

SOCIETY NOTES

We invite the officers of Horticultural Societies to send in short, pithy reports of work that would interest members of other Horticultural Societies.

The Block Improvement Idea

To Mayor Ward, of Birmingham, Alabama, is said to belong the credit for first conceiving and putting into effect the "Block Improvement Society" idea that has proved so successful in many parts of the United States.

The central idea is that each block or square shall organize, through its inhabitants, an improvement society to look after the beautification and betterment of its environment. The idea brings the needs of the situation home to the individual and shows the relation of the individual to the community. A friendly rivalry between blocks tends to bring even the most indifferent citizen into line, for neighbors will not readily allow any one to spoil their block, which often happens under a go-as-you-please policy.

The idea may be carried out in places of any size. The rambling village along a country road may organize on both sides of the way. A cross roads village may have four groups. Thus the idea may be carried to any extent.

Mayor Ward has laid down the following principles:

"Pull down your fence. The city will haul it away and keep off the cows. If you can't be induced to part with it, fix up and paint it.

"Whitewash everything you can't paint.

FARMS FOR SALE

Advertisements in this department inserted at rate of two cents a word for each insertion, each figure, sign or single letter to count as one word, minimum cost, 25 cents, strictly cash in advance.

ALL KINDS OF FARMS.—Fruit farms a specialty. —W. B. Calder, Grimsby.

TWELVE ACRES, all fruit, new brick, at car. ten acres fruit, new buildings, eight thousand. Western lands for sale.—Widdicombe, James St., St. Catharines, Ont.

NIAGARA DISTRICT FRUIT FARMS.—Before buying it will pay you to consult me. I make a specialty of fruit and grain farms.—Melvin Gavman, St. Catharines.

LARGEST APPLE ORCHARD IN ONTARIO, adjoining the live town of Picton. 65 acres of apple orchard, youngest trees of which are 8 years old, others 11 and 30 years old, all in good condition, large house with furnace, bath, water-works, electric light. For further particulars write F. J. Watson, 127 Bay St., Toronto.

ASK DAWSON. He knows.

IF YOU WANT to sell a farm consult me.

IF YOU WANT to buy a farm consult me.

I HAVE some of the best Fruit, Stock, Grain and Dairy Farms on my list at right prices.

H. W. Dawson, Ninety Colborne St., Toronto.

SALMON ARM, Shuswap Lake, B.C., has the finest fruit and dairy land in B.C. No irrigation necessary; mild winters, moderate summers, no blizzards, or high winds; delightful climate; enormous yields of fruit, vegetables and hay; good fishing; fine boating amidst the most beautiful scenery, and the Salmon Arm fruit has realized 25 cents per box more than other fruit in B.C. Prices of land moderate, and terms to suit. Apply to F. C. Haydock, Salmon Arm, B.C.

FOR EXAMINATION TIME

Secure a handsome FOUNTAIN PEN free of cost by getting five new subscriptions to the Canadian Horticulturist at 60c, each

"Plant lawns, flowers and trees. Wherever the ground shows bare, plant something green in it.

"Exercise the same supervision over your sidewalks as over your front yard. Sidewalks are the index of the people inside.

"Trim up trees which are too low and which overhang sidewalks.

"Plant a strip of green in bare places along sidewalks.

"Don't let your dog bark all night. Think of your neighbors.

"Sweet peas, climbing nasturtiums, castor beans, hollyhocks, or even sunflowers make an effective screen to hide old fences, sheds or other unsightly views. For permanent screens, use hardy shrubs or the quickly growing vines.

"You may have a window box filled with geraniums if you cannot have a grand yard filled with choice roses."

Where could not all this be done to advantage? The Block Society idea, if properly developed, will lay a splendid basis for real community development.

Markdale

The Markdale Horticultural Society this year has offered its members a dollar's worth of plants, shrubs, seeds and bulbs and a year's subscription to THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST. Their first meeting of the season was held in the Agricultural Lecture Hall, the seating capacity of which was more than filled. There was a recitation and an instrumental duet, followed by an illustrated address by Prof. H. L. Hutt, of the Guelph Agricultural College, entitled "Home and Town Improvement."

Toronto

The Toronto Horticultural Society gave its members an unusual treat, in their inaugural monthly meeting, in their new home in the Canadian Order of Foresters Building, 22 College Street, in April. By having Mr. Wm. Hunt, Lecturer in Floriculture at the Guelph Agricultural College, deliver an address, illustrated by superb lantern views taken in connection with his floral work at the college. Mr. Hunt is one of the best florists in America. Through his painstaking, intelligent, and able work for the province, in the press, on the platform, and at the college, he has done much to stimulate the enthusiasm of Canadians for gardens and gardening. The crowning glory of his work, produced under great difficulties, is a rose garden, that adds immensely to the attractions of the Royal City.—A. K. G.

Peterboro Society Increasing

Increased interest is being shown this year in the work of the Peterboro Horticultural Society. About one hundred and thirty new members have been secured, bringing the membership up to about three hundred. Four options have been given the members for spring distribution, in addition to which bulbs will be distributed in the fall.

Hamilton

Three years ago the Hamilton Horticultural Society determined to extend its usefulness by increasing its membership. This was attempted by personal canvass, and the membership was increased to three hundred and fifty. This personal canvass has been continued each year. Last year the society had four hundred and sixty-four members.

During the past two years there have

been given each year twelve hundred packages choice mixed aster seed to the children of the public and separate schools. We awarded three prizes to each of the twenty-seven schools and three prizes to the three schools making the best general exhibit. These last prizes were to be planted on the school grounds. The children evinced great interest and entered between two hundred and fifty and three hundred bunches of asters each year. We found that the parents took great interest in the children's work.

In addition to a general supervision of the city we have during the past three years distributed to our members eighty thousand choice bulbs, assorted, three thousand choice shrubs, eight kinds, and eight thousand five hundred choice perennials, 12 kinds. We also gave THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST to all our members and held a winter course of lectures.—J. Kneeshaw.

Walkerville's Good Work

Mr. W. H. Smith, the secretary-treasurer of the Walkerville Horticultural Society, has sent THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST the annual announcement, financial statement and list of premiums of that society for the year 1912. The receipts of the society last year were \$774, including a balance from the year before of \$219. The society is offering ten options, each of which is attractive.

Enclosed with the announcement of the society was the annual announcement of the garden and lawn competition and list of prizes offered by Hiram Walker and Sons, Ltd. The competition is open to all residents of Walkerville who cultivate their own gardens. There are classes for property-owners and tenants.

Prizes are offered for hanging baskets, improvements to new homes, collections of hardy shrubs, collections of roses, of herbaceous plants, for the general appearance of the garden, lawn and boulevard, for beds of geraniums twenty-five square feet or more, for collections of climbing vines, for the best window, porch or lawn boxes as seen from the street, and for many other similar classes. Societies that are thinking of holding similar competitions will do well to write for a copy of this announcement.

Tile Drains for the Orchard

Jas. Marshall, Wentworth Co., Ont.

Perhaps underdrains do more good to fruit orchards than anything else. Any farmer who has an apple orchard knows that the trees will grow and bear much better in dry places than in a soil that is too wet. I had a tile running between two rows of common red cherry trees, and these trees were about four times as large as others on land not drained, and the fruit was better.

Peach trees will not grow on wet soils. The soil on part of my farm is naturally wet in the subsoil, being heavy clay. The editor of a fruit paper told me that peaches could not be grown successfully one mile back over the mountain. Mine are nearly two miles back on the mountain. A fruit nurseryman told me, when buying the trees, that I could not grow them.

I planted forty trees on drained land thirteen years ago last May, and some had the thirteenth crop last summer; one year a very light crop, a few years a fair crop, but most years a heavy crop. I have now three thousand five hundred peach trees, most of them young and just coming into bearing.