

A Visit to California

By Prof. F. W. Brodrick

DURING a summer trip a few impressions may be gained as to the way things are done in other places, and the following article is a brief account of some of the impressions gained during a trip which the writer, in company with Prof. C. H. Lee, of the agricultural college, had the pleasure of making during the past summer. The

university and agricultural college site there. A splendid site overlooking the town of Saskatoon has been selected and the university buildings are now in the course of erection, and will likely be available for use next year. The large farm in connection with the institution, of which a large part has been set aside for experimental work, is rapidly being brought under cultivation. The establishment of this institution will undoubtedly have a great effect in stimulating

growing. Irrigation is generally practised through this valley, and the orchards scattered throughout it are being well cared for and are producing profitable returns.

Co-operative Fruit Firms

The fruit is handled very largely by co-operative firms, who have a uniform system of boxing and grading. The great drawback with fruit growing along the Okanagan Lake is the difficulty which for a long time will be experienced in getting the products of the orchards on the market quickly and at a reasonable cost.

Vancouver a Great Shipping Point

The trip was then westward to Vancouver, the thriving Canadian city of the Pacific coast. Vancouver is making a wonderful growth and promises to be a great shipping point as well as an attractive city. Crossing the sound we landed at Victoria, the seat of government for the coast province. Victoria, with the parliament buildings and the magnificent C. P. R. hotel, is a beautiful residential city. Commercially, however, it is away behind its sister city, Vancouver, which is much more favorably situated from a commercial standpoint. From Victoria a run was made to Seattle, the port which has been largely developed through its trade with Alaska and the Yukon, and the city at which the Seattle-Yukon Exposition was held. The visitor to Seattle will never forget its hills nor the energetic rush of its people. An interesting part of the stay in Seattle was a visit to the site of the exposition, of which a part is being taken over by the city and a part given over to the university of Washington.

Portland, the Rose City

Leaving Seattle the trip was southward past Yakima, a great apple center to

can be grown. During the months of June and July this city is a veritable paradise for the horticulturist and the plant lover.

A short distance from Portland, up the Columbia River, is Head River, the center of a noted strawberry region and the most celebrated apple growing region on the western coast. Business methods in growing and handling the crop has been the secret of their success in apple growing in this locality. Practically the entire crop is packed and marketed through co-operative societies or exchanges owned and controlled by the growers themselves. The co-operative method of handling the crop originated very largely among the orange growers of Southern California, and from there the idea has spread to all parts of the coast states. The idea has worked out most successfully and gained a high degree of popularity among the growers of these states.

Oregon produces considerable fruit, most of which is grown in the valleys of the Columbia and the Willamette. Apples, prunes and pears are the staples. Salem, the capital of Oregon, is in a great prune growing section. The crop, which consists very largely of the Italian prune, is harvested and dried in immense driers, which are scattered throughout the prune growing section. The dried produce is then carefully packed and placed on the market in neat boxes. Prune growing is a somewhat highly specialized phase of fruit growing, which yields profitable returns when properly conducted.

A short visit was paid to the State College at Corvallis, and from there the trip was southward to Medford in the southern part of the state, which is in a splendid pear growing district. A visit was made to some of the orchards in the district. The orchards are young, well cared for and apparently in a productive condition.

From Medford the trip was onward, through the mining country of northern California, past Mount Shasta to San Francisco, the wonder of the western coast. In travelling over the city the visitor is impressed with the wonderful perseverance of its citizens. In the great disaster which befell the city in the spring of 1906, a large portion of the business section of the city was completely wiped out by earthquake and fire. Nothing daunted, her citizens set to work to rebuild their city, and today, after a period of four years, in the central part of the city the evidences of the great disaster have been largely wiped out.

A visit to Golden Gate Park, San Francisco's most beautiful park, is one of the most enjoyable parts of a visit to this coast city. Beautifully laid out and planted with all classes of trees and shrubs it is a center of great interest to the visitor from parts where vegetation is not so luxuriant.

The Home of Luther Burbank

While at San Francisco a trip was made to the home of Luther Burbank, the great American plant breeder. He has about ten acres at Santa Rosa on which he has grown a vast array of his productions. An audience was gained with Mr. Burbank himself, who kindly volunteered to take

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Scene in a Southern Palm Garden. Some of these palms grow to a height of thirty feet

trip was through the Canadian West to the Pacific coast, down through the Pacific coast states of Washington, Oregon and California, and back to Manitoba by way of Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas, Iowa and Minnesota. The objects of the trip were to learn a little more of the great possibilities of our Canadian West, to gain at first hand a better idea of the agricultural conditions in the territory covered, and to get a little more closely in touch with the work that is being carried on at the experiment stations and agricultural colleges scattered throughout this immense territory.

Some seven thousand miles were covered in the trip, and it is needless to say that in such an extended trip widely diversified conditions of climate and soil would be met with.

Indian Head

Beginning at Winnipeg the trip was westward to Indian Head, where the Experimental farm, under Mr. Angus MacKay, and the Forestry farm, under Mr. Norman M. Ross, were visited. Mr. MacKay's work at Indian Head is well known throughout the Canadian West, and the practicability of his methods to Western Canadians has been very well exemplified in the excellent crops which have been grown on the farm from year to year. Mr. MacKay is making fairly extensive experiments in the growing of alfalfa, and is evidently obtaining very satisfactory results from the work. Horticulturally, he is doing some work in testing the various classes of trees, shrubs, perennials, as well as a number of fruits. One of the most striking features of the farm is the large number of trees that have been planted all around the place being used very largely as dividing lines between the various fields.

The Forestry farm which is some distance from the town of Indian Head, is worthy of a visit, and gives some idea of the excellent work that is being done throughout the West by the Forestry branch. Mr. Ross has a large area devoted to growing stock for general distribution to farmers throughout the West. During the past few years he has been going more largely into coniferous seedlings, of which he has a fairly large stock, and which will be ready for distribution within the next year or two. A large area has also been given over to experimental planting on which various varieties of forest trees have been planted, and which will give data that will be of great value to Western planters.

A Visit to Saskatoon

From Indian Head a run was made to Saskatoon, and a visit paid to the new

the agricultural development of that vast northern territory.

From Saskatoon the trip was westward to Edmonton, the rapidly developing capital of Alberta, and thence to the Dominion Experimental farm at Lacombe. This farm is in charge of Mr. G. H. Hut-



A Southern Cactus garden. There are seven hundred and fifty distinct varieties of Cacti growing in this garden

ton, and Mr. Hutton is doing work that will be of great value to the farmers of the province of Alberta. His tests with spring and Western wheats were especially interesting, and will give some valuable information as to the possibilities of the country as a spring wheat country.

From Lacombe the trip was southward to Calgary, and thence through the Rockies, stopping at Banff and Laggan. It is useless for one to dilate upon the beauties of these wonders of nature. Massive, rugged, beautiful, they stand out as the landmark of some great creative force. The run from Laggan to Field is a marvel of engineering skill as well as a panorama of the most attractive mountain scenery one could possibly imagine. From Field onward over the Selkirk, and down past the Great Glacier is a trip full of interest to the traveller and one long to be remembered.

The next stop was at Sicamous and a run was made down into the Okanagan country. From Okanagan Landing the boat was taken to Kelowna, where some of the co-operative packing houses were visited, and a run taken into the adjacent apple, pear and plum orchards. Kelowna is rather prettily situated on the eastern shore of the lake at the end of a valley which is given over very largely to fruit

growing. Portland, the commercial city of Oregon. Its residents call it the "Rose City" and it well assumes the title, as roses are planted in great profusion in all parts of the city, on the boulevards, around the houses, and in fact everywhere where they



An Avenue of Palm Trees showing an Orange Grove in the distance