

The Courier

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EDITORIAL NOTE.—Referring to our editorial: "Land Settlement for Soldiers or War Grantees!" published in last week's issue of this paper, and to our promise to publish a further article, dealing with the financial side of the gratuity question, we desire to inform our readers that this article will appear in next week's issue.

Editor, Courier.

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

Dominion Parliament

(Continued from Page 1.)

several hours were spent in considering public works department estimates. In connection with the third reading of the war appropriation bill, Sir Thomas White announced that additional borrowing powers would probably have to be sought because only \$200,000,000 can be borrowed under this bill. This was because the government had overborrowed on previous war appropriation acts.

Major G. W. Andrews, Winnipeg Centre, was unequivocally opposed to prohibition, declaring that the tormented world was in need of a sedative. Liquor, he said, had saved thousands of men from death in the trenches.

A debate on the question of national schools was precipitated in the commons on Wednesday, May 14th, by Dr. J. W. Edwards, member of Frontenac.

Dr. Edwards had a motion on the order paper calling for the establishment of a national school system, but it was not reached before private members' days were abolished for the session, so he started a discussion today on the motion to go into supply. The debate which ensued at times inclined to be heated and R. H. Butts, Cape Breton, south, as a mark of disapproval walked out of the house during the course of Dr. Edwards' speech.

A statement by Dr. Edwards that there were whole counties in Ontario and Quebec where no provision is made for the education of children of the minority, drew forth denials from Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux and J. A. Robb, Chateauguay. As a representative Protestant of Quebec province, Mr. Robb stated that he was well satisfied with educational conditions in that province.

H. C. Hoken, Toronto West, complimented Dr. Edwards for bringing up the matter and praised the Norris government of Manitoba for handling the separate school question. He said that it was the duty of parliament to see that national school sentiment is created in Canada.

Soothing syrups containing opium were widely condemned in the house Thursday, May 15th. From medical men on both sides, the plea came that the sale of such syrups should be prohibited by law.

A senate bill to amend the Patent Medicine act was under consideration. "If," declared Dr. Beland, "Canadian mothers were aware of the constituents of some of these medicines, they would not think of giving them to their children."

Dr. Beland moved an amendment to prohibit the sale of such patent medicines for administration to children under 15 years of age. Discussion which followed favored the amendment but would have it go further.

Then Dr. Beland changed the wording. As it now stands, the amendment, if adopted, will totally prohibit the sale of patent medicines "containing opium or its derivatives for internal use."

The government's housing scheme was the subject of discussion in the house on Friday, May 16th. There was a vote of \$25,000,000 for the scheme under consideration and Hon. N. W. Rowell sketched the general purposes and the reasons which had induced the government to take action. There was some criticism of the plan on the ground that it did not go far enough.

While recognizing that it was a step in the right direction, Dr. Michael Clark, of Red Deer, remarked that something bigger and better was expected.

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

GARDEN FRUITS

Experience has shown that, given proper care and attention many kinds of small fruits can be successfully grown in Saskatchewan, and no garden should be considered complete until a fruit plantation has been established. Any well drained garden soil will be satisfactory, but a location slightly higher than the surrounding country is desirable as it will avoid many frosts which affect only the lower lying fields. Protection by good windbreak is essential for the best results. A site having a northern exposure is recommended as it will retard the blooming period in the spring and so save the blossoms from the late spring frosts, but this result can also be obtained by the use of heavy mulches, which are left around the roots of the fruit bearing trees and bushes until well into the spring.

The land on which fruit trees or bushes are to be planted should be well manured and deeply worked during the year prior to planting. After planting thorough surface cultivation is required to keep down weeds and grass and to prevent the loss of soil moisture by evaporation.

The best tool to use for this work is a one-horse cultivator with many teeth. If care is taken, in planting, to keep the rows straight in at least two directions, cross cultivation will be possible and little or no hand hoeing should be required. The soil should not be thrown up in ridges along the rows, but should be kept level and the cultivation should be shallow, as most garden fruits root near the surface. All kinds of fruiting plants respond to the application of manure, which should be used as a winter mulch and dug in around the roots the following spring.

Selection of Nursery Stock. In starting to raise fruit, the selection of good nursery stock is absolutely essential to success. The first requisite is that the varieties selected must be hardy under our conditions. Young trees or shrubs, one or two years old, are usually the most vigorous. If possible, secure stock that has been grown in a nearby nursery, as it will be better adapted to our climatic and soil conditions and there will also be less danger of loss of plants through drying out in transit. It is advisable to have the stocks delivered in the fall and heeled in your own garden over winter. Ship all nursery stock by express and arrange to take delivery immediately it arrives at your local station. As soon as the plants are received, the roots should be thoroughly moistened and then placed in a shallow trench and covered with earth. The tops should later be covered with straw and earth before the cold weather commences.

Transplanting. The trees and bushes should be set out in a permanent plantation during April. Great care should be taken to prevent the roots becoming dry during the process of transplanting. The plants should be set in the ground several inches deeper than they were when standing in the nursery row. The hole in which the roots are to be inserted should be large enough to give them plenty of room without crowding and the soil in the bottom should be loose and fine. With the plant in position, throw in a layer of the loose surface soil and tramp it down tightly about the roots, fill in another layer and repeat the tramping until the hole is full. A little water should be added after the first layer of earth has been tramped down, but further watering is not required when planting is done in the spring. It is seldom advisable to place manure around the roots as it is likely to cause them to dry out. It is a much better practice to have all of the soil in a fertile condition before starting the plantation. Under our conditions, when planting small trees, it is a good plan to drive a stout stick into the ground beside the tree and tie the tree to it. This will save it from much wind injury and will insure straighter growth.

The following suggestions in regard to the methods of handling some of the more hardy fruits will prove of service.

Apples. Considerable experimental work with apples has been done on the Experimental Farm at Indian Head and also by a few enterprising farmers throughout the province. The greatest success has been met with in the growing of Crabs, and the crossbred varieties that have been produced by the late Dr. Wm. Saunders. None of the standard varieties have yet given general satisfaction. The crossbred varieties produce fruit about the size of the ordinary crab and are particularly suitable for preserving and jelly making. These trees appear to be somewhat hardier than the crab varieties. Three or four of the crab and cross bred varieties should be given a place in the fruit plantation. The methods of plant-

ing and care required are similar to those herein recommended for the plum.

The crossbred varieties which have given the greatest satisfaction at Indian Head are the Charles, Columbia, Sylvia, Jewell, Prince, Pioneer, Tony and Eve.

The following varieties of crab apples have also been found hardy and generally satisfactory. Hyslop, Transcendent, Philip, Lyman and Whiting.

The Wealthy, Hibernial and Charlamoff are standard varieties which might be tried out with advantage in exceptional favourable locations.

Currants and Gooseberries. These are two of our hardiest fruits and do well with a comparatively small amount of care. They do best on a rich, sandy loam that is well supplied with moisture. As the roots run near the surface the cultivation should never be deep after the bushes are planted.

Success or failure with these fruits depend largely on the pruning of the plants. The fruit is borne on the canes of the second and following seasons. Ten or twelve good canes will yield more and better fruit than a larger number. It is generally considered that canes should be removed as soon as they have once produced fruit and an equal number of good canes should be allowed to grow each year. In this way, the top will be renewed every three years, and the best quantity and quality of fruit will be insured. In selecting the new canes which are to be retained choose canes of erect growing habit and preserve an open topped bush. Gooseberries and currant plants will live for many years, but they generally yield best between their fourth and eighth years and the plantation should be renewed at least once in ten years.

New plantations are usually made with cuttings taken from the new shoots. Eight inch cuttings taken from healthy shoots early in August and immediately planted about 5 inches deep in well worked soil should develop a good root growth by fall. If it is desired to economize space, set the canes in a row about 12 inches apart and transplant in the second spring into their permanent location. Plants should be set about 6 feet apart on the square in the plantation.

Gooseberries are somewhat more tender than currants, and will frequently winterkill unless well sheltered in the fall with straw or manure. Many growers mulch the ground heavily between the rows of currant and gooseberry bushes with straw as soon as the bearing season is past, and do not remove the mulch until the following spring. The following are hardy and desirable varieties:

Black Currant—Climax, Dominion, Magnus, Topsy and Saunders.

Red Currant—Victoria Red, Red Dutch, Red Grape, Rankin's Red, Ruby Castle and Cumberland Red.

White Currant—White Grape, White Cherry and White Imperial.

Gooseberries—Smith's Improved, Downing and Houghton.

Plums. The plum is the tree fruit which has been found most satisfactory for general use throughout Saskatchewan. Native plums are found growing wild in various parts of the province and these when transplanted to the garden give very satisfactory yields. In addition to these a group of hybrid plums have been developed in the Dakotas and have proven quite hardy when tried out at the Indian Head Experimental Farm.

Plums do best on a heavy soil and require good protection from winds, as heavy storms at blossoming time cause serious loss of fruit if the trees are unprotected. The trees should be set at 10 foot intervals, and good surface cultivation is very important. The soil around the roots should be heavily mulched in the fall to prevent early blooming. Very little pruning is required except that the trees should be cut back and encouraged to take on a bush form. Trees of two or more varieties should always be planted, as many varieties are self sterile and will not produce fruit unless their blossoms are fertilized with pollen from trees of another variety.

The following are the hybrid varieties that have given the best results at Indian Head: Assiniboine, Tapa, Hanska, Winnipeg and Huya. The De Soto, Opata and Terry are additional varieties that have given good results in private plantations.

The Compass Cherry, which is a hybrid produced by crossing the native Sand Cherry with the American Plum, is also perfectly hardy, but on account of its lateness in ripening it is not highly recommended.

Raspberries. Raspberries are another standard fruit in the west. They



do best on a rich sandy loam that is moist and well drained. Two methods of planting are in common use. In the first the plants are set out in hills, 2 or 3 plants to the hill—hills about 6 feet apart, and the other method is to set the plants in rows about 6 feet apart and the plants 2 feet apart in the row. The former method is, however, considered to be much the better, as it permits of cross cultivation, making it easier to keep down the suckers and to keep the surface soil fine so as to retain the moisture so much needed to this crop. Good strong one-year-old plants should be used for planting and should be set into the ground about an inch deeper than they were before. The tops should be cut off a few inches above the ground to force the development of new shoots, which will bear fruit the second season. The fruit is borne on canes of the preceding year's growth. The number of fruit bearing canes should not exceed 5 or 6 per plant and these should be cut back in the spring to a height of about 3 feet to force the plant to develop lateral shoots on which the fruit is borne. After the canes have borne fruit they should be cut off and destroyed as they will not bear fruit again. Only a sufficient number of suckers should be allowed to develop to replace the canes destroyed and to provide new stalks for transplanting.

Frequent shallow surface cultivation is desirable during the growing season but must be stopped when the fruit is ripening or the berries will be shaken off. After the fruit has been picked, a good mulch of well rotted manure should be placed between the rows and with the approach of winter the canes should be bent over and covered with 3 or 4 inches of soil for winter protection. If left covered until early in the following May, they are not liable to come into bloom until after danger of frost is over.

The following are hardy and satisfactory varieties: Herbert, Cuthbert, Marlborough, Louden and Oheta.

Black and Purple cane varieties are not so hardy as the Red, but where there is exceptional good shelter a few of these sorts should be planted. The soil requirements and methods of handling for these varieties are similar to those of the red varieties. The most hardy varieties are the Gregg and Olden.

Strawberries. Little attention has yet been given to strawberry culture in Saskatchewan but enough has been done to demonstrate that the crop can be grown successfully under our average conditions, and when this is realized many families will certainly set out plantations. Give good wind break protection any good moist soil will produce strawberries, but the ideal location is on a sandy loam, which has a northern exposure. The soil should be well manured and deeply summer-fallowed during the year prior to the spring when the plants are to be set out. Order healthy one-year-old plants, having roots about 3 inches long and set them out as soon as received, in rows 4 feet apart, plants 2 feet apart in the row. Use a spade to open the soil, spread the roots out well and set the plant in such a depth that the crown will be just level with the surface. Pack the soil well around the roots and if the season is dry, water occasionally until the roots are well established. Frequently shallow surface cultivation is required during the summer. All blossoms which appear during the first season should be removed and not more than four runners per plant should be allowed to take root. These runner plants should be kept in the row and spaced so that the moisture will be evenly divided. In the fall mulch the bed with 2 or 3 inches of clean straw to protect the plants and hold snow. Leave the mulch in place until the plants show signs of life the following spring and then rake it carefully off the rows. The straw may be left between the rows to keep the fruit clean, until after it is picked.

Strawberries produce their best crop in the year after that in which the plantation is set out. Some growers advocate setting out a new bed each year and plowing up the old one as soon as it has borne fruit, but this is not necessary, as one or two more good crops can be produced by renovating the bed.

This can be done by removing the tops immediately after the last picking and then plowing between the rows leaving only 5 or 6 inches on each side of the row returned. Apply a good coating of well rotted manure and disc the patch until the surface is leveled down. Growth will soon start and enough new plants will be produced to make a good stand. These plants should, of course, be again protected with a mulch on the approach of winter. This treatment can be repeated the following year, but after the third crop the bed should be plowed up. A new bed should be started in the spring of the year in which the old bed is to be destroyed, using one-year-old plants from the old bed as planting stock.

In selecting varieties of strawberries it must be remembered that some varieties produce no pollen and consequently will not bear fruit unless planted along with pollen bearing sorts.

The Senator Dunlop is considered the best variety for western planting, being very hardy and producing perfect flowers. Warfield and Beder Wood are also hardy and perfect flowered varieties.

Native Fruits. There are a number of native fruits sometimes used for culinary purposes, which are deserving of attention, and which, if transplanted to the garden will give excellent results. Among these may be mentioned the Native Red Cherry, the Choke Cherry, the Saskatoon Berry, the High Bush Cranberry and the Native Wild Currants and Gooseberries.

The Native Red Cherry, now commonly found in many bluffs and coulees and so highly prized on account of the exceptional quality of the jelly which can be made from its fruit, will well repay transplanting. Young trees should be lifted in the fall, heeled in for winter and planted in the spring in the manner previously described when discussing plums. The trees attain considerable size and should be planted at, at least, 10 foot intervals. Thorough cultivation during the growing period and winter mulching to protect the roots and prevent early blossoming are necessary. This tree is particularly subject to Black Knot; the branches should be examined carefully and all affected parts should be pruned off early each spring.

The High Bush Cranberry (Viburnum Opulus) is frequently grown for ornamental purposes, while its fruit can be utilised for jelly and jam making. The plant is native to moist and heavy land, but under good cultivation will thrive well in any garden soil. If grown for fruit purposes only, the plants should be set in rows about 6 feet apart with the plants 4 feet apart in the row, and should receive the same cultivation and mulching as previously advised for currants.

The Native Wild Currants and Gooseberries, if handled as described when dealing with the cultivated varieties of the same species, will greatly improve in quality and are naturally well adapted to our climatic conditions.

OUR ORGANISED GRAIN GROWERS

SOCIETY'S SAFETY VALVE.

Society's safety valve is in the free expression of opinion. Probably there is not to be found a freer people than those of Great Britain, which is largely because there is less press censorship and more freedom of speech, than exists in any other portion of the English-speaking world.

In Hyde Park, London, any evening of the week, or Sunday afternoon, when climatic conditions permit, "soap-boxers" harangue on every subject; from anarchy to the plenary inspiration of the Bible. And it is because of this recognition of individual opinion that the "right little island" enjoys a greater immunity from national disturbances than these nations where somebody is always trying to sit on the lid.

DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLE

This democratic principle is one of the fundamentals of the Grain Growers' Association; where difference of opinion is more to be desired than that solid indifference which characterises so many sections of English-speaking people. Recently a communication appeared on the Grain Growers' page from the pen of Geo. Miller, Lanigan, who criticised the speech of Hon. Chas. Dunning at the Grain Growers' Convention, recently held in the city of Regina.

MR. HILLIER REPLIES.

Under a recent date, Ernest O. Hillier of Eastleigh, takes exception to Mr. Miller's remarks as follows:

"May I say a few words regarding Mr. Geo. Miller's (Lanigan) criticism of the Hon. Chas. H. Dunning's speech at the Convention? In my opinion and the Convention fully endorsed the idea, the Government should fix the price of wheat."

Mr. Dunning said the Government was under a moral obligation to fix it and he was quite correct. When the Government found wheat was going to be too high, they fixed the price; so that the commodities manufactured from wheat should not be too high in price; and they did quite right. Therefore, are they not morally bound to fix the price when the producer has prepared the land for this year's crop at a cost of War prices for labor, etc?

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The Choke Cherry and Saskatoon Berry will thrive well on any well worked moist soil, and might be cultivated to advantage in sections where they are not now growing wild. The fruit of the former possesses a peculiarly astringent quality, but this can be overcome in preserving and very tasty jam and jelly produced.

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Echoes of this scandal were heard in the House of Commons on Monday last, when Hon. Charles Murphy drew the attention of the Government to an open letter which had been addressed to Sir Thomas White by Professor James Mavor, of Toronto; which said there was a scandalous proceeding now going on in British Columbia, ostensibly under the auspices of the Dominion Government. The letter claimed that valuers are already at work at Brilliant, valuating the Donkhorb lands and other properties, in order that the settlement could be broken up and their lands appropriated.

Having so prepared the way for the coming storm, the Scout rises to remark that old Dr. Johnson, when he coined that famous, though incomplimentary statement that "Patriotism is the last refuge of the scoundrel," merely proved that human nature is much the same in all periods of the world's history. A great deal which has passed as patriotism during the last five years has been of the Dr. Johnson brand—and one of the most scandalous is now being enacted in British Columbia, in connection with the alleged surrender of the lands held by the Donkhorbs, at Brilliant, in that province.

The Scout is in a position to know that, while the returned soldiers are not making any public protest against this iniquity, they are no party to the agitation; that it is of the character indicated by the writer of the letter to the Acting Prime Minister and a scandalous attempt to destroy the basic principle of their Co-operative Commonwealth, viz: co-operative trading. As this is also a basic principle of the Grain Growers movement, the scandal now being enacted against the Donkhorbs of British Columbia is quite as likely to be inaugurated against the Farmers movement of the nearer west.

"Eternal vigilance is still the price of liberty."

There is no charge of disloyalty against these Donkhorbs, they have not interfered with their neighbours; they do not throng the police courts. Their great offence appears to be that, having purchased the lands they now occupy, in its wild state, at \$100 per acre,—from land speculators who first had cleared off the best of the timber—they have by co-operative effort and trading, given offence to the merchants and speculators of the adjoining towns and cities, that an agitation has been inaugurated with a view to compelling them to relinquish their holdings.

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