

The ponderosa pine is perhaps a hardier tree but is a slow grower and has the disadvantage of being hard to transplant. The Austrian pine seems to be gaining in favor among planters, and justly so, as it is a handsome tree and perfectly hardy. The jack pine is chiefly valuable on dry, sandy soils where no other evergreen can be made to grow.

"The Norway spruce is a very popular tree for windbreaks and has been extensively planted. It is a rapid grower and easy to start. It is not, however, as hardy a tree as the American white spruce, but the latter is difficult to propagate and is always so expensive that it cannot well be used for windbreaks to any great extent. On low, moist ground the American arbor vitae will make a good showing, as it is so closely branched as to form a tight screen. It should be planted closer together than the pines.

"There are some other varieties of evergreens that are desirable for windbreaks, but those here mentioned are the most reliable for Minnesota planters, and there is nothing in the way of every farmer having an evergreen shelter belt around his home and for his stock.

"It should be remembered that evergreens, in order to do their best, should have thorough cultivation and the weeds kept out, during the first few years after planting.

"Any one wishing to beautify a yard or grounds with trees can scarcely do better than to put in a generous number of hardy evergreens of the ornamental sort. Although nearly all evergreens are of fine appearance there are some that are so much more beautiful than others that they may be classed as ornamental. Of all evergreens the Colorado blue spruce is universally admitted to be the finest—the king of cone-bearing trees. For single specimen planting there is no other that can be compared with it, and it deserves a more general planting. Although an expensive tree, it is of more value as an ornamental than half a dozen of other sorts. The white spruce is an excellent ornamental tree, retaining its dark green color throughout the entire year, and is on that account better than the Norway spruce. The Douglas spruce and the balsam fir should be planted for variety. The dwarf mountain pine presents a fine appearance in the front yard, and does not grow high enough to obstruct the view. The Austrian, white and Scotch pines are the best of the pine family for ornamentals, and add much to the appearance of the grounds.

"To secure the best effects evergreens should be planted in groups, as they look better this way and make better growth.

"For hedges the arbor vitae is one of the most desirable, as it can be sheared to any shape desired. The red cedar also does well for a hedge on high, dry ground."

FIELD NOTES

Notes.

Moosomin, Sask., is to spend \$32,000 for water-works and drainage. * * *

The big reservoir that will hold Indian Head's supply of water is completed, the pipes are laid, and the septic tank is almost ready for use. * * *

A car famine at Saskatoon caused a grain blockade that is proving a serious hindrance to the speedy handling of the grain.

From the Farthest Northwest.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

The mail has just arrived and brings news in the shape of musty papers from six weeks to two months old and we note with pleasure the world still moves, that we are still of the same country, and that there is a great deal of railroad talk but as this is not our way some items from this part of the Dominion may be welcome to your readers. Wheat cutting commenced in places on the 1st day of August and by the 4th was general all over the settlement. The grain is of very fair quality and free from weeds or wild barley. There is a great deal of smut, owing to the scarcity of blue stone, in some fields a loss will be sustained of fully 25 per cent. The wheat is shelling badly to-day, even where there is a heavy enough stand to lodge it, but before the 25th it is expected that all of the late sown grain will be cut.

Last winter while in Edmonton it was my privilege to meet the Seed Special and was greatly impressed with some of the things heard and seen, so much so that the ideas obtained were used in trying to obtain better results here. While there I told Mr. Bedford

and others of having grown wheat here and cut the same in 86 days, showing them a small sample of this same wheat. This statement was challenged by some who heard it outside of the seed special and my explanations were ridiculed. So much for that and for last year. For the present year I commenced my seeding on Saturday the 5th of May, on the 31st of July this piece was ripe and should have been cut, but rather than divide the piece in two the grain was allowed to stand until the 4th of August to give the hollows time to mature. When cut part of this grain was shelling badly. All of the wheat sown between the 15th and the 19th is now cut and in stook, some of it overripe, while wheat sown between the 19th and 23rd is now ready to cut in places. This latter too on the open prairie three miles away from the river.

Four acres of Red Fife sown on our farm on the 10th of May was in stook on the 12th of August.

It is not the purpose of these lines to over estimate the capabilities of this country but to show that even in this extreme north those of us who have made these and other experiments have proved beyond a doubt that wheat can be raised, and successfully too. In the carrying out of this experimental work we have labored under the greatest of drawbacks and disadvantages and have had no assistance from the Government beyond the sending of a few samples of seeds. As a result of our efforts the Government can see that the Great Peace River country, even as far north as it extends latitude 58° 28' and farther still is not a vast expanse of valueless waste as was formerly supposed, but a country well adapted to mixed farming and which will in time support a large population. At the present date there is in my garden squash and tomatoes, planted in the open after the middle of May and which are heavy with fruit, green of course, but which have yet to show the slightest sign of frost. There is no reason, however, for people to get excited about the Peace River country, there is lots of land just as good, just as fertile and easier broken within shouting distance of the new lines of railroad, where one need not enjoy the distinction of pioneering in the most inaccessible part of Canada where one pays for what they get at, say to be moderate, 75 per cent over average retail prices, and sell what they produce at what they can get for it. Of course if any wish to be cut off from all communication with civilization, except that afforded by a strictly "bummy" mail service, why fire ahead, and get into the Peace River country as it now is, before the advent of the railroad.

There are several fine farms about Vermilion that are paving propositions. The principle ones aside from my own are those of Sheridan Lawrence, Robert Jones, John Bourassa (halfbreed) and Willie Smith (halfbreed), these are fitted up with up-to-date machinery and good buildings. The H. B. Co. also run a small wheat farm in connection with their post which invariably produces a fine grade of grain.

Wheat will average about 25 bushels to the acre. We have tried fall wheat here and now the Provincial Government are assisting in the carrying out of the experiment. We believe that this will be a success here as the ground once frozen does not thaw and is almost always covered with snow for the winter months. The long days of June and July would develop this grain very rapidly and being well rooted would not be affected by the spring drouth which so frequently delays the spring grain. The experiments in fall wheat are being carefully conducted and will likely be crowned with success.

This will answer the many letters that have been coming re enquiries about this country. Though our papers are old we always look forward to their coming and of those that do run the gauntlet the most entertaining is the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

FRED S. LAWRENCE, J. P.

Ft. Vermilion, Alta., Aug. 19, 1906.

[We have not got exact data as to the distance between Edmonton and Ft. Vermilion, but by reference to the map it appears to be about five hundred miles and the fort is in the valley of the river. If good farming land extends for five or six hundred miles north of Edmonton there must be an empire there nearly as large as the wheat belt of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Truly this is a magnificent heritage.]

Grain at Eastern Ports.

Mr. Frank E. Gibbs, Dominion Grain Inspector, forwards complete statistics regarding the total quantities of grain shipped from Port William and Port Arthur during the crop year of 1905, i.e., between September 1st, 1905, and August 31st, 1906. Port William handled 42,587,536 bushels of wheat, 4,766,759 bushels of oats, 528,870 bushels of barley, and 157,390 bushels of flax, while the Port Arthur figures are: 12,922,184 bushels of wheat, 954,056 bushels of oats, 430,676 bushels of barley, and 299,538 bushels of flax. The totals from the two ports were: Wheat, 55,509,720 bushels; oats, 5,720,815 bushels; barley, 959,546 bushels; flax, 456,928 bushels.

The year's grain receipts at the two ports aggregate 56,751 car loads, of which the Canadian Pacific Railway handled 43,976 cars, and the Canadian Northern 12,775 cars. These two roads will likewise take care of the current year's movement, but for the twelve months beginning September 1, 1907, the Grand Trunk Pacific will be in the field, and, perhaps, also, Mr. J. J. Hill's projected Canadian railway.

Of the 56,751 cars of grain shipped through Port Arthur and Port William during the year just ended 52,125 cars were of wheat alone. The quality of the crop is indicated by statistics, showing that the cars received graded thus: No. 1 hard, 615; No. 1 Northern, 28, 991; No. 2 Northern, 11,641; No. 3 Northern, 1,917; rejected for smut, 6,492; rejected for seeds, etc., 1,559; no grade, 456; sundry, 454.

It is interesting to note the destination of the grain as it was brought down the lakes by vessel. Among the Canadian ports, Montreal took the largest quantity of wheat, viz., 9,321,013 bushels, Depot Harbor coming next, with 8,456,642 bushels and Midland third with 3,900,527 bushels. Other Canadian ports followed in this order. Owen Sound, 2,782,500 bushels; Point Edward, 2,327,864; Goderich, 1,491,207; Meaford, 888,852; Kingston, 870,583; Collingwood, 509,140; Thorold, 447,063; Port Colborne, 135,213, and Prescott, 59,657. Besides 18,431,001 bushels went to United States ports—2,137,976 bushels to Port Huron, 954,576 to Erie, and 15,338,449 to Buffalo. A great proportion of these shipments to American points were due to inadequate facilities through Canadian channels. It will be remembered that last autumn the Grand Trunk was unable to take away the grain as fast as it arrived at Depot Harbor and other Lake Huron ports, and that the elevators became congested. As a consequence vessel owners grew tired of lying to, waiting their turn to unload.

The five Georgian Bay ports handled 16,537,661 bushels of Canadian wheat, besides a good deal of American grain, during the year, and should make a much better showing this season. The railways have been increasing their motive power, rolling stock and elevator capacity, and as a result for this season comparatively little grain may be forced to Buffalo. And for succeeding years still greater preparations are being made. The Canadian Pacific Railway is providing elevator facilities at Victoria Harbor, and will run an air line thence to connect with the main Toronto-Montreal road at Tweed. It is also providing a through grain route from Goderich eastward. Meantime the Grand Trunk is to greatly enlarge its capacity for receiving grain at Midland and transporting it thence to Montreal.

Crops in Alberta.

An Alberta crop bulletin, dated August 20, has been published, in which is estimated the yields of different grain crops for 1906. The estimate is: spring wheat 97,760 acres, 2,332,292 bushels; fall wheat 43,661 acres, 907,421 bushels; oats, 907,421 acres, 13,192,150 bushels; barley 75,678 acres, 2,201,179 bushels. The 1905 figures were spring wheat 75,353 acres, 1,617,505 bushels; fall wheat, 32,174 acres, 680,019 bushels; oats 242,801 acres, 9,514,180 bushels; barley 64,830 acres, 1,773,914 bushels.

Progress of Fruit Culture.

As showing the remarkable strides being made with fruit culture in Northern Alberta, the Alexandra Nurseries near Strathcona set out 750 tomato plants from which fully ripened fruit has already been gathered as follows:—

28 July, 3 pounds,
11 August, 32 pounds,
15 August, 56 pounds.

It is estimated that 600 pounds more will be picked before frost is likely to affect the plants.—*The Plaindealer*, Strathcona.

Saskatchewan's New D. M. A.

A recent appointment to the Saskatchewan staff of officials in the Department of Agriculture at Regina is that of Mr. A. P. Ketchen, B.S.A. (University of Toronto). Mr. Ketchen brings to his important work the maturity incidental to years of experience in agricultural work. Residing on and working a farm in the far-famed county of Huron until over thirty, he in 1903 secured the Bachelor of the Science of Agriculture degree from the University of Toronto for work done at Ontario the Agricultural College, Guelph. Immediately after graduation he went to Ottawa as Assistant Live Stock Commissioner, relinquishing that work for agricultural journalism in Western Canada. Mr. Ketchen has had considerable experience in institute work and should fill the position very acceptably to his chief, Hon. W. R. Motherwell and the people of Saskatchewan.

Erie Railway Reduces Rates.

The Erie Railway issued a notice recently that, beginning November 1, 1906, the maximum one way local fares will be two and one half cents per mile over the entire system instead of three cents as at present.

On the same date the company will place on sale a 1000-mile book at a flat rate of \$20, use not restricted to purchaser. This book will be good west of Hornell, N. Y., and also for through passage between New York, Newark, Olean and points west thereof.

The interchangeable mileage book has been reduced from \$25 to \$15, the purchaser receiving \$5 on return of the cover, instead of \$10 as heretofore.