

## ARKONA

Miss McAdam and Miss Richardson will render a vocal duet Sunday evening, Nov. 17, in the Presbyterian church.

Mr. and Mrs. John Carnie, of New York, are the guests of David Johnson this week.

Mr. C. J. Ready made a business trip to Toronto last week.

Mr. Moses Moore, of Avoca, Mich., is visiting his brother in the Ark.

Mr. Art Goldsmith left on Monday for Strathroy, where he has secured a situation.

Rev. Wright, of Arkona, exchanged pulpits with Rev. Mead, of Watford, last Sunday.

Balance of winter millinery stock at cost.—E. M. Irwin.

Six only ladies' black coats, this season's styles, at bargain prices.—Brown Bros.

Miss Alta Rook is visiting friends in Attwood.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Smith, of Newbury, are visiting friends in the Ark.

Mr. P. Austin is attending the Horticultural Exhibition in Toronto this week. He is making several entries in the name of the Arkona Apple Growers' Association. Mrs. Austin is with him.

Mr. Richard Wilson left on Monday for Winnipeg.

Mr. L. Langstrath is attending the Beekeepers' Convention held in Toronto this week.

Consignments of Xmas china are being opened out this week.—Brown Bros.

Mrs. Jos. Wilcox and little daughter are visiting at Mount Pleasant, Mich.

Mrs. Thomas, sr., left last week for Peck, Mich.

Mr. and Mrs. Verne Stephenson have moved to Harbor Beach, Mich.

Mr. Murray Jaynes, of Crosswell, Mich. visited at his home here.

Major Thornicroft left for London last week.

Bargains in hats from now until the end of the season.—Fuller Bros. Millinery Dept.

## ARKONA PUBLIC SCHOOL.

Report for October. Class IV.—Brook Copeland 83, George Fuller 76, Marjorie Copeland 66, Lloyd Richter 64, Orval Huntley 60, Lonnie Jackson 51, Class III.—Mac Watts 70, Arthur Shrier 68, Nellie Donaldson 65, Bruce Augustine 60, Bradford Smith 58, Harvey White 55.—R. McInnis, Principal.

Primary Room. Class II.—Maurice Lucas 80, Norman Crawford 75, Morgan Wilson 70, Zella Connolly 68, Ruth Richter 66, (Clare Dunlop, George Rutter), absent. Pt. II.—Maurice Smith 90, Mable Topping 86, Eva Shier 84, Ida Eastman 79, Bertram Evans 70, Lois Baldwin 65, (Franklin Potter, Elsie Weelmark), absent.—H. A. Hill, Teacher.

## THE BEST MEDICINE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Mrs. Ulderie Roberge, Lac Long, Que., writes:—"I have used Baby's Own Tablets for my baby who suffered from stomach trouble and vomiting, also from constipation and they completely cured him. I can recommend them to all mothers as the very best medicine for young children. The Tablets are superior to all other medicines not only because they promptly cure stomach trouble, constipation, colic, etc., but because they are guaranteed to be absolutely safe and free from all harmful drugs. Sold by medicine dealers or by mail at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

## Leitch-Harris.

A quiet wedding took place at Watford on Wednesday, October 23rd, when Miss Edith Harris, one of Warwick's most popular young ladies, was united in marriage to Mr. Alex Leitch, a prosperous young farmer of the 7th con., near Alvinston. The bride wore a travelling suit of blue serge, with hat to match. The presents were costly and numerous, including a beautiful set of furs and sun-burst brooch from the groom. Shortly after the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Leitch left for their home on the 7th con., near Alvinston.

## LAMBTON COUNTY AS A FRUIT DISTRICT.

By W. H. Porter, Government Agricultural Expert for Lambton.

In this age of real estate boom and land speculation one has acquired the habit of glancing only casually or with suspicion at articles written concerning localities and districts. Without any consideration, we pronounce them at once the finished product of some publicity employee or the effulgent offerings of a class of verbose land agents. Not a few over credulous investors have been in the hands of these agencies, but it has tended to educate interested parties to assure themselves of certain conditions, favorable and unfavorable, which go to make districts objectionable or desirable.

When examining a locality and looking into its conditions and possibilities relative to fruit growing one must take into consideration soil, locality, climate and markets and when these are all conducive to the production of an article of the highest quality success then depends upon an ordinary amount of intelligence on the part of the grower, a lack of which commodity we are all loath to admit.

Lambton County has been very modest in advertising her adaptability for fruit growing. For many years a few fruit growers have been producing apples, plums, pears, and peaches of first class quality, but the production of small fruits in the county being small they did not have to seek a market abroad and consequently little was heard of Lambton as a fruit producing county. In time farmers began to see that their soil was similar to that producing the best kind of fruit; planting became general and to-day plantations of forty to fifty acres are not uncommon, while smaller orchards are so much in evidence that the northern part of the county has gotten into long clothes as a fruit producing area.

A closer examination of conditions will prove that it is not confidence misplaced. Soil, climate, land and water are so favorably adjusted as to make conditions ideal. In the north, which is the fruit area proper, the soil varies from loam with gravelly subsoil to straight sand and gravel which is known as the "ridge." Peach trees do exceptionally well on this formation and during the first two or three years of growth bears are grown between the trees. They yield at the rate of twenty-five bushels per acre and more than repay all expenses connected with the trees until they monopolize the land. Tobacco is another crop which repays well in inter tilling, and growers claim that at 12c. per pound they can get remunerative returns from their young orchard land. Since the advent of the canning factories tomato culture is becoming popular. Early tomatoes are most profitable for they are sold \$1.50 to \$1.75 per 11 quart basket and then the later pickings are turned over to the factories by the bushel at paying figures.

The growth of the young trees and the early age at which they bear fruit is the best testimonial of favorable soil conditions. In the orchard of Johnson Bros., Forest, is a tree which in the autumn of 1911, when only five years of age, produced fourteen 11 quart baskets of salable peaches. This tree is no better than the average in the ten acre orchard in which it stands. My reason for citing this particular tree is that it was chosen as representative of the orchard.

To arrive at a clear understanding of climatic conditions it is necessary to explain the geographical position. Tracing the 42nd parallel of latitude eastward we find it passing through the northern part of the county and touching at Welland in the Niagara Peninsula thus casting the greater part of the fruit producing area of that district north of the corresponding area in Lambton County. This geographical situation in favor of the county is not appreciated by those unfamiliar with Western Ontario. The second glance at the map will reveal the presence of a large body of water extending along the entire length of the north-western side of the county. This body of water, Lake Huron, has a remarkable modifying influence on the climate and accounts to a large degree for the absence of extremes in temperature. Actual records show a growing season of 204 days at Sarnia, as against 202 growing days at Hamilton, and Welland in the Niagara district where horticulture has

reached such a development that desirable land commands a very high figure. The general slope of the land is northerly, a particular feature sought by all experienced growers for it retards unseasonable growth in early spring and ensures a greater absence from injury in winter than where the trees are subjected to the direct rays of the sun.

All that has been said relative to soil and climate would avail nothing were there not convenient shipping facilities. Here is where Lambton County is particularly favored. Ontario's population is most dense in the western part which gives Lambton County full advantage in this regard. Further, about half of the population in the county is urban and this augmented by a large summer resort trade along the lake and river makes a large consuming population. Ontario, British Columbia, and the Western States are all making a strong bid for the western market and where the hammer falls it will be found that the locality which can place its produce there with most convenient and least expensive shipping facilities will be the highest bidder. Produce can be gathered in the morning, put aboard boats and shipped at one o'clock en route to Fort William, Port Arthur and Sault Ste. Marie, where a good market is found, or it can be forwarded to the West much more cheaply than where advantages of the water rates do not exist. By rail direct, the produce is one day's journey nearer the market before it even leaves the depot at Forest or Sarnia than are Niagara offerings. These are circumstances that will sway the balance in days of keen competition between large fruit producing districts.

I do not wish to speak in a depreciatory manner of any other locations; my only aim is to explain by comparison actual conditions in Lambton County, and nothing is more reliable than an understanding of conditions substantiated by official records.

What has been said will convey no idea of the possibilities of the county. Out of 599,000 acres, over 80,000 acres are suitable for the production of tender fruits and vegetables, and the parts of that now developed, comprise a very small fraction of the whole. With the development of the fruit industry has come an increase in land values. Land which a few years ago was grazing cattle and considered worth Fifty Dollars an acre is now selling at Seventy-five to One Hundred Dollars per acre. At this figure one can profitably start a plantation, for in five years he will receive returns from the trees and in the meantime can be raising early Tomatoes, Tobacco, early Potatoes and Beans. Beans are being commonly grown, and an estimate, not of what now can be done but of what is being actually done will not be out of place. Twenty bushels per acre at two dollars per bushel is a very conservative estimate for this year, and yet it returns to the grower forty dollars per acre while his trees are coming to a bearing age. This is one reason why so many business men have made investments in fruit land and it is good reason why we can, without any hesitation, recommend the district to prospective fruit growers. As an instance of what the orchard itself will do, I will simply refer to the records of a 2½ acre plum orchard inter-planted with Malboro raspberries near the village of Arkona. This orchard is owned by Mr. E. D. Morningstar and it returned to him in one year \$1400.

Cheap land is yet plentiful and changing hands frequently. In the outskirts of the town of Forest can be bought 10 acre blocks of peach orchards at about three hundred dollars per acre. About half of these trees are about five years old and the remainder two years old. Only a quarter of a mile from the Canning Factory and depot the produce can be easily handled, which is a big factor in marketing small fruits.

Undeveloped fruit land ranges from seven to one hundred dollars per acre and can be purchased on easy terms. Many growers in addition to their orchard rent from their neighbors, and devote their entire attention to the one industry.

A young man with a very small capital can, through the renting system, work himself quickly into the business, while one could not find a surer investment for his surplus dollars. The land after planting will increase in value \$50.00 per acre each year until the trees are at their best. This with the returns from the intercropping is a very satisfactory profit.

The county is yet young; it has not yet touched the fringe of its possibilities in fruit growing, and it is still free from intestation by the San Jose Scale, that destructive insect which has laid waste many productive orchards in Southern Ontario. This orchard is owned by Mr. E. D. Morningstar and it returned to him in one year \$1400.

The outstanding features alone have been mentioned in this resume of the conditions surrounding the fruit industry in Lambton County. Errors and omissions are unintentional. My exclusive aim is to present the truth regarding the industry so important in Ontario, and picture one part of the province where anyone, wishing the profits and social advantage of Horticultural life, may cast his lot.

Wallaceburg is to have a five and ten cent store.

MONIED men in Essex county, accustomed to handling mortgages, are turning their attention to the purchase of debentures, owing to the fact that mortgages are almost a thing of the past. In this connection they complain that municipal clerks neglect to authenticate by-laws as the law directs. The Consolidated Municipal Act provides that every by-law contracting any debt by the issue of debentures other than under the Municipal Drainage Act, or for local improvements, shall be registered, under a penalty of \$200. How many clerks have rendered themselves liable?

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Deposits Nov. 30, 1911.....63,494,580  
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