

Gages of neighboring thickets, indigenous to the climate, were unappreciated—perhaps because they could be procured so cheaply from the Indians for stale bread and old clothes. The blocking out of prairie farms, and the unrestrained inroads of settlers' cattle, caused many of these plum patches to disappear altogether, and many more to be badly demoralized. In occasional wanderings after stray cattle the dairy maid or careful house wife would make a discovery and carefully tie the apron string to the tree bearing the best plums, and John would remove the same in a very mutilated condition to the garden patch the following spring, along with other trees growing in the neighborhood. Very many of these indiscriminate plantings proved failures—perhaps from careless planting, or more likely from the fact that many varieties of the plum are deficient in pollen bearing flowers. A few thoughtful observers in the Northwest remedied the difficulty however, by carefully planting selections from the woods intermixed with seedlings and importations from neighboring localities, and succeeded in establishing groups that for productiveness (and shall I say for quality) leave the product of the *Prunus Domestica* altogether in the shade. Such success has thus far been achieved by the Northwest plum growers that Prof. Goff, in October, 1897, published Bulletin No. 63, in which are listed about 200 named varieties of plum, and says "People who have been accustomed to fine European plums of our markets generally pronounce the native plum as greatly inferior to them * * but those who have become accustomed to the finer sorts of native plums and have learned their value for culinary use think differently," and again "the thickness and harshness of the skin is, perhaps, the most serious objection to the native plum. But when divested of the skin the flesh of the finer sorts is scarcely surpassed in richness by that of any of the stone fruits." In size, perhaps the native plum may not be able to compete with imported kinds, yet last fall I saw exposed for sale in the Hudson's Bay Co's and other stores here plump crimson and yellow beauties, whose sun-kissed