

BULLETIN LXV

GINSENG (ARALIA QUINQUEFOLIA).

An Act of Parliament, having been passed at the last meeting of the Ontario Legislature, for the protection of the plant ginseng, the Minister of Agriculture has thought it advisable to have the following bulletin published, containing a description of the plant, so that the people of Ontario may be better acquainted with a plant of so much economic value and to a certain extent comparatively common throughout our province, though unknown to many.

The following are the clauses of the bill, from which it will be seen that the plant cannot be picked before September 1st, so as to enable it to ripen its fruit :

1. Except for the purpose of clearing or bringing land into cultivation, no person shall, between the first day of January and the first day of September in any year, cut, root up, gather or destroy the plant known by the name of ginseng whenever such plant may be found growing in a wild or uncultivated state.

2. Any person who contravenes the provision of this Act shall, for every such offence, upon summary conviction before any justice of the peace, be subject to a penalty of not less than \$5 or more than \$20, together with costs for prosecution, and one half of such penalty shall be paid to the prosecutor, unless otherwise ordered by the said justice convicting.

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION. Ginseng (*Aralia quinquefolia* formerly *Panax quinquefolium*) belongs to the order Araliaceae, a family of plants closely allied to the order in which we find such plants as the carrot, parsnip, and celery. Root large and spindle-shaped, often forked, four to nine inches long, aromatic ; stem one foot high, herbaceous, bearing a whorl of three palmately, 5-7 foliage leaves ; the leaflets long stalked, mostly five in number, large and thin, obovate-oblong, pointed and serrate ; a simple umbel of flowers upon a single, slender, flower stalk ; flowers from June to August with small yellowish flowers, followed by fruit as bright red berries.

POPULAR DESCRIPTION. Main stem about one foot long, branches into three stalks at the summit, each three and one-half inches long ; on the end of each of these are arranged five leaflets borne on slender stalks an inch in length. The leaflets are thin, smooth below and of delicate structure ; two in each cluster are about two inches long and the others almost four, oval in general