

ARBOR DAY.

How important it is that each child should love and become attached to their school house while young. When we remember that the growth and development of a nation depends largely on the education of its people, we should strive to make our school-house attractive, that each child may be willing to attend our daily schools, and endeavor to obtain all knowledge while in youth. Thus we feel inclined to say that our rulers have acted wisely in appointing an Arbor Day, on which the children may spend a pleasant time decorating the school-house by planting trees around it; and although they may never reap much benefit from them, if, in after years any of them should pass and see another group of children enjoying the shade which their labor produced, they would feel amply rewarded for their work.

Nothing can render our homes or public buildings more attractive than to be surrounded by fruit or ornamental trees, beneath which we may in the proper season sit and enjoy the cool refreshing breeze, or eat the delicious fruit which God has kindly provided for our use.

Let us think for a moment how largely man is dependent upon trees of various kinds for his sustenance and wealth.

The good ships built with our lofty forest trees have carried the costly merchandise over the foaming seas, and yielded large profits to the country. The large quantities of lumber which are annually procured from the forests give employment to many of our fellow-creatures.

And further, man has, by his wisdom, converted hot arid deserts into fruitful fields by planting trees, which have afforded many a weary traveller a comfortable resort from the burning rays of the sun.

In some countries rapid thaws have been prevented by large forests, as they cause the snow to melt more gradually.

Although we read in ancient times of a man being caught in a tree by the hair of his head, yet it was not its fault, but his, because he, like many men, carried his head too high.

We hope, that on Arbor Day, the 18th of May, not only the scholars, but also the parents and older ones, will come to encourage and help us in our work.

FLORENCE I. KNOWLES, *Pupil South Ravelon School.*

POLITICAL REVIEW OF THE WEEK.

Thursday, May 26.—Foster moved the second reading of the bill respecting fishing by foreign vessels. Thompson said at the present juncture it seemed necessary to rely largely upon the imperial statute of 1819. The subordinate legislation of the Dominion does not fully cover the provisions of that statute, and this bill proposes to bring our legislation so fully up to the imperial act that all the provisions of the latter shall be covered by the laws of Canada. The act gives power to officials to bring any vessel, found within any harbor of Canada or within three miles of the coast, into port and search her cargo, to examine the master upon oath touching the cargo and voyage, who shall be bound to truly answer the questions, or otherwise incur a penalty of \$400.

After a short discussion the bill was read a second and third time.

Friday, May 21.—Langvin moved that on Tuesday the house go into committee on the Cape Breton railway resolution.

The house went into committee on the P. E. Island tunnel bill and passed it and a number of other public bills.

The house adjourned till the 25th.

Tuesday, May 25.—The bills respecting the improvements of the harbor of Quebec, and respecting tolls over the Grand River, were read a third time.

On the third reading of the bill respecting the North-West Territories, Weldon moved an amendment that judges should not be eligible for the North-West Council.

Thompson said that no new principle has been adopted, as stipendiary magistrates were now ex-officio members of the Council. It was important that in the early stages the judges should be utilized for the purpose of framing the laws.

On division the amendment was lost.

On motion to go into committee on the resolution respecting the Cape Breton railway, Langvin explained that the government desired to give Cape Breton the same facilities as to railway transportation as other parts of the country. The effort made to procure the construction of a railroad by a company had not been successful, and the government now resolved to build the road. The cost of the railway would be \$1,700,000.

In committee Mills objected to the spending of so much money.

Charlton doubted whether the road would pay. Railway investments in the east had been a great burden on the country. He opposed the expenditure of so large a sum for a railroad on the Island, as when built it would not pay.

Cameron claimed that the road in conjunction with the Pictou branch, and Eastern Extension road, would pay well. He claimed that \$2,500,000 is the sum Cape Breton is entitled to on the same basis as P. E. Island.

Paint said the building of the road would be the last and most important link in the trans-continental railway. The proposal to give a railway to Cape Breton removed a feeling in the island that the Dominion would not consider the interest of Cape Breton.

Kirk, Kaulbach, Woodworth, and others, took part in the debate. The resolution, on being put to the house, was carried.

The house then went into committee on the franchise amendment bill.

Pope, the Minister of Railways, has given notice of the following railway subsidies: for railway from Maccan Station to Joggins, \$38,400; for a line from Truro to Newport, forty-nine miles, \$156,800; and for a railway from the Intercolonial through the Stewiacke Valley on a line which will afford facilities of communication with the iron mines at Springside, Upper Stewiacke, and Musquodoboit settlements, twenty miles, \$80,000.

Wednesday, May 26.—Mr. McLellan laid on the table the supplementary estimates for the present fiscal year. The total amount estimated is \$3,501,921, of which \$418,256 is chargeable to capital, and \$1,836,113 to income; \$1,011,310 is the amount required for expenses connected with the North-West trouble, and \$233,242, unprovided items; \$332,114 is to be expended on public works in the Maritime Provinces.

Langvin introduced a bill to authorize the government to construct the Cape Breton railway.

PLUMS.

If one has a soil suited to it—a heavy clay or loam—it can usually be grown very easily. The fruit is so grateful to the taste and useful to the house-keeper that it should be given a fair trial, either in the garden borders or wherever a tree can be planted so as to secure plenty of light and air. The young trees may be one or two years old from the bud; I should prefer the former, if vigorous. Never be induced to purchase old trees by promises of speedy fruit. It is quite possible you may never get any fruit at all from them worth mentioning. I should allow a space of from ten to fifteen feet between the trees when they are planted together, and I should cut them back so that they would begin to branch at two feet from the ground. Long, naked stems are subject to the gum disease.

In the place of general advice in regard to this fruit I shall give the experience of Mr. T. S. Force, of Newburgh, who exhibited seventy varieties at the last Orange County fair.

His plum orchard is a large poultry yard, containing half an acre, of which the ground is a good loam, resting on a heavy clay subsoil. He bought trees but one year from the bud, set them out in autumn, and cut them back so that they began to form their heads at two feet from the ground. He profers starting with strong young plants of this age, and he did not permit them to bear for the first three years, his primal aim being to develop a healthy, vigorous tree, with a round, symmetrical head. During this period the ground about them was kept mellow by good cultivation, and being rich enough to start with, received no fertilizers. It is his belief that over-fertilization tends to cause the disease so well known as the black knot, which has destroyed many orchards in this vicinity. If the garden has been enriched as I have directed, the soil will probably need little if anything from the stables, and certainly will not if the trees are grown in a poultry-yard. During this growing and forming period, Mr. Force gave careful attention to pruning. Budded trees are not even symmetrical growers, but tend to set up a few very strong shoots that rob the rest of the tree of sustenance. Of course these must be cut well back in early spring, or we have long naked reaches of wood and a deformed tree. It is far better, however, not to let these rampant shoots grow to maturity, but pinch them back in early summer, thus causing them to throw out side branches. By summer pinching and rubbing off of tender shoots a tree can be made to grow in any shape we desire. When the trees receive no summer pruning, Mr. Force advises that the branches be shortened in at least one-half in the spring, while some shoots are cut back even more rigorously. At the age of four or five years, according to the vigor of the trees, he permits them to bear. Now cultivation ceases, and the ground is left to grow hard, but not woody or grassy, beneath the boughs. Every spring, just as the blossoms are falling, he spreads evenly under the branches four quarts of salt. While the trees thrive and grow fruitful with this fertilizer, the curculio, or plum-weevil, does not appear to find it at all to his taste. As a result of his methods he has grown large and profitable crops, and his trees in the main are kept healthy and vigorous. His remedy for the black knot is to cut off and burn the small boughs and twigs affected. If the disease appears in the side of a limb or in the stem, he cuts out all trace of it, and paints the wound with a wash of gum shellac and alcohol.

Trees load so heavily that the plums rest against one another. You will often find in moist warm weather decaying specimens. These should be removed at once, that the infection may not spread.

In cutting out the interfering boughs do not take off the sharp-pointed spurs which are forming along the branches, for on these are maturing the fruit-buds.

Mr. Force recommends the following ten varieties, named in the order of ripening: Canada; Orleans, a red cheeked plum; McLaughlin, greenish, with pink cheek; Bradshaw, large red, with lilac bloom; Smith's Orleans, purple; Green Gage; Bleeker's Gage, golden yellow; Prune d'Agon, purple; Coo's Golden Drop; and Shropshire Damson for preserves.

If we are restricted to very light soils, we shall probably have to grow some of the native varieties, of the Canada and Wild-geese type. In regard to both this fruit and peaches we should be guided in our selection by information respecting varieties peculiarly suited to the region.—E. P. Roe, in *Harper's Magazine* for June.

COMMERCIAL.

FISH.—The fish markets continue in a very dull state, there is nothing doing but in a retail way. Some considerable dry and pickled fish had arrived since Saturday from Cape Breton, but we do not learn of any sales being made. In fact we think that it will be very difficult to sell readily at such prices as were paid some few weeks ago, owing to new fish being so near at hand, and West India markets so dull. Late advices from the Jamaica markets report that market in a very bad state. We notice that there is an appearance of mackerel on the coast east and west. None have yet come to market. The banking vessels that come in for bait report fish very plenty on the banks. It is thought that next week considerable fish will be landed from the banking vessels.