

Encouraging Results

An example of what can be done in a small village having only a widely scattered population, is shown by the work of the Cayuga Horticultural Society. The members have endeavored by public gardens in the Court House Park and at the high and public schools to educate the public and induce them to work on individual lines. In this way they are paving the way for flower shows and garden and lawn competitions.

"By our efforts," writes Secretary Goodman, "a Sunday walk has been established in the summer, by means of which the citizens make a point of enjoying the floral effects in the different parks and grounds, the good result of which has been very apparent on the healthier tone of the town.

"We now purpose to spend all our money for a time on premiums to the members. The work in connection with the public gardens, so propitiously commenced, will not languish. In this way we hope to foster a greater pride in the floral adornment of the individual home, and interest those who, so far, have not assisted in our work."

A Live Horticultural Society

Although comparative disappointment attended the St. Catharines Horticultural Society for a few years, the results of the last two or three seasons have shown that the plans adopted by that society are worthy of emulation. This society has been in existence for six years. During the first three its membership was stationary—being 39.58 and 63 respectively. In 1903 it went down to 51, just barely sufficient to keep the organization intact and be recognized as a society. At each annual meeting it would be considered desirable to hold an exhibition in June, and a committee would usually be appointed, but that would probably be the last heard of it.

During these years, however, if the society had barely maintained an existence, it did not squander its resources, but carefully husbanded them. In 1904 there was a balance in the treasury of \$125 or more—sufficient to warrant an aggressive movement.

The new board of directors met practically every two weeks during the spring, and some had arrangements under way for two exhibitions—one in June and one in September. Aster seed was distributed among the school children, and a lively interest awakened among the younger people. The city council gave a grant of \$50, and business men generously contributed toward the prize list in the way of special prizes. When it was seen that the society was working, it was not difficult to increase the membership, and the year closed with a total of 98 names on the list and \$65 in the treasury, with all bills paid. Being the first year in which flower shows were held in the city, the directors were more concerned in making them an unquestioned success, because of the influence on the efforts of future years, than in maintaining the cash balance with which the year was commenced.

Last year, 1905, we resolved to have three exhibitions, in June, July and September. The first was principally for roses and other early flowers and fruits; the second for sweet peas, pansies, nasturtiums, and other midsummer flowers and fruits; the September show for asters, dahlias and other fall flowers; while the fruit exhibition was looked on as being the principal one of the year. At this show vegetables also were given a place. All our exhibitions this year, as well as last, were successful. An unusually warm night in September, and the counter attraction of a military parade in close proximity to the show, marred the attendance at the last exhibition, but yet our receipts held up well.

The value of the awards offered at the June exhibition was \$73.50; in July, \$78.90, and September, \$87.80, making a total of \$240.20.

The entries for June numbered 155, for July 312 and for September, 412.—W. B. Burgoyne, president.

Seaforth's Loss

The Seaforth soc. recently sustained a great loss when its esteemed secretary, Mr. Wm. Elliott, owing



Wm. Elliott

to advanced age retired from his position as town clerk and removed from Seaforth to Owen Sound, that he might live with many of his family relations. Mr. Elliott was one of the first to take hold of the Seaforth soc., and has been its efficient sec., with the exception of the first year, since its beginning up to this year. A large measure of the credit due the soc. for the excellent work it has accomplished may be given to Mr. Elliott for his untiring efforts in its behalf. The soc. is recognized as a power for good in the town.

Horticulture in the West

Horticultural interests in the Canadian prairie country are well represented in the report of the sixth, seventh and eighth annual meetings of the Western Horticultural Society. Important questions of vital interest to all horticulturists discussed by successful and practical men in various lines are fully dealt with. Matters of interest to lovers of trees, fruits, shrubs, flowers, vegetables, and bees fill 108 pages.

Some idea of the scope and nature of the contents may be gleaned from the following list of papers and addresses, by such prominent horticulturists:—Fruits for Eastern Manitoba, by Alex. McPherson; Apple Growing in the Red River Valley, by A. P. Stevenson; Growing Fruit for Market, by W. C. Hall; Hardy Perennial Flowers, by Robert Lloyd; Half-hardy Ornamental and Flowering Shrubs, by Harry Brown; Tree Planting for Fuel, by Rev. J. Fotheringham; Horticulture in Northern Alberta, by Donald Ross; The Ideal Farmer's Garden, by S. A. Bedford; Hardy Fruits for Western Manitoba, by S. A. Bedford; Small Fruit Culture, by Prof. C. B. Waldron; Small Fruits in Saskatchewan, by P. G. Laurie; The Relation of Birds to Horticulture, by George E. Atkinson; Suggestions for the Improvement of our Horticultural Products by Cross-fertilization or Hybridization, by Harry Brown; Small Fruits in Manitoba, by D. W. Buchanan; Ornamental Trees and Shrubs, by A. P. Stevenson; Apples and Plums in Western Canada, by H. L. Patmore; Apple Growing in Manitoba, by John Caldwell; Onion Culture, by Victor Mager; The Improvement of our Native Fruits, by Max D. Major; Hardy Annuals, by Robert Lloyd; Some Branches of Horticulture that are Necessary and Profitable to Western Settlers, by H. L. Patmore; The Progress of Apple Culture at the Brandon Experimental Farm, by Harry Brown; Roses and How to Grow Them, by Robert Barclay; The Peony, the Flower for Manitoba, by C. S. Harrison; The Evolution of Horticulture, by P. Middleton; Apples and other Fruits Hardy in Manitoba, by A. P. Stevenson.

This report is prepared for free distribution to the members of the society. It has also been decided by the Executive that as long as the supply lasts copies of previous reports will be sent to new members coming in for membership during the year 1906. There are three of these past reports still held in sufficient numbers as to allow of continued distribution. The cost of

preparing and mailing this latest report amounts to about 30 cents a copy, and this, together with the other three reports, makes up a parcel of literature that is not only worth more than the price of membership to the one who receives it, but has actually cost the Society almost one dollar to produce. Anyone, no matter where he resides, may become a member. The address of the secretary is George Batho, P.O. Box 1310, Winnipeg.

How to Grow Tomatoes

The most approved method of growing tomatoes was discussed by Mr. L. M. Schenk, of St. Catharines, at a meeting of tomato growers at Jordan Station recently. Mr. Schenk first described the making and care of hotbeds. For such plenty of manure should be used and covered, when prepared and tramped, with five inches of good soil. The bed should be started about March 20, and the seed sown a week later. The seeds should be patted into the soil and, unless the soil is very dry, left without water until they are up. The temperature should be about 60 degrees at night. When plants are up, air often to prevent damping off.

Mr. Schenk advised transplanting to a second hotbed with less manure and more soil, instead of to a cold frame, as is the usual custom. By this means, he said, there is less damage of loss, and stronger plants are secured for the field. This transplanting should be done late in the afternoon to lessen danger of wilting. Next morning lift glass and allow sun and air to dry up moisture; when the plants show signs of wilting, shade again. Plants must be stocky for field culture, not long and spindly. This is secured by giving them plenty of room and plenty of sun and air in this hotbed.

From hotbed number 2 transplant directly to the field. Have plot marked off into squares, four feet each way. Manure all the ground—not the hills only. The latter system gives a good start, but is not lasting in results. In addition, a little hen manure, or phosphate, thrown in with each plant is valuable. The night before transplanting soak the soil in the hotbed with water, and again add a little water next morning. When the grower has the time it is wise to retain a ball of earth about the roots. For quick work plant with spade rather than by plowing furrows.

Mr. Schenk did not wish to recommend any particular variety, but favored personally the Matchless, as grown by Burpee. Among other good ones are Success, Livingstone's Perfection, Livingstone's Favorite, Stone and Ignatum, when pure seed can be secured. The Earliana, so largely grown in some sections, is not liked by canners. "There is too much waste," said Mr. Schenk. "They do not ripen evenly. All the green must be cut away, and as a consequence we do not like them." They are, nevertheless, amongst growers the most popular early tomato grown in the province. When the grower decides upon the varieties he will plant he should be particular to get the seed from firms making specialties of those particular varieties.

Mr. J. B. Dolan, of St. Catharines, also spoke, and advised beginners not to start on too small an area. At least two acres should be grown so as always to have a load to take to the car. A smaller quantity is scarcely worth the trouble. He also advised growers to strongly fortify themselves with crates.—A.B.C.

FROM THE FAR WEST—I enclose my renewal subscription for that valuable paper THE HORTICULTURIST. In this district great interest is shown in fruit raising, and all who have seen THE HORTICULTURIST speak very highly of it and of the suggestions continually in its columns, and no doubt 20 subscriptions could be obtained here. I note the strides THE HORTICULTURIST is making in up-to-dateness. The latter improvements are worthy your efforts.—L. B. Pangman, Salmon Arm, B.C.