

The Canadian Horticulturist

COMBINED WITH
**THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST
 AND BEEKEEPER**

With which has been incorporated
 The Canadian Bee Journal.
 Published by The Horticultural
 Publishing Company, Limited

PETERBORO, ONTARIO
 H. BRONSON COWAN Managing Director

The Only Magazines in Their Field in the
 Dominion

OFFICIAL ORGANS OF THE ONTARIO AND QUEBEC
 FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATIONS
 AND OF THE ONTARIO AND NEW BRUNSWICK
 BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

REPRESENTATIVES UNITED STATES

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1. The Canadian Horticulturist is published in two editions on the 25th day of the month preceding date of issue. The first edition is known as The Canadian Horticulturist. It is devoted exclusively to the horticultural interests of Canada. The second edition is known as The Canadian Horticulturist and Beekeeper. In this edition several pages of matter appearing in the first issue are replaced by an equal number of pages of matter relating to the bee-keeping interests of Canada.

2. Subscription price of The Canadian Horticulturist in Canada and Great Britain, 60 cents a year; two years, \$1.00, and of The Canadian Horticulturist and Beekeeper, \$1.00 a year. For United States and local subscriptions in Peterboro (not called for at the Post Office), 25 cents extra year, including postage.

3. Remittances should be made by Post Office or Express Money Order, or Registered Letter.

4. The law is that subscribers to newspapers are held responsible until all arrears are paid and their paper ordered to be discontinued.

5. Change of Address—When a change of address is ordered, both the old and the new addresses must be given.

6. Advertising rates, \$1.40 an inch. Copy received up to the 20th. Address all advertising correspondence and copy to our Advertising Manager, Peterboro, Ont.

CIRCULATION STATEMENT

The following is a sworn statement of the net paid circulation of The Canadian Horticulturist for the year ending with December, 1911. The figures given are exclusive of samples and spoiled copies. Most months, including the sample copies, from 13,000 to 15,000 copies of The Canadian Horticulturist are mailed to people known to be interested in the growing of fruits, flowers or vegetables.

January, 1913	11,570	August, 1913	12,675
February, 1913	11,550	September, 1913	13,729
March, 1913	11,209	October, 1913	13,778
April, 1913	11,970	November, 1913	12,967
May, 1913	12,368	December, 1913	13,233
June, 1913	12,618		
July, 1913	12,626	Total	150,293
Average each issue in 1907, 5,627			
		1913, 12,524	

Sworn detailed statements will be mailed upon application.

OUR GUARANTEE

We guarantee that every advertiser in this issue is reliable. We are able to do this because the advertising columns of The Canadian Horticulturist are as carefully edited as the reading columns, and because to protect our readers we turn away all unscrupulous advertisers. Should any advertiser herein deal dishonestly with any subscriber, we will make good the amount of his loss, provided such transaction occurs within one month from date of this issue, that it is reported to us within a week of its occurrence, and that we find the facts to be as stated. It is a condition of this contract that in writing to advertisers you state: "I saw your advertisement in The Canadian Horticulturist."

Refuses shall not ply their trade at the expense of our subscribers, who are our friends, through the medium of these columns; but we shall not attempt to adjust trifling disputes between subscribers and honourable business men who advertise, nor pay the debts of honest bankrupts. Communications should be addressed

THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST,
 PETERBORO, ONT.

EDITORIAL

AN ECONOMIC IMPOSSIBILITY

These are days when we hear much about the "back-to-the-land" movement. Magazines feature articles which describe the great financial success some former city dweller has made by "resorting to the city and taking up market gardening, fruit growing, dairying, or some other kindred farm occupation. These articles create an impression that the time is ripe, consequent upon the high cost of living and rural depopulation, for many city people to move out to the country. Many people really expect to see such a movement take place ere long.

There are many reasons why such a migration can never take place under existing conditions. One of the principal of these is the tendency of land to increase in value in proportion as the demand for it increases. Fruit growers especially have noticed this tendency. Let us illustrate how this principle works.

Toronto has a population of approximately five hundred thousand. Suppose ten thousand people in Toronto decided that they were going to give up city life and go in for farming. The first thing they would have to do would be to take stock of their resources. Next they would have to ascertain what investment they would have to make to obtain the necessary land.

Suppose they found that the best fruit land, such as that in the Niagara district, was worth two hundred dollars to fifteen hundred dollars an acre, the best ordinary farm land from seventy-five to one hundred and twenty-five dollars an acre, medium good farm land from forty to seventy-five dollars an acre, depending on its location, and poorer land twenty to forty dollars an acre.

Of the ten thousand would-be fruit growers or farmers, two thousand might be able to purchase the higher-priced land, three thousand the best farm land, three thousand ordinary farm land, and the remaining two thousand the poorer class of land.

With these facts before them, suppose these ten thousand people set to work to purchase land at the prices which they had decided were within their reach. What would happen? Simply this: As soon as the first two or three hundred of the first two thousand began to purchase the best fruit land at the prices mentioned, the holders of such land would advance its purchase price ten, twenty-five, fifty, possibly one hundred per cent. The result would be that only a small percentage of the two thousand would be able to secure such land as they were looking for. Those who could not would then be forced either to give up all idea of settling on the land or to buy poorer land than they had first intended to purchase. This would increase the number of people seeking that class of land, and it also would increase in value with a similar result. The same principle would hold true of all the other grades of land on the market, limited only by the amount of it offered for sale and the number of people desiring to purchase it.

This tendency of the price of land to increase in even more rapid ratio than the demand will always make it impossible for any large number of city dwellers to leave the crowded cities to engage in rural occupations. It is because our available free

land is about exhausted and because occupied farm and fruit land is held at values that are high, considering its productive power, that immigrants and farmers' sons are unable any longer to obtain land at prices which are within their reach and thus are forced to settle in our urban centres and engage in occupations in which the ownership of land is not essential.

This is the main explanation of the problems that have been raised by the more rapid increase of urban than rural population by the increased cost of living and by the growth of slum areas in our cities. It explains, also, why we are hearing more and more about the "land" question. The sooner we recognize that these problems are going to increase in importance, and that existing conditions are going to become worse rather than better, particularly in our fruit districts and in the market gardening sections adjoining our larger cities, unless we settle this land question, by among other things, taxing land according to its value, the sooner will we make progress toward their solution. The only difference between the land question in Great Britain and in Canada is that it is farther advanced there than here, and thus they have been forced to deal with it.

PROTECTION OF BIRD LIFE

Every observant fruit grower has long recognized the fact that the great majority of birds are beneficial rather than injurious to the orchard. While some species consume considerable quantities of fruit at certain seasons, they are beneficial at other periods. Were they in time to become exterminated the number of pests of different kinds that the fruit grower would have to contend with would be greatly increased through the disturbance to the balance of nature now maintained by bird life.

We have been slow to recognize the important part played by birds, but as a result of costly experience we are beginning to find how necessary it is that bird life shall be protected. In May the United States Senate passed an appropriation of fifty thousand dollars for the enforcement of a new federal law for the protection of migratory birds. The president of the American Game Protective Association, Mr. John B. Burnham, is now urging the adoption of a treaty by the United States and Canada that will have for its object the protection of all birds that migrate between the two countries. Such a treaty has been drafted and is now being pushed in Congress by friends of the Association. While the provisions of such a bill may require careful consideration, the general principle is one which will meet with general approval in Canada.

THE SOD MULCH

A short time ago there appeared in a United States periodical an article dealing with the sod mulch method of orchard management. Much stress was laid upon the merits of this system as proved by investigations conducted by experiment stations in the states of New York and Ohio. The article in question leaves the impression that the sod mulch is to be preferred to cultivation. It must be remembered that the orchards in which the sod mulch proved so successful were located on hilly ground or possessed unusual soil conditions. In order to give both sides of the case, extracts from the article mentioned and from the New York state bulletin are published elsewhere in this issue.