

The Canadian Horticulturist

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6. Articles and Illustrations for publication will be thankfully received by the editor.

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Since the subscription price of The Canadian Horticulturist was reduced from \$1.00 to 60 cents a year, the circulation has grown rapidly. The following is a sworn statement of the net paid circulation of The Canadian Horticulturist for the year ending with Dec., 1908. The figures given are exclusive of samples and spoiled copies, and of papers sent to advertisers. Some months, including the sample copies, from 10,000 to 12,000 copies of The Canadian Horticulturist are mailed to people known to be interested in the growing of fruit, flowers or vegetables.

January, 1908.....7,650	January, 1909.....9,456
February, 1908.....7,824	February, 1909.....9,310
March, 1908.....8,056	March, 1909.....9,405
April, 1908.....8,250	April, 1909.....9,482
May, 1908.....8,573	May, 1909.....9,172
June, 1908.....8,840	June, 1909.....8,891
July, 1908.....9,015	July, 1909.....8,447
August, 1908.....9,070	August, 1909.....8,570
September, 1908.....9,121	
October, 1908.....9,215	
November, 1908.....9,323	
December, 1908.....9,400	

Total for the year.....104,337

Average each issue in 1907, 6,627

Average each issue in 1908, 8,695
(Increased circulation in one year 2,068)

Sworn detailed statements will be mailed upon application.

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THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.
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EDITORIAL

QUEEN VICTORIA PARK

Queen Victoria Park at Niagara Falls is visited annually by thousands and thousands of people and should present an example of the very best taste in the treatment of a great natural piece of scenery. The treatment that it is receiving is open to considerable objection as has been pointed out in these columns many times. A representative of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST visited the park recently to observe at first hand present conditions and to take some photographs. Some of the latter are published on pages 194 and 195.

The park contains about 175 acres lying along the shore of the Niagara River and extending from near the upper steel arch bridge to a considerable distance above the Falls. It may be roughly divided into two parts, namely, a steep wooded portion and a fairly leveled plateau extending from the bluff to the river's edge. The bluff is now nearly all clothed with a natural growth, but the treatment of the more level portion is wholly artificial, excepting around the Dufferin Islands which are rather rugged and unkempt.

In the older portion of the park much of the planting has outlived its usefulness, at least in its present location. It should be, especially in the case of the older and larger shrubs which are already growing bare and unsightly at the base, gathered into larger clumps and faced down with finer stuff. There are several fine vistas of the Falls which are clogged with these over-grown shrubs and with poor trees, and there are many fine trees which will eventually lose their lower limbs and much of their beauty unless the interfering shrubbery and poor trees are removed from their vicinity. Shrubs when properly trimmed do not become overgrown, but the thinning should not be neglected. There are even dead trees standing as a monument to someone's lack of neatness. The judicious use of an axe would help out here considerably.

It is in the upper portion of the park that the greatest chance for improvement exists since this part is hardly at all developed. Here there is plenty of playground room and here it is that provision should be made for the playing of tennis, cricket and especially baseball, instead of allowing these sports to occupy the fine lawns in the older portion of the park.

Here also lies one of the greatest opportunities for the exercise of the art of landscape gardening that exists on the American continent to-day and yet here we find such examples of gardening as, for instance, three golden syringas (*Philadelphus coronarius aurea*) growing in a heart-shaped bed. And such examples of taste (?) are dotted indiscriminately here and there over the lawns. It would be as interesting to know how many people carry home ideas from these wretched beds as it is dreadful to contemplate the result of their trying to reproduce them at home.

Another practice which is open to objection is the use of gaudy annuals and dwarf evergreens in the same beds. The evergreen material used as bedding is in itself beautiful and the idea is one of the happiest thoughts in the whole park, but annual stuff should not be used alongside of it because annuals are nearly always exotics and entirely foreign to our native flora while evergreens are not only native but characteristic. If

something bright must be used along with the evergreens then let it be perennial native stuff which will not only look better and last longer but will also provide an excellent example for visitors to the park.

This park has been in existence for over twenty years but it has none of the finished appearance which such an old park should have. The construction of the power plants is responsible for some of this, but does not furnish a sufficient excuse. It looks rather as if the park were periodically overturned by changing superintendents and as if their views of what such a park should be were colored by their political faith. There evidently has been a vast sum of money expended in providing "jobs," but job holders are notoriously poor park builders.

The salvation of this or any other park under public ownership lies in an administration entirely removed from politics. At the present time, when there are scores of trained men available who not only have a thorough botanical and horticultural education but also have the principles of good design inculcated in them, as well as a knowledge of practical and economical landscape construction and maintenance, there is no longer any excuse for placing such a treasure as Queen Victoria Park into the hands of an engineer, a postmaster or a politician. Until this idea dawns upon those in authority a good share of the annual appropriation might as well be thrown over the Falls with an equal expectation of attaining the end for which it was appropriated and for which the people have a right to look.

MORE EDUCATION NEEDED

We are informed by the railway station agent at the town of Simcoe, Ontario, that 20,000 apple trees passed through his hands for the farmers of the county of Norfolk in the spring of 1909. This is but one evidence of the many rapid strides that are being made in the development of the fruit industry in Ontario. Along the north shore of Lake Ontario, in the Georgian Bay district, in the Lake Huron section, along Lake Erie, and in the middle counties, as well as in the Niagara peninsula, more spraying is being done every year, more orchards are being cultivated, more trees are being pruned, and more inquiries are being made by growers in these districts for help in the destruction of insects and fungous diseases in the orchard. The rapid development of the industry and the great desire for knowledge that is being expressed, shows the need for more education.

The practice and the theory of horticulture in all its branches is demonstrated and taught at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph. This is a provincial institution, and the government, by generous appropriations, makes it possible for a farmer's boy to receive a splendid education at little expense. The professor of horticulture at the present time is making a business trip through California, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, and our own Northwest Territories, looking for information along fruit lines that will be useful to the students in horticulture at the college.

The college is receiving more and more inquiries each year in regard to spraying, the life history of insects and the remedies for their destruction, and the best methods to destroy fungous diseases, and more and more each year fruit growers are sending their sons to the college to spend at least two winters, studying those subjects that will be useful to the boy on the fruit farm. The wonder is that the college is not crowded with students who are interested in orchard management. The orchard has become, more and more, an important ad-