

## An Ardent Horticulturist

THE accompanying photograph shows the Rev. A. H. Scott, M.A., Perth, who was elected in Toronto President, for the second time, of the Ontario Horticultural Association at the Horticultural Convention held here during the second week in November. Mr. Scott has travelled much in many lands, but he thinks his native land the best land of all. Addressing a large audience in the University Convocation Hall on the evening of November 12th, Mr. Scott used these words:

"I quarrel with no one who stands up for some other place east, west, or elsewhere. But the best east and the best west that I know of is the spot on this



Rev. A. H. Scott, President Ontario Horticultural Association.

continent that lies between Patricia on the one side and the St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes on the other, the spot in North America that is surrounded at the one end by the district of the Lake of the Woods and at the other by my native Glengarry."

From Toronto at the close of the Ontario convention Mr. Scott proceeded to Baltimore, Maryland, to be one of the representatives from this Province to the convention of the American Civic Association. On this occasion the Hon. James Bryce, Ambassador Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Great Britain to the United States, who ad-

ressed the convention on National Parks, was elected a life member of the Association, and Mr. Scott was called at the same time to a place on the Executive Board.

He is a native of Glengarry county, a graduate of Queen's University, an ex-Moderator of the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa, and the Minister of St. Andrew's Church, Perth, in the Presbyterian Church in Canada. He has a charmingly situated country place, "Elmbank Crescent," in Charlottetown township, near the confluence of the St. Lawrence and Ottawa rivers, where his fondness for the soil and for out-of-door architecture has vent for a little season each year. He is also one of the officers of the Perth Horticultural Society, which is one of the oldest, and bears the reputation of being one of the best informed horticultural societies in Canada.

In line with his tastes as a traveller and a lover of nature, Mr. Scott has paid special attention to matters relating to civic improvement and rural advancement in Canada. In visiting the cities of Great Britain, Scandinavia, and the continent, he has made a special study of the architectural principles that have made Paris the admiration of Europe. Two years ago from the public platform he outlined the history and progress of Washington, after a third visit to the American capital; and he has said many a time since that if the people of Canada realized what they had in and around the capital of their own Dominion, and would make judicious and generous use of the natural facilities that are found there, before a quarter of a century would elapse this young country of North America would have one of the most inviting capital cities in the whole world.

When Ambassador Bryce at the Baltimore convention was encouraging the people of the United States to set aside more national parks, Mr. Scott said to a Britisher who sat beside him in the audience that if wise discernment would set apart in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, to say nothing of other Provinces in the Dominion, forest areas that lie there for the carving out, we might have "National Parks," each one of them a thousand times larger than New Forest in England or Fontainebleau in France. By so doing Canadians would give evidence of sagacity and foresight, and at the same time they would be dedicating expansive areas to the health and happiness of generations to come.

## Care of Old Trees

ALMOST every garden contains one or more veterans which either for their botanical interest or for the associations that belong to them are precious to their owners. Some trees again, like the oak, are picturesque in decay. At any rate, one of the commonest applications made to tree experts is for advice as to the preservation of all trees. The two more immediate causes of premature decay are starvation at the root and injury by storms and disease. Such trees as the beech and horse chestnut that root close to the surface of the soil—quite differently, for example, to the oak—may often be invigorated by covering the ground with a few inches of good soil or short manure. Artificial watering during long drought, provided it is thoroughly done, is another great help. Trees with large crowns of branches are frequently seen thinly furnished with foliage and altogether sickly in appearance owing to unhealthy or insufficient roots. The balance between top and bottom has been destroyed. To restore it in some measure, the top growth may be reduced by pruning out and shortening back branches here and there, wherever it can be done without spoiling the tree. This demands careful judgment, but some old trees in a sickly state can certainly be rejuvenated in this way. It is of no value in the case of trees with decayed trunks, nor with those which will not break from the old wood.

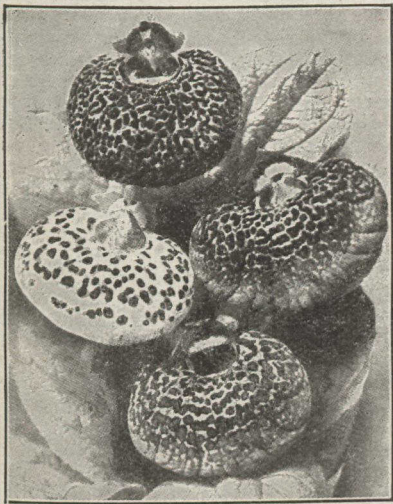
Old trees with insecure branches can often be preserved from mutilation by storms if the main branches are fastened together or to the trunk. The practice of putting an iron collar round the branch should be abandoned. The

iron prevents the natural expansion of the branch, and ultimately chokes it. A better way is to use a strong iron rod with a plate at the end, and, instead of supporting the branch by encircling it, a hole is bored right through the centre of it, through which the rod is pushed from the outer side. In this way the weight is borne by the iron plate, which should, by removing sufficient bark, be allowed to fit close in to the wood. New wood will gradually close over and hide the plate, and instead of an ugly collar cutting into the wood, the only evidence of artificial aid is the rod.

It is important that branches or snags that have to be removed should always be sawn off close to the trunk or large branch from whence they spring. When a stump even no more than a few inches long, is left, the new bark and wood are unable to close over it, and the wood ultimately decays and acts as a conduit for moisture and fungoid diseases. A coating of liquid tar over the wound, renewed once or twice till the new bark has closed over, is a perfect protection against these evils. Trees decayed in the centre, with only an outer layer of healthy wood, are, of course, doomed, but by filling up all holes in the early stages of decay, and thus keeping out moisture, their term of life can often be lengthened by many years. Holes made by woodpeckers can sometimes be plugged up with a piece of some very hard-wooded tree. This, if left on a level with the bark, will often enable the latter to close over the hole. Large holes may be filled with cement or even built up with bricks, the surface being made watertight and tarred over.

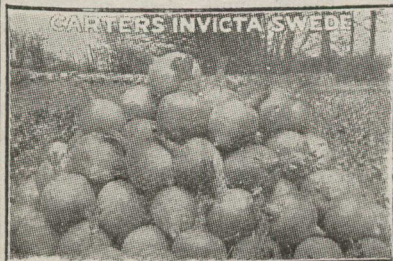
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