

age in transportation, through breakage of package and pilfering of fruit, and in increased price for fancy packed fruit in a better package would more than offset the extra cost. Our fruit growers should look into the possibilities of the six-basket carrier.

Among the many schemes adopted by horticultural societies to interest their members and others in floriculture, none appears more novel than one recently instituted by Mr. Geo. Vickers, president of the Barrie Horticultural Society. Mr. Vickers is a dry goods merchant and recently distributed broadcast throughout his town this notice: "One Geranium in Bloom in a three and a half or four-inch Pot with every \$1.00 Worth of Stockings Bought and Paid for on Friday and Saturday." The plants were grown by a local florist, and Mr. Vickers took this means of combining business with his hobby, horticulture. As anything that will help to make people more appreciate flowers and floriculture is worth promoting, this scheme might profitably be adopted by merchants elsewhere.

PUBLISHERS' DESK

We desire for our files one or two additional copies of the February, 1910, issue of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST. Any of our readers having a copy of this number they do not desire to keep will confer a favor by mailing it to this office.

The illustration on the cover of this issue shows a scene in University Park, Sackville, N. B. More views of maritime province horticulture would be published on our front cover and on the inside pages if they were available. Our friends in those provinces are asked to send photographs of orchards, parks, lawns, gardens, and so forth, for use in this magazine. With them, send notes descriptive of the particular scene photographed.

"I am well satisfied with the results from my advertisement which has been running in the last four issues of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST. I shall continue this advertising another year if all is well." This is an extract from a letter recently received from C. P. Newman of Lachine Locks, Que., grower of small fruits. We are constantly receiving from advertisers statements of this kind. They show the value of our columns as an advertising medium. Take the hint!

On another page of this issue will be found our classified advertising column headed "For Sale and Wanted." It will pay you to glance through this column of small advertisements. There may be something there that will interest you.

There are many of our readers to whom this column can be of value. The man who has something to sell that fruit growers or gardeners buy, the man who wants to get a position on a fruit farm or as a gardener or who perhaps wants to employ such a man, the man who has a fruit farm to sell or who wants to buy a good fruit farm, and in fact a large percentage of our readers, could profitably use this column. You may never have advertised before. Here is a good opportunity to learn at a small cost the value of advertising.

Whether you place an advertisement there or not, read this column each month, and when writing to advertisers be sure and tell them that you saw their advertisement in THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.

Horticulture on Prince Edward Island

Rev. F. A. Wrightman, Montague

PRINCE Edward Island, though a small province does its farming generally speaking on the large. Intensive farming in the true sense has not been practised to any considerable extent. This is not because of any lack of adaptation, but because of the comparative absence of a sufficient demand in the local markets and the further lack of proper facilities for reaching more distant ones. Lack of express arrangements, iced cars and too frequent handlings are serious defects in our transportation conditions. Market gardening, therefore, with the exception of what little may be needed to supply the limited demand of the small towns is not followed, except for the farmer's table. So limited are the markets that even with the small attention paid to this aspect of agriculture, a glutted market is the common condition in the season of fruit and vegetables; and the prices are often of the lowest.

Oats, wheat and potatoes are the Prince Edward Island staples and these wholly occupy the farmers thoughts and attention. He cannot seem to adapt himself to a small acreage. A hundred acres, and often double this amount, is as little as he cares to bother with. Here he uses his gang plows, combination seeders, harvesters and other complicated machinery. This is his ideal of farming. A few acres in fruits and vegetables, largely cultivated with hand tools, would strike him as a serious drop in the dignity of the profession. This would seem to be a more fitting occupation or diversion, by way of pastime, to the man who had retired from active life. These ideas are the outcome of generations of usage—a usage that has largely been made necessary because of market conditions.

NATURAL CONDITIONS FAVORABLE

Notwithstanding the comparative absence of intensive farming as represented in the cultivation of vegetables and small fruits, it is doubtful if there is any part of the Dominion where the natural conditions are more favorable than here. The Island itself is often spoken of as "the garden province." This is not because of its diminutive size, but on account of its uniform fertility. The land is smooth, gently undulating, free from rocks and swamps, and unencumbered by small stones. The soil is a light sandy loam, warm, and wonderfully easy of cultivation. The natural drainage is about perfect. The summers are bright and warm with generally cool nights, while the rains are, as a rule, frequent but not excessive. The autumn is mild and open to a degree not experienced on the main land. Insects and diseases are much less numerous and destructive than in other places. The season being a little later than most main land sections, Prince Edward Island products are matured when outside markets are clean, thus removing competition. It will be seen, therefore, that these conditions, both of soil and climate, are about perfect for the purpose of the small fruit and vegetable grower.

This claim is borne out by the actual results. Anyone attending our provincial exhibition or the Charlottetown market will be surprised at the excellence and variety of the stuff grown. The small fruits, such as cherries, strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, currants and gooseberries do amazingly well. I believe it is a law of nature that the higher the latitude where fruit will come to full maturity the better will be its quality. There seems to be something in this alternating of cool nights with bright warm days to give firmness and flavor and lusciousness to fruits and vegetables grown

under these conditions. These qualities are noticeable to a marked degree in the fruits and vegetables grown in Prince Edward Island; but, the great need is a market.

MORE AVAILABLE MARKETS WANTED

Charlottetown, the capital, has about 12,000 inhabitants. It is not an industrial centre, but is largely a city of homes where people have some leisure, and many of whom possess gardens of their own. The largest cities in the maritime provinces have but 50,000 inhabitants, and they (St. John and Halifax) are at present a day's journey distant. These, and other disadvantages, make even these limited centres impossible to the Prince Edward Island grower. But the cities of the maritime provinces are growing in size and increasing in number, and no doubt with their growth will come a corresponding improvement in transportation facilities. If there were in the maritime provinces a city of say, the size of Boston, within reasonable distance, it would simply revolutionize this industry in Prince Edward Island. A number of our maritime cities are bound to grow to large industrial centres in the not-distant future, and when this takes place it will transform agricultural methods on Prince Edward Island.

When these conditions prevail it will not only change our methods of agriculture, but will be of great advantage both economically and politically. When the Island is transformed into a province of vegetable and fruit gardens rather than one of oat and wheat fields, the average farm would be large enough at 25 acres. This would make possible an increase in the population by about 400 per cent. In other words, instead of having 103,000 population, with no vacant lands, we would have room for about 400,000 people by thus reducing the acreage of the farm. Such an increase would tend to attract manufacturing, and thus give corresponding growth to our towns and cities. It is easy to see that such an increase would at least help to restore our lost representation at Ottawa, and give us such an importance as to bring the tunnel, now a fond hope, in the realm of practical certainty. In the light of these facts a fruit and vegetable garden assumes a great and new significance.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CHERRY TRADE

Something could even now be done by a little improvement in transportation facilities, and a little more business enterprise. To illustrate we may refer to the Kentish cherry orchards which everywhere obtain here. The various varieties of sweet cherries do exceedingly well in different parts of Nova Scotia and are about the only ones cultivated. These cherries are largely sold in St. John and Halifax, and are put on the market about the middle of July. Their season is, however, short and frequently they fail almost entirely. Cherries of all kinds throughout New Brunswick, for some reason, are made conspicuous by their absence. On Prince Edward Island, however, the Kentish cherry is grown with the greatest of ease, and in splendid abundance. There is scarcely a farm, large or small, between East Point and North Cape, that has not a cherry orchard of some description. The crop very seldom fails; in good years, the yield is enormous, and the local demand is comparatively limited. These cherries come into maturity about a month later than the Nova Scotia crop, and being equally suitable for preserving as for table fruit, it will be seen that they should have a splendid demand in the cities of the ad-