

attached. Following these lists came the fruit trees and bushes, an enumeration of the kinds likely to prove successful in Western Canada. All these take time to procure, even years of continuous effort for which the reward is ample compensation. In the meantime the busy housewife, the home-lover, will want posies for the table and rest for the eye, and will seek to gratify the soul-love for the beautiful and satisfy the artistic feeling by planting some of the annuals mentioned. The perfume-bearing varieties, whose presence, though unseen, is abundantly evident, include the well-known and highly-prized sweet-pea, the sweet scented mignonette, and that eventide aroma distiller, the mathiola. The bloom of the perfume-bearing annuals is not remarkable, excepting that of the sweet pea.

Then for small beds we have the Virginia stock, candytuft, scarlet linum, sweet alyssum, the convolvulus, larkspur, escholtzia, calliopsis, calandula and many others; in fact the seed catalogs rarely contain annuals that will not do well in the gardens of Western Canada, providing some shelter be afforded from the wind; for such purposes a board fence, or even better, a low hedge of caragana, the yellow blooming shrub, are necessary. Order from your seedsmen early and get some of the seeds planted in boxes and started early, so as to permit of setting out, when the weather is warm enough, which is about the middle of May as a general rule.

One of the greatest attractions at the experimental farms to visitors during the summertime are the flower beds and borders. At Indian Head the following annuals were propagated in the hothouse, being sown the beginning of April, and the plants set out May 23 to June 12:

Asters, ten varieties; antirrhinum majus nanum; abronia umbellata; ageratum, dwarf; balsam, camellia-flowered; brachycome iberidifolia; bartonia aurea; chrysanthemum coronarium; clarkia; coreopsis, three varieties; dianthus, four varieties; gaillardia picta; godetia splendens; helichrysum, double mixed; iberis gibraltaria; lavatera rosea splendens; lobelia, Crystal Palace; marigold, Double Royal; mignonette; nicotiana affinis; nasturtium; poppy, six varieties; portulaca; phacelia; phlox Drummondii, four varieties; petunia, three varieties; pansies, many varieties; scabiosa, two varieties; sweet William; salpiglossis; stocks; tagetes, mixed; zinnia elegans. The following annuals were sown in the open, May 10, and bloomed from the middle of June until the middle of October:

Antirrhinum; salpiglossis; gaillardia; nasturtium; phacelia; clarkia; tagetes; godetia; poppy; dianthus; eschscholtzia; bartonia aurea; marigold; maize, striped-leaved; maize, Japonica gigantea; scabiosa; celosia; nemophila; ageratum. Superintendent Mackay recommends phlox and candytuft for borders, sown in the open about April 20.

Considerable success with perennials has been obtained, the following being specially noted as worth planting:

Achillea, clematis, centaurea macrophylla, cactus, columbine, campanula macrantha, delphinium, everlasting pea, hollyhock, helianthus autumnalis, irises, lupins, lilium elegans (orange), lilium tiger lily, lilium (white varieties), lychnis, mint, paeonia tenuifolia, paeonies, spiraea filipendula, speraea ulmaria, sweet William, tulips, veronica, salurgoides.

It will thus be seen that a handsome flower garden is within the reach of all farmers, that the taste for the artistic can be gratified at comparatively little cost and that there are practically no climatic hindrances, in fact the Canadian West is unsurpassed as a place in which to grow sweetpeas. Get good seed by sending to reliable seed merchants, for a list of which we should recommend you to scan our advertising columns.

#### Seed Potato Facts.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I saw somewhere in a Canadian paper a clipping taken from a Scotch paper relating to the best quality of potatoes for seed and the idea was advanced that potatoes for good seed should be gathered before the leaf on the vine is withered or as I should say, ripe; that such seed would give a much stronger growth and a considerably larger yield of crop. The idea was new to me and I questioned it.

Another writer on improved seed says: "Do not plant the seed end of the potato, but cut it off and take your seed from the remaining part."

I fail to see the benefit of this, but would rather consider it a disadvantage.

My own idea for improved seed is:—Make a selection of as near perfect potatoes as you can from your supply, as to shape, size and quality, of a sufficient amount to grow plenty of seed for another year, and plant them by themselves in a well prepared plot of ground. Let them properly ripen and at digging time select all the inferior quality and throw out and the balance should prove good seed. But if your seed be much degenerated continue the same plan for two or three years if you have a potato that is worth the bother, or discard the whole lot and get a new variety to your liking.

I should be glad if any of the readers of the ADVOCATE who have satisfactorily proved these matters would give their experience for the benefit of others who would like to produce the best potato our Western Canada can give.

When I see the car lots of potatoes that are shipped now-a-days to the market I am led to wonder why there is such a degeneration from twenty or twenty-five years ago, and when I realize that they are one of the large commodities of our food supply it seems to me that this ought not so to be.

HIBERNIAN.

[We have no hesitancy in condemning the practice of selecting seed of any kind from immature or unripe plants. The theory is wrong and the practice is never satisfactory, especially if continued.]

As to planting sets from the seed or stem end of the potato, Prof. Zavitz carried on experiments for several years with equal sized sets from the seed end, stem end and middle of potatoes and found that the average yield for the whole time of the experiment was 162 bushels from the stem end, 167 from the seed end and 174 from the middle, only one eye being used in each case. But ordinarily the seed end sets will contain more eyes than the stem ends, and this might affect the yield, as it actually does. Prof. Zavitz has also given us some data on this subject. For five years he planted sets of equal weight, one ounce, taken from averaged sized potatoes and containing one, two, three, four and five eyes. These sets yielded relatively 140, 151, 154, 161 and 185 bushels. In numbers of marketable potatoes the ratio increased in the same proportion. Our correspondent's idea of selecting seed is alright, as tests go to show that while large seed gives better results than small sets, there is a point where it becomes too expensive to use large seed, and that good average sets are the best for all purposes.—Ed.]

## FIELD NOTES

### Events of the Week.

#### CANADIAN.

Charles McGill, late manager of the Toronto Bank, was sentenced to five years in Kingston, for making and signing false returns.

The contract has been given for the largest grain elevator in the world, to be erected at Fort William, Ont. It will have a capacity of ten million bushels.

Duncan C. Ross has been nominated by the Liberals of West Middlesex, Ont., as candidate for the seat in the Provincial House, resigned by his father, G. W. Ross.

Calgary is asking the Dominion Government to establish a sanatorium there. The citizens are becoming alarmed at the increasing number of consumptives who are taking up residence in the town.

Timothy Eaton, Canada's largest retail merchant, and the founder of large departmental stores in Toronto and Winnipeg, died at his home in Toronto on the last day of January. He was seventy years of age, and his death was the result of an attack of pneumonia.

#### BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

Japan will build seven new warships during this year.

The Solomon Islands in the South Seas have been visited by severe earthquakes.

Mrs. Russell Sage has given a million dollars to the P. L. Chamberlain Foundation, New York.

An explosion of dust in the Stewart Colliery, near Fayetteville, West Virginia, caused the death of over sixty miners.

It is said that the Italian Cabinet will introduce at the next Hague Conference, a proposal to limit the tonnage of warships to 16,000 tons.

A workman in the Baldwin locomotive works of Philadelphia threw away a match after lighting a cigarette. The result was a \$500,000 fire.

General Booth of the Salvation Army will spend a short time in Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, Winnipeg and Vancouver on his way to Japan in March.

Germany is demanding the punishment of the Sultan of Turkey's chief of secret police for seizing in Constantinople harbor a cargo destined for Hamburg.

Up to the present over a thousand religious associations have been formed in France in accordance with the State law. Eighty of these are Roman Catholic.

The German Kaiser has issued a birthday proclamation stating that henceforth persons convicted of *lese majeste* will be punished only when the crime has been deliberate and not through ignorance or thoughtlessness.

North Dakota railroads are completely blockaded with snow. Some of the lines will have to remain tied-up until the spring thaw. Lack of food supply will assuredly result in much suffering in the towns on the branch lines.

### Teachers' Salaries in Winnipeg.

The minimum salary of the principal of the collegiate institute shall be \$2,200 per annum, with increase of \$100 per annum until the maximum salary of \$2,400 is attained.

#### MALE ASSISTANTS.

First year, \$1,200; 2nd year, \$1,250; 3rd year, \$1,300; 4th year, \$1,350; 5th year, \$1,400; 6th year, \$1,500; 7th year, \$1,600; 8th year, \$1,700; 9th and subsequent years, \$1,800.

#### FEMALE ASSISTANTS.

First year, \$1,000; 2nd year, \$1,025; 3rd year, \$1,050; 4th year, \$1,075; 5th and subsequent years, \$1,100.

#### PRIMARY DEPARTMENT.

The salaries of male principals in charge of schools of up to twelve rooms, inclusive, shall be as follows:

First year, \$1,200; 2nd year, \$1,250; 3rd year, \$1,300; 4th year, \$1,350; 5th year, \$1,400; 6th year, \$1,500; 7th year, \$1,600; 8th year, \$1,700; 9th and subsequent years, \$1,800.

#### PRINCIPALS' PAY.

Male principals in charge of schools of 16 rooms and upwards shall receive the maximum salary of \$2,000 per annum.

The salaries of ladies now in charge of certain schools as principals shall be as follows:

Argyle school, \$1,000; Machray school, \$1,000; Albert school, \$825; Fort Rouge school, \$775; Wellington school, \$725, per annum.

Grade teachers who have not had experience in teaching equivalent in the opinion of the school management committee, to one year's service in the schools of the city, shall receive salary at the rate of \$400 per annum during the first year of their engagement.

#### AN INTERESTING TABLE.

Other grade teachers in the public schools shall be paid according to the following schedule:

Grade	1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year	4th Year	5th Year	6th Year	7th Year	8th Year	9th Year	10th Year	11 & 12
1	\$500	\$525	\$550	\$575	\$585	\$600	\$615	\$630	\$645	\$660	\$675
2	500	525	550	575	585	600	615	630	645	660	675
3	500	525	550	575	585	600	615	630	645	660	675
4	500	525	550	575	585	600	615	630	645	660	675
5	550	575	600	625	635	650	665	680	695	710	725
6	575	600	625	650	660	675	690	705	720	735	750
7	600	625	650	675	685	700	715	730	745	760	775
8	675	700	725	750	760	775	790	805	820	835	850

### Successful Seed Fair at Red Deer.

A very successful seed fair was held at Red Deer on Thursday, the 24th inst. The exhibits were excellent, particularly the wheat, and a large quantity of seed was sold. Many would-be exhibitors were unable to be present on account of the severe weather and very bad roads.

In spring wheat, any hard variety, Geo. T. White won the first prize with a very fine sample of Percy, making 93 points out of a possible 100. John Greening won 2nd and Geo. Demoney 3rd in this class, each with a sample of Preston.

In fall wheat (hard), Jno. J. Richards won 1st with a score of 93½ and Geo. T. White 2nd with 93; C. W. Teach won 3rd. In fall wheat (soft), the placing was 1st, A. Pointer; 2nd, C. A. J. Sharman; in oats, 1st, A. P. Olsen; 2nd, J. Lamont; 3rd, A. Pointer; in barley (6-rowed), 1st, A. P. Olsen; in barley (2-rowed), 1st, A. Pointer; 2nd, C. W. Leach; in timothy seed, 1st, J. Bower.

The judges, W. C. McKillican of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, and W. F. Stevens, of Clover Bar, remarked on the exceptional purity of the exhibits. These gentlemen addressed a large gathering of farmers on seed selection, clean farming and kindred subjects. Great interest was taken in the meeting and in the fair.