

# THE RESOURCES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

"WESTWARD THE STAR OF EMPIRE TAKES ITS WAY."

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## BRITISH COLUMBIA STRAWBERRIES.

The strawberry is indigenous to the greater portion of this province, in many parts of which it is found growing wild in great abundance; and it may safely be said that there is no country in the world better adapted to its successful cultivation than our southern districts especially afford. Yet how many of our people are there who scarcely ever taste this delicious fruit? The difficulty cannot be in obtaining choice varieties for planting, for our fellow townsmen, Messrs. P. T. Johnson & Co., and we suppose other nurserymen and seedsmen as well, are prepared to furnish, in season, almost any leading variety, among them the *Bidwell*, a particularly choice kind, highly prized by all connoisseurs of the article. Our illustration shows the *Bidwell*, one of the best tested varieties, and one which has achieved a very satisfactory record among the leading strawberry growers of this coast. The plant bears early and furnishes a large yield of shapely and finely flavored fruit, often giving berries five and six inches in circumference. Any villager even the city dweller may cultivate a strawberry bed of a few feet square, which, if well tended, will yield bushels and bushels of a most wholesome and delicious fruit. It will furnish healthful and profitable pastime after the routine labors of the day are over. All farmers, especially, should grow them with profit and pleasure, if planted in the same order as their other garden matter. The subjoined article from the pen of an experienced horticulturist, anticipates the "shed" system, and will do for small land owners who wish to economize space, but for the farm,

where land is not so much an object, we should recommend planting in rows two and a half or three feet apart and cultivate with the shovel plow or garden cultivator, keeping the weeds pulled out between the plants.

In planting, select, if possible, a cloudy day. Wet the roots and pinch off the largest, oldest leaves as the plants are set. The main requisites in setting are to press the earth firmly on the roots, and not to be set so deeply as to bury the crowns.

The order of setting of varieties is more important than is usually supposed. If all the varieties named are used it would be well to set in about the following order, to secure the most certain cross fertilization: Two rows *Downer's Prolific*; two rows *Bidwell*; two rows *Crescent Seedling*; two rows *Green Prolific*; two rows *Wilson's Albany*; two rows *Charles Downing*; two rows *Kentucky*.

At once after planting, the spaces between the rows should be pulverized with the cultivator, and the surface around and between the plants in the rows kept loosened with a rake.

When the runners start they should be trained in the line of the rows, so as not to interfere with the close running of the cultivator in the early part of the season. When the fall rains come on the plants will soon cover a space sixteen to eighteen inches wide in the matted rows. Cover late in the fall with old prairie hay. If this is not obtained, straw will answer, but it is apt to introduce grass and weeds into the patch. The cover should be sufficient to hide the plants from view. The next spring rake the straw or hay in the paths between the matted rows. The crop the first year will amply satisfy the uninitiated both as to size and quantity of fruit."



A FAMOUS STRAWBERRY THE BIDWELL.