

CONDITIONS OF PLANT LIFE.

not only improved the quality of all our plant products, but he has also extended the season of some of our most delicious fruits and vegetables. We have moreover obtained varieties that may be successfully cultivated over much wider ranges of soil and temperature than the original types. No more interesting or useful object of endeavor could be set up before the minds of young botanists than some useful achievement of this nature. For instance, what a boon it would be for Manitoba if some one would develop a variety of Fyfe wheat, or something as good as the Fyfe, that would invariably ripen before the early frosts would strike it. The Ladoga Russian wheat matures early enough to escape the frost, but the bread made from it is of a yellowish color which much lessens the value of this grain in the market. It would be a benefit, too, to develop a tomato or a melon or a Lima bean that would mature anywhere in lower Ontario. He will be a public benefactor, also, who can by the production of earlier or later varieties of strawberries, extend the season in which we may enjoy this luscious fruit.

The development of some of our wild plants or fruits offers a wide field for usefulness. It is idle to suppose that mankind has exhausted the list of plants that might be made available for some one or another of our varied needs or pleasures. The work is going on in various quarters of the world, and young Canadians ought to begin to

take a hand in it. American horticulturists are now developing a viburnum (*V. opulus*), which is quite common in this country, too, and which is valuable as an ornamental bush, not only on account of its rich deep green foliage, but also because of its exceedingly beautiful red fruit clusters. To people of a practical turn of mind this viburnum will, moreover, be commended by the facts that the fruit yields a table jelly of surpassing excellence, and the bark contains a medicinal principle of great value. Americans have also recently introduced for garden cultivation a dwarf Juneberry which, they declare, produces bountifully a simple fruit which suits many people. There is yet a fine opportunity for some aspiring young Canadian botanist to develop a valuable garden fruit out of our common May apple. Most of us know what a rich tropical flavor the fruit of this plant has. But the fruit is small, and the fruit-bearing plants comparatively rare and unproductive. If some one would make a study of the conditions under which this plant thrives best, by judicious selection and cultivation he would probably be able in time to increase the productiveness of the plant, the size of the fruit, and the proportionate quantity of pulp it contains, without sacrificing its present fine flavor, and here would be an achievement worthy of fame. — From an address by A. STEVENSON, before the Woodstock Horticultural Society.

