

Old varieties of fruits are constantly being re-named and sold as new varieties. All sorts of nostrums are advertised as insecticides, and in a hundred and one ways the public is induced to pay a big price for something which, when they get it is worse than useless.

One of the recent introductions of this kind is the so-called perennial celery, introduced as the "Silver King Hardy Celery." This plant is being widely advertised by a prominent Michigan nursery company. The following are some of the claims made for it:

"The most sensational discovery in the vegetable kingdom. A celery that is everlasting, and perfectly hardy in any climate. The root never dies; once planted, it stands for a lifetime. Four to five plants sufficient to supply a large family. It bleaches clear white, never rusts, is crisp and tender, and superior in quality to the common celery. Makes an astounding growth of two feet in four weeks; produces two or three heavy crops in one season. First crop ready for the table early in May. It matures in spring when there is no other celery in the market; is enormously productive. A veritable gold mine for the market gardener. Different from any celery in the world. One plant will produce from fifteen to twenty choice stalks during the first year, and forty to a hundred the second year. Will grow on any soil that is in good condition for garden crop. Has been thoroughly tested since 1895, and plants are now for sale."



Photo by J. L. Stocks.

A PEAR CLUSTER.

The Product of the Kootenay Valley.

It is claimed that this new variety of celery originated in Elgin County, Ontario, and was discovered through an act of carelessness, by some common celery being left out over winter and proving to be perfectly hardy. The plants are sold at the rate of \$1.50 each, no order being accepted for less than two plants, and every purchaser must promise not to propagate, sell or give away any of the plants purchased.

In order to test this much-lauded new celery the Horticultural Department of the Agricultural College procured plants and tested them at the college. As was expected, the fraud has been discovered, and the plant turns out to be an old one, commonly known as Lovage, the botanical name of which is *Levisticum officinale*. The plant is hardy, makes a strong growth, and has a peculiar, strong aroma, a little like that of celery, but it would require a strong imagination to convince one that in eating it he was eating celery. Stalks when blanched may possibly be used the same as celery, but they are so woody and possess such a rank, strong smell and flavor that very few people would like to use it a second time. Those who are familiar with the plants as Lovage know that it is sometimes grown for its aromatic seeds, which are used like caraway in confectionery. It might prove an interesting plant in any herbaceous border, but will never be of value as a substitute for celery.

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FIELD NOTES

Events of the Week.

CANADIAN.

Rev. Dr. Gaetz, of Red Deer, Alta., died at his home at the age of sixty-six.

Rev. Dr. A. B. Chambers of Toronto has been appointed governor of the city jail.

The British Columbia contingent for the Bisley rifle matches will reach Liverpool on June 22nd. The matches open on the 8th of July.

The Japanese Government is said to have ordered from Vancouver mills five million feet of lumber for cars for the railway through Manchuria.

John Mather, the pioneer miller of Keewatin, director of the Bank of Ottawa and president of the *Manitoba Free Press* company, died in Ottawa at the age of eighty-four.

The General Assembly of Presbyterians meeting in Montreal carried a motion favoring church union negotiations by a vote of a hundred and thirty-seven to eleven.

The Sacred Heart Church in Ottawa was totally destroyed by fire. The loss is placed at \$155,000 with insurance of \$90,000. Steps have already been taken to rebuild the edifice.

Cow Lee, a New Westminster Chinaman, is collecting the bones of his fellow-countrymen who have died in British Columbia, preparatory to shipping them to China for burial in the tombs of their ancestors.

Fire in the Walter's coal mine near Strathcona, Alta., caused the death of six men, five of whom were from England and the sixth from France. Foreman J. R. Lamb was not in the mine at the time the fire broke out, but lost his life in a heroic attempt to rescue his men.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

For the first time in Australia iron has been smelted for commercial purposes.

General Booth has returned to England from Japan. He is highly gratified with the result of his visit to the Mikado's kingdom.

Severe earthquake shocks lasting for four seconds, have been felt again in Kingston, Jamaica. There was little or no damage.

The progressive party in Japan are insisting on the demand for redress for the outrages inflicted upon Japanese trading places in San Francisco.

French grape growers have gone on strike until such times as the Government shall stop the wholesale adulteration of wine.

Lord Dundonald's retirement from the British army has taken place. He says the Government has given him nothing to do since he called attention to the political corruption existing in Canadian military affairs, especially in the appointment of officers.

The Foreign Cattle Trade in Great Britain.

The Glasgow trade in foreign cattle has developed immensely during the past thirty years. Mr. John Bell landed the first foreign cattle at Glasgow in 1876. During that year he imported 392 head. Last year the number landed at York hill was 46,000. No less than 663,000 head of cattle were imported in 1906, and of that number about one-half—374,510 head—came from the United States. Glasgow received 40,276 head for the year ending June 30th, 1906, and a very large proportion of these came from the United States. No one pretends that the United States can be guaranteed free of contagious diseases, and so long as that is so it is idle to talk of any other policy than that now in force in this country.

The Land is Going Fast.

During the year 1906, 42,012 homestead entries were made, or approximately six and three-quarters millions acres of land was given away by the Dominion Government. A comparison of the values of these lands based on the crop yield, when arrived at by the outturn of hard wheat from the soil is

	Average yield for Wheat per acre	Proportional wheat land values per acre.
Average for 7 North Cent'l States	145.1	Actual average value
Saskatchewan	23.09	value \$39.40
Alberta	21.48	Would be worth 64.18
		59.66

Convention of the American Association of Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations.

The convention of the American Association of Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations was held in Lansing, Mich., during the week of the Semi-centennial celebration of the Michigan Agricultural College last month. This concourse, as usual, was widely representative of the states of the Union and Provinces of the Dominion. The program included many technically scientific, as well as some bright dashes in the way of popular addresses. From the more noteworthy of these latter, we cull a few points, most of which apply quite as pertinently to Canadian as American conditions. Further extracts will be made use of in later issues. Officers elected for the ensuing year are: President, J. L. Snyder, President of the Michigan Agricultural College; 1st vice-president, director E. A. Burnett, of Nebraska; 2nd vice-president, Pres. H. H. Harrington, of Texas; 3rd Vice-President, President E. A. Bryan, of Washington Territory; 4th vice-president, Dean H. C. Price, Ohio; Bibliographer, Director A. C. True, Washington, D. C.; secretary-treasurer, Director J. L. Hills, Vermont.

THE STATE AND THE PEOPLE.

Prof. L. H. Bailey, of Cornell University, President of the Association, expressed some sound thoughts in forceful words in his opening address. We quote somewhat at length from his speech:

EAST AS GOOD AS WEST.

"The person who works his own land is usually a strong individualist. This individualism conduces to isolation of ideas. The farmer's work is founded on personal experience, and when he is not able to analyze his experience or to understand it, he falls into the 'experience routine' of the season and his ideas become crystallized. As the community-sense has grown into nationalism, and as loyalty to the first of the local leaders has developed into patriotism, the organism of the nation has felt the necessity of interfering with the land workers as with other workers for the benefit of the nation at large.

"What is wise for the state to do in aid of the farmer? We live in a time of great shift. The center of population is moving westward. The popular mind has pictured a great decline in eastern agriculture. New York State has declined more than 80,000 persons below the maximum in the rural counties. This is due to migration to cities and to other regions, and to lower birth rate. Of the 227,000 farms in the state, 34 per cent. are encumbered. Between 1880 and 1900 there was an annual decline in value of farm property of seven and one-third million dollars.

"Markets, however, are as good as ever. The land is still productive, and good farmers are better off to-day than ever before. We must not take alarm at abandoned farms. They are only an expression of social and economic conditions. In the breaking up of old conditions under the development of manufacture and transportation, persons clung to the farm as if it were a divinely ordained unit, but new farms will be built on the basis of the old ones. The possibilities of agriculture in the east lie in a new adaptation to conditions. Farming used to be easy; it has become complex, demanding much higher integrity and business ability. Agriculturally, under the new regime, New York is a newer state than Illinois or Iowa. Opportunities lie east as well as west.

COUNTRY SOCIALLY STERILIZED.

"American agriculture is yet raw and undeveloped. I look for its first real evolution in the old east rather than in the new west. The east has reached the point where it is willing to look facts squarely in the face. Rural life is in a state of arrested development as compared with city and town life. The nativeness of rural institutions has died out. The country is left socially sterilized. The organizations that control farmers by controlling their products are in the city. The tariff for protection system has fostered this movement and has tended to the concentration of wealth. If it has aided the farmer it is only because it has first aided someone else more. We have been living in an epoch of city development. It is a process of dump everything and everybody into the cities. We are now entering the era of the small city, which will drain the farm still more. I think that no agricultural work has any justification unless its one purpose is to allow native individual responsibility and initiative to develop in the man who stands directly on the land. When the people come to look beyond their own institutions they lose opportunity to help themselves in much the same way that they are hurt by the aggressiveness of the city, and the present tendency of the city as a rival to the farmer must be overcome. I believe the agricultural colleges are now on the right track. They teach in terms of daily life, but the city control over the farmer still continues. There are only three sources of raw material—the soil, the mines and the sea; but were one to judge by the temper of recent events we might almost think some of the raw material in the cities is derived from the wind.