

Yukon Agriculture.

Dawson, Yukon, correspondence, June 15.—Prof. Macoun, the naturalist and assistant director of the geological survey of Canada, arrived in Dawson a few days ago on a trip which will extend up until late in September. He comes to study the flora of the country.

"I am simply astonished," he said yesterday, "at this country. It is hardly to be believed that you have such an excellent climate and such very good soil. It is Mr. Fred Wade, who, lecturing before the directors at Montreal, exhibited pictures of vegetables here that first drew the department's attention to the fact that this country was capable of raising the best of vegetables and grains. Then Mr. J. B. Tyrrell went to the minister of the interior and suggested having me pay a visit to the country, and here I am until September.

"To give you an illustration of the excellent climate you have here, I will say that I was on the lookout for certain plants to come up this spring near Ottawa, it being the idea to watch for each flower or plant to appear at a certain time, and by keeping the record of these for a number of years, secure data each year.

"I found near Aylmer, a place about nine miles from Ottawa, on June 3, a species of rose (*rosa acicularis*), the first one of the season. What was my astonishment when I arrived here to find that Mr. J. W. Tyrrell had secured a few of the same species on the hill back of Dawson June 1, two days before I had found mine. Now, to appreciate this one must look at the map and see how much farther north you are here than we are at Ottawa.

"Of course, I cannot say with absolute surety, but I think from what I have seen in the few steps we made this far you can raise anything. The agricultural possibilities of the country are great. Take, for instance, the bunch grass which I have seen on the hill back of town. It is the species

which grows down at Spencer Bridge, British Columbia.

The winters here are ideal for agricultural purposes, as the snow fall is light and it disappears very quickly. I will investigate how the light fall of snow affects the seed that is left in the ground for the winter. As the snow is light, the frost will penetrate the earth for some distance. Of course, it will not kill the seed, but it must be determined just how it affects it.

"I am greatly surprised at what I have seen already, for heretofore I, as well as many others, have thought the growth of everything here had an Arctic tendency. One thing sure, the climate is continental. By that I mean fixed, and can be figured on with accuracy."

A Flourishing Business.

The Winnipeg Machinery and Supply Company had had a busy season so far with contracts for various new machinery plants in the west. It has just finished putting in a flour mill plant at Altona, and has also installed in the city a number of new electric elevator plants. In this latter line there is a large business moving this year. This company is now agent here for the Canadian Otis Elevator Company, which controls the output of all Canadian factories in its line but one. Contracts have lately been filled or written for installing electric elevators in the Leslie, Canada Life, John & Martin, Whittall and Strathcona blocks at Winnipeg. Other important contracts are pending. The new warehouse of the company on Portage avenue east has recently been completed, and gives storage room for a full stock of machinery and machinery supplies. This warehouse is 65x35 feet and two storeys high.

Floorwalker—Anything I can show you, sir?

Dazed individual—The door, please. If you will be so kind. I've been hunting it for two hours.—Columbus (O.) State Journal.

The Store Cellar.

Perhaps the grocer's stock of cellar goods is about as low now as at any time of the year. In most localities the cellar is a necessary part of the storage facilities required, for in cold weather it can more surely be kept frost-proof than any room on the ground floor or above. But in the busy round of duties, often so pressing that the day expected to give leisure never comes, the room that is out of sight is apt to be very sadly neglected. It has been used for the storage of vegetables and articles liable to injury by freezing, but these may form only a minor portion of the miscellany thus kept from sight. We are glad to believe that butter does not have to keep company with onions so often as it once did, and that salt mackerel and decaying cabbages are not generally allowed to send their combined odors up to the arena of daylight and traffic in the store proper. But still it is true that in too many cases that many commodities not properly classified into departments where display is welcomed, are rushed into the cellar as a temporary refuge, and that they remain there ever after until entirely disposed of. And if not crowded for space, the proprietor may leave barrels partly filled with moulding brine, until the fumes decay and drop off, and accumulations of animal and vegetable waste are walked over until partially hidden in the sand or dirt of the bottom. We therefore suggest that while such a place is not a good one for the public to investigate, this is a very proper time for the grocer himself to look into it.

For sanitary reasons alone, the air of the cellar should be kept as pure as possible. It is very desirable to have an outside door or "bulk-head," to be kept open a great deal of the time in warm weather and as the most

convenient way through which to carry goods in or out. In cold weather a reliable thermometer should be at all times in position for easy reference, and whenever the weather admits, the windows should be opened very frequently. If such an arrangement necessitates the liability of the mercantile going too low during the protracted and extreme cold spells, an ordinary lamp may be kept burning for a few hours at a time to keep up the temperature. But there is much greater loss incurred by having cellars too warm, than caused by the expense of their occasional and short heatings.

But as a first and necessary preparation for a proper use of the cellar during the next eight months, should now be most thoroughly cleaned out and renovated. Old barrels and boxes should be all removed, and all rubbish and debris cleaned out of the corners. White-washing may often be required, and sometimes it will even be necessary to cart away much of the old dirt from uncleaned places, to be replaced with clean sand or fresh earth. It is not difficult to sweep on up any cellar through which a current of fresh air can be forced, and no other is fit for use. If this work is properly done, the goods arranged so as to be all and easily inspected at any time. If rats infest the place, they must be exterminated, easier said than done, but still possible. Then always and without neglect, watch for the cause of any bad smell noticeable, and remove it. Remember that you may easily become so accustomed to a disagreeable odor as to be entirely oblivious of it, while your patrons, coming from other places, will instantly detect it. Any bad odor will soon affect the goods of all kinds in the store proper, and a smell that is unpleasant will not draw trade. The store cellar, often neglected to do with keeping or losing custom, and if habitually neglected, a serious waste in some of the articles kept there is likely to result.—Minneapolis Commercial Bulletin.

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