

PART VII.

REPORT

ON

HORTICULTURE AND ARBORICULTURE.

To the Honourable, the Commissioner of Agriculture :

SIR,—In briefly reporting on the practical Horticultural work of this Institution for the year about to close, I beg to say that, notwithstanding a peculiar and somewhat precarious season for crops, in other respects it has been specially favourable for many of our operations on hand, particularly for spring work, transplanting, sodding, etc., and on the whole, average crops have been secured, and considerable progress has been made in the direction of the object sought to be attained.

Our principal work during the summer months has been the improvement of the grounds, in accordance with a plan adopted by the Government in 1882, and the work commenced in the latter months of that year ; but comparatively little was accomplished until this season, when operations commenced about the first of April, or as early as practicable from the depth of snow, by transplanting a number of evergreens, consisting of Norway spruce and Austrian pine, the largest of which were prepared in the fall by digging a trench about eighteen inches wide around and partially underneath the tree, severing all the large roots and leaving a ball from one to two tons in weight, according to size of trees, filling the trench with straw, or stable manure, to prevent the frost getting underneath, but allowing the ball to get frozen solid. In this state they were moved in a stone-boat drawn by a span of horses, into holes previously prepared for them. These trees, over one hundred in number, which had been growing on the grounds from eight to ten years, being planted at or soon after the origin of the Institution, and now varying from six to sixteen feet in height, were thus successfully moved into desirable positions without a solitary failure. This may readily be attributed to the unusually favourable season for such operations, and we willingly admit that the cool season and extra amount of moisture throughout the early summer months had much to do with the success, but the experiment clearly proves that our Canadian climate affords an opportunity of thus moving large and valuable ornamental trees that cannot so readily be done by any other modes. In the further prosecution of the work, the principal drive leading to the College was completed, also the drives and walks connected with the new buildings erected the previous year, the design for flower garden laid out, involving an amount of sodding, bounding the walks and beds to the extent of many hundred square yards, and I may here say that the flower beds when furnished with plants, looked exceedingly well, and were admired by all throughout the season.

With the exception of about three acres around the new building, which were seeded down in the spring (and have done well), the whole ground has been kept in a cultivated state during the summer, all necessary grading and levelling being carried on at the same time, to the full extent of the means appropriated for that purpose, leaving the land, as it now is, in good condition for seeding down in the spring, and planting, as intended and

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