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Small Fruits

For the West

By D. W. BUCHANAN, St. Charles, Mo.

BUFFALO-BERRY

The Buffalo-berry, botanically known as *Shepherdia argentea*, is a shrub of light or silvery foliage. The flowers are inconspicuous and appear very early in the spring. It is an exceedingly hardy shrub, standing both exposure to low temperature and drouth well. It is a native of the wind-swept plains of Dakota and other sections of the Northwestern States, and is also found in sections of the Canadian prairie region. The fruit much resembles the red currant in appearance and flavor, but has only one seed, which is considerably larger than the currant. It is an abundant fruiter. It is not largely grown for fruit, but is worthy of trial, particularly in severe or dry locations. The shrub belongs to the class known as dioecious, that is, one plant will produce only pistillate or female flowers and another only staminate or male blossoms. In order to produce fruit, it is necessary that both male and female plants should be placed in proximity. Plants grown from the seed will usually be about equally divided in sex. The fruit is produced on short spurs and hangs well to the tree. The Buffalo-berry is a fine ornamental shrub, useful for lawns, borders or hedges.

CRANBERRIES

We know of no attempt to cultivate the cranberry (*Vaccinium*) in any part of Manitoba or our other western provinces. As the plant is found growing wild and fruits well in some sections of this region there would appear to be reason to believe that it could be cultivated successfully in certain localities. The cranberry is not adapted to garden or general cultivation, as will appear from the remarks following. The cranberry is a swamp or bog plant, and will not as a rule, thrive out of its natural habitat. Where it is found growing naturally, it can usually be cultivated successfully, provided the facilities exist for controlling the water supply, and draining and cultivating the land. The cranberry requires an abundant supply of water, and this water supply should be so controlled that the water can be drawn off when necessary to about a foot below the surface. While some natural cranberry bogs have been improved at moderate expense, it is generally a matter of considerable outlay to properly prepare the land for this crop. It would, therefore be advisable for any one who contemplates entering upon this work, to study the situation carefully. Books specially devoted to cranberry growing may be obtained. These remarks have no reference to the so-called high bush cranberry. The latter shrub, which is very common in this country, is a viburnum, and not related to the genuine cranberry. There are several forms of the cranberry native to eastern Manitoba and the wood country to the north.

DIRECT LEGISLATION IN SASKATCHEWAN

For some weeks a plan has been shaping for the formation of a Direct Legislation League for Saskatchewan. A considerable fund is now on hand for this purpose and enough more forthcoming to ensure a constant and vigorous pushing forward of organization throughout the province. The movement for Direct Legislation is everywhere meeting with popular favor. In Manitoba, though recently started, it has gained a foothold which spells speedy realization. This is the situation which has given rise to the call to arms in Saskatchewan.

A conference is to be held in Regina on Thursday, the 9th day of May, 1912, for the purpose of choosing a steering committee and advisory board of directors and to map out plans to organize thoroughly in all parts of the province.

It is desired that all who are interested will at once reply to this letter stating whether or not they intend to be present at this conference and sending names of others who might be interested. A full attendance is important.

(Signed) THOS. B. UNDERHILL.
L. E. GEISER.
CHAS. A. BROTHERS.
W. H. WARDELL.



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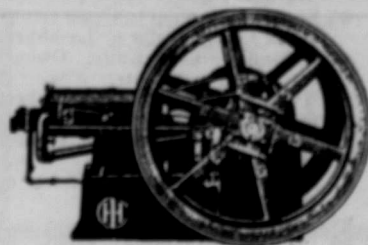
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IHC Service Bureau

The purpose of this Bureau is to furnish, free of charge to all, the best information obtainable on better farming. If you have any worthy questions concerning soils, crops, land drainage, irrigation, fertilizer, etc., make your inquiries specific and send them to IHC Service Bureau, Harvester Building, Chicago, U.S.A.

