

raspberries was continued there. He crossed the gooseberry with the black currant, producing an interesting but sterile hybrid. Some work was also done with plums. Among ornamental plants he was especially interested in roses, and his Mary Arnott and Agnes roses, two fine varieties, are the results of his efforts. He originated some very interesting and ornamental hybrids, between the Thunberg' and Purple-leaved barberries, which are at present under test at Ottawa.

His most important work in hybridization has been left to the last. Visiting the prairie provinces frequently, as he did, he saw the need of hardy apples there, and the success of the wild Siberian crab apple (*Pyrus bacata*) at Indian Head, Sask.,

gave him the hardy material with which to work. This hardy little crab apple, smaller than a good cherry, from one half to three quarters of an inch in diameter, was used as the female parent of many crosses with hardy Russian and American apples of good size as the male. This work was begun in 1894 and continued in succeeding years. The first fruit was produced in 1899, when thirty-six trees bore, and five of these were of such size and quality as to justify their being propagated for more general test. In time about eight hundred trees were set out, a large proportion of which fruited. The largest of these first generation crosses were from one and one-quarter to one and three-quarter inches in diameter, a substantial gain in size over

the mother parent. As rapidly as possible the best were set out for test and some of these have proved very hardy, fruiting abundantly on the open prairie without protection. Among these may be mentioned the Jewel, Charles, Silvia, Prince, Tony, Robin and Elsa. So hardy are these, that fruit of these crosses has been produced at the sub-station at Fort Vermilion in latitude 58 degrees, where the temperature frequently falls to between fifty and sixty degrees Fhr. below zero.

Not content with hardy apples of so small a size, Dr. Saunders re-crossed the best of these first crosses with apples of larger size in 1904, and from this work over four hundred trees were obtained. Many of these have now fruited, some of which have produced apples two and a half inches in diameter, and of good quality, which are being propagated and sent to the prairie farms for test. It is expected that some of these will prove hardy in places where apples of this size cannot at present be successfully grown. Even should they not prove sufficiently valuable to satisfy the settlers, who would like to have apples equal to any grown elsewhere in Canada, Dr. Saunders has, at least, laid the foundation of a hardy race of apples from which probably will eventually come varieties even better than those available at present.

The love of the beautiful in nature was very strong in Dr. Saunders, and he was able to give expression to this love in his work in beautifying the Central and Branch Farms. Many countries, many botanical gardens, nurseries and seed catalogues were searched for plants and seed to test, in order to learn their value under Canadian conditions. Beginning in 1887, and continuing until 1911, he continuously endeavored to bring to Canadians from other countries, all that was best and most beautiful among trees and shrubs and flowers, and from the abundant material available he was able to plan and plant the grounds at the Central Farm especially in such a way that it is to-day one of the most beautiful places in America.

Comparatively few know of the work Dr. Saunders did in planning and planting the trees and shrubs along the Government Driveway in Ottawa, but it should be recorded here that a large proportion of the driveway between St. Louis Dam and the Rideau River was planned and planted by him.

Canadian horticulturists have lost a warm friend in Dr. Saunders. He was a true amateur horticulturist, the love of the work standing out in everything he did. He was a member of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association from its early years, and was one of the few enthusiasts who kept the Association in existence before the commercial side of horticulture had developed much in Canada.

### British Columbia

In accordance with an arrangement between the Dairy and Cold Storage Commissioner and the Deputy Minister of Agriculture for British Columbia, Mr. Edwin Smith, who has charge of the Government Experimental Cold Storage Warehouse at Grimsby, Ont., operated by this branch, spent a couple of weeks during the summer in British Columbia conferring with local officials and fruit shippers regarding fruit transportation investigations now under way.

Arrangements were made with the head of the Canadian Pacific Railway refrigerator car service to carry on experiments in the Okanagan Valley with the use of salt

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