

The Horticultural Outlook at Brandon Experimental Farm for 1903.

Not since the inception of the farm has the horticultural portion of our work been so full of promise as in the present season.

The total absence of spring frosts, coupled with the generous rains, which fell at an opportune time, contributed to a remarkably heavy setting of fruits, while the many varieties of flowering shrubs under test were literally a mass of color, so much so, in fact, that visitors were heard comparing the farm to a typical Californian scene. The accompanying illustration of one of our Charles X. lilacs, in flower, will convey some idea of their beauty. In the crab-apple orchard a very large crop of fruit is promised; in fact, it will be necessary to provide supports for some of the trees, so heavily are they laden. It is very gratifying to be able to record that fully ninety per cent. of the grafts which were put on last year have come through the winter in good condition, and as these contain some very fine varieties of standard apples, valuable results are anticipated in the near future. Perhaps the most encouraging sign in this connection, is that one of the recently-grafted scions has this year set a small quantity of fruit. The scion in question was received from His Grace Archbishop Machray, purporting to be a large apple, although, unfortunately, its identity had been lost. It has, as yet, proven thoroughly hardy with us, coming through the winter alive to the terminal bud, and we are looking forward with great anticipation to the maturing of the first large apple grown at the Experimental Farm. A large number of scions of standard apples were top-grafted on to the *Pyrus baccata* during the present spring, including the following varieties: Duchess, Hiberna, Longfield, Yellow Transparent, MacMahon's White, Patten's Greening and Chatham, and there is not a single instance of failure to unite.

Other additions, including rooted trees of some of the above varieties, have been made to the orchard this spring, and we are now in a position to gain positive information as to the possibilities of apple-growing in Manitoba.

In the cross-bred apple orchard a large number of trees are fruiting for the first time, representing the following crosses:

- (1) *Pyrus baccata* x "Talman's Sweet."
- (2) " " "Wealthy."
- (3) " " "Red Astrachan."
- (4) " " "Tetofsky."
- (5) " " "Pewaukee."
- (6) " " "Excelsior."
- (7) " " "Yellow Transparent."
- (8) " " "Martha."
- (9) " " "McMahon's White."
- (10) " " "Red Anis."
- (11) " " "Hyslop."
- (12) " " "Orange Crab."

Some very interesting results are expected from these, and very careful notes will be taken of all characteristics.

In plums, both the native variety (*Prunus Nigra*) and seedlings of the American plum (*Prunus Americana*) have set an immense crop of fruit, which should enable us to make a thorough comparison of varieties in the fall. The disease of plum pocket, or bladder, is not, I am pleased to say, very prevalent this season.

In the "small fruits," currants have set heavily, and the bunches are exceptionally well filled. A number of new kinds fruiting for the first time, will materially add to our list of varieties of this valuable fruit. The few varieties of gooseberries represented here have also set a larger crop than usual. Raspberries are covered with flower buds, and will doubtless also yield above the average, though with this fruit success depends in a great measure upon the weather prevalent during the setting period and at the time of ripening.

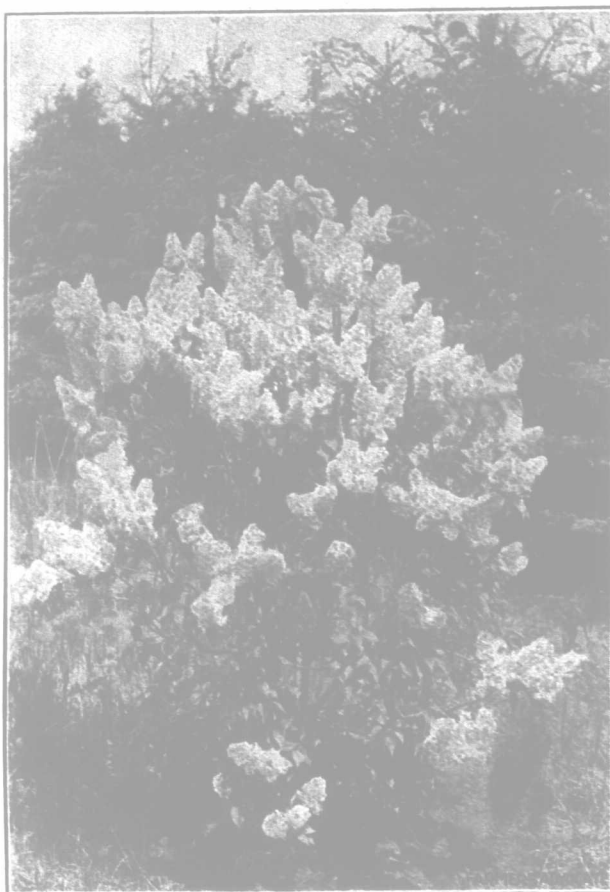
A test was made during the past winter to determine the efficacy of laying down raspberry canes in order that they may receive the benefit of a snow covering during winter. The accompanying photo shows the results. One-half the row of each variety was laid down in the fall, the balance being left standing, and in every case the latter were found to be dead on the approach of spring, while the covered canes were alive to the terminal bud. This clearly demonstrates that in an exposed position, laying down the canes is beneficial, but I do not consider it necessary when planted with sufficient protection, as another patch of raspberries growing on the farm, under less adverse conditions, came through the winter splendidly with absolutely no protection. If the plan of laying down the canes is adopted, it is essential that they be lifted very early in the spring, otherwise the buds will be destroyed and the results be worse than if they were left standing.

All the trees are making splendid growth, and the vegetable garden is in the pink of condition. Taken all together, it is a horticultural season par excellence.

HARRY BROWN, Horticulturist,
Brandon Experimental Farm.

Tree Planting.

Throughout this country no general effort at systematic tree-planting is yet in evidence during an ordinary ramble through the Province or Territories. Here and there, however, there are artistically and methodically laid out plots to be seen, always in a thriving state, and showing that care and labor have not been spared in the propagating of the young plants forming the plots. With a few exceptions, these plots have



LILAC (*Syringa vulgaris*), VARIETY CHARLES X.
Brandon Experimental Farm.

all been laid out during the present and the two preceding seasons. In 1901 the Department of Forestry at Ottawa, through the Brandon and Indian Head Experimental Farms, announced their intentions to supply young trees free of cost to all farmers who wished to plant such for wind-breaks or ornamental purposes. Lovers of the beautiful in nature blended with art in design, responded in such a manner as to tax to the full the resources of the nursery department of the farms. In the first season 40,000 trees were planted by the department, and a highly satisfactory percentage of them took root and flourished. The results were so satisfactory that next year the number required was up in the hundred thousands. A corresponding increase in the output was experienced last spring, and Mr. Stevenson, of the Ottawa Forestry Department, Manitoba branch, who called at the "Advocate"

office a short time ago, informed us that the estimated output for the planting season of 1901 was about 2,000,000 trees. This shows the popularity of the movement and the gratifying advantage taken of it. Mr. Stevenson directs the planting of all trees sent out, and superintends their treatment afterwards until they have acquired sufficient strength to look after themselves, and there is, therefore, no danger of young plantations being negligently damaged or allowed to perish from want of attention.

Mr. Stevenson also informed us that prospects of a good crop in his orchard at Nelson, Man., are more than usually good this season. The trees five years old and older are loaded with fruit. One tree five years old will likely yield over half a bushel of apples. One variety in which he is greatly interested is called the Revel pear. It is a native of Russia, and was planted five years ago. This year several trees are bearing fruit for the first time, and are giving promise of a good crop. Although called a pear, the fruit is really an apple, shaped somewhat like a pear.

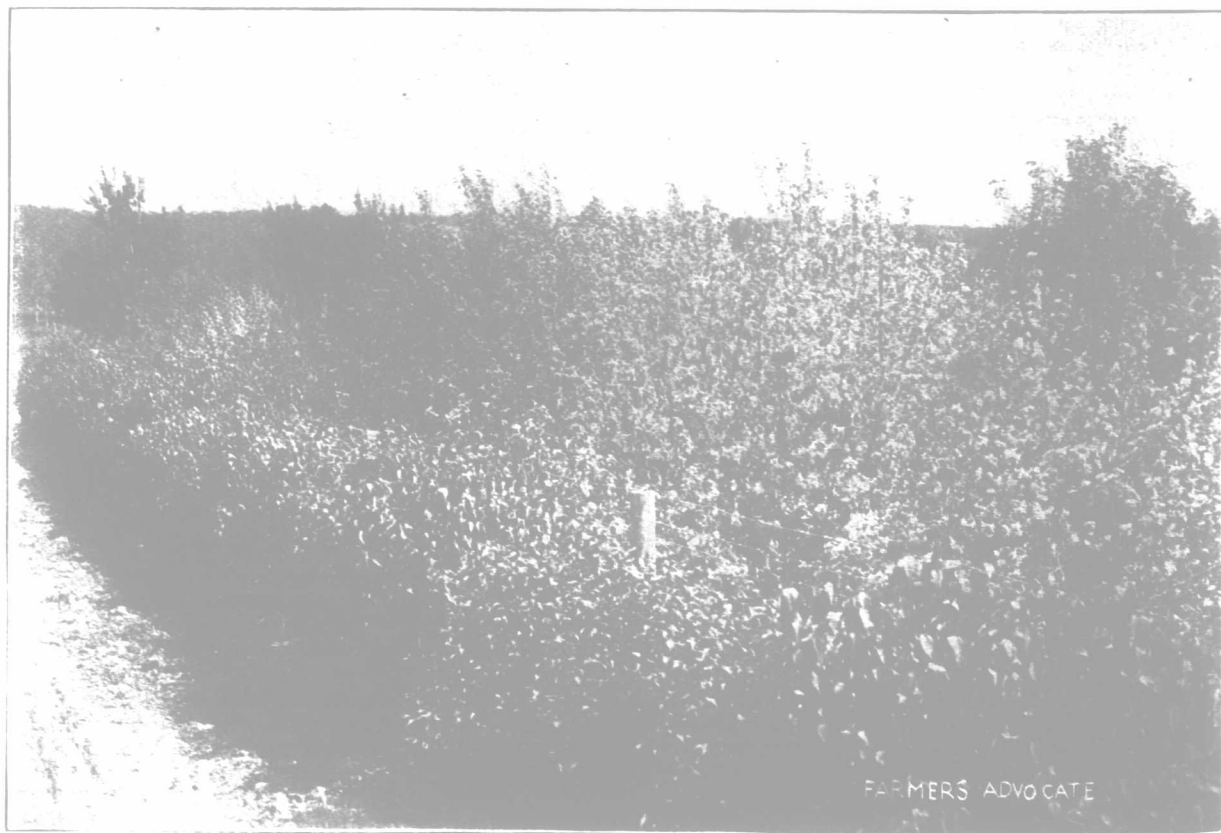
The Agricultural Editors in Southern Alberta.

On the occasion of the recent visit of the United States agricultural editors to the West, they paid a visit of inspection to the irrigated lands of the Lethbridge district and to the towns that have sprung up along the canal. The beet-sugar mill at Raymond, now under construction, was gone over in charge of Constructing Engineer Bradrick, and the processes explained.

The greatest pleasure and surprise were felt by the visitors in seeing so much accomplished in agriculture, and so much in prospect for the district with its fine climate, lands and, more particularly, its irrigation system. Professors Shaw, Kennedy, and in fact the whole party, were struck with the high state of agriculture as well as of stock-growing in an area which has hitherto been looked upon as a purely ranching district. The crops were of all kinds, wheat, oats, barley, flax, tame hay, sugar beets and other roots. The success of winter wheat means the advent of red clover with all that it means in succulent food for stock, and in land improvement by proper rotation. The country seems to promise support for a dense population by reason of its deep soil and its artificial watering. With true American shrewdness, the party had the investment side in view, and the country was looked upon as a fine field for the capitalist.

The party was composed of Profs. Shaw and Kennedy and the following editors: H. F. Thurston, C. A. Thannel, John P. Wallace, B. W. Snow, O. Hanbold, C. H. Everett, T. D. Hanna, J. L. Kingsbury, J. M. Stahl, H. E. Heath, L. H. Haecker, E. E. Faville, E. W. Chandler, A. B. Brightman, A. R. Davidson, G. C. Howell and G. H. Greig. The party was a most representative one, including the heads of the best stock papers of the United States, and coming from as far east as Pittsburg.

Aunt Dorothy—How many commandments are there, Johnny? Johnny (glibly)—Ten. Aunt Dorothy—And now, suppose you were to break one of them? Johnny (tentatively)—Then there'd be nine!



PARTIAL VIEW OF APPLE ORCHARD.

Brandon Experimental Farm, showing wealth of inflorescence, 1903.