

orchard beneath the trees and which acts as a mulch. In addition to the above, Mr. Earl has over 500 grape vines, upon which there was a fine show of fruit.

On the 31st of July we reached Agassiz, where three days were most profitably spent in examining the work and crops on the Experimental Farm, and in attending the meetings of a joint convention of the Fruit Growers', Farmers' and Hop Growers' Associations of British Columbia. At this meeting, which was presided over by His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, and attended by the Acting Minister of Agriculture, Col. Baker; the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Mr. J. R. Anderson; and most of the leading fruit growers of the province, I had an opportunity of gaining much useful information from the discussions at the convention and by private conversation. I had the pleasure also of meeting many of my own correspondents, and made a point of inquiring particularly as to the occurrence of the Codling Moth and the San José Scale. My own observations were here confirmed and no trace of either of these pests could be heard of. I delivered two addresses at the convention; one upon injurious insects and the best methods of preventing their injuries; the other, on agricultural grasses, a subject of much interest in British Columbia. On the afternoon of the second day, at the request of some of the fruit growers, and at the suggestion of Mr. Saunders, who also was present at this convention, I gave an exhibition of some of the best spraying nozzles.

The wonderful crops of all fruits on the Experimental Farm were admired by the visitors. Some varieties of plums, apples and peaches, which were ripe at the time, were distributed among the visitors by Mr. Sharpe, and a chance was thus afforded of testing their excellent quality. The flowers and ornamental shrubs also were objects of great interest. An expedition was made up the mountain at the back of the farm on the afternoon of the last day to inspect an important experiment, which has been carried out by Mr. Sharpe, of planting fruit trees on upland benches and mountain ledges. He has four orchards of various fruit trees, planted at different elevations approximately as follows 50, 150 feet, 500, 600 feet, 800, 850 feet and 1,000 and 1,050 feet. If this experiment should prove a success, as present appearances seem to indicate, it will make available for the remunerative husbandry of fruit growing thousands of acres of most valuable land in British Columbia which up to the present have been entirely neglected.

On the morning of Saturday, the 3rd of August, I left Agassiz and reached Victoria the same night. Monday, the 5th, was spent in the Department of Agriculture with the Deputy Minister and Mr. Palmer. On the morning of the 6th I went to Nanaimo, where I remained until the morning of the 8th, and delivered a public address on the morning of the 7th. Friday, the 9th, was spent in visiting the orchards and farms around Victoria, through the kindness of Mr. Lamberton, who saved me much time by driving me to the chief points of interest. His own extensive fruit orchards were visited at Mount Tolmie, as well as the long established and thriving nursery of Mr. G. Knight, the farms of Mr. Edward King and several others. Most interesting investigations were made at Mr. John Tolmie's, Cloverdale. A remarkable sight was seen on Mr. Tolmie's estate; the fine oak groves for many acres were almost defoliated by the black and white caterpillars of the Vancouver Island oak-looper (*Ellopiia somnaria*). Upon tapping a bough of a tree left and hang in the air on silken threads. The injuries of this insect are very great and have for many years recurred at short intervals in the oak groves around Victoria. When they reach their culminating point of abundance, they are suddenly brought down to their normal degree of occurrence by two or three species of parasite insects and by a disease due to a fungus *sporotrichum globuliferum*, a parasite which has been used economically with great effect in controlling the Chinch-bug, so injurious to crops in the Western States.

Before leaving Victoria, through the kindness of Mr. B. Williams I was also enabled to visit the nursery of Mr. Leyritz, who has a nice collection of ornamental trees.

On Saturday, the 10th, I accompanied Mr. Anderson and his assistant, Mr. E. Carew-Gibson, to Shawnigan Lake about thirty miles distant from Victoria. The