

Salt Spring Island Parish and Home

APRIL, 1896.

Mr. Wakelin has leased Mr. Silverson's house and ranch for one year.

Mr. Mansell, who lately bought Mr. Daniel Fredson's property, has let the contract for 40 acres of "slashing," and intends building in the fall.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Langley have left the Island for the present, and have gone to Rosland, having leased their property at Mary Lake to Mr. Adam.

The largest orchards on Salt Spring Island at present are Mr. W. E. Scott's and Messrs. Trage & Spikerman's: the former has 1,500, the latter 1,800 trees.

It is expected that the proposed public hall will soon be raising its head on Broadwell's corner, plans for the building having been already got out by Mr. A. Walter and tenders invited.

Two of our Salt Spring Island ranchers are at present in the Jubilee Hospital. Mr. Gage injured his knee with an axe while slashing on Pender Island in August last. The injury was not properly attended to at the time, and consequently he has had to undergo two operations, and it is doubtful whether he will ever recover the full use of his leg. The other patient is Mr. George Dukes, who has been several times before under the weather and is now suffering from some kidney complaint.

A meeting of the Salt Spring Island Fruit Growers' Association, was held in the old Vesuvius school house on Wednesday, the 18th ult., Mr. W. E. Scott, President, in the Chair. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved, and the time of the meeting was for the most part taken up in the appointment of Committees to attend to the inauguration of our first Agricultural and Horticultural Show, which is to take place at Vesuvius this coming fall. The various branches for which official committees were appointed are:—(1.) Live Stock, (2.) Grain, Roots, etc. (3.) Fruit and Flowers, (4.) Dairy produce, (5.) Dogs and Poultry, (6.) Ladies' work, (7.) Preserved Fruits, Jams etc. A motion was passed instructing the Secretary to communicate with our member, Mr. J. P. Booth, asking him to apply at once for the withdrawal from the Cowichan Agricultural Society of the Government grant of \$200.00 for Agricultural Show purposes, which rightfully belongs to Salt Spring Island. Salt Spring was for some time associated with Cowichan in its annual Agricultural Show, but has not taken part in it for the past five or six years, the place where the show is now held being too difficult of access from this Island. The attention of our readers, especially those on the other Islands, is called to the notice of the Horticultural & Fruit Growers' Association on the third page of the cover.

Rev. E. F. Wilson has a Jersey-Holstein cow to sell; comes in in June— third calf.

Mrs. Broadwell, we are sorry to say, is suffering from diabetes and is under medical advice.

Don't mistake the insect pest inspector when he comes round for a book agent and tell him you don't want any. Be civil, or he may cut your trees down.

Mr. Frank Scott is having a large new room 16x18 with bay window added to his house, and will also lay out money this spring in the erection of farm buildings and new fences.

Since our last issue, coal has been found in paying quantities on Mr. E. J. Bitancourt's land at Vesuvius Bay. Two men have been constantly engaged at the work and have already taken out upwards of two tons. The coal is being retailed on the Island at twenty-five cents a bag.

Spraying fruit trees with Bordeaux mixture should be done just before they come into blossom, and again a second time after the blossom is set. On no account spray a tree while in bloom. The Bordeaux mixture is of no use for insect pest, but is the best thing possible to prevent scab and "black spot." To make the mixture, slack four pounds lime in five gallons of water; in another vessel mix four pounds bluestone in the same quantity of water; then put both into a fifty gallon barrel—straining the lime mixture through canvas; stir well and fill the barrel up with water; it is then ready for use.

Salt Spring Island farmers grumble at the present game laws and would like to see them altered. Some one proposed lately in the papers that the only game law on Vancouver and adjacent islands should be "No game shall be sold." This would suit our Salt Spring ranchers as well as any that could be offered; they do not want to have a monopoly of the shooting and taking to market for sale. All they want to do is to insure their crops from being destroyed by deer and pheasants, and to be able to kill something for their own table when no other meat is available and the purse runs short. Farmers, we think, ought to be allowed to kill deer by day or by night at any time of the year when found destroying their crops, and they ought to have the same control over the grouse and pheasants found on their own land as they have over their chickens and ducks. It is manifestly unfair that the farmers should be expected to fatten deer and other game at great expense to themselves all the year round, and then for the pot-hunters from the city, who have nothing else to do, to come in the fall and shoot them and take them away to market. If game must be sold on the market, then let the pot-hunters pay a license to shoot and the dealers pay a license to sell and the farmer be remunerated for his losses.