

are dotted profusely all over the country, furnish trout that may weigh twenty pounds or more, while fish running from two to eight pounds are the common reward of the angler. Within a radius of from ten to fifteen miles from the city may be found deer in abundance, cariboo, mountain sheep and goats, grizzly and black bears, etc., while feathered game, including geese, duck, grouse, blue and willow, and prairie chicken, are to be obtained in all parts of the Okanagan.

TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES.

Vernon is connected with the main line of the C. P. R. at Sicamous by the Shuswap and Okanagan Railway, a branch railway, which makes daily trips over the fifty-mile line during the summer months, and tri-weekly trips during the winter. The growth of the district, and the consequent increase in the amount of shipments, has increased to such an extent during the past eighteen months that there is now every probability that the daily service will be continued throughout the year. Another railway has been projected for some time to connect the fertile agricultural districts of the Okanagan with the populous and growing mining country of the Boundary, and should it go through, it will be a great boon to the valley, and a great incentive to its growth and progress. This road, the Midway and Vernon, has been bonused by both Dominion and Provincial Governments, but, so far, it has been found impossible to finance it.

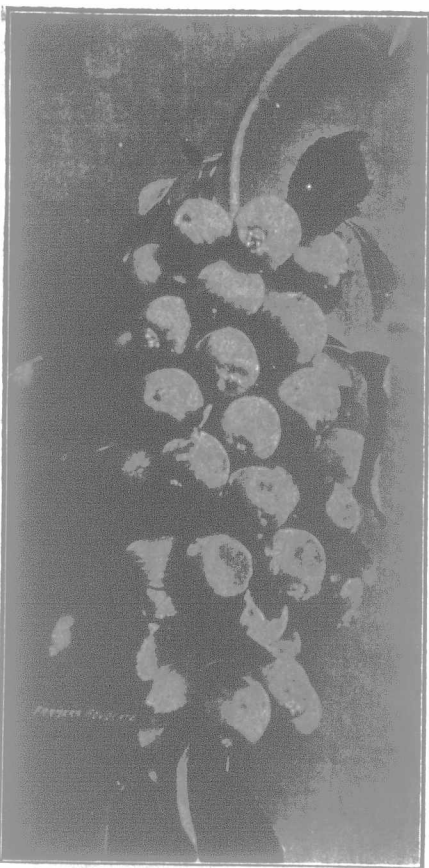
MARKETS.

The markets for fruit, hay, vegetables, hops and other produce is practically inexhaustible. The Northwest Territories readily absorb any fruit we can supply, and the large influx of settlers into that country, now steadily going in, and likely to continue for some time, will further increase the demand. The mining towns of the Kootenays furnish a more local market, and consume our beef, mutton, pork, poultry, tomatoes and early vegetables, while large shipments of produce are annually made to Vancouver and other coast cities. Railway connection with the Boundary country, which is still a possibility, would open up another great market in the populous mining sections of the South, with their steadily increasing demand for various agricultural products. If, for any reason, these should fail, we have England and Scotland to fall back on. Recent experiments of Okanagan fruit-growers have demonstrated that apples can very profitably be shipped to the Old Country, while even Australia has received fruit from the Okanagan.

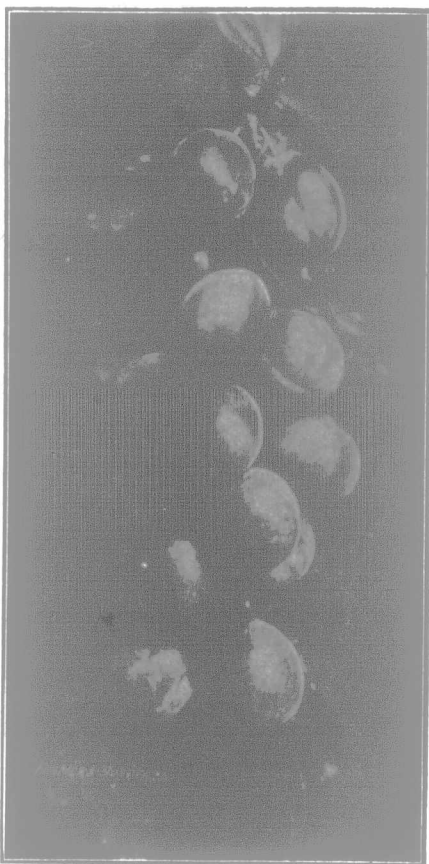
RETAIL PRICES.

The following figures, giving the retail prices at Vernon of ordinary necessities, will furnish some idea of the general cost of living:

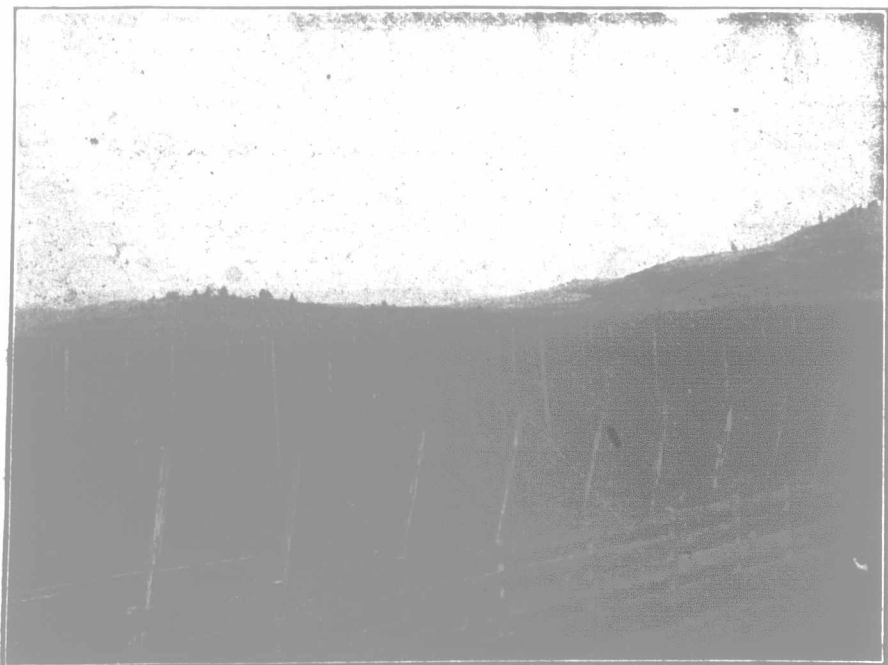
Retail prices at Vernon of ordinary necessities for farmers (supplied by Mr. W. R. Megaw).—Flour, \$3.75 to \$4.50 per bbl.; beef, 8c. per lb. by the quarter (10c. to 12½c. retail); bacon and ham, 16c. to 18c. per lb.; lard, 13c. to 15c. per lb.; butter, 20c. to 25c. per lb.; tea, 25c. to 50c. per lb.; sugar, \$5.75 to \$6.25 per 100 lbs.; overalls,



Branch of Crab-apples.



Branch of Plums.



Hop Yards.

75c. to \$1.25 each; shirts, 40c. to 75c. each; boots, \$1.25 to \$4.00 per pair; walking plows, \$14 to \$22; harrows, \$17 to \$24; two-horse farm wagons, \$75 to \$120; sleighs, \$30 to \$35; cutters, \$35 to \$50; buggies, \$70 to \$100; democrat wagons, \$90 to \$110; double harness, \$35 to \$45; single harness, \$15 to \$24; saddles, \$10 to \$40; binder twine, 13½c. per lb.; binders, \$160; mowers, \$65; hay rakes, \$30 to \$35; farming tools of all descriptions, about ten per cent. above Manitoba prices (fifteen per cent. above eastern); dry goods in general, eight per cent. over eastern prices; hardware, ten per cent. over eastern prices.

MARKET PRICES OF FRUIT.

The following are given as the prevailing prices for fruit: Apples, \$1.00 to \$1.25 per box of 40 lbs.; pears, \$1.35 to \$1.50 per box of 40 lbs.; cherries, \$1.60 to \$1.85 per box of 16 lbs.; plums, 80c. to 90c. per crate of 20 lbs.; prunes, 65c. to 75c. per crate of 20 lbs.; strawberries, 10c. per lb. per crate of 24 lbs.; raspberries, 10c. per lb. per crate of 24 lbs.; crab apples, \$1.50 per 40-lb. box; tomatoes, 14c. per lb. to start, to 6c.

For further particulars regarding this fertile district, write W. R. Megaw, Vernon Board of Trade, Vernon, B. C.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

1st.—Questions asked by bona-fide subscribers to the "Farmer's Advocate" are answered in this department free.
2nd.—Questions should be clearly stated and plainly written, on one side of the paper only, and must be accompanied by the full name and address of the writer.
3rd.—In veterinary questions, the symptoms especially must be fully and clearly stated, otherwise satisfactory replies cannot be given.
4th.—When a reply by mail is required to urgent veterinary or legal enquiries, \$1 must be enclosed.

Miscellaneous.

PAYING FOR BULL'S SERVICES.

A has a bull. B brings four cows, and does not pay at time of service. Does A have to advertise bull before he can collect fees? S. W. Ont.

Ans.—No.

EMPLOYEE BREAKING AGREEMENT.

A hires with B for one year for \$200. On the first of December and through the winter draws \$38. On the 15th of March, A leaves without any reason, other than that he can make more wages, and B has to pay at the rate of \$26 per month for the eight months and one-half remaining.

1. Can A collect any wages?
2. Can B hold A responsible for what it costs him over the \$200 to hire a man to put in the rest of A's time?
3. Also can B recover the \$30 already paid, providing both parties have got property, and are responsible parties?
Ont. B. C.

Ans.—1. He is not legally entitled to do so.

2 and 3. B's remedy is by way of an action against A for damages for the latter's breach of the agreement.

REFUSE SALT FROM PORK FACTORY FOR MANGELS.

1. Is the refuse salt from a pork factory as good for the land as the ordinary land salts?
2. Is the alum contained in the said salt in any way injurious to the land?
(3) If it is fit for mangel ground, about what quantity per acre would you advise?
C. T. E. W.

Wentworth Co., Ont.

Ans.—1. In many pork-packing factories saltpetre is used along with the salt, and doubtless a portion of this will be found in the refuse salt. The salt also contains small quantities of the juices of the meat. The factory salt will thus be slightly enriched by potash and nitrogen.

2. It is not likely that the amount of alum present will be injurious.

3. Mangels are heavy feeders and take large amounts of potash and nitrogen from the soil. The salt supplies a very small quantity of these when applied on clay soils, the sodium of the salt tends to bring potash in the soil into an available form. Taking it all together, salt cannot be said to be a good material to apply on mangel ground. Purely nitrogenous manures and wood ashes are more likely to give good results.

R. HARCOURT.

Ontario Agricultural College.

ARTICHOKES.

1. When is the proper time to plant artichokes?

2. What state of cultivation and fertility should the soil be in?

3. How should they be planted, and how much seed per acre?

4. Where might I obtain the seed?

Simsco Co., Ont.

J. H. M.

Ans.—1, 2 and 3. Sow the seed in April or May in drills two inches deep; thin the plants to four inches, and when strong transplant in deep rich soil, two feet apart each way. Keep the earth loose about them in summer, and cover during winter with dry litter or leaves for protection. Jerusalem artichokes, an enormously productive variety, valuable alike for table and stock-feeding purposes, should be planted in rows, not less than three feet apart. Three bushels of tubers of this variety will plant an acre.

4. Write to the seedsmen advertising in the "Farmer's Advocate."

CROP FOR A MUSTARD-INFESTED FIELD.

I have eight acres of sod, which I am plowing now; had intended to sow peas on same, but the field is infested with wild mustard, and I have been told that peas will not do well with mustard. Will bluestone spray for mustard injure the pea vine? The field is in good condition otherwise, and I would like to sow fall wheat after peas.

AN OLD SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—We are advised by Prof. Loch-head, of O. A. C., Guelph, that in their experiments they found that pea vines were not injured by a two-per-cent. or even three-per-cent. solution of copper sulphate. At the same time we would be inclined to advise planting corn on this field, giving thorough frequent cultivation until quite late, say till the corn is tasseled. Wheat might be sown in the fall or oats or barley next spring, and spraying depended on to kill any remaining mustard plants then.

PASTURE FOR HOGS.

1. I have an acre of timothy sod I intended seeding with barley about three bushels per acre for hog pasture. Could you suggest some mixture that would be better for constant pasture till after harvest? Would it pay me to work manure in on the surface for it?

J. H. M.

Ans.—1. We would not advise sowing barley for this purpose. Try a mixture of 1 bushel oats, 1 bushel peas, ½ bushel common vetch, and 2 lbs. rape per acre.

2. A little fine manure could probably be used to advantage.

PEARS NOT FRUITING.

I put out two Bartlett pears about five or six years ago, close against the west end of my barn, and trained them vine-like. They have never shown flower. A year ago, this time, I cut them well back, and still no sign of flower. The ground is good, and they are the only trees in that locality that have not done well. Can you suggest what the trouble is?
R. D.

Ontario Co., Ont.

Ans.—From the particulars given, I can assign only two reasons why your trees have not done as well as other trees in the locality. In the first place, a western exposure is one of the worst that they could be placed in. The trees there would not receive their full share of sunlight during the forenoon, and would, no doubt, be severely exposed to the hot sun in the afternoon. Then, again, it is not natural for them to be trained as vines. It is much better to allow trees to take their natural shape and not try to force nature out of its usual course. Cutting the trees back severely would not help to induce fruiting; in fact, it might have the opposite effect, as it would tend more or less to upset the equilibrium of the tree, and the result would be that for a year or two they would make extra wood growth to restore the balance between top and root. It is best to give trees full exposure to sunlight, allow them to assume their natural form, and prune regularly so that severe cutting back will not be necessary at any time.

H. L. HUTT.

AUTOMATIC GATES.

We have been asked for the names of makers of automatic gates—those that may be opened and closed by lever operated from carriage or wagon seat. Can any reader supply the information?