

Fur Breeders Assn.

The following provincial representatives comprise the committee recently formed for the purpose of organizing a Canadian Fur Breeders Association:

Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Alberta: M. Snow, Winnipeg; A. M. Doyle, Winnipeg.

Ontario: W. J. Taylor, Woodstock; W. H. C. Ruthven, Alliston; S. Coll, Ridgeway; A. Bray, Ridgeway; J. M. McGillivray, Toronto.

Quebec: R. B. Lindsay, Montreal; M. Palmer Chizzola, Montreal; McGill Burroughs, Quebec; H. A. Harding, St. Paome; A. L. de Martigny, Montreal.

New Brunswick: E. H. Barter, St. Stephen; F. Colpitts, Salisbury; W. T. Chapman, Moncton; C. T. Munroe, Petitediac; R. L. Todd, Milltown.

Nova Scotia: Dr. E. A. Randall, Truro; G. A. Wootton, Halifax; Sheriff R. B. H. Davison, Amherst; D. G. Harlow, Bridgetown.

Prince Edward Island: Major D. A. MacKinnon, Charlottetown; W. Chester S. McLure, Charlottetown; Dr. J. A. Allen, Charlottetown; J. E. Milligan, Northam; J. W. Callbeck, Summerside; F. L. Rogers, Alberton.

Pacific Coast: W. R. Drury, Whitehorse, Y.T.; Major Dunwaders, Fintry, B.C.

The members hope that the new Association will be Dominion-wide in scope and usefulness and every effort has therefore been made to ensure that adequate representation be given to the different provinces on the committee charged with the responsibility of organization.

The temporary officers of the committee are Mr. J. W. Callbeck, of Summerside, P.E.I., Chairman, and Mr. F. L. Rogers, of Alberton, P.E.I., Secretary, both of whom are successful and widely known fox ranchers.

A strong and well organized Fur Breeders Association can render much useful service in promoting the welfare of the fur breeding industry and the solution of the many problems with which it is from time to time confronted. The industry outside of Prince Edward Island is widely distributed, and it is hoped that during the course of the coming year the scattered individuals engaged in the various provinces in different branches of fur farming can be brought into touch with the organization efforts now being made so that they may derive the fullest advantages from the Association's activities.

Irish Cobbler is Favourite Potato

Tests of Potatoes Show Outstanding Advantages of this Variety

During the past four years the Commission of Conservation has been conducting illustration work in Dundas county, Ontario. One branch of the work has been that in connection with 16 farms chosen

Important Forest Trees of Canada

Note: This is the first of a series of short articles on the important forest trees of Canada, which will be published in "Conservation" to promote wider knowledge of the distribution, qualities and uses of the various species and more general appreciation of the opportunities for greater development of Canada's forest resources. It is hoped, also, that by using the names recognized by the highest authorities in the Dominion, the confusion which exists in regard to both the scientific and common names of many of our trees will be lessened.

Yellow Birch

(*Betula Lutea*)

The yellow birch has, during recent years, assumed much importance from a commercial standpoint, chiefly because it is being used more and more as a substitute for oak.

The yellow birch is very easy to distinguish in the woods in younger trees up to 8 inches diameter by its characteristic bark. This yellow, lustrous bark is parted in ribbon-like strips and hangs in fringes from the tree. The bark of yellow birch is not readily detachable like that of the paper birch, and the white bark of the latter easily distinguishes it. In old mature trees, the bark of yellow birch has lost its yellowish fringes and splits into plates which curl up at the edges. This feature makes it resemble black birch (*B. lenta*), a tree occurring only along the Canadian boundary, and the two species are sometimes mistaken on this account. As the leaves of some of the species of birch resemble each other, one should be familiar with these in order to identify them.

There is approximately 20 billion board feet of yellow birch standing timber in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces. Almost half of this is in Quebec, where the cut for one year reached 43 million board feet. The inventory of the forest resources of Ontario now being prepared by the Commission of Conservation will bring to light further details with regard to the yellow birch

supply. The yellow birch is found from Newfoundland and the Maritime Provinces westward to the east side of Lake Superior, also from Fort William west along the Canada-United States boundary to the Lake of the Woods.

It is to be hoped that the question of transporting hardwood logs from the woods to the mill will soon be solved by operators, so that yellow birch may come into the market in quantities that will compensate for the scarcity of oak. Birch is easily the most important of our hardwoods, and the yellow birch forms the bulk of birch lumber in use. It is used largely in furniture, flooring, and planing mill products, including sashes and doors, also for vehicle stock, agricultural implements and in the spool industry. Large quantities of veneer are cut from yellow birch and only an expert can distinguish it from mahogany when it is thus finished. Other species of birch are the common paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*) and the western birch (*Betula occidentalis*) which is found in British Columbia.

The following manner of distinguishing birch is suggested by the United States Forest Products Laboratory: In birch, the medullary rays on a cut showing end grain are very fine, invisible without a lens. The pores are several times larger than the rays, usually being visible to the unaided eye as minute holes. The pores in birch are considerably larger, but the rays are considerably finer, than in beech and maple, with either of which it may be confused.

for the purpose of illustrating improved methods of farming. Among the lines of work followed have been variety tests of farm crops. The results of the tests with potatoes are very valuable. During the seasons of 1917-18-19, the Irish Cobbler and Green Mountain varieties were grown side by side and during 1920 the Dooley variety was grown in addition to these. The Irish Cobbler is now unmistakably the favourite variety in the county. Each year since they were first tried on these farms the farmers conducting the illustration work have not been able to meet the demand from the neighbours for seed.

The Irish Cobbler has given the highest average yield, has been freer from rot than any of the other varieties tried, and is an excellent table potato. One of the farmers conducting the test reports: "The Dooleys and Green Mountains yielded 27 bushels each from the bag planted, while the

Irish Cobblers yielded 40 bushels from the same amount of seed." Another writes: "The Dooleys and Green Mountains rotted badly and the Irish Cobblers were about all we had to fall back upon." Another says in his report: "The Cobblers are still our favourites as regards both yield and freedom from rot."

Seed grown in New Brunswick has been tried out along with home-grown seed. In most instances the New Brunswick seed gave higher yields but in some cases where the home-grown seed had been carefully selected there was little if any difference.

Varieties of proven merit should be chosen, the seed should be taken from high yielding hills and only the smooth tubers free from scab and rot used for planting. Attention to these matters will certainly mean increased yields and greater profits.—F. C. Nunnick.

Conservation in the Public Schools

Teachers Find the Commission's Reports of Interest and Assistance to Pupils

The work of the Commission of Conservation in promoting the most efficient use of Canada's resources is very largely of an educational character. The following extract from a letter from a school teacher in British Columbia is published with the object of directing attention of teachers throughout the Dominion to the educational assistance which the Commission of Conservation endeavours to render through the medium of "Conservation." It is one of the most important purposes of this bulletin to make available information which will be of value to teachers in giving their pupils an adequate idea of Canada's resources:

"I read the articles to my scholars, and add such information as I can, making very interesting lessons, especially those dealing with the natural resources of Canada and their conservation.

"On taking charge of this school I found that our Department of Education has very greatly enlarged its 'course of nature study,' so that several of your books, with their illustrations, will be exceedingly helpful. Natural resources are also dealt with in geography, so the work of your Commission should be of great interest to our schools."

It is the desire of the Commission of Conservation to co-operate in the fullest measure with every educational institution in order that a knowledge of Canada's resources and of the principles of conservation may be given the widest possible dissemination.

Importance of the Maple Sugar Crop

Maple sugar and maple syrup are two products which are capable of much greater development in Canada. There is a market for all that can be produced, and maple products are legally protected to an unusual extent.

Nature supplies the raw material, in the sap of the maple tree, and as the run occurs at a time when other farm work is not pressing, much more attention might be given to securing this crop. The sap from the maple trees is one of nature's endowments to the Canadian farmer and one from which a considerable addition to his income may be secured with little effort.

The Publications Branch of the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, has issued a revised edition of the bulletin "The Maple Sugar Industry in Canada" which will be sent on request.

Two million dollars is to be spent by the Imperial Oil Co. drilling for oil in Alberta during the present year.