Fruit in the Cowichan Valley

A Successful Experiment in Strawberry Growing Near Duncans.

Written for the Sunday Colonist by H. F. Pullen.

One of the best of the American farm journals recently said: "Farming is a profession requiring more shrewdness than law, more technical training than medicine, more uprightness than theology; it is its own reward. God made the farmers; the other professions are parasites." This quotation is only one linger pointing to the fact that the farmers of that country as well as this are beginning to realize that in order to farm successfully they must know their business and study it quite as thoroughly as does the lawyer or the doctor. The farmer should not only follow a certain course of action, but he should know just why he does in order that he may vary his course to suit changing conditions. It is a criminal act for a physician to prescribe a negligently wrong medicine or course of diet, and it is at anyrate very foolish for a farmer to take a false step through ignorance.

On Vancouver island it is a surprising fact that one cannot find a score of fruit growers who understand their business and who apply the knowledge in a practical way. The fact that a man has an orchard or that he grows pretty good apples does not make him a successful fruit farmer. He may even take prizes at the local show and yet know little about his business. One of the first qualifications for the person about to enter the business is that he have a natural adaptability for horticulture or at anyrate that he shall be willing to give his whole thought to it until all the details are mastered.

In my wanderings through the Cowichan valley I have not yet found one person who evidenced more than a passing interest in his orchard, and the condition of every orchard I saw justifies the statement that the orchard is not considered of great value except for the purpose of providing fruit for home use. An attempt has, however, been made to grow strawberries, and it is of this effort I wish to deal particularly right here.

At Sahotlam, some four or five miles from Duncan and a mile north of the Cowichan river, is a pretty little valley, at one end of which is a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, mostly cleared belonging to Mrs. Robinson. Here this good lady, aided by her children, milks about half a score of cows and keeps forty stock ewes, besides the usual minor details of mixed farming as conducted in that part of the world. There is, however, a hillside with a southwestern slope that is particularly well adapted to the growing of fruit and berries. Near where the house originally stood is an old and sadly neglected orchard which produces fine apples, and among the trees is an enormous cherry tree, supposed to be the largest on the island. Farther along a patch of between four and five acres of strawberries may be noticed.

Previous to the time of his death two years ago the late Mr. Robinson took a very great interest in the growing of strawberries, making it his particular hobby. At the time of his death he had about eight acres in crop, and his intention was to largely increase the area. Already he had installed a preserving plant to take care of the fruit during wet weather, and his brand of jam was making a name for itself throughout the surrounding country. Unhappily, however, his useful career was cut short, and his demise ended the dream of a large berry farm and jam factory. Mrs. Robinson found that expert knowledge was needed to carry on the business, so the easier plan was adopted of turning her attention more to the other departments of her large and fertile farm. The berry patch has thus been reduced to less than five acres, with the prospect of even a further reduction.

The fact that the strawberry growing was successful during Mr. Robinson's life shows that the conditions are suitable, and that when properly looked after the business can be made a dividend-payer.

Some of the berries are preserved at the time of picking, but the major portion are made into a pulp, from which jam is manufactured during the winter months. The chief advantage of this method of keeping is that the outlay for sugar does not come all at once, the jam being made as it is needed. In order to pulp the berries they are just brought to the boil in the preserving kettle, quickly transferred to a clean barrel through the vent hole and corked down until needed. Pulp thus barreled keeps well if care is exercised to make sure that the barrel is perfectly air-tight. The best jam is, however, made at the time the fruit is picked.

No difficulty is ever experienced in procuring pickers, for the Indians are always fond of light work where the women and children can earn pretty good wages. As with the hop-picking, they look forward to the berry-picking every year, and would feel it a loss if the business should be given up.

The mistake made in conducting this experiment seems to be that but the one kind of fruit is grown for the market. In order to be successful a rotation of fruits is necessary, so that when the strawberries are a small crop, as they were last year, the other fruits may make the necessary profits. Suppose that instead of planting eight acres of strawberries the land were laid out in acre plots planted one each to raspberries, loganberries, cherries, plums, prunes, apples, pears and strawberries, the failure of one crop would make little difference to the average for the season. Usually if the conditions are unfavorable to one fruit they are exceptionally favorable to some other.

A mistake made by the farmers of the district generally is that of growing winter apples instead of the early varieties. Of course as long as the aim is simply to raise fruit for home consumption the trees will be planted to suit the palates of the growers, but when fruit growing becomes a profession on which the operator depends for a living, as will eventually be the case, such varieties must be planted as will crop well and sell well, the latter point being even more important than the former.

When the Dominion government sees fit, in its wisdom, to establish the promised experimental station on this island more practical knowledge will be obtainable as to the capabilities of the different kinds of soil and the best varieties to plant in each. In the meantime the bureau of information established by the provincial government is in charge of the largest fruit grower on the island and one of the most successful. Mr. Palmer is always ready to advise, and a visit to his orchard a few miles from Victoria is one of the best object lessons a beginner could possibly have.

A Captain of Industry

Sketch of the Career of the Late E. B. Eddy, Canadian Manufacturer. Victim of 27 Fires, But Overcame all Obstacles to Success.

The following is a sketch of the career of the late E. B. Eddy, manufacturer, Hull, Que., whose death recently was chronicled in The Colonist:

The late Ezra Butler Eddy was born on his father's farm, Bristol, Vermont, August 22nd, 1827, being a son of the late Samuel Eddy, whose ancestors came originally from Scotland and who, by his wife, Clarissa Eastman, was a direct descendant of Miles Standish. The deceased was educated at the district school and entered upon his business career in New York city. Removing to Burlington, Vermont, he embarked in the manufacture of friction matches in 1851. Three years later he came to Hull, which then had a population of about 200 people, and after making matches by hand for a while, established a small factory on the site of the present paper mills. Gradually the industry grew under his genius until it was the largest of its kind in the British provinces.

Extended Rapidly.

In 1856 Mr. Eddy added to his business the manufacture of wooden and fibre ware, renting a small mill beside his match factory for the purpose, and employing about one hundred hands. His name soon became as famous for the excellence of its wares as it had in connection with the manufacture of matches. Eght years after his settling in Hull, Mr. Eddy branched into lumbering, and in this, as in everything else that he undertook, became a leader in the trade. The mill gradually increased its cut until the output reached eighty-five million feet annually. The concern was made a joint stock company in 1886, at which time Mr. Eddy, as president and managing director, associated with him such able men as Mr. W. H. Rowley as secretary-treasurer; Mr. G. H. Millen, general mechanical superintendent; Mr. S. S. Cushman, vice-president, and Mr. J. J. Gormully, K. C., solicitor. The manufacture of sulphite pulp was commenced in 1889 in the eastern section of Hull and it was the only part of the company's works left untouched by the disastrous fire of April 22, 1900. In 1892 the company gave up the sawmilling part of its business for the manufacture of paper, and it only went to show the genius of the man who could at one stroke accomplish such a change without throwing a man out of employment.

Employed 2,000 People.

The combined establishment is one of the largest and most prosperous in the world, employing as it does about 2,000 persons drawing annually close on $450,000 in wages. It comprises 27 mills and has 14 branches in other cities. The output of the paper mill is about one hundred tons a day or 30,000 tons a year and at the time of the last fire so dependent on the E. B. Eddy company were the newspapers for their supply of the paper that a number of proprietors were obliged to limit their editions or reduce the size. The capacity of the match factory is over fifty million matches a day, while the daily output of indurated fibre ware goes into the thousands.

Had Many Fires.

Mr. Eddy's career has not been one of uninterrupted prosperity. Since 1854 his establishment has been burned or scorched twenty-seven of twenty-eight times.

Nothing could daunt Mr. Eddy's magnificent optimism, his matchless courage, his never-failing patience, his bulldog tenacity. As fast as he elected factories, fires swept them away, but he persevered in spite of fate until the great fire of 1900 consumed all his industries and only heaps of stones and twisted iron marked their site. Then it really seemed as though the last crushing calamity had overtaken Mr. Eddy. If the blow staggered him he did not show it. In the old Trust building on Sparks street, a notable conference took place, at which Mr. Eddy, Mr. Millen, the general superintendent; Mr. Rowley, the secretary-treasurer, and Mr. Gormally, the solicitor, were present. Mr. Eddy had before him a sheet of rough paper, and on this he rapidly sketched the outlines of new buildings. "Millen," he said, "I want mills here and you will have to rebuild. Rowley I will tell you how much money we want, and you will have to raise it. Gormally, as our solicitor, I trust to you to keep us out of legal difficulties." The conference ended with each of the quartet fully apprised of the work he had to do.

The loss in the big fire was not less than one and a quarter million dollars. Sixty or seventy thousand dollars was realized from the iron and steel in the debris representing former costly machinery.

A Statesman.

In the early development of the match-making industry which now turns out fifty-two million matches a day, Mr. Eddy drove all over Ontario and Quebec in all sorts of weather. He scattered boxes of matches wherever he went, and so introduced them into every centre. As far west as Sarnia he drove, and eastward to Quebec. Later he returned and collected the money for his matches. Mr. Eddy was a great salesman, and stories are told of his slipping quietly away for days at a time and coming back with orders totalling fifteen or sixteen carloads. He had often traveled Canada from end to end, and was accustomed annually to make a trip of inspection which extended from Halifax to Winnipeg. Between times he would extend his journeys to the coast. He had a great talent for organization, was a man of his word, and never bore malice.

British to the Core.

His motto was "Canada for the Canadians." Although born in the United States, he was a great Britisher. On one occasion the secretary-treasurer, Mr. Rowley, drew attention to a fine painting of a lion of which he asked Mr. Eddy's acceptance. "The old lion, eh," he queried. "Well, he can't be any more British than I am." In pursuance of what he called his Canadian policy he was a vigorous and constant advocate of an export duty upon pulp.

Almost all his life Mr. Eddy enjoyed robust health. He was very abstemious, and every morning took a fourteen-mile ride on one of his hunters. He had a fine stable and guarded it with greatest care. On one occasion he drove with Mr. Rowley for thirteen and a half days, covering in that time over a thousand miles. The horses were only changed once, and the original pair were brought back in the pink of condition.

He was honored by his fellow citizens by being returned as member for Ottawa county in 1871, but was defeated in 1875 by Dr. Duhamel. He was also mayor of Hull on several occasins, and many important civic projects were carried out during his regime.

Mr. Eddy was a Conservative in politics and a Presbyterian in religion, and high up in the Masonic order, Eddy lodge in Hull being named after him.

He married, December 1st, 1846, Zaida Diana, daughter of Mr. W. F. Arnold. She died in September, 1893, and in the following year he married Jennie G. H. Sheriff, daughter of the late John Sheriff, of Chatham, N. B., who survives him, as does one daughter, Mrs. Bessey, by his first wife.

Was Generous.

Mr. Eddy was generous and public-spirited to a degree. On two or three occasions when the inhabitants of Hull had their homes destroyed in the conflagratons so frequent there, he gave free the lumber with which to rebuild them. All the stone for the front of the old Catholic church, a massive structure, was also provided without charge by him. His employees received numerous little kindnesses at his hands, and at Christmas and other festive seasons many a turkey through his generosity has found its way to their homes. Only a few weeks ago a young man, a comparative stranger, wrote him for a sum of money to enable him to go to Queen's University, and Mr. Eddy gave freely, taking his word for the repayment.

It was mainly through his tireless energy in soliciting subscriptions that, while president of the board of the Protestant General Hospital, the sum necessary for the erection of the new wing was raised.

Sang froid and imperturbability were characteristic of him, and in this connection the following story is related: He was in Boston at the time of one of the big fires which visited Hull, and a wire was sent to him stating that his factory was on fire and threatened with destruction. The answer that came back to the sender was: "Put out the flames."

Mr. Booth's Tribute.

Mr. J. R. Booth, his great rival in the timber business, expressed great regret at Mr. Eddy's death. "I have known him," he said, "for over fifty years, and nothing ever occurred to disturb the friendship between us. He was a man of clear brain and powerful will, who always carried out whatever he undertook. He thought quickly, and, once having made his mind up, could not be turned from his purpose. Once he had given his word he could always be relied upon to carry it out. He was at one time one of the largest lumber manufacturers here, but he branched off from that, and went into the paper business. About the same time I, like Mr. Eddy, went into another enterprise. With me, however, it was railroad business. Mr. Eddy did not more greatly admire my efforts in that direction than I did his success in the manufacture of paper. I am afraid Mr. Eddy got his death-blow in 1900, when his vast works were swept away in the great fire. His indomitable will forced him to rebuild those works, but I shall always think the disastrous fire was responsible for the weakened state of health subsequently. His death is an irreparable loss not only to Hull, but to the whole of Canada, and his works will long endure after him."

To Continue the Works.

It is understood that all provision has been made for the continuance of the E. B. Eddy Company's works. The management is a close corporation, and are not prepared to afford information with respect to the sums invested in the business. It is estimated, however, that the industries as they stand today are worth over $4,000,000.

Does Your FOOD Digest Well?

When the food is imperfectly digested the full benefit is not derived from it by the body and the purpose of eating is defeated; no matter how good the food or how carefully adapted to the wants of the body it may be. Thus the dyspeptic often becomes thin, weak and debilitated, energy is lacking, brightness, snap and vim are lost, and in their place come dullness, loss of appetite, depression and langour. It takes no great knowledge to know when one has indigestion, some of the following symptoms generally exist, viz.: constipation, sour stomach, variable appetite, headache, heartburn, gas in the stomach, etc.

The great point is to cure it, to get back bounding health and vigor.

BURDOCK BLOOD BITTERS

is constantly effecting cures of dyspepsia because it acts in a natural yet effective way upon all the organs involved in the process of digestion, removing all clogging impurities and making easy the work of digestion and assimilation.

Mr. R. G. Harvey, Ameliasburg, Ont., writes: "I have been troubled with dyspepsia for several years and after using three bottles of Burdock Blood Bitters I was completely cured. I cannot praise B.B.B. enough for what it has done for me. I have not had a sign of dyspepsia since."

Do not accept a substitute for B.B.B. There is nothing "just as good."

By Royal Warrant to H.M. KING EDWARD VII.

"CEREBOS" TABLE SALT.

Every grain of food is made more nourishing by using it in the kitchen and at table.

Wholesale Agents:—R. P. Rithet & Co., Ltd., Victoria.

FIGHTING BUGS WITH BUGS.

Montreal Gazette.

In the current issue of the Century Magazine there appears a very interesting article by Mr. W. S. Harwood on "Saving California Fruit Crops." The fruit growing industry of that state has for years been fighting various forms of insect life injurious to fruit cultivation, and those concerned are now convinced that they have finally demonstrated the only effective manner in which this may be done. The methods in use elsewhere have practically been described. Sprays, washes, dips and fumigations are cumbersome; they are costly in material, equipment and labor, and are often ineffectual. Destruction of the infected tree or shrub has not proven efficacious, because it has only drawn the pest to some other form of plant life. California believes that it has found a better way—the provision of the inevitable balance of nature. Every pest has its natural foe. When a pest obtains the ascendancy and begins to be a destroyer it means that the balance of nature has been disturbed and that the foe of the pest is required to re-establish it. Somewhere on the face of the globe that foe exists, and the work undertaken by the California Horticultural commission is the seeking out, propagation and distribution of the foes of these pests which are injuring or threaten to injure the fruit orchards of the great fruit-growing state. The work began a number of years ago, when the catling cushion-scale, a tiny insect multiplying with remarkable rapidity, was doing great damage to the orange orchards. It had come from Australia. There it occurred to some one to look for the remedy. It was found—a variety of ladybird, a brilliant red insect, perhaps an eighth of an inch in width. It was imported and given a chance. California had discovered that the proper way of fighting bugs is with bugs. The orchards were saved. After the catling cushion scale came another pest—the black scale. The black scale exists in Cape Colony and a search there revealed its enemy, a black four-winged fly. Seven of these flies were imported and last year did great work in the localities in which they were introduced. A third pest peculiar to orange trees is now to be fought with a parasite obtained from China through the efforts of Mr. George Compere, an Australian expert in insect life and the means of combatting it. Then there is the coddling moth, which has done millions of damage to apple orchards all over this continent. They have the coddling moth in Spain, but it is not a pest, because there there exists a little fly, the sole aim of whose life it is to kill the worm to which the eggs of the coddling moth give birth. It is equipped with a curious stiletto-like sting, about as long as itself, which it projects from a sheath and then, by bringing the full force of its body into play, can drive down into the bark of a tree where the worm is found, killing it much in the same way as a woodpecker performs its grubbing feat. Today this fly is engaged in keeping the coddling moth down in California. Another old friend, the San Jose scale, has also been controlled by an insect foe. This foe came upon the scene of his own accord. It was noticed in several districts of California in which the San Jose scale had done a great deal of damage, that it was disappearing and from no apparent cause. Investigation showed that there was a cause, and this was the appearance of a native insect which had developed a great appetite for the scale and which was in consequence, multiplying with unusual rapidity. Finally there is the gypsy-moth, the latest shade tree scourge. The gypsy-moth is found all over Europe, but nowhere does it attain such enormous numbers as in Massachusetts. The reason is found in the fact that there are no less than fifty-two species of parasites known to affect this particular injurious species.

The question will naturally be asked if new and hidden dangers do not exist in the introduction of these destroying parasites. California experts do not think so. They point out that the great majority of these parasites will only thrive upon the particular pest it is desired to be rid of, and that if this pest should be exterminated it would mean the end of the destroying parasite as well. The parasite will not entirely extinguish the pest, but will only reduce it to proportions where it is no longer a great source of danger—restoring the balance of nature.

COLDS CAUSE SORE THROAT

Laxative Bromo Quinine, the world-wide Cold and Grip remedy, removes the cause. Call for the full name and look for signature of E. W. Grove. 25c.

"See The Island First."

IN PREPARATION

A Special Edition of The Colonist

Devoted to the interests and prospects of Vancouver Island in general and Victoria in particular.

This edition will be handsomely illustrated with halftones, and will treat of

Farming, Mining, Lumbering, Smelting, Manufacturing

And other commercial interests present and prospective.

Victoria's unrivalled attractiveness as a city of homes and a tourist resort par excellence will be given due prominence.

The present year, will without doubt, mark an epoch in the history of the development of VANCOUVER ISLAND, and it is the intention to have this edition of The Colonist entirely in keeping with the importance of the occasion.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I intend to apply at the next sitting of the Board of Licensing Commissioners for a transfer to Joseph Boscowitz of my retail liquor license to sell spirituous and fermented liquors on the premises known as the Imperial Bar, situate in the Imperial Building at the corner of View and Douglas Streets.

Dated the 5th day of February, A. D. 1906.

C. E. CAPPLEMANN.
By his Attorney in Fact,
Joseph Boscowitz.
f6

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that The Savoy Limited intend to apply at the next regular sittings of the Board of Licensing Commissioners for the City of Victoria, to be held on the 14th March, 1906, for a transfer of its retail liquor license now held by it to sell spirituous or fermented liquors at the premises known as No. 107 Government Street, Victoria, B. C., to the premises situate at No. 108 Government Street, Victoria, B. C.

SAVOY LTD.
Per A. Curtin,
Sec'y.
Seal. Witness:
Wm. C. Moresby.

JAMES MITCHELL,
Agent, VICTORIA, B. C.

HOUSEKEEPERS' WASHING DAY

is relieved of half its burdens by using

E. B. EDDY'S INDURATED FIBRE WARE TUBS AND PAILS.

Being LIGHT, STRONG and DURABLE, and made in ONE PIECE, with no hoops to fall off, their superiority is at once apparent

FOR SALE EVERYWHERE.

V. W. MITCHELL,
Agent, VANCOUVER, B. C.