

was twenty-two and the largest attendance forty-three. Such an audience in a settlement of foreigners reflects considerable credit on this class of people and demonstrates their willingness to improve.

Owing to the late spring which has crowded the farmer with his work the daily superintendent W. A. Wilson, was not able to carry out the program first contemplated; consequently our efforts were confined to a smaller territory in thicker settlements where it was considered the greatest good could be done. The importance of knowing the value of individual cows was strongly emphasized and methods whereby her value could be ascertained were explained, thus paving the way for organization in cow testing which must constitute the basis of our dairy industry if it is to produce the revenue it can and should.

Horticulture and Forestry

Saskatoons have been coming into Winnipeg market the past few weeks in tons. Half breeds bring them in in large packing boxes and old trunks. The trade in the wild fruit suggests the possibility of the tame fruit industry. There is a lot of money to be made in a well-conducted fruit and truck farm near our larger cities.

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Farmers along the Souris River report the crop of wild plums to be one of the largest upon record though a little late. A good start can be made with an orchard by setting out some of these young plum trees. It is characteristic of the fruit of wild trees that it improves under domestication.



A PRODUCT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA ORCHARDS.

A correspondent asks us what we think of hop growing in the Edmonton district, if it has ever been tried, if Edmonton is a good market and what the returns from an acre would be. Speaking generally, we would say that Northern Alberta is not a hop growing district, but there may be isolated places where the crop will grow to perfection. The trouble is that the climate is not reliable and the hop crop might get frozen before it is ready in September. We would not advise anyone to go into such a venture without having first tried it upon a small scale, so as to test the land and the climate. Seed may be obtained from the established seed houses whose advertisements appear in these columns in season and the crop is grown in rows several feet apart. Hop growing is engaged in upon quite a scale in the Okanagan Valley in British Columbia but we do not know where they are marketed. The breweries at Calgary, Prince Albert, Brandon and Winnipeg we should think, would take some.

experiment. While we should use such cultivated fruits that come to us from other regions, as we find suitable for cultivation, our native fruits should not be overlooked. It should be possible to develop from these native fruits varieties equal in quality to many of the best cultivated sorts, while retaining the natural hardiness of a fully acclimated species. The work of plant breeding is expensive and uncertain in results, and should not, perhaps, be left to private enterprise alone. The individual who devotes his time to such employment is really working for the community at large, or, in other words, the state. This should not deter those who have opportunity to do what they can in the improvement of our fruits.

One of our most promising native fruits is the plum, from which good results should be obtained by selection and breeding. The native plum is cultivated to some extent, mainly in the form of selected trees taken from the woods, but no

Our Native Fruits.

It has repeatedly been asserted, sometimes by persons of experience, that the wild fruits of our prairie provinces are of better quality and more prolific than similar or related species of the east. Most of the cultivated fruits of the north are represented here by native species. Strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries, currants, cherries, plums, grapes, are all represented by one or more native species. The apple alone is not a native in any form. All our cultivated fruits have originated from wild species. Some of these have been under cultivation so long that their early history is unknown. Other forms of cultivated fruits, such as American varieties of grapes, gooseberries and plums, are of quite modern origin. Some of our native fruits belong to the same species from which have been originated many cultivated varieties. This is true of our cultivated strawberries, suckering varieties of raspberries, and the American varieties of gooseberries, the parent species of which are native to our woods and prairies. Some of our native fruits are said to be of superior quality to the original form of some of the highly developed fruits of Europe. The European gooseberry and plum, both of which are now represented by numerous varieties of unsurpassed excellence, are said to be inferior in their original wild form to our native species. With this knowledge before us, there would seem to be no reason why some species at least of our wild fruits should not form the basis from which many fine cultivated varieties will in time be evolved. To talk of our provinces as a fruitless region, in view of the existence of all these native species, seems ridiculous. We have with us hardy, fully acclimated native species, we may say, of nearly all of the desirable northern fruits, the apple, as stated, being the one important exception. Here, then, is the great field for

named varieties have yet been offered which have been originated here by breeding. Some very good forms have been secured through selection. The Sand or Bush cherry (*prunus pumila*) is one of the most promising of our native fruits. It is adapted to severe locations, will thrive on poor soil, and resist severe drought. Of strawberries there are two native forms, *Fragaria virginiana*, from which have originated most of our cultivated species, and *Fragaria vesca*, the woodland species. The raspberry is represented by *Rubus strigosus*, from which species have originated most of the cultivated varieties of red raspberries. There are three or four other native forms of the raspberry family, including an herbaceous dewberry, the dwarf Arctic raspberry, and a species growing very far north which produces yellow fruit. All four varieties have a wide distribution.

The gooseberry is represented by two species, of which *Ribes hirtellum* is one. From this species have originated several of the best cultivated varieties of American origin. Some of the native plants, selected from the woods, are cultivated by the settlers in some sections, and some plant producing fruit of very good quality have been found. The further improvement of this species, to supply the demand for a hardier gooseberry than we now have, is greatly to be desired.

Wild currants are found in nearly all sections of the country where there is any brush or forest growth. The black currant (*Ribes americanum*) is the more common form, and is cultivated to a considerable extent by the settlers. It is of good quality and size, but irregular in ripening. The native red currant is closely related to our cultivated red varieties (*Ribes rubrum*).

The juneberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*) is found in river valleys, or wherever there is any forest growth, in nearly all sections of the country. It is also locally known as the Saskatoon berry. Some cultivated varieties of this fruit are offered by the nurseries, of which the Success Juneberry is perhaps the best. It is, like the best of the other cultivated sorts, a dwarf variety. The dwarf form appears to offer better prospects for cultivation. The birds are very fond of this berry, and the fact has been a considerable source of discouragement to the cultivation of the fruit.

Viburnum opulus, commonly called the High Bush Cranberry, is a very common native fruit of considerable economic value. Plants for cultivation may be taken from the woods. It thrives on moist, retentive soils, and should receive about the same cultivation as other bush fruits of the garden. The fruit makes an excellent jelly, but for this purpose the berries should be gathered when they are quite firm. If left until the fruit becomes soft, it is difficult to make a good jelly from it. The fruit also makes a good sauce, when put through a colander to remove the seeds and skins.

Blueberries are found in the rough rocky region bordering Manitoba on the east and in the northern sections of the three prairie provinces. Tons of this fruit is annually gathered and sent to the nearest markets. The Winnipeg market is liberally supplied in the shipments from the eastern portion of the province and the bordering region of northwestern Ontario. The fruit finds a ready sale at remunerative prices. Growing as it usually does, on rough, poor land, it is perhaps not as well adapted to cultivation in the rich soil of the prairie districts as most of our other native fruits.—*Horticulture in the North.*

Evergreens From the Prairie.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

On page 1279 of your recent issue I notice an article on Prairie Planting of Evergreens. While this article contained some good pointers, any one who planted all the varieties therein recommended in our prairie provinces would make a sad mistake. The article was evidently written for some other prairie country than the Canadian prairie provinces. It might apply to the southern fringe of Minnesota and Iowa, but not north of the 49th parallel. None of the evergreens recommended for prairie planting in this article could be recommended for general planting here, with the possible exception of Scotch pine, and even this pine is not always hardy. The hardiness of Scotch pine will depend very much upon the place whence the seed was obtained. If obtained from a northern point in Europe it would no doubt be fairly satisfactory. We have ourselves had more than one lot of Scotch pine that proved useless here, as the trees were quite tender. The blue spruce is sometimes very satisfactory, but is rather expensive for general