means of a system of tile with which the bed is underlaid at a depth of sixteen inches.

DUCHESS OR OLDENBURG?

Mr. Elmer Reeves, of Waverly, Iowa, said before the Horticultural Society recently:

It has been decreed by the American Pomological Society that Duchess shall henceforth be called Oldenburg, but Duchess it is to all growers and in our markets and Duchess it will probably remain in spite of this decree from our highest authority. It is a case where the maker of the dictionary is not in accord with the public and the public don't care a cent what the dictionary maker rules. In other words, the name Duchess is so well known as applied to this particular variety of the apple that it will hardly be possible to change. Even Prof. Budd, in a late bulletin, wrote Duchess and failed to correct it in the proof, which is proof that he prefers that name. But whatever its name, it is so well known for its hardiness, bearing and staying qualities that it is the standard with which we compare all other varieties. —American Gardening.

THE SUMMER MEETING OF THE WISCONSIN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY AT OMRO JUNE 23-24.

According to promise we give in this issue of the Horticulturist a further report of the discussions held at our Summer Meeting at Omro.

Thursday morning the subject of Irrigation was brought up incidentally.

Prof. Goff of the University of Wisconsin said that on the strawberry fields of the Experiment Station they used the flowing system of irrigation, similar to the system used in California, thinking it better for the surface of the ground to let the water flow than to spray it.

Mr. Smith:—But is not spraying more like nature? More like rain?

Prof. Goff:—Possibly that is true—however I can speak only from experience on one side of the case.

Mr. Smith:—I would like to make a few remarks on my experience of whether or not it is practical to water our berries.

I spoke yesterday of a bed of Warfield strawberries. There were perhaps ¾ acre in the plat. It was the second crop; that was three seasons ago. The plants grew very thick indeed, almost like lawn, so thick that I was doubtful if they would produce a crop or not. Many growers saw them and wanted to hear from them. It became very dry, so dry that our neighbors who had no water got no berries after the first picking. We used the spraying system. We watered that ground at an expense of $5 per day. We kept that ¾ acre in good bearing condition. One man did the spraying and some other work besides. He spent from two thirds to three quarters of his time on that ¾ acre. We got a large crop of berries, whereas without that water it would have been a total failure after the first or second picking.

Pres:—Mr. Smith what were the shipping qualities of these berries?

Mr. Smith:—Our furthest shipping point was 200 miles. We shipped by express entirely. We pick the

berries and haul them from the field to a cooler, where they are kept at a temperature of about 50 or 55. They stay in there until they are shipped. Sometimes a few hours, sometimes over night, and we have had no complaints whatever. I might say that this watering continues for about 10 days during the season. We spent $40 or $50 on that ¾ acre. We had over three hundred bushels to the acre.

Prof. Goff:—The irrigation made the fruit somewhat softer, but as the yield was good, you can afford to put up with the softness. I would like to compare our experience with that of Mr. Smith. This year we used a gasoline engine, pumping water out of a well. The well stands 20 rods from the strawberry field. We find it costs 50c per day for gasoline to run the engine. It requires no engineer. The only cost besides the wear and tear on the engine is the expense of 50c per day for gasoline. It delivers a stream about the size of one's wrist. It is easy work for one man. The expense of one man on the field to distribute the water is $1.00 per day, and we can irrigate thoroughly ¼ acre per day. To irrigate an acre costs about $6.00. We find that one irrigation lasts for about one week anyway. We use wooden troughs made of two boards nailed together; one trough sits in the other. We have little valves to regulate the flow of water and we use a little stream about the size of one's little finger and let it run all day long. Not any of this water goes to waste. I find that if it is properly distributed it will go over our whole bed. We wet it down thoroughly and gradually.

Mr. Smith:—Can you pick berries immediately after irrigation?

Prof. Goff:—We do not like to do it. We have our ground mulched but we do not think it is good for the soil. We do not pick every day. We could do it if it were necessary.

Mr. Knoll:—Do you use cold water from the well, or do you let it stand for several hours?

Prof. Goff:—Yes, we use it right out of the well. We

have made experiments in the green-house. We find we can water plants with water 40 deg. temperature and that it will not check their growth any more than if the water were 70 deg. I believe the soil very soon warms the water. We do not regard it necessary to warm the water. The spraying system has one great advantage over others and that is it does not make it absolutely necessary to have the ground prepared beforehand. With our system, where the water flows by gravity, we must have the proper incline and not too much; by regulating our rows we overcome that. The flowing system has that disadvantage, the ground must be made right so that the slope will be gradual and not excessive.

The first topic on our program Thursday afternoon was "What I have learned of Wisconsin orcharding during the last twenty-five years of actual experience," by Mr. A. J. Philips of West Salem, Secretary of the State Horticultural Society.

Mr. Philips:—The first thing I learned was—that I did not know anything about it at all. The next thing I learned was that trees which were bought from eastern and southern nurseries were very unprofitable. I then commenced to set my own trees; since then my orchard is better. I have the wood of most of my varieties here. We can improve by top working. This has been advocated but it has been a great trouble to find a suitable stock to top-work. A great many failures have resulted from experiments being made on stock that was not suitable. The Duchess is a good tree in itself, but a poor tree to top-work. If I was a young man I would set an orchard. We set trees every year and that is the only way to have an orchard. It will only cost you $1.00 or $1.50 to set them, but set them every year. You can get them from some good reliable home nursery, and just as regularly as you clean house, or plant potatoes, set out your trees. While I was at one of the Institutes I talked a short time. When I was through, a man came to me and said: "I am glad you came, I am going to set out 200 trees and I want to know what varie-

ties I should set out." I said: "You do not want to set out 200 trees at all." He said: "That is a curious way for a man to talk who wants to sell apple trees." I said: "You put out 20 trees and take care of them and do not let them grow in the sod and do not neglect them. In a year from now you can set 20 more, and in ten years you will have a better orchard than you will if you set 200 now."

Do not plant eastern trees. Take trees from the east, the roots are dried and it requires a good while for them to get a hold in the ground. They manage to live through our summer and they come into our winter in a feeble condition. If the winter is a mild one they will go through; if the next winter is also mild, and they are well located they will be all right; but take a hard winter the first year, and it is sure to kill them. That is the reason I advocate not planting eastern trees. It has cost me something to learn it.

Another thing I have learned is to plant some good stock for top-working. I have some trees that have been top-worked twenty years. Last year I set 100 trees and this year 200. Every other tree I set is a Virginia crab and I top-work it as quickly as I can, because these other trees will begin to fail, especially if we have hard winters. We have this evidence right on our farm. I have trees that were set and top-worked and other trees of the same variety and same soil that have been bearing apples and are dead. Why is the Wealthy not hardy is what some ask. It is hardy enough until it begins to bear. If you would examine the roots of these trees as Prof. Goff examines the roots of the strawberry plants you would find that the Virginia has double the root power that the Wealthy has.

Now I will not take any more of your time on orcharding because there are other subjects that may interest you more, unless there are questions some of you may wish to ask of me.

Mr. Read: All of our nursery men sell nothing but trees that are three or four years old. Every man ought to insist on taking nothing that is over two years old.

Mr. Smith:—I am no orchardist. I do not know much about trees, but we have a few crabs out in our back yard; they bear quite well, and from what Mr. Philips is saying I understand that he is cutting off the limbs on the top and grafting them in.

Mr. Philips:—Never graft a tree that is over four years old.

The fine show of gooseberries on the bush attracted much attention and Mr. Floyd of Eureka was called for.

Mr. Floyd:—We have twelve different varieties of gooseberries, and I am trying to find which is the best and most profitable. I think two of the best are the White Smith and the Queen. The Queen is as large as any. The Downing does not begin to come up to the White Smith or to the Queen. It is a very healthy plant, quite productive but not as good in quality as the White Smith. I have some Smiths here. I have only five varieties here. I have the Red Jacket.

Mr. Herbst:—Is it as good as the Downing?

Mr. Floyd:—Yes. The White Smith, the Downing and the Queen, are just as healthy plants as one can find. I have fruited the Queen two years.

Mr. Kellogg:—Where did the Queen originate?

Mr. Floyd:—In England, I believe.

President called for.

Pres.:—I am no authority on the Queen. It is a gooseberry sent out by Mr. Hennesey of Fond du Lac. I do not know whether it is a foreign berry or an American berry.

Herbst called for.

Mr. Herbst:—I have been growing the Queen for four years. It has done very nicely up to last winter, but it has winter killed.

Mr. Floyd:—The only fault I can find with the White Smith is that it overbears; the bushes break down with the fruit. Those I have here are two-thirds grown.

(Referring to his exhibit, Mr. Floyd continues.) This is the Golden Prolific. It grows about the size of the Queen. and this is the Industry. The plant is not nearly as

healthy and strong as the others. This is the White Smith.

Mr. Kellogg:—That illustration of the gooseberry by Mr. Floyd is worth my whole trip from Janesville here. The Industry gooseberry has been talked about for the last ten years down east. Grows well along the Lake Shore where it is foggy, but it is too tender, it don't bear; the bushes are dead with us on the prairie. The Queen may do well for several seasons, then we may get a season that will wipe it out entirely. We know that the American type or Downing is a success and we cannot find anything better. The Columbus is coming to the front rapidly and is healthy and productive. The Red Jacket is a very good gooseberry. It is better in quality than the Queen, and upon my grounds has proven as hardy as the Queen. The Pearl is the same quality as the Downing; seedling origin. It is a little larger than the Downing.

Mr. Coe:—I would like to say that it will not pay to plant the Golden Prolific gooseberry. The bush will fail when it gets older.

Mr. Kellogg:—What are the three best varieties of Currants, Mr. President?

Pres.:—Upon my grounds and for commercial purposes, Victoria, first, Long Bunch Holland, second, White Grape, third. Prince Albert is also good.

Mr. Kellogg:—It is hard to get a real White Grape Currant. I believe only about one-third could be guaranteed as such. There are so many that are called White Grape but are simply White Dutch. There is not the market for the White that there is for the Red Currant.

Mrs. Treleven:—I would like to ask if any one has had any experience with the Versailles Currant.

Mr. Kellogg:—I have grown it for some years. I think there are three or four varieties that are better. The Victoria is the best red. Long Bunch Holland best late red. It is not as red as the Victoria, but it is the best late currant.

Mr. Smith:—We do not multiply varieties; we subtract. We have the Long Bunch Holland and Prince Albert. We

have four acres pretty nearly equally divided. Some one remarked that they were perhaps nearly identical, but if any one would come into our plantation and see them he would not make such a remark. Perhaps we have not the true varieties. They are very different. The bush of the Holland grows stronger, higher, with fewer side branches. The small twigs are the size of a slate pencil. Our four year old canes of the Long Bunch Holland are almost six feet high. The Prince Albert will seldom grow over four and one-half feet high. The Holland will stand from one to one and one-half feet higher over the field than the Prince Albert. I hardly know which is the better. The Holland has a little more fruit on than the Prince Albert. Mr. Kellogg says the Holland is not red. With us it is very red. With us it is sometimes called leather skin. It is a remarkably good shipper. The Prince Albert will bring the most on the market because it is larger and shows less of the string. We ship in cases, the same as the strawberries, and find that is the best way to ship. We shipped as far out as Colorado by express without any difficulty. In regard to the matter of our original planting, we had two or three dozen from which we propagated. When they got into bearing they averaged fourteen quarts to the bush. They are set six feet apart and grow so strong that the bushes interlap each other each way. The wood of the Holland is four inches in diameter at the butt of the cane. There are hundreds that are two inches at the butt.

Mr. Abbott:—I would like to say a word about the Fay Prolific. This variety does well with me. I have one-half acre of ground, young bushes, and I find they are far ahead of anything on the market. I was offered eleven cents a box wholesale for them. I use hard wood ashes on my grounds. I have a few bushes of Industry which are well loaded with fruit this year.

Mr. Kellogg:—In regard to the Fay Currant. I have been fruiting it for the last ten years. Had six rows nineteen rods long.

Mr. Abbott:—I picked fifty cases of the Fay Prolific.

Pres.:—It seems to be the opinion among the commercial fruit growers that they are a commercial failure. Both the Fay Currant and the Industry Gooseberry.

Mr. Herbst:—The Fay bears about one crop and that is all.

Mr. Read:—I am surprised that the Red Dutch Currant has not yet been mentioned.

Mr. Kellogg:—They produce currants enough but they are too small.

Pres.:—Is there anything further on this currant question or gooseberries?

Mr. Bradt, of Eureka:—I have not had a great deal of experience to give of a very satisfactory nature because I made a mistake in planting. I would say never plant currants in rows less than seven or eight feet apart. I planted five feet apart and I do not think it far enough. The most I can get from the acre is two hundred sixteen-quart crates. Mr. Smith of Green Bay puts his over six feet apart, but that is too close. All I can say about currants is plant them far apart and get a good variety. Do not go into it very deep at the start.

Pres.:—What varieties have you had the most success with?

Mr. Bradt:—Old National, Red Dutch. I have Victorias. They hang very full but are not as large as my Red Dutch.

Pres.:—Have you the true Victoria?

Mr. Bradt:—I think I have. They have a very vigorous stem. I like to raise the Castle; it is a very fine currant and yields well. It is possible that I have not the true Victoria, but I think I have.

Mr. Smith:—Do you prune your currants annually?

Mr. Bradt:—Yes, sir.

Pres.:—Raspberries will be our next subject.

Mr. Coe:—So far as I know the raspberries are fine this year. I have not seen a single plantation that was not in good condition. There is a promise of an abundant crop.

It is one of the best fruits for Wisconsin Horticulturists to grow. I have never seen it fail.

Mr. Kellogg:—Did the frosts injure them?

Mr. Coe:—Very little.

Mr. Read:—Killed one-half our buds.

Question:—What is your mode of planting?

Mr. Coe:—Raspberries must be planted early in the season. The ground must be well and thoroughly prepared. Do not plant too deep.

Mr. Kellogg:—Is fall planting for Black Caps good?

Mr. Coe:—I never did it but once, and the success was so marked that I did not do it any more.

Mr. Read:—Is it all right for red ones?

Mr. Coe:—Yes, sir.

Question:—Three best varieties of red?

Mr. Coe:—I would plant Brandywine, Cuthbert and Loudon.

Mr. Read:—Would it not be better to put in the Turner instead of the Cuthbert in some sections?

Mr. Coe:—The Turner is too soft, I think.

The Marlboro is a good firm berry, but usually with us it is not very successful; rather shy.

Black Caps I prune when they are about eighteen inches high. Just pinch off the tips only. Do not wait until they are two feet high and then pinch back to eighteen inches because you will injure the canes. It will not injure the plants much if you cut them back when they are eighteen inches high. The following spring we cut off the side arms. We leave side branches according to the strength of the cane when they grow up and start to bend to the ground. If we cut back at the highest point of bend we get the side arms.

Question:—Three best varieties?

Mr. Coe:—Black Caps—from our own experience. Ohio, Older and Nemaha.

Question:—Do you cover up your Black Caps in winter?

Mr. Coe:—No, we do not.

Mr. Kellogg:—How many young canes do you leave on a hill?

Mr. Coe:—As many as grow.

Question:—Do you plant in rows?

Mr. Coe:—Yes, we plant in rows, also in rows both ways six feet apart; in the row about three feet, ten inches. By planting in this way, after the spring pruning we can cultivate crosswise, saving a good deal of hand work.

About this question of hardiness. I think that our raspberries are hardy or tender according as we make them so. I think that the summer treatment of our raspberries has something to do with their wintering. We cultivate frequently up to picking time. When our raspberries are at the hardest work we give them the best care. Cultivate them at least twice during the fruiting time, then the old canes are taken out and burned and cultivation stopped. Cultivate shallow.

Mr. Smith:—Don't your bed get full of weeds before fall?

Mr. Coe:—No, not very much. Of course little weeds do grow, but we do not get many big weeds later in the season.

Mr. Smith:—What is your soil?

Mr. Coe:—Sand and clay loam mixed.

Mr. Herbst:—How close do you cultivate?

Mr. Coe:—As near as we can. Always shallow.

Mr. Herbst:—How many inches do you mean by shallow cultivation?

Mr. Coe:—Two or three inches in depth. Of course it is not well to say how deep. In the sucker varieties we cultivate both ways. They get a little too thick sometimes but we get eight to ten canes to the hill.

On being asked what a nephew is, a little Boston school girl replied: "It is when your niece is a boy," a statement which it would be hard to controvert.—N. Y. Tribune.

THE PLEASANT AS WELL AS PROFITABLE PHASES OF HORTICULTURE FOR A YOUNG MAN.

J. L. Herbst.

[Read at Omro.]

After two years of drought, the years 1894 and 1895, when the small fruit crops were in some localities a partial failure and in other sections a total loss, came another year (1896) when the plantations tried to recover themselves and yield a crop of fruit at the same time and failed to do either. This year, 1897, when we thought all our troubles were over and that our plantations of blackberries, red and black raspberries, strawberries, currants and gooseberries would outdo themselves,—after the strawberries were in bloom and some berries partially formed, blackberries and raspberries in the bud ready to burst open, currants and gooseberries very nearly all formed, the thermometer drops down to twenty-four degrees, eight degrees below the freezing point, and what is the result? About three-fourths of the blackberry crop goes with it. Early red and black raspberries are totally destroyed, along with currants; grapes and gooseberries on the outside of the bushes badly damaged, and young plums blackened. With all the above discouraging features, I am placed upon the program with the subject, "The Pleasant as well as Profitable Phases of Horticulture for a Young Man."

If I were to tell my horticultural experiences during the past four years, the subject, "The Unpleasant as well as Unprofitable Phases of Horticulture for a Young Man," would be much more easily handled. But we must have reverses, if we would have successes. The one who has the most reverses in his undertakings, as a rule becomes the most successful.

I have seen as handsome an acreage of blackberries as was ever grown, every hill healthy and strong, each cane with its laterals evenly distributed upon it, each lateral budded to the tip with fruit buds ready to burst open the first warm day, the field giving a handsome appearance,

and hope and promise of a plentiful crop. The next day I have seen the same acreage—in appearance the same—yet the buds, upon examining them, were found to be frozen, aad what gave promise the day before of two hundred bushels to the acre, now showed a total or nearly total loss. I have seen acreages of strawberries in the best of condition, matted rows evenly distributed with plants, plants that were strong and healthy, while intermingled amongst the growth of foliage were fruit buds, blossoms and berries partially formed, in abundance. The strawberry fields in and about Sparta within the past eight years have never showed such promise as they did this year. Immense clusters of buds and blossoms fairly covered the rows, and the hopes of the grower were placed high. He was eagerly waiting the time when he could pick, pack and ship the fruit and receive his returns or his wages.

But the morning of June first things had assumed a vastly different aspect. While the damage upon the strawberry fields was not so great as upon the cane fruits, still traces of the frost were to be seen upon the fruit stems in various stages. Some berries quarter-grown were frozen through, while blossoms beside them were not touched, and *vice versa*. Very few of the buds were damaged, and the strawberry crop will yet be good.

But with all the reverses of the past four years, we are not discouraged. We now look at those, who when drought ruined their plantations, plowed them up and vowed they would never again plant small fruits. They planted winter grains, corn, oats and potatoes. Their winter grain killed out; they plowed up again and put in oats, corn and potatoes. What could they put in? There was nothing left for them. They would never again put in small fruits. They harvested their oats and corn and dug their potatoes. What did they get for them? Oats fifteen cents a bushel, the same price that we have sold many a single quart of berries for. Potatoes they sold, what they did sell, for twelve cents, yes ten cents, a bushel, the

price of a quart of berries. Did you ever think of it?

One quart of berries buys a bushel of potatoes.
" " " " " oats.
One bushel " " barrel of apples.
" " " " cord of wood.
Two " " " barrel of flour.

But you will say it takes more work to raise these berries than it does the oats, corn and potatoes. Not a bit more in comparison to the yields the different crops give. Where is the acre of potatoes that will yield two hundred bushels of potatoes, and sell for two dollars a bushel? Where is the acre of oats that will yield two hundred bushels of oats and sell for two dollars a bushel, and where is the acre of corn that will yield two hundred bushels and sell for two dollars a bushel? It may seem to many that I have placed the yield of berries at two hundred bushels, too high. It is not. I have helped plant, care for, helped to gather and dispose of two thousand bushels of blackberries, taken from ten acres, or an average of two hundred bushels to the acre, one acre alone yielding 312 bushels. What has been done can be done. We have never yet seen a crop of anything but what we have found its equal sometime, somewhere. Just tell a big story (among the Horticulturists) and you will find some one that can tell one better.

The average laboring family will consume in the course of a year, six barrels of flour, thirty bushels of potatoes, three hundred pounds of butter, and we will allow about one thousand pounds of meat. Figuring up the above at the present market price we find it amounts to about $200. One hundred bushels of berries make two hundred sixteen-quart cases. These net will bring $1.00 per case, or $200.

This is figuring only about six cents a quart for the berries and one acre will produce them. One acre rightly managed will produce a quantity of fruit, which properly disposed of will buy the living for the average family. I have given the above figures to show how proceeds derived from one crop can be made to purchase some of the necessi-

ties which the fruit grower cannot very well produce, and to show how it may be done.

The prayer of the wise, "Give me neither poverty nor riches," is answered in horticulture. The fruit grower may never be rich, but with fair management will never be poor. He may be rich enough to secure all the comforts of life and many of the luxuries. He will never be so poor as to be led into temptation or suffer from want.

Probably one of the most pleasant and profitable phases of horticulture for a young man is attending both the summer and winter meetings of our Wisconsin State Horticultural Society. I always look ahead for them. It is like going to a revival meeting and being converted. You see the old members and talk with them, they tell you their successes and failures. You find out that in order to have successes we must have failures. You get new ideas and purposes, and when you return home you enter upon your work with renewed vigor.

It is admitted by all that a person's business, or profession, has a great influence on his life and character. It is admitted by all that a business that deals largely with the beautiful has a refining influence on the worker. It is admitted by all that the business or profession that deals with the useful and necessary has an influence for the good and adds strength of character to the individual. It must therefore follow, that the business or profession that best combines both the useful and the beautiful, must be the best of all. In no business, profession, or labor in life are the useful and beautiful so completely blended as in horticulture.

The following compliment was given the members of this Society as a body by a person who has always been deeply interested in character reading, one who has met in her life many different types of men, business men, politicians, men of literary tastes, etc., etc. She says: "I have never met men (and I will add women, also) who make a stranger feel so thoroughly at home as you horticultural people. They have such kind and pleasing expressions, so

different from the earnest, care-worn, sharp and eager expressions that business men have." And why should this not be so? The above statement, that a person's business or profession has a great influence on his life and character, shows itself true. Where is there a business or profession that promises more for the young man than HORTICULTURE?

Sparta, Wis.

SUGGESTIONS.

[Selected from sundry sources.]

If you do not fancy fruit growing, keep out of it. A man would be unhappy even in heaven if he didn't like his surroundings.—N. A. Horticulturist.

No agricultural people thrive who buy grain or meats and pay for them with the price of other farm products.—Farmer's Home.

"By planting a few fruit trees of different varieties each year the orchard need never grow old, and a supply of fruit may be always kept up."

"The time spent in turning under weeds and other refuse will bring back much more than its cost. Vegetable matter is nature's fertilizer, and all which cannot be used to good purpose in feeding should be turned under. This is a rule which should have very few exceptions."

Much attention is now given to the beet sugar industry in Oregon. A number of towns, including LaGrande, Medford, Newberg and Myrtle Creek, are now competing for the first factory. It is said to be a question of the excellence of the beets produced in the various localities, and the possibilities of making contracts for a beet supply for a number of years.—Waupaca Republican.

In preparing the Bordeaux mixture only make what you will have use for within a short time. After the mixture gets old, chemical changes take place which prevent the ingredients from mixing so well, and hence you do not get the full benefit from its use.—North American Horticulturist.

NOTES ON PEAS.

L. H. Read.

Perhaps no garden vegetable is more universally grown than the pea, and nearly every one is anxious to get green peas as early as possible. So it may be of interest to your readers to know the opinion of one who has made pea-growing a hobby for nearly twenty years, regarding the merits of some of the many varieties now grown.

The greatest trouble with most of the early peas is their inferior quality. No smooth pea has that fine, sweet flavor which the wrinkled peas possess. I would rather wait a few days and get a better quality, hence have discarded all of the early smooth peas.

American Wonder is a very early wrinkled pea of good quality, but is not productive enough for general use. It never grows over twelve inches high, so if you get them taller than that you can depend upon it you haven't them true to name.

Nott's Excelsior is much like American Wonder. The vine is quite tender and easily injured by frost; peas are of good size, but vine is too dwarf and is not productive unless on very rich land. Then when the peas get a little too large they do not cook soft, a very undesirable feature in any variety.

Little Gem and Premium Gem are two very fine early wrinkled varieties, which are nearly as early as American Wonder, but grow a little taller and are much more productive.

Read's Early Prize is a semi-wrinkled pea of considerable merit for an early market variety, growing from fifteen to eighteen inches high. It is more productive than the early wrinkled kinds, and although not quite equaling them in quality, is much better than the smooth peas. Comes about the same time as Little Gem and will nearly double it in yield.

Bliss' Abundance is a very productive mid-season pea, eighteen to twenty-four inches high, well loaded with

rather small but well-filled pods. The peas are of good quality if not too large, when they get hard. Its productiveness is its best feature, but its small pods render it hardly desirable for market purposes.

PRINCE OF WALES is without doubt one of the very best mid-season varieties, growing twenty to thirty inches tall. It will not produce as many pods as Abundance, but they are so much larger that the same length of row will yield much more in bushels. The peas are much larger, sweeter and richer, and never get too hard to cook. As it comes at about the same time as Abundance it leaves but little space for that variety. In fact it comes as near perfection as any variety I know.

BLISS' EVERBEARING is a good late variety, producing a large number of rather short, flat pods. The quality is good and if the pods were larger it would be hard to beat.

STRATAGEM, about two feet in hight, is one of the largest and sweetest of the late varieties, producing very large pods which contain eight or nine large, sweet peas.

AMERICAN TRIUMPH is a new variety of the large-podded type which has considerable merit. It grows from eighteen to twenty-four inches high and follows the Prince of Wales in season. As the pod is very large this will be a profitable variety for market. Quality sweet and good.

As the three best peas for a succession I am inclined to select Read's Early Prize, Prince of Wales and American Triumph.

By planting a few at intervals of from three to five days a succession can be kept up until late in the Fall and no vegetable grown is always in demand as is the Pea.

Grand Rapids, Wis.

The secret of life is not to do what one likes, but to try to like that which one has to do; and one does come to like it in time.

—Dinah Mulock Craik.

GLADIOLUS CULTURE.

B. R. Bones.

As the month of August comes around there is no flower that makes a finer show or is more sought after than the gladiolus. Yet it is grown with ease and one gets a sure reward in the abundance of beautiful flower-spikes which as cut flowers nothing will equal.

Growing this flower as I do by the tens of thousands, I find the following method to give the best results:

As soon as the frost is out and the ground warmed up a little the bulbs can be planted, four inches deep and three inches apart, with the rows far enough apart to admit a horse and cultivator. In planting, a furrow three inches deep is thrown out with a wheel-hoe; in the bottom of this furrow the bulbs are placed from two to three inches apart, and the furrow is then filled up with well-rotted fine manure, which acts as an under-ground mulch.

Ten days after covering, or when the first shoots appear, I put the shovel plow through, making a ridge six inches deep over the bulbs. A week later I give a light harrowing, and later on in the season when the flower-stalks are a foot high, I go through with the shovel plow and make a ridge nearly a foot high above the bulbs. This keeps the stalks from tipping over when heavy with bloom, and, as you know, according to the laws of capillary attraction a ridge is more moist than the level; the gladiolus is a great lover of water.

As to varieties, tastes vary. Gladiolus Childsii, while very beautiful, I find has a flower too delicate to stand the hot sun and winds of Wisconsin.

Out of sixty-four named and high-priced varieties I discarded over two thirds in perfecting a mixture that satisfies my trade. Man-like I love the blazers, but the trade calls for the light colors as the ladies are the final buyers.

In many ways the gladiolus is the grandest of all flowers, so gorgeous, so long in bloom, lasting so long in the

vase, and so prolific, having three ways of increase, by multiplication, division and seed.

I can only account for the demand for bulbs by thinking that the careless let the bulbs freeze. I dig them the last of October and cut the tops off close at once.

Clipping the bloom does not hurt the bulbs, and often this part of the plant sells at a greater profit than the bulbs. This has been the case the past year.

Racine, Wis.

CONCERNING BULBS.

"If bulbs have come from the dealer all right and sound, almost all failures can be credited to too late planting."

This thought warns us to remind the readers of the Horticulturist that bulb-planting time is coming on apace. Early planting is important whether the bulbs are to be planted in the ground or to be potted for winter blooming.

Lilium candidum, Lilium Harrisii, Roman Hyacinths, Freesias and several other bulbs are for sale by some dealers as early as August, and should be planted as early in September as possible. Nearly all other ordinary varieties of bulbs can be obtained in September, and the sooner they are in the pots the better.

Myra V. Norys, in American gardening, says that the gorgeous Calochortus or Butterfly Lily, as well as Tulips, Scillas, some of the Daffodils and many lesser bulbs, are difficult to grow in pots and should not be attempted by the inexperienced window-gardener. She adds:

"Few beginners dare attempt Lilies, yet with good bulbs and a cool and sunny position there is nothing in the list more sure than these. But patience is the one thing the bulb grower, and especially she who would bloom Lilies, must cultivate strenuously. The most important period of their culture is that in which they are hidden away in the dark. This is because the bloom is already in the bulb. It does not have to be made, but only pushed ahead, and the only successful pushers are the roots, which

must be formed before light and sun are allowed to stimulate the top into active growth. When the roots begin to push hard without the light, the time is ripe to call light to their help.

Paper White Narcissus is another sure bloomer, but it cannot stand too strong sunshine in a south window. Grandiflora is much better than the common form. Roman Hyacinths, too, are sure, early, and profuse in bloom. Of the Dutch Hyacinths the single are better for the novice than the doubles.

Ixias may be added, if one have patience and a cool place, as they require cool treatment, and come on slowly, very near spring. Freesias, too, should not be forgotten in this connection; but these do not have to be laid away in the dark. They may be "potted," placed outside, and left there until danger of frosts; there is no better treatment for them than this.

I fancy that most women look askance at all who advise the purchase of the fancy grades, "extra selected" bulbs, thinking the advisers in league with the dealers. Sometimes I fear there is a bit of foundation for the suspicion, yet the advice is the best that can be given. Just here I think is one reason why floral writers have better success than those for whom they write; they use only the best bulbs. It pays, and pays well, in satisfaction, to buy only the best grades, and from the best dealers. Prices as between dealers do not vary much—less, indeed, than those of any other grade of floral stuff; hence there is no reason for buying of one not fully reliable."

CLOVER AS A FERTILIZER.

Farmers and scientists have come to the conclusion that clover is the greatest natural restorer of fertility that can be used on soils, and no kind or amount of commercial fertilizer can equal it or take its place in restoring worn-out lands. —Michigan Fruit Grower.

EXPERIMENTS WITH SOME OF THE NEWER FRUITS.

John Rhodes.

Elæagnus Longipes is sometimes called Wild Olive, and probably belongs to the same family as the Oleaster and Buffalo Berry. It is entirely out of its latitude in this part of Wisconsin. Without protection an ordinary winter will kill it to the ground, and a severe winter will destroy the roots also.

The Oleaster from Northern Europe is worth a place on the lawn, its foliage contrasting with most other lawn trees.

Our single plant of Shepherdia or Buffalo Berry has not thus far developed any sex, therefore it has been relegated from the fruit garden to the lawn. It seems quite hardy.

The Dwarf Juneberry is perfectly hardy here and is a good bearer, but has two or three faults which will mar its popularity. First, and worst, birds and poultry are inordinately fond of its fruit, so much so that it is necessary to have a man among the bushes armed with a shot gun, or else cover the bushes with netting or cheese cloth. The fruit will be objected to by those who like acids. It is quite sweet.

The Crandall Currant is a near relation to the old Missouri Flowering Currant, bearing fragrant yellow flowers. Thousands of the latter plant have been sent out for Crandall. Though dealing with respectable nurserymen, I have not so far been able to get a genuine improved Crandall, worthy a place in the fruit garden.

The North Star Currant with us bears well, but is too small to compete with some other sorts of red currants. It will therefore go to the brush pile.

As to Gooseberries, we have several new varieties on trial but are not yet ready to report. The Industry will probably have to take a back seat as too tender for this part of Wisconsin. Smith's Seedling and Downing we shall tie to until some more valuable sort displaces them.

If this article does not find the waste basket the subject may be continued at some future time.

Union Grove, Wis.

MORE ABOUT STRAWBERRIES.

The genuine horticulturist is always eager to hear the experience of other people with his favorite strawberries.

Last month we gave Prof. Goff's report of some of the varieties being tested at the Experiment Station. This month we give you the report of Mr. Kellogg of Janesville, and also some "Notes from the Field" written for The Independent by E. P. Powell.

Editor Wisconsin Horticulturist:—

After the greatest yield for many years from a five acre patch of sixty-one varieties, we report the following as the best for dollars, that have recovered from the frosts, heat and early drouth. We give them about in the order for profit; after ten it is difficult to place them: Enhance, Splendid, Warfield, Woolverton, Lovett, Haverland, Earle, Tennessee Prolific, No Name, Crescent, Wood, Bubach, Princess, Marshall, Greenville, Bisel, Cyclone, Eclipse, Eureka, Saunders and Jessie. Of these twenty-one kinds Marshall, Bubach and Jessie for fancy berries; for the farmer, Splendid, Wood, Lovett and Enhance; for market to ship, Enhance, Aroma, Woolverton, Warfield, Crescent, Earle, Marshall and No Name; for home or near market, take the whole list.

With this season's notes Gandy is more productive than Brandywine but neither of them come within the twenty for profit. They are much alike and many would say they are one variety under two names, their strongest points being size and firmness, although Brandywine has too many culls and unless it does better it will go under. Of the newer varieties Clyde made a wonderful bloom but it did not recover to show any profit; its tendency is to bloom so early the danger of frosts will make it unprofitable if not entirely worthless; we hope it will do better.

For fancy kinds try Edith, Mary, Glen Mary, Enormous, Wm. Belt, Marshall and Clyde; but Mary we find poor quality. Enhance, while it is at first rough and un-

couth, ripens up if left on the vines and beats everything for yield and money. Two rows forty rods long at one picking gave 492 quarts, No Name 350 quarts, Splendid 341 quarts, Eureka 237 quarts, Gandy 200 quarts, Jessie 180 quarts; many kinds went over 200 quarts per forty rods.

At one sitting I reached ten quarts of Splendid without getting out of my tracks, and in another field I reached seven quarts of Enhance at one sitting. I picked one quart of Mary in one minute, one quart of Enormous in one minute, and one of my pickers picked one quart of Jessie in one and three-quarters minutes. One picker picked twenty-five quarts of Bubach in one hour, and another eleven quarts of Tennessee Prolific in twenty-five minutes.

This field was planted after corn; the soil is a good prairie loam. It has been under cultivation over fifty years, has never had but two dressings of good stable manure and one of these was the winter before planting, after we had rented it; no commercial fertilizers used; fruit grown in ordinary matted rows.

We always plant as many perfects as pistillates.

Yours truly,

GEO. J. KELLOGG,
Janesville, Wis.

NOTES IN THE FIELD.

It has not been a good year for testing strawberries. The cold and rainy weather has left the fruit with little flavor. The exquisite aroma of some sorts has been wholly lacking. I have not tasted one absolutely first-class berry this year. For some reason also, probably the reduced vitality of the plants by the drouth of last year, the crop has been reduced in quantity. I am inclined to believe that one of the newer sorts will stand the test as to both quality and quantity. Marshall gives us superb berries, but not enough of them, and not of the highest quality. Brandywine is a noble berry, perhaps in quality one of the very best, but so far with me has not given heavy crops. Ber-

proved valuable, because of green tips. Mary promises much better; and I think will fulfill all her promises. Williams is still an excellent early berry, but I hope that Eleanor will prove a better; it is at all events a decided acquisition. Clyde is a wonderfully thrifty plant, bearing an enormous crop of berries, the quality of which is at least good; but as my plants are young I am not able to determine the probable size of the fruit. Timbrell in hills is a wonder, and where it can be kept in hills I would certainly grow it for a family berry; it is, however, utterly unfit for field culture, owing to its ripening unevenly. William Belt is a noble plant, a fine grower, and bears abundantly; and in this case also my plants are young and the test not final.

Equinox is a late berry with a good deal of promise. I have, however, found a seedling later than all the others, and am testing it. The need now is a really great very late strawberry. Of the older sorts, for market, Bubach is not surpassed; Mrs. Cleveland, and Saunders, and Leader, and Princess are all good sorts. For home use the old Cumberland is unequaled, and for late use Sharpless, in clay soils, cannot be discarded. Aroma is not first-class in quality; Beverly does not give large berries, without special culture; Annie Laurie stools badly, and fails to give a large crop, but what it does give is of superb quality. For home culture and in small quantities I cannot too strongly recommend that the strawberry be grown in hills.

—E. P. Powell in Independent.

THE GOOD OLD WILSON HAS DISAPPEARED.

A marked feature of the market this year was the entire absence of the good old Wilson's Albany, which ruled the market for over a third of a century. In vain did amateurs seek to drive out the Wilson by denunciation of its quality; consumers liked it and called for it. Its supplanting was effected by the surreptitious introduction of a spurious Wilson. The substitute is of lighter color, differs a little in form, quite acid but differing in the flavor of its

acidity from the rich, vinous flavor of the genuine Wilson, when fully ripe. I could eat the true Wilson three times a day for weeks without its cloying my appetite, but I take no pleasure in the spurious variety. I am not certain of the way in which substitution was effected, but have heard it insinuated that it came from growers in the eastern Lake Ontario vicinity where the old Captain Jack was introduced and propagated as the Wilson and plants of that variety sent out to fill orders for the Wilson. I would advise strawberry growers who are sure that they have healthy plants of the true Wilson to preserve and carefully propagate from them for I believe that there will yet be an active demand for them. Bubach was quite abundant in the early part of the season and is greatly preferable to the one sold for Wilson. Warfield is a pleasanter acid, but I am prepared to say, without fear of successful contradiction, that there is not an acid berry on the market that equals in quality a fully ripe Wilson's Albany.

—Green's Fruit Grower.

Crescent Strawberry.—Don't discard that yet. We quit growing it, but are going to welcome it back again.

—American Gardening.

Tennessee Prolific is as fine a berry as any and wonderfully productive.

—M. T. Thompson, Virginia.

Always kill fish as soon as they are taken from the water by a sharp blow with a baton or stick on the back of the head. They keep better, eat better, and are in all respects better than those that suffer just before dying. The best fishermen in Europe and America know this—the suffering of any animal just before dying always tends to make the meat unwholesome and sometimes poisonous.

—George T. Angell.

FIGURING UP THE PROFITS—A SYMPOSIUM.

From Wauwatosa:—Our home-grown strawberries ranged from from 75 cts. down to 50 cts. per 16-qt. cases, very fine fruit and cases well filled. Imported berries or those a little "off" in quality sold for less. I think the usual quantity were used, and the consumers had a grand, good time. What the influence on future crops may be remains to be seen, but the persistent, forcible growers will doubtless live to get remunerative prices again. These low prices are "fashionable" in all lines!

—J. S. Stickney.

From Baraboo:—The frost took more than half of the strawberries,—some growers now wish it had taken all. Fancy berries retailed at six or seven cents in the local market; ordinary grades for less. But the home trade could not use all the berries, and alas! for the man who shipped. A. G. Tuttle with his established reputation for fine fruit, shipped twenty-five cases for which his net returns were thirty cents. One grower heard nothing from his shipment of eighty cases of strawberries until he began shipping raspberries; then the consignee kept part of the proceeds of the raspberries to pay the freight on those strawberries! Red raspberries retailed at ten cents at first, but soon dropped to eight. Blackberries are selling at seven and eight cents.

For the following reports we are indebted to Mr. W. J. Moyle:

From Sparta:—C. E. Tobey of the Thayer Fruit Farms writes that the strawberry crop was good, but their market in the great northwest was largely supplied by home-grown berries. A good crop was picked in many places in the Dakotas where strawberries had never been grown before on a commercial scale. Thus the Sparta growers found themselves with a thousand bushels on their vines and no market. Red raspberries were a good crop with fair prices;

blackcaps not so good; blackberries about one tenth of a crop; June frosts did the mischief.

From Racine:—Over 20,000 crates were shipped by one steamboat line alone, to Chicago, where in a majority of cases the receipts were just enough to cover the cost of freight and picking. The poor condition of the berries had considerable to do with the prices, as twice the number of crates were shipped from this place last year at very remunerative prices. The intense heat scalded many of the berries; they were also very soft and came onto the market in wretched condition. Thousands of bushels were left to rot on the vines.

A fair shipment of raspberries and cherries was made from Racine at tolerably remunerative prices.

From Sturgeon Bay:—The crop came on after the great glut, so that a disposal was made at a small profit. D. E. Bingham of Hatch, Bingham and Co., estimates the average price per case for his locality at seventy cents.

Many who grew only a small acreage for home market fared better. Mr. Chappel, of Oregon, reports a dollar per case at Stoughton, while others report a ready sale at eighty cents per case for first class berries fresh from the vines.

From Centralia, Ill.—The strawberry season is again over. There are many new faces in the business. The crop has been one of the largest from this point in many years. The season was above the average for shipping, being cool and moderately dry throughout. The profit in strawberry growing is the money it scatters among pickers, tramps and locals. Those who have anything left but their experience and plenty of work are the small growers where the entire family turns out to harvest the crop. Two cents a quart or 48 cents a case is too much to pay for picking a crop that the net returns run from nothing to nine or ten dollars per acre. One grower informed me that his crop averaged 200 cases of 24 quarts per acre, and less than $16

per acre remained with him to pay rent of land, taxes, plants, planting, cultivating and mulching. He figured out that the net balance that came to him would not pay five cents an hour for labor expended, and that the cost of mulching alone would consume more than the entire net proceeds. —Our Horticultural Visitor.

From Michigan:—There are acres of black raspberries that were not half picked this season. When the grower must pay one to one and a half cents a quart for picking and sell them for 25 to 30 cents per 16 quart case there is little encouragement for the labor of growing and marketing. This seems an exceptional year for the grower of small fruits. Strawberries yielded no profits, and raspberries have given no better returns; the crop of grapes promises to be immense, and unless a market abroad is found there will be no demand for one-half the output. What is to be done, then, is the question for the grower to solve.

—Michigan Fruit Grower.

THE COUNTRY GENTLEMAN CORN.

Two faults only have ever been found with this most delicious corn: The one that the thick-set kernels leave no room to set the teeth; the other, that it has an unpleasantly raw, cloying taste. The first complaint is the mere outcome of a whim. The second is the fault (or possibly the misfortune) of the cook. Those who generally cook their corn too long, will call this sort perfection. Those who are in the habit of cooking it just right will find this raw taste. The reason is that the kernels reach so deeply toward the center that longer cooking is required than for almost any other sort. It is pre-eminently a kind to be served on the cob, as it has a small, dainty, perfect ear, filled to the very tip with thickly set kernels of purest white. For sweetness and delicacy it is unrivaled. One might well take lessons on the flute (as one society maid thought of doing in order to eat corn from the cob with grace) if this delightful variety were to be the reward. —Exchange.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

We suspect that since berry-picking the Wisconsin horticulturists have been—not "calamity howlers," for they are too manly men to howl—but "calamity" *thinkers.* Perhaps the spark of hopefulness, which never quite dies out, may be brightened up a little by the following extract from a private letter written by the president of a bank in Decatur, Ill.; it at least has the merit of being reliable: "I am glad to say that the business situation in central Illinois has at last begun to improve. Since July 1st we can see a marked change. We have good crops of everything we raise except wheat, and while the prices of corn and oats are hardly satisfactory, our abundant crops are bringing us considerable money."

Mr. A. G. Tuttle made a neighborly call the other day and brought some of the prettiest apples that we ever saw, a new Russian named Lowland Raspberry. They are a little larger than the Fameuse; the color is a delicate pea-green around the stem, melting into creamy white, the whole suffused with brilliant carmine. Ours are too pretty to eat, but people who are hard-hearted enough to eat them say they are delicious. Season same as the White Transparent.

In Mr. Tuttle's currant field, from a row of Victoria fourteen feet in length eighty-six quarts were picked. In a field of Long Bunch Holland currants, two girls picked fifty quarts apiece in one afternoon.

Have you read the excellent article on Gladiolus Culture?

We would like to suggest that in some parts of Wisconsin—for instance in our little corner of Sauk County—Gladiolus Childsii can be grown satisfactorily. We have a friend whose bed of Gladiolus Childsii, with its delicate tints and dainty pencilings, is a constant delight. One variety has a lemon-yellow ground.

Our thanks are due Geo. J. Kellogg & Sons, of Janesville, for a box of lovely roses, very fresh and fine, and as sweet as they are fair.

ORGANIZED FOR PROTECTION.

The fruit-growers at Pentwater, Michigan, have taken the initiative step to protect their interests in the way of handling fruits. A stock company has been organized with a capital of $5,000, the management to make contracts with strictly reliable dealers in such a way as to protect the growers.

A detective service is contemplated to investigate all complaints of unfair treatment of shippers and cause for complaints by the commission dealers against the farmers for any sharp or underhanded practice on the part of the shipper.

To make the work of the company effective, farmers are being organized into local unions. The local unions report the names of their members to the company and pay over a membership fee of one dollar each. The secretary of the local union ascertains the number of acres and condition of the different kinds of fruit to be shipped. All these facts will be recorded by the company's secretary, who will designate the markets to which shipments should be made from each local union, so that none shall go to an over-stocked market.

The company is determined to secure the best prices possible for union members, who are to pay one dollar each every three months to the company, in order to continue its beneficiaries. Several strong local unions have been organized in Mason and Oceana counties.

—Michigan Fruit Grower.

"A garden, properly conducted, will furnish something to sell every day in the year, and no one need ever go to town without taking something to exchange for groceries."

"Who teaches you all these little acts of politeness?" asked a gentleman of a tiny boy. "Oh, nobody; they just teach us at school to feel polite and all the rest comes."

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