

Horticulture and Forestry

The California of Canada.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Having made a tour of different parts of British Columbia, our magnificent province on the Pacific coast, I should like to draw the attention of your readers to the Okanagan, one of the most favored of all the famous valleys of British Columbia, which lies in the southern part of that great province shut in on all sides, except the south, by mountain ranges.

This remarkable valley, aptly called the California of Canada, possesses a climate unequalled by that of any other part of the Dominion. Situated in the "dry belt" it has all the mildness of the coast lands of Washington and British Columbia, without their humidity. Here the spring opens very early, quickly merging into summer and the long sunny days of summer that ripen the fruits painting the red of the apple and deepening the gold of the peach are prolonged far into autumn. The beauty of autumn in the Okanagan needs to be experienced to be appreciated—day after day of clear sky and shining sun and perfect calm. The pine clad mountains never look nearer, the crystal waters of the beautiful lake never look clearer, than on these perfect days. No more ideal weather can be imagined.

Of real winter there is none. No bitter north winds blow here. Storms and blizzards are unknown and it is only very rarely that the temperature goes down to zero.

As it is natural to suppose in such mountainous country, the area of arable land is limited, but along the lake shores and rivers there are considerable bench lands. The soil varies from a deep black loam to a lighter loam on the higher land. It is of remarkable fertility and from its great depth is practically inexhaustible.

The soil along with a splendid climate, forms an ideal combination for growing temperate zone fruits. The chief fruits grown are of course apples, peaches, pears, plums, prunes, cherries, grapes and all kinds of berries. Melons, sweet potatoes and tobacco are, however, other valuable productions.

As the rainfall is comparatively light in this valley the orchards are watered by irrigation. The mountains contain vast supplies of water. Usually a never failing mountain stream forms the base of supply. This is dammed at a certain point and by means of flumes and small ditches the water is carried through the various orchards. Irrigation means satisfaction. Worry from drouth is a thing of the past; you are always assured of a good crop. In conclusion let us say that fruit growing has proved to be a very profitable indus-

try as well as a beautiful art. It offers one an opportunity of living under ideal conditions in one of the most favored spots upon the earth. Your sense of beauty can always be gratified by the orchard in bloom, by the ripening fruit and always by the grandeur of the distant mountains.

W. R. B.

Storing Vegetables.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Will you kindly tell me how to store cabbages and other garden vegetables for late winter and early spring use?

Sask.

H. W. P.

If you have not got a cool-cellar or root house follow directions in July 17th issue. We also have the following suggestions from a Manitoba reader, and another letter upon the question of storing potatoes from a Saskatchewan correspondent. Both letters we publish leaving it to our readers which method to adopt to suit their needs.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In a late issue I noticed a query re storing potatoes in pits. I have stored potatoes in pits in Saskatchewan and I suggest the following pit: 10 feet by 12 feet broad and 30 to 40 feet long and 4 feet deep. See to it that potatoes are in sound, good, dry condition and heap up in triangular shape. Then cover potatoes thin with wheat straw, heavier as the weather gets cooler and at last put on a good heavy covering of earth. It is advisable to leave air holes on top open as long as possible. If a pit has to be broken open during the winter, see to it that you can empty it at once. The earth and straw covering has to be heavier at the bottom of the pit than on the top, as vegetables have a tendency to heat during storage and the warm air goes to the top. Therefore, provide air holes at intervals, which can be opened and shut at will. Naturally things like this are to be carefully watched. Put in an extra load of straw when you know that extra cold weather is setting in; roll off some of the covering when it gets milder.

Chater, Man.

THOMAS BROWN.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In your issue of June 26th, I noticed an inquiry from a correspondent as to how to store a large quantity of potatoes. It makes no difference whether the quantity be large or small, a small quantity being more liable to freeze. In fact, the larger the amount the cheaper they can be stored.

In the winter of 1881 and 1882 I stored some 600 bushels of potatoes near Bird's Hill, a few miles from Winnipeg. The potato crop being very poor that season the price went up in the city very fast. Consequently I opened the pit about every week during the winter regardless of temperature, in spite of which I did not lose a bushel either by frost or rot. The fact of their keeping so well I attribute in a great measure to my opening the pit often, which gave the needed ventilation.

My method was simply to dig a pit or cellar 12 feet by 16 feet and about 7 feet deep in a dry place. I had a side bank which is not a necessity, but convenient for throwing out the earth when digging with a spade and shovel. I then roofed it over with poplar poles by placing posts in the corners, and center ones on each side, leaving the sides of the roof about a foot below the level of the ground, the center possibly a foot higher. Then I covered it over with hay and a foot or fifteen inches of earth. It would be as well to keep the surface soil to cover with, as it is a better non-conductor of heat than the clay. I would advise throwing a little loose straw over the top to hold the snow. Do not pile potatoes more than four feet deep, so in laying out the pit estimate the size you require on that basis. In making a pit for 10,000 bushels, you would use teams and scrapers of course and if it is dug long and narrow it will be more convenient for scraping and easier to roof.

Now to store 10,000 bushels without piling potatoes more than four feet deep, you require a pit containing 810 cubic yards or 155 feet long, 20 feet wide and 7 feet deep, costing to excavate at 25 cents per yard, \$200.00. Roofing \$100.00. Total \$300.00 or 3 cents per bushel.

There are parts of the country where it would be difficult to get poplar poles, but if lumber had to be used for roofing, the cost would be very much greater, though the lumber might be used again for some other purpose. For ventilation a pipe six or eight inches square might be let through the roof every twenty feet.

Wolseley, Sask.

A. B. BOMPAS.

FIELD NOTES

Events of the Week.

CANADIAN.

Rev. F. M. Finn, chaplain of the Manitoba penitentiary at Stony Mountain, died on July 21st.

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Judge Newlands of the supreme court gave a decision at Regina, Sask., that school trustees cannot tax a settler's homestead before the patent to it is issued.

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Victoria, B. C. was severely visited by fire, and a section a mile by half a mile in area is in ruins. More than fifty families are homeless and the money loss is placed at \$150,000. As far as is known there has been no loss of life.

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Valuable deposits of tar sands are being found in the valley of the Athabasca River. Dr. Bell of Ottawa says that oil can be obtained from this sand; also that preparations of it could be used for fuel, paving and roofing.

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During his recent visit to Canada, General Booth approved of the plans of the local Salvation Army officers for a colonization scheme in New Ontario. It is now said the interested parties have practically agreed on the following terms: The Government to sell the Salvation Army ten townships in the great clay belt, comprising some 230,000 acres. The land is in the districts of Nipissing and Algoma, north to Highland. The price is to be 25 cents per acre. Payment on the land to be spread over a period of ten years, without interest, the army to locate 144 settlers on every township, each having the usual sized homestead of 160 acres. These settlers are to be under the supervision of Canadians experienced in clearing land for agricultural purposes, as well as an official of the army trained in settlement work.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

There has been considerable rioting and disorder in Seoul, the capital of Korea, since the proclamation of the emperor's abdication.

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The steamer Columbia and a lumber schooner, the San Pedro, collided off the coast of San Francisco and over a hundred lives were lost.

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The proposal to change the designation of New Zealand to "the Dominion of New Zealand," carried in the House of Representatives there by 50 votes to 15.

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Hon. Edward Blake, the Canadian who has represented the nationalists of South Longford in the Imperial House for fifteen years, has resigned owing to advancing years and failing health.

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King Oscar of Sweden is said to be considering methods of industrial and commercial improvement which will induce some of the many Swedes who have come to America to return to their native land.



PACKING PEACHES, SUMMERLAND, B. C.

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