

Parliament and the Fruit Industry

In the House of Commons, during the debate of the estimates of \$150,000 for "the development of the live stock, dairying and fruit industries, the improvement of seeds and the promotion of the sale of food and other agricultural products," many subjects of interest to fruit growers were mentioned. Mr. J. E. Armstrong, M.P. for Lambton, said:

"We have been urging the minister to establish experimental fruit farms in the Niagara peninsula; many of his supporters from that district have been urging on him the importance of establishing such farms, but the minister has paid no attention to their appeals. In that part of the country another thing that we need is a separation of the departments of fruit and dairying. Again and again the minister has been urged to separate the dairy and fruit departments, but he continues to keep them under one head. Urgent requests have been submitted to the minister to effect the separation. How can he expect that Mr. Ruddick, Dairy Commissioner, can give proper attention to the fruit industry while, at the same time, he is expected to give full attention to the dairy industry?"

On another phase of the question, not directly referring to the administration of the fruit division, though concerning the industry, Mr. Armstrong said some interesting things. Speaking of the fruit industry he said: "This industry should be developed by 50%. Apples are the easiest products to be shipped, and our country is well adapted to the growth of this fruit. Yet the minister remains with folded arms, though opportunities present themselves for an extension of our market to Germany, which took \$400,000 worth of our apples last year, and will, probably, be ready to increase that amount. The hon. gentleman says that if Emperor William will send his representative, he, the hon. minister, will communicate with that representative, but he is not going to open negotiations with a view to extending this market for our fruit growers. Let him look to the U.S. and see what they have accomplished. They were in the same position, with reference to the German tariff, as Canada is. But, a few months ago, they made arrangements with Germany whereby their apples go into that country at a great advantage over ours. The outcome of the minister's policy will be that we shall have only one market to which to ship our product. The German market is closed against us; practically, our only market is the market of Gt. Britain, which is open to the whole world as freely as it is to us. I feel confident that the time is coming when the Min. of Agric. and his government will have to take more definite action, to open the markets of the world to the products of the Canadian farm."

Keeping Quality of Plums

That some plums are much superior to others in keeping quality has been proved by Mr. Auguste Dupuis, director of the fruit experiment station, Village des Aulnaies, P.Q. Several varieties were set in a shed when picked, and some were found to be much more valuable as long keepers than others. Without cold storage certain varieties can be kept for some time and sold at a high price.

Over 50 varieties of European and American seedlings fruited last summer and fall. The Mirabelles, Bradshaw or Niagara, Grand Duke, Washington Lombard, Quackenboss, Hudson River, Dawson and Reine Claude de Montmorency bore a very large crop.

"As soon as they ripened," Mr. Dupuis writes THE HORTICULTURIST, "I kept plates of each variety on shelves in a cool outhouse, to find out how long they would remain in good condition. The first to mature were the Jaune

hative, the Jaune très hative and Favorite hative, August 10 to 12, about three weeks before Green Gage and Washington. The last we picked were the Grand Duke, Coe's Golden Drop, R. Claude de Bavay and de Norbert, dark blue and round. This was on October 10 and 12. A big frost on October 11 damaged the Pond Seedlings, but did not injure the de Norbert, a valuable variety."

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Items of Interest

The Toronto branch of the Ont. Veg. Grs. Assn. held its 8th annual excursion on Aug. 1, to St. Catharines. Over 600 persons availed themselves of the opportunity for a trip across the lake and an enjoyable outing. An excellent orchestra was in attendance and the day was spent in playing games, running races and doing many things that people are wont to do when taking a holiday. So large was the crowd that an extra boat had to be run to carry the people home. Before boarding the first boat, some unpleasant things occurred that resulted in a brief fight, reports of which, in the daily press, were greatly exaggerated. It is to be feared, however, that such reports may have been founded in part on the fact that the association permitted whiskey and wine to be offered as prizes in a few events, and THE HORTICULTURIST would suggest that such opportunity for criticism be not permitted at future gatherings.

Recently a committee appointed by the Ont. Veg. Grs. Assn. visited the O.A.C., Guelph, to gather information on what is being done at that institution for market gardeners. Another committee has been commissioned to visit the C.E.F., Ottawa, for the same purpose. This committee is comprised of three growers, Messrs. S. Baker and D. Smith, of Ottawa; and Mr. R. J. Bushell, the president of the Kingston branch.

An expert from the dept. of agric. at Washington, recently visited the trial grounds of Mr.

H. H. Groff, at Simcoe, Ont., for the purpose of microscopic study of the methods of reproduction of the original wild species that enter into the composition of Mr. Groff's improved gladioli. The selection of Mr. Groff's production by the U.S. Dept. of agri., is a marked compliment both to Mr. Groff and to Canada.

It is reported that a large apple orchard, about 600 acres, will be operated a short distance from Montreal. The company is capitalized at \$300,000. A Dominion charter has been secured under the name of the Dominion Orchard Co., Ltd. Arrangements have been made with several large European importers to take over the entire output of the orchard for several years.

On Aug. 14, the new experimental farm in the Niagara district was officially opened. Many prominent persons were present, including Hon. Nelson Monteith, Min. of Agric., Toronto; Pres. Creelman, O. A. C., Guelph; G. A. Putnam, Supt. Farmers' Institutes, Toronto; E. D. Smith, M.P.; E. A. Lancaster, M.P.; Dr. Jessop, M.L.A.; Mr. M. F. Rittenhouse, the donor, and others. An all-day picnic and an afternoon of speeches in Victoria Hall, made the occasion a pleasant and an important one.

Notwithstanding the failure of some of the shipments to Australasia last year, reports J. S. Larke, Canadian Commercial Agent, Sydney, N.S.W., there is likely to be inquiries for good Canadian apples in October. The prosperous condition of Australia has increased the number of purchasers of high-class fruit, hence there will be a demand for an increased quantity, for which good prices will be paid. Mr. Larke writes also that the crop of potatoes in New Zealand is much below what was expected. As a consequence, prices have gone up. In October and later, there will be a demand for any surplus Canada can supply, at good rates.

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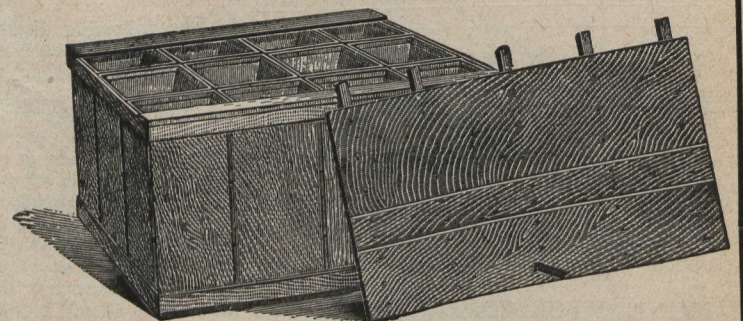
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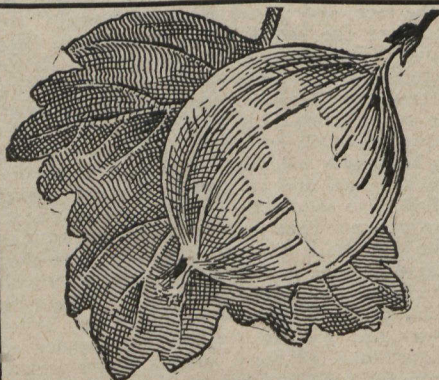
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