

of irrigated land as two acres of unirrigated. Besides, the rainfall wets the whole tree, while flooding only wets the roots. The dust as well is very annoying. There is a great deal to be said on both sides, but I am inclined to favor the unirrigated land."

"What do you consider that the industry in the province most needs?"

"Men of means, industry and experience. I find that there are a great many people engaging in fruit growing who know nothing about it. A number of them have failed, while others will be failures, and I find that these who fail blame everything but themselves. Fruit growing is a profession by itself and to succeed a man must make a careful study along that particular line."

"Then you would say that amateurs do not succeed?"

"It depends on the man. Some of the most successful fruit growers knew nothing at all about it a few years ago. By making it a careful study, and by being willing to be shown by older and more experienced growers, they learn very quickly. It not infrequently happens that they make much better progress than former fruit growers in other countries where the conditions are much different to those that prevail in British Columbia."

"What size of tree do you find to be the most sought after for planting?"

"A one-year-old tree from three to four feet high seems to be most in demand. It is a straight whip—not branched like a two-year-old and as it grows the grower can trim and prune it to suit himself. I find that the most of the growers are of the opinion that no time is lost by planting a tree of this size, as it invariably makes a good growth from the start. The largest commercial orchard operators are planting trees of this size."

### Culture of Sweet Peas

Every one with a desire to have a beautiful home endeavors to grow sweet peas. The following interesting and instructive paper on the culture of the beautiful decorative garden flower was read by H. J. Edwards at the recent convention of the Western Horticultural Society.

The reason that we seldom see the sweet pea at its best in this province can be attributed chiefly to two causes, viz., late sowing and over-seeding. This paper is written for the purpose of advocating exactly the opposite, i. e., early sowing and sparse seeding.

In planting north to south is the best direction and open spaces away from trees and buildings are most desirable. There should be at least four feet between the rows, for the purpose of attending to the plants.

For best results the ground should be prepared in the fall. A good plan is to dig a trench a foot deep and place in the bottom three inches of well-decayed manure. On the top of this put four inches of soil and thoroughly mix; the remainder of the soil should then be placed on top and levelled. On new ground and in places where the soil is very rich it is advisable to eliminate the manure for a year or two. If the soil is too strong the buds will have a tendency to drop off.

#### EARLY PLANTING

In the spring as soon as the frost is out of the ground to a depth of three or four feet the seed should be sown, making a double row, six inches between the rows, the seed being planted four inches apart and one and a half inches deep on light, sandy soil.

Sticks should be provided early for the plant to climb. When these are not obtainable, wire netting nailed to stout posts will do nearly as well. During the growing season the surface of the soil should be kept loose and all weeds destroyed, care being taken not to disturb the roots. In late spring and early summer keep a sharp lookout for that abominable pest, the cut worm. The following remedy is to be found in a little book called "The Beautiful Flower Garden." "I have fought against this wretched night-working garden pest with some success by digging four inches around the plant he has destroyed and invariably capturing him. Then he is shown no mercy." In dry weather give a liberal supply of water and occasionally a little weak liquid manure.

If these directions are followed the plants should be in bloom from the first week in July until fall. Where the situation is bleak, preference should be given to the older or grandiflora type, the newer or Spencer type being planted in a more sheltered position. The grandiflora type will withstand the wind much better than any of the Spencers. When named varieties are grown, all rogues should be carefully removed, and leaving one strong plant to every three or four sticks (about twelve inches) is a secret to success.

The seed catalogues sent out by various seedsmen contain a fairly comprehensive list of sweet peas, with a full description as regards type and color. It is generally a matter of personal choice as to which are the best colors. The latest list available mentions over seven hundred different named varieties, but as a great many are included in a list of too-much-alike varieties (some have nearly twenty names) it would be unwise to particularize in a paper of this nature. However, there is one variety which might be mentioned, and that is coccinea. The seed of this variety is as a rule fine and plump and compares favorably with the finest samples of seed grown. Some years not one seed from a packet will germinate. This is not the fault of the seedsman or grower, but is due to a peculiar trait in the variety itself.

#### DON'TS FOR AMATEURS.

The following don'ts for amateur gardeners should be borne in mind.

Don't forget the deeper (in reason) the soil is cultivated the more vigorous will be the plants.

Don't imagine that you can grow sweetpeas well on the same plot of ground indefinitely.

Don't forget that early seeding is half the battle in the successful cultivation of the sweet pea.

Don't ignore the fact that it is possible to grow sweet peas with flower stems eighteen or twenty inches long.

I am confident that anyone who adopts the method of cultivation suggested in this paper will be fully repaid by the result. Not only will there be a considerable increase in the length of the stems, larger and finer flowers, but also a greater profusion of bloom compared with the average sweet peas we usually see in Manitoba.

### Planting Trees

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I am young in the work of setting out trees, having made a start only three years ago. At that time I set out a Russian willow hedge along the west and north sides of my buildings. I now started a similar hedge to the east. For quick growth I prefer the Russian poplar. I now have a row of these down the middle of my garden and they are doing fine. I intend to plant a large number this summer. A farmer cannot undertake better work.

The willow hedge is now about 8 feet high and looks fine. Inside of it this summer I purpose setting a row of spruce trees. These I will get in the bush about two feet high and by keeping the roots from the sun and using plenty of wet muddy soil and planting them with the branches pointing north, southeast and west as the tree grew I anticipate good results.

I have about 15 apple trees doing fine. Some of them have come through three winters and some bore fruit last summer. I also have quite a number of plum trees doing fine. I put in 15 wild plum trees last spring and 12 of them came through well.

Man.

WM. E. MABLEY.

### Potatoes on Breaking

Are potatoes satisfactory on breaking?

W. C. S.

Ans.—Potatoes can be grown on breaking and the quality of the tuber is usually excellent but the yield is generally light. The usual practice is to make rather large sets so that the danger of drying out is lessened. These are dropped into every third furrow, making the rows about three feet apart and the sets nine inches apart. The land should then be lightly harrowed lengthwise of the furrow and well rolled.

M. A. C.

S. A. BEDFORD.

## FIELD NOTES

### Manitoba Roads Association

With half a score of men representing five Manitoba municipalities at the annual meeting of the Manitoba Good Roads Association, billed for Tuesday of last week, it was decided not to transact business, but to meet again in the city hall, Winnipeg, at 3 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, March 16. The small attendance was credited to the fact that municipalities had not had council meetings after the receipt of the announcement regarding the meeting and delegates had not been named. In future, however, this difficulty will not be met, as the draft constitution states that the annual meeting will be held the first Tuesday in March each year, and that each municipality has the privilege of appointing three representatives to this annual meeting. Every municipality in the province should join this association and share in the benefits and privileges of the association. Reeves and councillors are not looking after the interests of the men who elected them if they do not take an active interest in the new organization.

The secretary was instructed to write clerks and Reeves of each municipality now included in the membership, instructing them to send three delegates to the postponed annual meeting on March 16. If other municipalities decide to pay the fee of \$20 and become members there is nothing to prevent them being represented at the meeting and having a voice in what is sure to become one of the most important organizations in the province.

### School Trustees' Convention

The annual meeting of the trustees' department of the Manitoba Educational Association was held last week in Winnipeg. The sessions were largely attended, delegates being present from the majority of the rural, village, town and city schools of the province. A number of important matters bearing upon education were discussed, chief of which was school consolidation. On this subject Hon. G. R. Coldwell, minister of education, delivered a lengthy address, in which he laid before the convention the chief advantages in the consolidation of rural schools. After sketching the growth of this movement in Eastern America, Mr. Coldwell reviewed what the Manitoba Department of Education have done and wish to do to establish consolidated schools in this province. He pointed to the advantages resulting from such a system of rural school, the procuring of better teachers, the carrying on of advanced work, the introduction of a graded course and the extension of high school work to the rural districts.

In reply to a suggestion from T. W. Knowles that men from districts in which consolidated schools were established give their opinions, J. R. Dutton, of Gilbert Plains, gave glowing reports of operations since January 17 last. The transportation problem had been easily overcome and children by using hot bricks and taking due precautions did not endanger themselves on the drive in the vans. Farmers were advised not to worry about the extra expense. He would rather double the school tax and get value for his money than pay the present rate and have poor returns. He considered that \$10 or \$15 a year in the interests of improved education was a good investment. He knew of none in the Gilbert Plains district who would care to go back to the old system.

A debate on the question of school government by municipal boards, rather than by trustees, also brought in the question of consolidation.

Messrs. Wm. Iverach, Isabella, and J. R. Dutton, Gilbert Plains, supported the municipal board proposals, and J. H. Farthing, Millwood and J. H. Sutcliffe, Birtle, opposed the proposition. The affirmative urged for their proposal that it would raise the standard of education in the rural schools, lead to the engaging of a better class of teachers, do away with what one speaker termed the "hen coop" buildings which represented now the center of rural education, and bring country schools to a point of efficiency equal to town and city schools.

On the other hand the negative pointed out that while municipal school boards sounded beautiful in theory it could not work out under the practical difficulties in which educational work in the rural schools of this country was carried on. It was claimed that it would be unwise to take authority from local trustees and that a board, the members of which were far away from many of the schools, could not take steps to remedy defects as speedily as could a local trustee board, the members of which were vitally interested.

No action was taken by the convention on this matter. A. M. Campbell, Argyle, president of the association, intimating that it would be better for the trustees of the province to let the matter of the discussion sink into their minds as it was recognized that no radical change in our educational system could be made without due deliberation by all concerned.