

junct, and in special fruit sections men are making a good living out of the orchard alone. We would call attention therefore, to the courses that are being offered at the Ontario Agricultural College, as outlined on page 203, of this issue, and we trust that when the opening day, September 14, comes round, there will be hundreds of young men who are interested in fruit enroll themselves as students at that worthy institution.

INCREASED GRANT NECESSARY

The new Ontario Act governing the Horticultural Societies of the province has been in operation now for about three years and is giving general satisfaction. It is working out in one direction, however, in a manner that may prove disastrous to a considerable number of societies unless steps are taken immediately to improve the situation. The government grant made to the societies under the present Act is distributed to them in part in proportion to their membership. This forces societies in order that they may hold their own to increase their membership. Those societies that do not increase their membership suffer decreases in their government grants. As a result of this clause in the Act, the societies have been putting forth every effort to increase their membership, with the result that during the past two years, their membership has been increased by over 50 per cent. As the total government grant to all the societies has not been increased, the societies are being forced to carry a greatly increased membership on grants, that on the average are no larger than they were several years ago.

The burden is becoming so great that a number of the societies are finding it a hard struggle to continue their work. The government grant to the Horticultural Societies of the province should be increased by at least \$3,000. There is no organization in the province that is doing more beneficial and educational work in proportion to the assistance received, than the Horticultural Societies. The societies should take this matter up energetically and leave no stone unturned to show the provincial government how absolutely essential it is that the provincial government grant shall be increased to a sum commensurate with the work that they are doing.

AN UNNECESSARY BURDEN

There is a feature of the fruit commission business in Toronto that should be corrected. Commission merchants in that city demand cartage fees of one cent a basket and three cents a crate upon all fruit shipped to them for sale, in addition to a commission of ten per cent. for selling. The growers of the Niagara peninsula feel that the cartage charges are an imposition. Expressions of this feeling from some of the growers appear elsewhere in this issue. Toronto commission men appear to be alone in requiring a fee of more than 10 per cent. Montreal does not impose it, nor other cities, so far as we know.

It is claimed that seventy-five per cent. of the fruit that is sold by commission merchants is hauled away by the buyers, but the commission men offer no rebate to growers on this account; they keep the money that is paid for work that in many cases is not done. Even when the fruit is delivered by the commission men, it is not reasonable to make the growers pay for it. That is the commission man's affair and not the grower's. The latter's share of cartage operations is done at his end of the line. It would be just as reasonable for the retail dealers to impose

cartage charges on the commission men as it is for the commission men to charge the growers. In other lines of business such a thing would not be thought of. The commission merchants of Toronto should drop this charge.

The article and diagrams that are published in this issue under the heading, "A Model Park for Barrie, Ontario," contain much information for park builders and suggest means whereby many of our cities and towns may be made more beautiful. More parks and better parks are necessary. They are valuable assets to a municipality. In all of our towns there is more or less waste ground that could be turned into parks and pleasure places. It is to be hoped that Barrie has initiated a movement towards a new standard which other towns will adopt.

PUBLISHERS' DESK

That the virtue of modesty is a good one, cannot be denied; that its adoption by the publishers of *THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST* is not in the interests of fruit growers and of the publication is the opinion of one of our friends in British Columbia, as the following letter intimates:

"Your premium offers are varied, good and attractive, but you don't try quite enough to convince the people that *THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST* is necessary for them. You let the excellence of the paper speak for it—a sure way but slow. Tell the fruit growers from time to time that you alone stand for the development of Canadian orcharding, improvement of transportation, recognition of merits of Canadian fruit in the markets of the world,—that you are "it" and are indispensable to every one, amateur or professional, who grows fruit in Canada. Intimate to British Columbia men that you are ever ready to help them in any or all of their peculiar problems. Remind them that you are the organ of their provincial fruit growers' association. In short, your paper is deserving genuinely of some "hot air,"—just a little more of the tactics of your American contemporaries who allure Canadians to subscribe. Not that the American journals should not be read by Canadians. One should learn whatever he can, and the Americans can teach in many things; but, this Canadian publication should be in every Canadian's hands.

"There are enough fruit men in Canada to make your mailing list as large as at present. Of course, you have other classes of readers to interest, but my remarks apply only to fruit growers. When I look over some of your fine recent issues, I think of what many Canadians have missed by not reading them. Your paper has improved 200 per cent. as a national fruit publication in the last two years, and I'll bet that right now there are thousands of fruit men in our country who, because they don't know, consider it just one of these Canadian papers asking support solely because it is Canadian. They have not been convinced that every number contains something vital to their business interests, some things that American papers purposely don't give them."

We appreciate the words and advice of our correspondent. It has been our aim to make *THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST* national in character, and therefore equally valuable to our readers in all parts of Canada. Besides being the official organ of most of our provincial fruit growers' associations, *THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST* is also the personal organ of every horticulturist in

our great Dominion who desires to avail himself of the opportunities that it affords for acquiring and disseminating horticultural knowledge and wisdom.

The illustration on the front cover of this issue shows a part of the beautiful grounds at "Dunain," the home of Mr. Barlow Cumberland, Port Hope, Ont. The hedge is of cedar and the arched gateway leads to the kitchen garden. Scenes similar to this one are wanted from all parts of Canada.

Pollenizing Plum Blossoms

Wm. H. Moore, Scotch Lake, N.B.

Several years ago, on the old homestead, a sort of superstitious information was given by a neighbor that if wood ashes were thrown upon plum trees when in full bloom they would insure a crop of plums for that year. The trick was performed and a good crop of plums resulted. This was with some old-fashioned red plums. The farm is now under a different management and this spring I gave the occupants the same information. They threw ashes upon the blossoms as high as they could reach. The result is that plums set where the ashes were applied, and that very few set above where the ashes reached.

From these two experiments, it is apparent that this method of treatment is of great benefit if one wishes to secure a crop of plums. I have made some enquiry among local fruit growers but not one had heard of this wrinkle nor could any person be found who could even surmise how it could possibly be of any use. Later, I made a short study of "Plums and Plum Culture," by Waugh, and have concluded from the information gleaned from that book, that the mystery is about solved.

It is found, in plum growing, that it is well to have planted near each other different varieties of plum trees to better ensure the setting of the fruit, as it may happen that the pollen may not be ready for distribution, that is, the anthers may not be ready to set the pollen free at the same time that the stigma is ready for pollination. By throwing the fine ashes against the blossoms, the anthers may be broken and the pollen distributed upon the stigma or made ready so that when the insects visiting the flowers are gathering the nectar they too may greatly aid in pollenizing the flowers. This plan will work with varieties having the stigma ready before the pollen is, but should some have the pollen ready first (if there are such) then this method would be of no use. Perhaps some of the plum culturists who may chance to read this may be able to throw more light upon the subject.

The first plum trees set out on my farm were set this spring. The blossoms were well treated to a liberal supply of ashes and there are quite a number of plums set and not a single with or blight. The varieties are Moore's Arctic and Lombard.

[NOTE.—It has been demonstrated by experiment (Waugh) that plum pollen is not transmitted through the air by the wind in sufficient quantities to insure cross-pollination. A similar conclusion is drawn from experiments conducted in apple orchards by the Oregon Experiment Station. The practice of throwing ashes on trees may increase the distribution, but it is scarcely practicable on large plantations. The information given by Mr. Moore is interesting. Expressions of opinion regarding it from others will be welcomed for publication.—Editor.]

Items of interest from all the provinces are wanted for publication.