

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

induced to spray five times as is advised. Indeed very few will ever do it more than two or three times, unless the clearest proof is given that more applications will pay in dollars and cents; viz., once before the leaf buds open, once before bloom, and once after.

THE INDUSTRIAL FAIR at Toronto this year promises to surpass that of any previous year, as indeed it should. The poster is a credit to the management, and is quite artistic. It is headed "Canada's Great Victorian Era Exposition, and Industrial Fair," and shows fine pictures of Her Majesty in 1837 and in 1897; also of the Premier in 1837 (Sir John A. McDonald) and in 1897 (Sir Wilfred Laurier). Fortunately the President of our Association is on the Board of Management, and is doing everything in his power to give prominence to both fruits and flowers.

ABOUT THREE HUNDRED named varieties of apples were shown by the Fonthill Nurseries last year at the Industrial, the largest collection ever exhibited in Canada. The largest named collection of fruits of various kinds ever shown was made by our Experiment Stations, and their exhibit will increase in interest year after year.

THE HABITS, FOOD AND ECONOMIC VALUE OF THE TOAD, forms the subject of bulletin 46, Mass., A. C. It is shown that only eleven per cent. of the food of the toad is composed of spiders and insects in any way helpful, and eighty per cent. of those which are injurious, such, for example, as sow-bugs, myriapods, grass-hoppers, crickets, may-beetles, tent caterpillars, gypsy moths, cut worms, army worms, etc., etc. Gardeners, therefore, should encourage the presence of this animal; artificial shelters

may be made by digging out shallow holes in the ground, and partially covering them with a board.

DOUBLE APPLE BLOSSOMS.—Mr. W. J. Kerr, of Renfrew, writes of a freak in the way of a double apple blossom which he found on a Duchess apple tree in the County of Renfrew. Mr. Kerr says he will take note of this from year to year and report concerning its constancy. Possibly a double-flowering apple tree might be propagated from this branch, which would make a fine ornamental tree. Mr. Kerr compares the blossom to that of a double white rose.

COOK'S HARD SOAP EMULSION is convenient because it may be used with either hard or soft water. It is made by dissolving  $\frac{1}{4}$  pound of hard soap in two quarts of boiling water, and while still hot add one pint of kerosene, and stir rapidly. This will emulsify at once and when needed for use is diluted with twice its bulk of water. The *Riley-Hubbord* formula is  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. hard soap dissolved in 1 gallon boiling water, to which is added two gallons of kerosene. When wanted for use, dilute with 9 times the quantity of soft water.

ONE OF THE FINEST PEACH ORCHARDS in the Niagara District is that of Mr. E. McCardle, near St. Catharines. We visited it on the 10th inst. and cannot speak too highly of its excellent condition. First the *cultivation* was almost perfect, not a weed or spear of grass to be seen, and constantly worked up;—Secondly the *fertilizing* was liberal, chiefly with wood ashes; Thirdly the *pruning* was an example for imitation, not only the dead wood well thinned out, but the growth well shortened back every spring. The only apparent evil is the Peach Curl, which affects the best orchards as well as the worst in wet