

APPLE-TREE PLANTING IN MINNESOTA.

At the annual meeting of the Minnesota Horticultural Society held lately at Minneapolis, and reported by the *Farmers' Union*, a discussion took place about apple-tree planting; first, as to the best locality for planting apple-trees and the time necessary to test their hardiness. It was asserted as an established fact, that many varieties of trees would grow and produce apples on or near the borders of the lakes and rivers when they would not flourish on the high prairies. The severity of the last Winter on the fruit trees had made the question one of great importance as to which kind of fruit trees should be recommended, and what tests should be applied. Mr. A. P. Jewell stated that his experience proved that many varieties, such as the Ben Davis, which have come into extensive use, had failed to stand the test of Minnesota climate. That all the samples of fruit we have are but the growth of a remnant of hundreds of fruit trees that have been planted. Because one or two trees out of a dozen different varieties stood the test, it should not be taken as proof of their worth. It is impossible to test any kind of trees, with one, five or ten years, growth.

RHUBARB.

The German *Telegraph* says a good word for rhubarb:

There is a large class who are fond of this.

Rhubarb is very rapidly increased by cutting an old crown in pieces. If these are split downward, on a line with the growth of the root, every piece of root will grow, though it be split into a score of pieces; but pieces of root will not grow unless there is a portion of the crown with it. The crown is the upper portion of the leaf-bud, just under ground.

If very large stocks be desired, the plants should not be set too close. A root to every four square feet is enough—that is to say, the plants should grow two feet from one another every way. As the rhubarb is a gross feeder, if they be but closer than this they will likely starve one another.

Government Agriculture.

LESSON THE FOURTH—PRUNING.

We paid a visit to the Government Farm in February. We found the outside gates open and the hinge was broken. We saw tracks on the snow where stock had been tramping through among the fine young plantations that Mr. Stone had made. Many trees we saw had been freshly pruned by stock having eaten the branches; we do not think you will ap-

Honor and honesty should be the foundation. No farmers ever asked for it; they petitioned against it. The checking of private enterprise by it will do more injury than the Farm or College will do good. If the Government would give it to Guelph without further expenditure, it might be the best for the country, as it is for the benefit of Guelph more than for the farmers of the rest of the country.

We called at the College, or rather the house—the College, we presume, is to be one of the great structures of the country in the course of time, when things run smooth enough. We were introduced to the Professor, who behaved in a courteous and gentlemanly manner to us and gave us what information he could in regard to the management, plans, &c. He said it was a very poor farm and that it had been very badly farmed, but, he added, by subsoiling and manuring, they would be able to make good land of most of it.

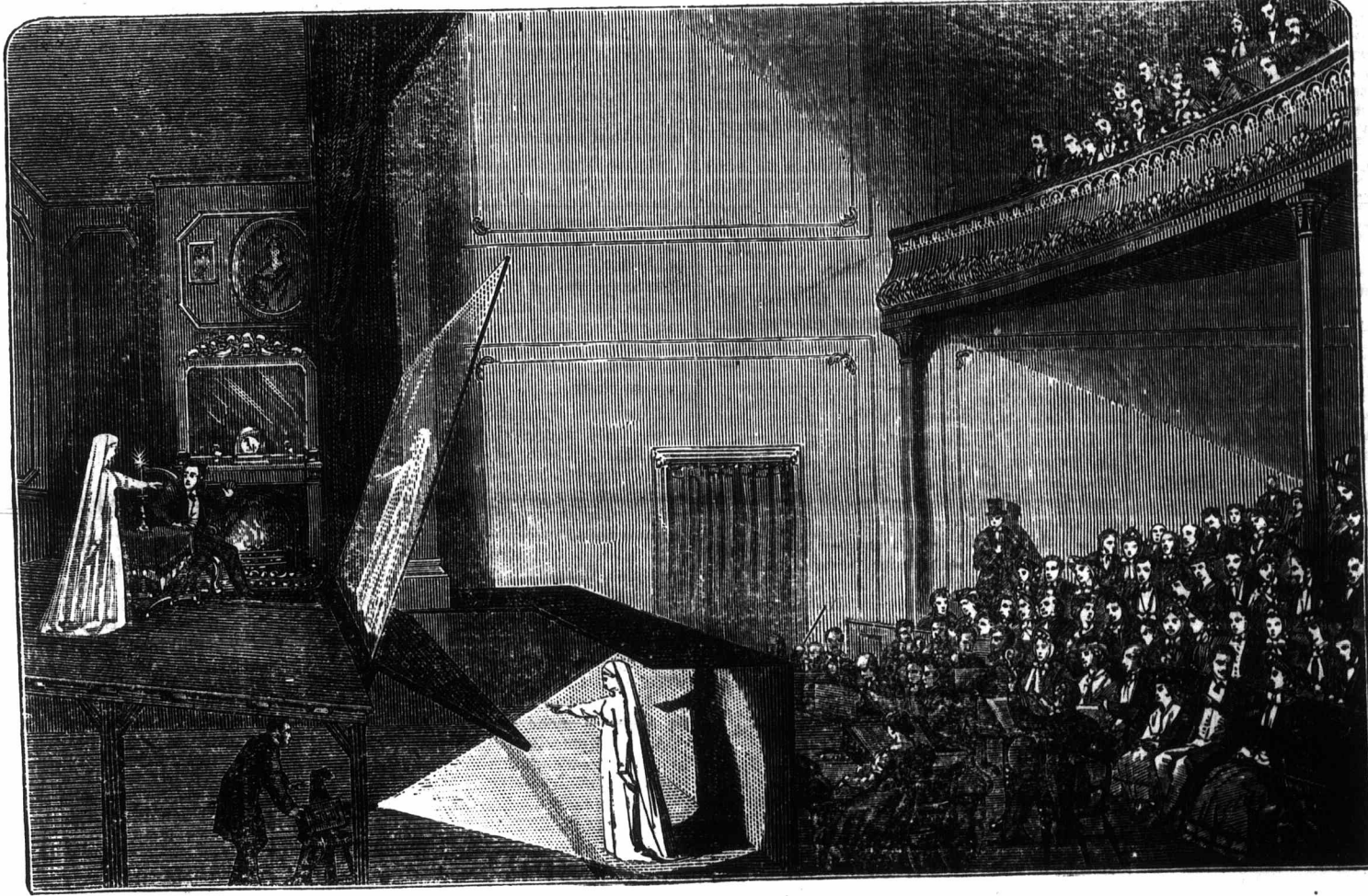
This institution may make a few rich men richer, it may afford a house of refuge for political partizans or their friends, it may answer for rich men to put

years. The process of its production is shown by the operator with his lens and instruments. A figure is reflected by means of concave and convex mirrors to appear in a room just as if a real person were there; the spectator could not detect the reflected being from a real one. We have seen it and are still astonished that this wonderful feat can be performed, there being no looking-glass behind the reflected figure in the same room, and yet the person is to be seen in any part of the room, moving, still, or in any way just like a real person. This we have seen and still we wonder how it is done. After seeing the apparition you would wonder also to see a human figure in your room, and the figure to move as you could, and no figure to be there.

Free Trade.

This is a question that is at present agitated, and many appear in favor of it. We should be if the term were correctly applied, but what people here call free trade is to open our ports to all nations and let them charge duties for what we export, that is, shutting their ports against our productions.

We dispute the term as applied by our



PROF. PEPPER'S GHOST.

It is among the earliest green things and, though no one classes it amongst the choicest of horticulture gifts, in the abstract, yet an account of its early growth it will always be esteemed.

Its earliness being one of its valuable points, a place should be selected for it where it will get all the advantages of early spring suns. Some people help it by putting barrels over the roots. This keeps out the cold; and as the rhubarb is stimulated to grow by a very light heat, the natural warmth of the ground brings it up if the frost be kept out. Then the barrels help to branch it a little, and it is not quite so sour as when left to grow naturally in its own way. Rhubarb is poor stuff when stringy, and it is the aim of good growers to have it as pulpy as possible. Therefore the soil is to be made very rich indeed—as good as manure can make it. When grown in this way, even the outside is tender and it may be cut up for use without even peeling, as is so often done. Some varieties are, however, more tender than others. There are however, four popular kinds which, when well grown, are all of about equal value. These are, the Victoria, Linnaeus, Magnum Bonum, and Prince Albert,

prove of the Government's method of pruning fruit trees. We did not see the stock actually operating, but we saw the work that had been done, and there was nothing to hinder a repetition of the same process.

Perhaps it may teach some a lesson; it will do no harm at any rate. We do not say but that good may result from the pruning or from the Government Farm, but we do say that the Farm was established for political purposes, that it was positively intended to check private enterprise, that it was moved to Guelph for political purposes, and that the interest of the farmers has never been the object in view, but has merely got the name "agricultural," to gull you with.

Able writers may be paid to laud it before your eyes; the best talent may be employed to speak well of it at political and other gatherings; the Government may attempt to strengthen itself by giving situations to friends and casting slurs on independent men, and our money may be spent by the quarter and half million on it. We shall have to pay for it.

their boys into that they do not know what to do with. The experiments and utility of it may be lauded and upheld by every Government paper in the Dominion, and foreign papers may be used to exalt it, but the benefits to the working farmer will not be equal to half of what it will cost him.

Tens of thousands of needy farmers' sons and daughters must feel the lack of clothing for the maintenance of this monstrous scandal. If this Government Farm is ever to be of any benefit to farmers, if it is for farmers, the voice of farmers should have some might in its weight.

Politics should be second, agriculture first in its control.

Pepper's Ghost.

Amusements are as essential to the health and happiness of farmers as to other classes. Still, in the cities, many more expensive amusements are to be seen. We give an illustration of Pepper's Ghost, Prof. Pepper being the person who first brought the plan to perfection. This is one of the most pleasing scenes we have witnessed for many

legislators; we would willingly concede great privileges, or even pay handsomely for free trade to be established, viz., free exit and free entrance would be for our good and the good of other nations.

Our manufacturing interest is now in a depressed state because the Americans flood us with surplus stock and destroy the legitimate business of many of our manufacturers, who cannot send their goods to the States because of the almost prohibitory duty imposed. A greater portion of the capital invested in manufacturing interests could this day be purchased at 50 per cent. less than cost. Our manufacturers are obliged to slacken business, stop work or break down; many firms have been crushed. Our manufacturing population is driven to the States. We should endeavor to make our country a manufacturing country as well as agricultural.

Live and let live; each interest should be looked after. Capital should be fairly dealt with in advocating the farmers' interests. We do not wish to attempt to sacrifice all other interests.