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January 1907.....	4,947
February 1907.....	5,520
March 1907.....	6,380
April 1907.....	6,460
May 1907.....	6,620
June 1907.....	6,780
July 1907.....	6,920
August 1907.....	6,880
September 1907.....	7,078
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EDITORIAL

CHILDREN AND GARDENING

The influences of improving the grounds around and about schools, churches and the homes of our people, both in rural and urban communities, are many. They are felt not only by the old folks who have planned or performed the work, but more particularly by the children, for it is they who are the most susceptible to the beauties of natural associations. If the children are constantly surrounded with those influences that ennoble them, they will become satisfied with nothing less. When in later life they have homes of their own, they will strive to make them as pleasant as the homes of their youth, for they have been educated to appreciate no other environment. They will make better citizens, for the habits formed in childhood have much to do with shaping the destinies of the children when they become men and women.

To assist children in forming good habits, we must cultivate their taste for the beautiful in nature. Teach them to find, "Tongues in trees, books in running brooks, sermons in stones and good in everything." Let them have a flower garden of their own, and, if necessary, assist them in its proper care. Allow them to select their favorite flowers to cultivate and nurse. If they have no favorites, teach them to gather the common wild flowers of the fields and to transport them to the waste and needy spots about their homes. Convince them that they can be really useful and they will work with the greatest enthusiasm.

Not only at home should the children be encouraged to assist in beautifying the grounds but also at the schools. Nothing will make the child like school more than beautiful school surroundings, particularly those with which he has had something to do in the making. Resolve this spring to have the school grounds in your district or town the best for miles around and have the grounds about the home even better.

PROTECT THE BIRDS

Birds are of great economic value to fruit growers and gardeners. When they are protected and encouraged, the orchardist or gardener gains more than is generally appreciated. They keep in check great numbers of insects and vermin. It is true, that a few species are partial in diet to fruit and other crops, but the brief season of crop pilfering is a comparatively insignificant part of the otherwise beneficial yearly life of these and other birds. For the services of our useful birds, the growers must be content to give something in return. The evil that birds do often may be prevented by ingenious contrivances that do not harm the bird; if not, these comparatively small evils should be patiently endured for the common good.

At a recent meeting of the Hamilton Society for Nature Study and Bird Protection, Mr. Herbert C. Merrilees delivered an excellent address on this subject and pleaded for the protection of birds on both sentimental and economic grounds. Some extracts from the address are as follows:

"Those who know little or nothing of the 'real economic value of birds are liable to be unjust. We are likely to lay the sins 'of a particular bird upon the whole tribe. 'We see a Cooper's Hawk sweep into the 'yard and strike a chicken and we are out 'with a gun for every other hawk we can

"see, regardless of the fact that many 'of the hawks live almost entirely on squirrels, moles, mice, grasshoppers, beetles 'and the like, and are among the most 'useful birds we have. It is a grave mistake to sacrifice a hundred birds for the 'sins of one guilty bird. A man who lives 'in the country ought to have a common 'knowledge of bird habits. For his own 'good and the welfare of the country, he 'ought to be able to discriminate between 'good and bad wild birds just as he learns 'to distinguish between good and bad domestic birds and animals.

"Because a Blackbird is in a grain field, 'it does not signify that he is doing harm. 'Woodpeckers are often shot for coming in 'to orchards, when a careful examination 'will show that they are destroying injurious insects. There are many instances 'where birds have been killed because of 'their destruction to fruit, when an examination of their stomachs showed that they 'were eating more insects than fruit.

"There are few instances where birds become so abundant as to do more real harm 'than good. For although some of the 'birds eat fruit, this is not the main part 'of their diet. The majority of the birds 'are continually hunting and catching insects. During the breeding season, they 'live largely and rear their young almost 'exclusively on this food. Wherever insect 'food is plentiful, the birds resort to such 'a locality."

No person should be so blinded to his own best interests as to destroy by wholesale, creatures which are his best friends. Because birds occasionally make raids upon the orchard is no good reason for slaughtering them. Treat them as you would domestic animals when they commit devastations; in the case of animals, protect the crops from future raids by erecting or strengthening barriers; for birds, use decoy fruit trees, bird netting, scare-crows, and so forth. The birds are preserved, thereby, to turn their energies to better account in destroying insect pests. Birds are among the most valuable assets of the farm, the orchard and the garden. Protect them.

More fruit growers should keep bees. The transfer of pollen from blossom to blossom on fruit trees is done almost exclusively by insects, mostly bees. Even under most favorable circumstances, countless numbers of bees are required to do the work in localities that are devoted largely to fruit growing. During cloudy and rainy weather, larger numbers are required or else the work goes undone, and, naturally the work farthest from the hives goes undone most often. For this reason, the grower who keeps bees in his orchard is the one whose trees would profit most in unfavorable weather. In addition to the bees' value among the blossoms, the product of their labor—honey—is worth money. Six hives will furnish sufficient honey for home use and give a profit besides. It pays to keep bees.

The secretaries of horticultural societies are requested to send copies of their lists of premium offers and options to THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST. In many cases recipients of plants, shrubs and trees do not know how to plant and care for them. To aid these persons, and incidentally to assist the society, articles on these subjects, as suggested by the nature of the premiums offered, will be published. The secretaries are asked, also, to send copies of papers on practical subjects that may be read or discussed at their meetings.