

HORTICULTURE

Notes on Garden Crops

Mr. G. G. Karnelsen, Steinbach, Man., has won the prize offered by the Buchanan Nursery, St. Charles, for the best wild plums.

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Two new potato diseases are reported in a bulletin just out from the Maine, U. S. Experiment Station. Both are likely to do serious damage in Eastern potato growing districts, and as one of them is spread by the seed and the other very probably in the same way, there is danger of them becoming widely spread. The manner of attack on the potato plants are similar with both diseases, the branches and stems are affected, growth checked, with the leaves curling or folding up along the mid rib. As the disease progresses, the plants turn light green and then yellow.

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In harvesting garden beets, the tops should always be twisted, never cut off. A few light frosts do not hurt beets, but they should never be left in the soil till the ground freezes. Their tops protect them pretty well against light frosts. A good cool cellar is the best place to store them in. If the cellar is dry, cover the roots over with dry earth.

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For house use, a good way to keep celery is to pack the plants closely together, and place them upright in boxes twelve to eighteen inches wide with the bottom covered with several inches of moist sand. There is no need of having sand between the plants. These boxes are packed together in a cool moist cellar. If celery is wanted for immediate use it may be stored in barrels or troughs containing an inch or two of water. This is also a very good way of hastening the bleaching process. Celery for use in the latter part of the winter should be quite green in color when put into winter storage. For early winter use it should be partly bleached when stored. For winter use, celery should be left out as late as is safe in the fall, so that the cellar may be thoroughly cooled off before it is put in.

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Summer squash are not grown for storing and are not desirable for table use except before the skin hardens and they are used entire. Winter squash keep best in a dry atmosphere and at a cool temperature. They will, however, keep well in a warm or even hot cellar or room, providing it is dry, but they rot quickly in a moist atmosphere. They should be laid on shelves, never piled up, if it is desirable to keep them long. When well ripened in the field and hardened without exposure to frost, and kept dry, many of the winter sorts will keep easily until March. Squash and pumpkins may be skinned, cut up into strips about half an inch thick and as wide as the rind is, minus the skin and seeds, dried and kept that way. They are quite as desirable for table use dried.

Game Protection in Manitoba

It was not without considerable trepidation in 1905 that those who took the more active part in organizing the Manitoba Game Protection Association shouldered the task, faced the obstacles and snares before them, and set out to attain, if possible, an object which involved a question of such vital importance to the public of the province. This object was the better protection of our diminishing supply of wild game by creating a co-operative sentiment among our sportsmen and hunters.

So generally did the sportsmen respond to our solicitations, and so readily was our action commended by the Provincial Government, and other representative bodies, that the association materialized under the most favorable auspices and with the brightest outlook for the future. It was proposed from the outset that the chief objects of the association should be:—To foster public sentiment in the matter of game protection, to initiate game protection legislation, to support the enforcement of the game laws of the province, and from time to time to place our own officers in the field.

Most of the initial year of 1905 was taken up in organization, in extending the membership roll, and in creating and soliciting interest in our work. During 1906 the first active field work was begun, and something in the neighborhood of 1,500 miles of territory were covered by our officers. Financial assistance was solicited from leading sportsmen and citizens of Winnipeg. The response was a credit to those who gave so liberally, and in consequence a great deal of assistance was given to the provincial authorities in bringing habitual game law breakers to justice.

During December, 1906, I made a trip into the Riding Mountains to ascertain the feasibility of establishing a provincial game preserve in that district. Elk and moose were found to be fairly plentiful, as well as jumping deer and small game. A great many farmers, settlers, sportsmen and townspeople were interviewed with a view of procuring public opinion on the subject, and assistance was requested from those most familiar with the district

in mapping out the most suitable tract for a provincial preserve. Without a single exception, everyone who was interviewed offered to support such a scheme, and a tract of land embracing nine townships, or 324 miles, was decided upon as the most favorable.

Last year the Provincial Government provided the association with a grant of \$500 towards defraying expenses, and this, with the monies received from other sources, put us in splendid condition financially to conduct a vigorous crusade against violators of the Game Act. Our efforts were aimed chiefly against illegal chicken shooting, and though we had fewer convictions than during the present year, an immense amount of good work was accomplished.

During the succeeding session of the Dominion Parliament, the question of establishing this preserve was gone into between Hon. Frank Oliver and myself at Ottawa. Mr. Oliver promised to do his utmost to have the preserve eventually established, and word was received from the Premier of Manitoba in answer to an enquiry by wire, that he would lend his assistance, so far as the province was concerned. Several matters at the time stood in the way to prevent an immediate establishment of the game preserve, but these will shortly be entirely eliminated, when every assurance is given that we will have a permanent game refuge in the heart of the Riding Mountains. This will not only tend to perpetuate our big game animals indefinitely, but will afford an ample supply of game for hunting around the outskirts of the preserve for all time.

This matter of game protection means far more to the State than the mere curtailing or lengthening of open seasons subject to the whims of a few present-day sportsmen. I am aware that by many the work of the Game Protective Association is looked upon as little more than the worthy agitation of a few enthusiasts, probably a few game law cranks, who seek to keep about them a full supply of game for personal recreation and pursuit. Aside from this, there are many citizens, a large percentage of whom annually go hunting, who think that a game Protective Association is hardly worthy of support. I was recently asked a question by a man who holds a high position in the administrative affairs of our province. He said:—"What benefit can we hope to derive from all this game protection?" The question was a pertinent one, and one which many might ask, but it goes to show how little consideration has been given to the enormous asset Canada possesses in the wild life of her prairies, forests and waters. Such a question need not seek far to find an answer. Cut off this grand heritage, this bountiful patrimony, and you destroy the most potent factor in the nation's playground; and with its destruction the very source from which we draw a great part of our national education. Beside this, we possess in our game supply an asset of the greatest commercial value, and one from which a very considerable source of revenue can be derived. Probably no state or province on the continent has proved this fact more conclusively than the State of Maine. A score of years ago Maine's wild game had been depleted to such an extent that hardly enough remained in any district to afford a day's shooting. The right men took upon themselves, under government patronage, to reclaim this lost heritage, and to-day the State not only possesses an unlimited supply of game, but derives therefrom one of its most substantial public revenues. In our own case we find that without more effort than the employees of the government are free to exercise, our game department is practically self-sustaining. By working along more extensive lines it could be made to turn in a surplus revenue.

Another benefit we derive from our wild birds is the part they play in the destruction of noxious weeds and insects. Weeds and insects cost the farmers of Canada millions of dollars annually, both in direct losses and in expenditure for labor and material necessary to protect their crops. Anything which tends to reduce the number of weeds or to check the ravages of injurious insects is therefore a direct benefit. Among the most useful natural agents in checking such losses are insectivorous and seed-eating birds (many of which are game birds), and the importance of their preservation, while difficult to measure in dollars and cents, is self evident, since it may mean the difference between large profits and heavy losses.

Before the surmounting influence of settlement, the wild animals and birds of Canada and the United States have shown a steady and rapid decrease in numbers, and coincident with this there has been an enormous increase in the number of persons who hunt. Approximately speaking, there were issued in 1905, one thousand nine hundred licenses; in 1906, two thousand five hundred; and in 1907, three thousand three hundred. Assuming that one in only five men are big game hunters, this would give a total number of hunters in Manitoba of over one thousand six hundred. The destruction which an army of one thousand six hundred hunters, roaming at will over our small province, might bring about is beyond computation. It is sufficient to say that in the absence of game laws and their enforcement, Manitoba would lose her game supply in the course of a very few years. This has already been proven in several states and provinces on this continent, and while we are in a position to prevent such a loss, it is our duty to act, and not sit indifferently to one side.

Under present conditions it will not be many years till we see the last of America's game, other than in

parks and shooting estates of the wealthy, but by putting into practice the laws before us, by supporting them, and by using common sense in carrying them out, we can keep our game in a wild state indefinitely. This cannot be done by ten men, nor by a hundred, but only the united support of the whole people will ultimately succeed. We must remember that the game is the property of the whole people. It must be protected by all, and maintained for all. The officials who are working single-handed to protect our game for us should be given every assistance. Too frequently they are assailed for not enforcing the law to the letter in every case of law-breaking which occurs, their assailants never stopping to think that no official has an all-seeing eye, and that his task is made the heavier when nine out of every ten people are always ready to do anything but assist him. The legislators receive a share of the abuse also in the passing and repealing of game laws; but they are elected by the people to represent the wishes of the people in the government, and when their electors fail to show an interest in the protection of game they can hardly be expected to do otherwise.

"The purpose of the Manitoba Game Protective Association is not only the reformation of the loose and ineffective game laws of the past, but to see that the government is given every assistance in putting efficient laws into effect. It matters not how good a law is, if it is not enforced it is of little value."

"I think that the agitation which has been started through the medium of this association is bringing forcibly to the minds of the people of Manitoba, that if they expect to derive healthful recreation in future from our prairies, forests and lakes, the laws of Nature, the laws of mankind, and the laws of the province must be obeyed; and that, if the time should come when the game should be exterminated from our land, it would exact a price which would be beyond the power of humanity to satisfy."—Address delivered by J. P. TURNER, Sec.-Treas. of the Manitoba Game Protective Association, at the last annual meeting.

FIELD NOTES

Events of the Week

CANADIAN

The big auction sale of land held last week in Regina did not materialize on a scale equal to expectations. Very little was sold by auction, though it is reported that a number of blocks were turned over privately. Few buyers attended.

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It is reported that the Hindus in British Columbia are to be moved to British Honduras. The Hindus are anxious to move, as a good many of them are starving and can obtain no employment. The present plan is to ship them to Panama, send them across the isthmus and thence to their destination, where they will be used in railroad building.

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Hon. Nelson Monteith, minister of agriculture in the Ontario Cabinet has resigned and James S. Duff, member for West Simcoe has been called to succeed him. Mr. Monteith during his tenure of office has sustained the reputation of the department of agriculture in Ontario as one of the best organized and most non-partisan of any department, provincial or federal, in the Dominion. It is believed he will go to England in connection with immigration matters.

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Students of the Veterinary College, Toronto, conducted extensive hazing operations this year on the freshman class, so extensive in fact that sufficient freshmen could not be found, and civilians who happened to be passing the building at the time were pressed into service and several initiated in the most approved style. The police on duty around the college were forced to send in a riot call to headquarters and a squad of constables was required to club the vets into submission.

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An organization to be known as the Canadian South African Service Association, was launched the other day at Ottawa, at a meeting of representatives of the various South African Veterans' Associations scattered throughout Canada. Col. S. B. Steele of Winnipeg was made president and A. Miller, Ottawa, secretary treasurer. It was decided that the annual meeting should be held at Ottawa on Feb. 27th, Paardeburg Day. The object of the association is to hold the various veterans' organizations in the country together, to represent the veterans and look after their interests in dealing with the government.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN

The European war cloud has not yet completely passed away, but there is every prospect of a peaceful settlement of the questions at issue amongst the Balkan States, Austria and Russia.

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Forest fires broke out simultaneously the other day all over Northern Michigan and are raging with extraordinary fierceness. Towns have been wiped out by the flames, the inhabitants barely escaping with their lives.