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HORTICULTURAL

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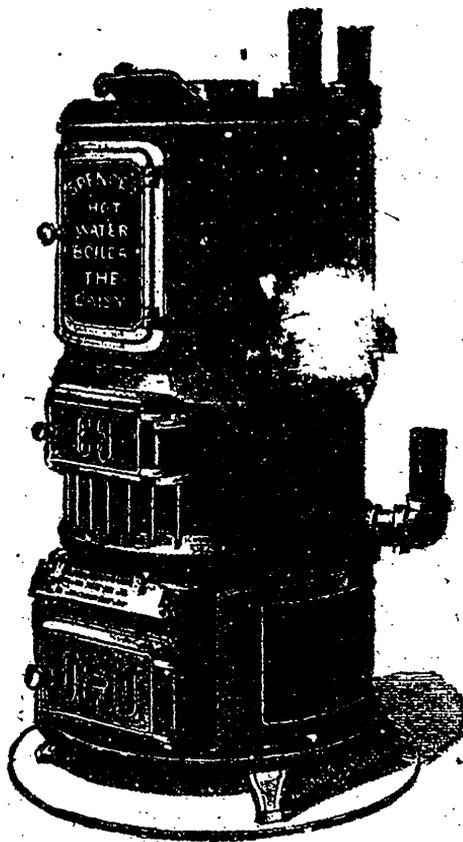
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NOTES ON OLD AND MODERN GARDENS
OF MONTREAL.

BY MR. RICHARD G. STARKE, WESTMOUNT.

PART I.

The earliest approach on record to the semblance of a garden in the vicinity of Mount Royal, was that which greeted the eyes of Jacques Cartier and his followers when, welcomed by a great concourse of Huron-Iroquois, they were led, as quaintly related, "by one of the principal lords of the said city," attended by a large retinue, to the Indian town of Hochelaga, whose name, being interpreted, means great. Surrounding its stockade were fields of maize, rendered golden by the early frosts, and showing between the splitting husks the yellow-beaded grains, while up the wooded slopes, and crowning their summit, the embowering maple foliage was dyed with autumnal hues.

It was the red man's garden, and far and wide over the vast territory known to us as the Dominion of Canada, where he had reigned lord paramount for untold generations, no other variety of horticulture, if we except the narcotic weed, was to be seen. With these familiar exceptions his trophies were not won from the soil, but from the chase, the lake and the stream, and the more ghastly from his tribal foes in the hour of battle. But while from these ardent pursuits, and the vicissitudes and uncertainties of his life, he could establish no garden in the modern sense of the term, the wild fruits and flowers of his wide domain were not unheeded or despised, but were to him significant of the Great Beneficent Spirit that supplied the forest with so much that was needful to his existence.

By tradition and practice he knew the medicinal virtues of plants which he culled in the garden of nature, and while he adorned his head with the feathers of a bird, his clothing of prepared skins was not infrequently embroidered with leaf and flower, which cer-

tain dyed grasses, and the quills of the porcupine, enabled him to imitate. He was not all savage.

Not till more than half a century later, when the fur traders began to establish their posts, did the Indian, as we are told, obtain the means of adding to his horticultural products the yellow pumpkin and French bean. But ere this period had arrived the quaint, bark-built, palisaded town of Hochelaga had been swept away in the restless conflicts of the tribes. On the second visit of the French to Mount Royal in 1611 not a vestige of the town was to be seen.

After Jacques Cartier, the first white man to visit the Island, was the founder and first Governor of Canada, Samuel de Champlain, who, with an Indian and a Frenchman, arrived on the 28th May, 1611, at the spot where the Custom House now stands, and struck with the site, selected it at once for a city, naming it "La Place Royale." He says :

"While awaiting the savages, I there made two gardens, one in the meadows and the other in the woods which I cleared, and on the second day of June, sowed some grains, which all came up to perfection, and in a short time demonstrated the goodness of the ground."

Here, then, on the banks of the little stream which flowed into the harbour, at La Place Royale, were planted the first gardens of the French ; though extending along its shores to the interior, Champlain found more than sixty acres of meadow lands which formerly had been tilled by the Indians.

To the early French colonists, enduring hardships, and struggling for a bare and rough existence, surrounded by hostile savages, garden culture was necessarily of slow growth ; but as their leaders were noted for energy and talents of a superior order, and those refinements in social life which were the innate result of a cultured race, they began ere long to cultivate, in the soil of the new land, varieties of the fruits and flowers which had been pleasant to the taste and delightful to the eye in the gardens of *la belle France*. These, with sundry flowering shrubs, and the willow, and familiar Lombardy poplar, would at least remind them, in a land of interminable forests, of their native home.

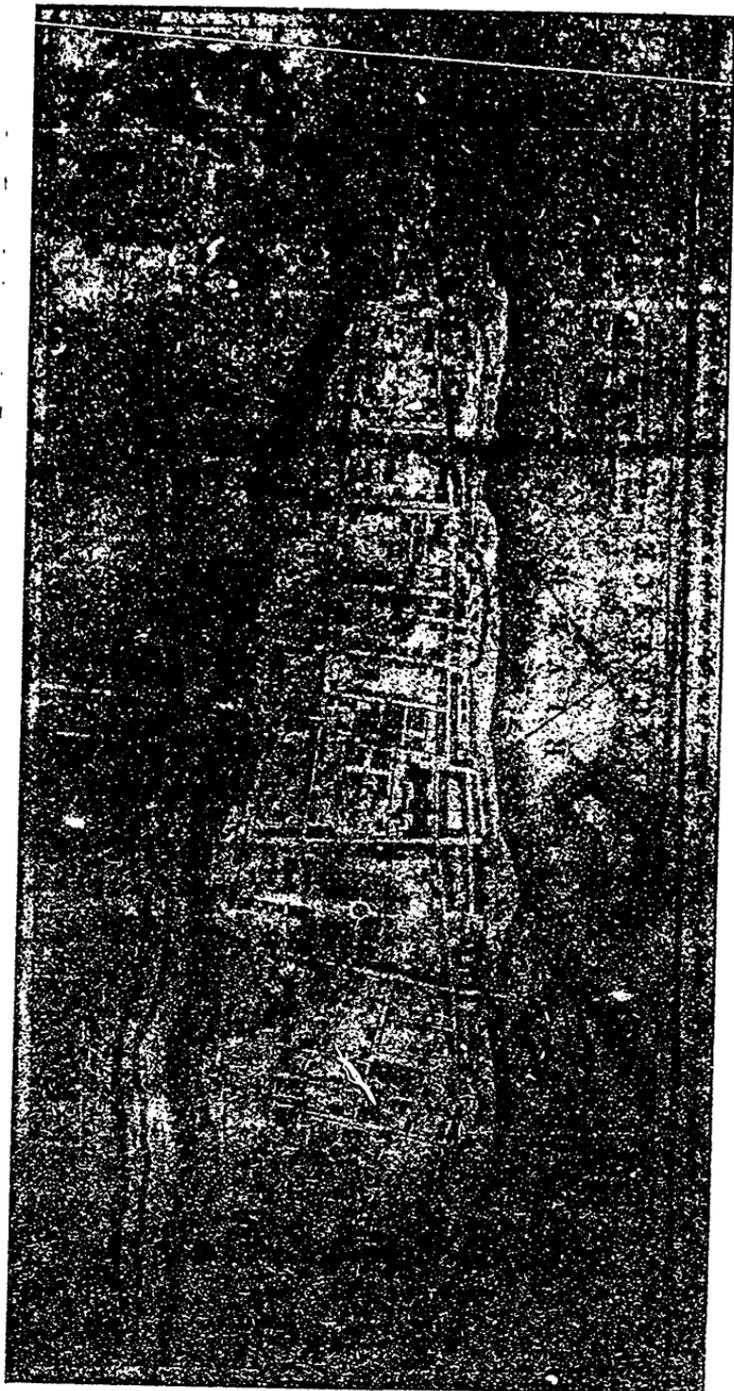
Accordingly, we find the Hospital, or Grey Nuns, established in the infant colony by Mademoiselle Mance, in the year 1657, possessed a garden. It was situated on Point a Callière, near the fort, the landing place of de Maisonneuve, and formerly of Champlain. As time went on, and the settlement gained in strength, many other gardens were established on a more extensive scale, chiefly by the ecclesiastical bodies, which reared church and convent within the stockaded precincts of Ville Marie, as may be seen by referring to the accompanying map, found reduced in size in that now rare and valuable book *Hochelaga Depicta*.

The General Hospital's garden of Les Frères Charron, situated a little to the west of the former, was among the earliest of these, for in 1692 we find it occupying a part of the large property which fell to their successors, the Hospital or Grey Nuns, extending between what is now Commissioners and Common Streets, and which in our time is covered with warehouses.

If from this point in those days we had walked up St. Peter Street, we would have found on our left, facing the end of St. Sacrament Street, the gardens of the Recollet Fathers, extending westward to the present line of McGill Street, and southward nearly to that of Lemoine Street; while on the north they were bounded by their church and monastery, fronting on Notre Dame Street, opposite the entrance to Dollard Lane. Quaint picturesque buildings of stone, still intact in the early sixties.

Reverting again to St. Peter and St. Sacrament Streets, we would have found as late as 1758, and occupying the entire site of the new Board of Trade Building, the gardens of Messieurs Beaujeu and du Quesne.

Following the line of St. Peter Street to Notre Dame Street, and turning eastward, we soon arrive at the Seminary of St. Sulpice, with its antique gateway and fine old clock, in rear of which, and also occupying the entire site of the present large parish Church of Notre Dame, were the Seminary Gardens, remains of which still exist, growing pear trees and flowers, which may be seen on ascending the church tower.



PLAN OF THE TOWN AND FORTIFICATIONS OF MONTREAL, OR VILLE MARIE, IN CANADA, IN 1759.

Still pursuing our way eastward past the Place d'Armes, we reach the gateway of the Congregational Nuns, through which is visible their church and some remains of ancient buildings of their Order, and in rear of which and extending eastward to St. Jean Baptiste street, and southward to St. Paul street, were their gardens, a fragment of which, enclosed by their modern buildings, is still extant. Adjoining these, on the west side, was the garden of the Hotel Dieu Nuns, whose Convent and Chapel formerly extended from the corner of St. Sulpice and St. Paul streets to St. Dizier lane, the present site of their handsome warehouses.

Continuing eastward on Notre Dame street till we arrive at Nelson's monument, we would have found opposite, on the north side, the House and Chapel of the Jesuits, with a large garden attached, extending to the fortifications, and covering the spaces now occupied by the Court House and the City Hall, the latter built on the site of the Government garden, which was doubtless formerly a part of those gardens of the Jesuits.

Turning to the other side of the street, and looking down Jacques Cartier Square, we would have seen in 1758, on the lower part, the Governor's garden—that attached to the Chateau or official residence of the Marquis of Vaudreuil, which was approached by way of St. Paul street.

On the eastern side of Jacques Cartier Square, formerly Claude street, was situated a garden mentioned in the title deeds of the Chateau de Ramezey, 1704, as outside the palisade of the city, and acquired by de Ramezey from Mde. d'Aillebout, and Jean Petit de Boismont.

There was also existing in 1758, and perhaps much earlier, an extensive garden outside the fortifications, the property of M. de Linieres, on the rising ground north of what is now Craig street, and which would be reached from the town by the present line of Bleury street.

From these enumerations, it will be seen that Ville Marie, or old Montreal, was rich in gardens; and thanks to the careful delineator of the map, not only have their areas and boundaries been

preserved, but even the very manner in which they were laid out is shown; some having walks all at right angles, while others, as the Seminary Gardens and those of the Recollets, having circular flower plats in their centres, around and from which the paths diverged on every side, while fruit trees in symmetrical order, display the taste and care with which these gardens were designed and planted.

Wynne, in his "General History of the British Empire in America," 1770, referring to the character of the gardens of Montreal, has the following:

"There are several gardens within the walls, in which, however, the proprietors have consulted use more than elegance, particularly those of the Sisters of the Congregation, the Nunnery Hospital, the Recollets, Jesuits, Seminary and Governor. Besides these, there are many other gardens and beautiful plantations without the gates, as the garden of the General Hospital and the improvements of Mr. Liniere, which exceed all the rest, and are at an agreeable distance on the north side of the town."

In these old gardens must first have been grown those fruits for which the Island of Montreal has so long been famed, especially the Fameuse, Pomme Grise, and Bourassa apples; the first named still extensively cultivated in the outskirts of the city, the two last unfortunately not frequently met with in the same perfection as in former years, owing it is believed to climatic changes. Several fine varieties of pears were also grown in these old ecclesiastical gardens.

(To be continued).



DRIED FLOWERS.

To dry flowers that they may keep their color, may be done by an old and tried way. They are placed erect in a box deep enough so that their tops will not extend above it, then clean dry river sand is poured slowly and carefully around them until they are covered; when the box should be placed in a slow oven, subjected to a continuous light heat for two or three days, at the end of which time they will be dry and still retain their original colors.

(FROM "LA SEMAINE HORTICOLE.")

PRACTICAL NOTES ON FRUIT GROWING.

BY MR. ALEX. M'D. ALLAN, GODERICH, ONT.

THINNING FRUIT.—Taking for granted that all preliminary requisites have been attended to for the purpose of producing a perfect growth of tree, and abundant crop of choice fruit, I know of nothing so necessary, and that will yield the grower such large returns, as attention to proper thinning out at the proper time. We all desire to perfect the crop, and have it of prime quality and size. How shall we arrive at this?

Certainly, by past experience, not by allowing our trees to over-bear in any year. We know the result of this is disastrous alike to tree, size of fruit, and quality of crop, as well as future prospects. Growers will find that trees can be trimmed into regular bearing habits, especially if attended to from first blooming, by judiciously thinning out, not only specimens that appear imperfect in form or size, but also removing many others, which good judgment tells us would cause too great a strain upon the vitality and feeding power of the parent. It is comparatively easy to thin out from an over crop upon a small tree, and if this is followed for three or four years, even those varieties that naturally over-bear will submit to such training, and come into bloom yearly. It is much more profitable to have an average crop yearly, than a large crop one year, and little or none the following. An imperfect fruit contains generally as many and as large seeds as a fine specimen, hence they call upon the tree and soil for substance, equal, or nearly, to that of a perfect fruit. Doubtless the apple requires more attention in this respect than any other fruit, but it will pay in all kinds. Any grower will admit that specimens will be larger, and color and flavor better, with a medium crop, than in the case of an over crop. But I think the largest value to the grower comes in the fact that in holding a tree down to what I may call a reasonable crop, he may look for this class of crop every year: and from experiments my conviction is that this desirable end can be reached with a little care and attention at the proper season.

Of course untimely frosts and blights will vary the success, and where the crop is thus cut off extra care must be used the following season, in case the tree may attempt to over-bear.

Thinning out fruit is a matter of judgment, and I take for granted that every worthy grower is possessed of this. Those who lack in this quality will soon learn from their neighbors.

Our pears are formed now, and weak settings have dropped, but the crop is still too large, and we are nipping out according to size and age of tree, and so far as we can judge of its capabilities. In another ten days apples will demand our attention. In only a few instances do plum and peach trees need attention in this respect, as last year's crop was large, and settings this year are not excessive; but enough to ensure grand results in size, form, color and flavor.

I am satisfied that if growers combine the scientific with the practical, we will advance the fruit growing interests of our grand country, and go into the world's markets without fear of competitors. But we must act as honestly by our own home markets as in our exports, and thus increase consumption; for a good article is always in demand, while an inferior soon gluts any market.

SPRAYING PAYS.—Yes, it pays well. To-day, I find by jarring that I can scarcely find a curculio upon any tree that has been sprayed, whereas, upon one tree that I purposely left I find them in large numbers. This tree, too, will be treated to an application of the good Bordeaux mixture in the morning. Besides, I find my trees benefitted by the application of this excellent mixture; they are clean and free from fungus, the foliage strong and glossy, and buds stronger in the fall. I believe this application is in the best interest of growers, even where there is no fruit upon the tree now, as it prepares the buds for future development by warding off disease.

BUT FEED THE LAND.—Don't forget this above all things, as our other efforts will avail but little if we neglect this. Regular, systematic manuring, and opening the soil to allow sun and air to enter, is always necessary.

ALEX. MCD. ALLAN.

CHATS ABOUT FLOWERS

BY MRS. G. W. SIMPSON, MONTREAL.

II.

When introducing the Lily family to the reader in last month's paper, time and space did not permit me to say anything about the lily leaves.

Although, at first sight, leaves seem to have infinite variety of form, they divide easily into two classes, namely, plants with one seed-leaf and plants with two seed-leaves. A run on the mountain in early spring will show both kinds of seedling plants in endless number. The one seed-leaf plant comes up with one sheath-like seed-leaf, holding the inner leaves in its embrace; the two seed-leaved plants come up two together, *vis-à-vis*. The seedling *dog-tooth violet* will show you the one class, and seedling *maples* the other. The lilies are one seed-leaf plants. I am obliged to ask you, now and then, to make yourself at home with a few hard words. Such a word is *monocotyledon*, the class name of the one-seed-leaf. It is the distinguishing name of a tribe of leaves, the name by which the tribe is recognized by all the Botanists in the world, whether they speak English, French, German, or any other language. The two seed-leaved plants are called *dicotyledons*.

Apart from the seed-leaves the monocotyledons may be distinguished from the dicotyledons by the veins of the leaves. The *monos* are, as a rule, straight-veined; and the *dicots* are netted-veined. The *monos* also, as a rule, have the parts of their flowers in threes, whereas the *dicots* prefer fives, fours, twos, or perhaps a great multitude, almost uncountable. You will remember that the lilies count in threes and twice-three. A glance at the leaves of a hyacinth, a crocus, or a jonquil will show you straight-veined, or as they are also called, parallelled-veined leaves.

Our hyacinth, *a lily*, introduced you to the great clan of the monocotyledons, of which the Lily family proper may be thought of

as the classic family. The Iris, chosen by the old kings of France as their emblem, is the regal family. The Crocus, and the Narcissus or jonquil, are nearly all related to both. Other aristocratic monocotyledonous families are,—the Orchids, the Bananas, the Pine Apples, the Arums, and the Palms.

But dicotyledons take first rank in variety of form, both in leaves and flowers. They are netted-veined, as you may easily see by examining the *maples* or the *roses*.

I propose to introduce you to-day to the lovely dicotyledonous friend of all English children, which, in Canada, we may grow in our gardens, from seed. The wall-flowers of the south of England are as beautiful in colour, form, and perfume, as they are plentiful and common. They are found growing on the top of old moss-grown crumbling walls, standing up straight against the sky-line, courting the sunshine, and inviting flies, butterflies, and bees to come and taste of their honey. Though in Canada the wall-flower does not grow wild, many of its sisters do, for the wall-flower belongs to the *Cruciferae*—the *mustard family*, as it is commonly called. The *Cruciferae* get their botanical name from the four petals which spread their limbs in the form of a cross. The family number is four—4 sepals, 4 petals, 6 stamens, which do their best to occupy the space of, and look like four, as though in deference to the family number. They arrange themselves something in this manner,—the two short stamens standing opposite each other, with the pistil between them; the four tall stamens, standing in pairs, with the points of their anthers touching, occupy the opposite inter-sections of the cross. When the blossom opens to the light they are all precisely placed, but as it advances to maturity, the stamens, especially the twins, indulge in much action. But of this I will say more in connection with the pistil.

Gather a spike of wild mustard; it grows only too plentifully in the midsummer fields. Take off a single blossom and turn it upside down. You will now have a good view of the sepals or outer leaves of the perianth. They do not spread themselves like the petals, but stand up stiff between them, something in the shape of

an oblong vase. And they are unequal in size, being affected by the stamens. Moreover, they have little sacs at the base, as though made to hold something liquid. One naturally suspects honey. Now, carefully take the parts of a ripe blossom, and examine them separately. First, remove the sepals; next the petals; then the stamens; and leave the pistil standing on the receptacle, as the top of the little flower stalk is called. At the foot of the pistil, you will see six dark green spots like pins heads, two larger than the other four. The little green pin heads secrete honey in such quantity that it overflows and fills the sepal sacs. When the sun shines, the flower sends out its perfumed invitations, and the insect world within the sweet atmosphere hastens to respond. Here, I will take the opportunity of telling you that there are seasons when the insect world does not prosper. If the small creatures were human beings, we should say that such a season was unhealthy. The people would not thrive, but sicken and die. The insects have their troubles also, and it happens at times that the honey may be ready, the air filled with perfume, but the insects be wanting. I cannot undertake to say just what has happened. All that folks who notice these things would be likely to remark is, "butterflies are few this year," or, "bees do not thrive this season," or, "there are no flies this summer." Now, there are flowers which actually depend on these insect visitors, and without them they are in so bad a case, that they die without setting seed, so that the next season there are few or none of their kind. But the Cruciferae are not of this dependent race. When, for any cause, the insects fail them, they are able to receive pollen from their own mates. The seed is said to be not so good and strong and large as that set by the pollen from another flower-house, but it suffices to tide over a bad season, and our friends, the Crucifers, make their abundant appearance all over the fields, the following year, as usual. The form of the stamen is elegant and interesting. There is a good stout filament and a hinged anther; or perhaps I ought to say an anther on a pivot, for it seems to be able to turn every way, as soon as it is quite ripe.

This brings me to the Pistil. When the flower is newly open,

the order of the stamens and pistil is precise. The pistil is below the stamens, as though it intended to give them the first entry into society. The best, that is, the visitors most useful to the plant, alight on the top of the flower-house, cover their legs with pollen, while they thrust the long proboscis (they are generally butterflies) into the depths of the pollen-sacs. They will rub and fuss the tall anthers, which mature first, and perhaps carry off all the pollen to the next flower-house. The short anthers will escape, and if not wanted by the bees and flies can always do the home-work at need. In due time, the pistil will reach its full length, and mature. When immature, it reminds me of a tiny Ionic pillar, the column round, and the capital or top, divided into two stiff curls, one each side of the head, something like the present most fashionable mode of dressing a lady's hair. When the pistil matures, the curls stretch themselves out like lips, and do their best to reach the twin stamens. I must here remind you and myself that the Canada wall-flowers are often born and bred in a hot-house,—that insect visitors do not respond when the honey and pollen are ready. The *flower-house* of the hot-house or parlour window, may be full of nourishment, but bees and butterflies cannot reach it. The plant must, therefore, do all it can for itself. In such circumstances, the pistil will crouch close to the twin stamens, with a lip turned to each pair, and the twins will turn and twist in every direction, striving to meet the advance. The single stamens move out of the way, as if not wanted by anything or anybody.

The two curls or lips of the pistil are two stigmas ; what I have called the column of the pillar is the ovary, which in the Mustard family, is a peculiar pod or *siliqua*, or silicle. The style which connects the ovary and its stigma is too short to be seen by the naked eye.

The word pod will remind you of green peas, but there are pods and pods, and the pod of the green pea is a *légume*. The *siliqua*, a pod of the crucifers, has a middle partition to which the seed adheres, and it opens from below upwards, casting off its covers when the seed is ripe. The crucifers remind one of a Scotch clan,

with its divisions into septs and families. There are long-pod crucifers and short-pod crucifers. The short pods are called silicles or pouches. There is, I read, a third kind of pod, but as I have never met with it, I will not trouble you with its name. To the long-pods belong *Dentaria*, *Barbarea*, and above all *Sinapis*, or *Wild Mustard*. Among the short-pods is the little weed called *Shepherd's Purse*. These flowers or weeds grow everywhere, and will afford us all manner of food for thought and observation, from early spring to late fall.

The long pods divide themselves again into L-P's with round siliques, and L-P's with flat siliques. The wall-flower is a round L-P. The gilly-flower, or common stock, is a flat L-P.

There are a few more remarks to be made on the Mustard family, but I must leave them till next month.

LUCY SIMPSON.

(*To be continued.*)



“THE QUEEN’S STATUE BEAUTIFULLY DECORATED BY THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.”

(*The Montreal Star of 21st June.*)

“People who chanced to pass by the statue of the Queen, in Victoria Square, last night, and again this morning, could scarcely realise that so great a transformation was possible, except in the enchanted pages of an Arabian Nights tale. But the transformation was there, and the Montreal Horticultural Society was the miracle-working genii. In the small hours of the early morning, a force of men had got to work, and plants and flowers by the hundreds, which had been all specially prepared and arranged beforehand, were moved down from the residences of the several members of the Society and set up around the statue of Her Majesty. There are

palms and ferns, cacti and century plants, and shrubs and plucked flowers in bewildering variety. About the statue itself are twined ribbons of snowballs in flower, and in the front is a handsome wreath of roses. Strings of electric light jets form a girdle and a sash about the statue, while above the head is a crown and over the breast a star. Cut tulips, in bottles of water planted in the earth heaped up around the statue, and other flowers similarly arranged, alternate with the large tropical plants from the city conservatories in forming a picture of beauty not equalled in its line anywhere in the whole city, and that is saying something."

The opportunity is here taken to warmly thank those who, by generous contributions of flowers, aided in the decoration of Her Majesty's statue; and equally those not called upon to fulfil their offer of assistance for that purpose, whose promised aid, although not required, was nevertheless most reassuring to us. We could not well estimate beforehand the quantity of flowers which might be required, and it was comforting to know that an abundance of bloom was at our disposal.

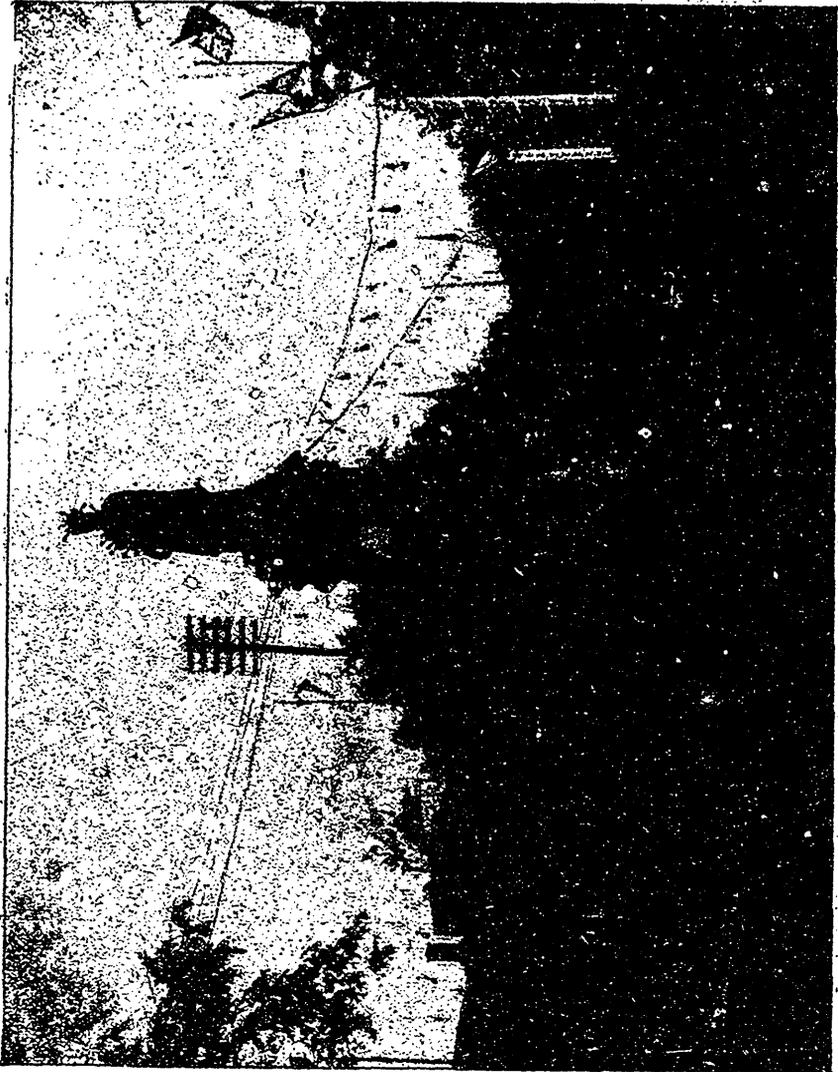
It may be of passing interest to mention here that over a thousand tulips, cut and placed in cold storage between three and four weeks previously, were preserved in a dormant condition, at a temperature of 35°, and came out on the morning of Jubilee Day perfectly firm and sound. (E.D.)



Photographs of notable Plants, Fruits and Flowers will be gladly received by the publishers for reproduction in these pages.

QUESTIONS may be freely asked on the various branches of horticulture, and answers will be willingly accorded.

The Montreal Horticultural Society and Fruit Growers' Association includes in its membership some eminently competent authorities on botany, entomology, and those sciences identified with horticulture, by whose courtesy enquirers may be assured of an intelligent and accurate answer to their questions.



THE QUEEN'S STATUE, 21st JUNE, 1897.
Decorated for the Diamond Jubilee Celebration, with Plants and Flowers, by the Montreal Horticultural Society

OUR FORESTS, INLAND FISHERIES AND GAME PRESERVES.

The editor of "Forest and Garden" has, for a long time, almost continuously sounded with the greatest ability and persistency, a warning note to an apparently heedless Government, on the proper preservation of the National Forests of the United States.

It is a matter to be deeply deplored that such able pleadings, backed with such convincing proofs as are adduced, cannot command more genuine consideration and lead to better results. The cause is of paramount importance.

The remedy should include the renewal by planting, as well as the preservation of what still remains.

The area to be planted each year should equal, at least, that which has been depleted during the same period.

The reckless, suicidal procedure of the past has been exposed, and the way of amendment pointed out, and lucidly explained. The proper ownership has not been left to conjecture, but is admitted to be that of the nation, and to be of vast national importance. A commission of enquiry was appointed by the late Cleveland administration to investigate and report on the engrossing subject; the committee being composed of expert members of the National Academy of Sciences; and their report has lately been made to the existing Government, giving such counsel with regard to improved policy and methods as the great merits of the case demand. Until the present, everything that has been done to bring about a better policy seems to have fallen far short of a remedy. To be unable to arouse a truly national interest in this imperatively important subject is an evidence of short-sighted callousness almost beyond belief. It equals the reckless extravagance of the spendthrift.

This subject, with which all our interests, agricultural, commercial and domestic, are so indissolubly connected, so much so that they cannot be separated without irreparable injury to the whole, is

surely worthy of action, and of some sustained effort being made on improved lines.

All that has been advocated to improve the forestry laws of the United States is only too applicable to our Canadian forests, with this distinction, that we have outstripped them in the race of destruction. We had more extensive and richer forests to destroy, and have made remarkably rapid progress in their destruction. Besides the forests themselves, two other important birthrights are equally doomed, and will seemingly be lost to the country at the same time—viz., the products of our valuable inland fisheries and game preserves—these, if properly preserved and improved, could be made a most important asset indeed to the nation, becoming yearly of greater value. These are matters of great national importance, and nothing should be allowed to interfere with devising a scheme which would bring luxury, wealth and precedence to our country. With the proper care of our forests, our inland fisheries—the best in the world—and our game and fur-bearing animals, we would own a monopoly richer than a gold mine. These should all be managed in the best interests of the country, by technical and instructed guardians, who would have a shrewd business eye to their future value. Many of our own people would pay handsomely for the privilege of shooting or fishing where sport could certainly be had, instead of squandering their time and money, as at present, in the vain attempt, as is too often the sportsman's experience. Our worthy neighbors, too, across the line, would gladly pay for such health-giving boons. Nature has provided us with all the specialties necessary to success, and what should weigh as an argument is that the greatest portion of the country adapted to these purposes is fit for little else. Thousands upon thousands of acres, even of miles, along our high mountain ridges, are unfit for farms, unless to feed goats upon, and why not allow this to fulfil what nature has so well planned it for.

To systematize such a new state of affairs on anything like efficient lines will entail on the promoter ability and statesmanship above the common calibre.

If some eminently able member of the present administration, or a worthy representative of Her Majesty's loyal opposition, should take this matter up, he might easily work out order, system and riches from the present chaotic medley of arrangements, and spend-thrift impoverishing plans. Such a man would deserve to be rewarded, besides receiving his country's applause, in no mean or stinted manner. Were it not savoring of forwardness on the part of the writer, he would suggest the question: who is more capable of encountering such an undertaking than our present worthy Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. Mr. Fisher? It is fervently hoped that some able advocate will soon enter the lists on behalf of our abused and neglected forests, fisheries and game preserves.

When the white man first set foot in Canada he found the country an almost impenetrable forest in every direction; abounding with game and many sorts of fur-bearing animals in the greatest profusion. The rivers and lakes were literally filled with the choicest of fish, and verily it was the red man's paradise. Years and years have since elapsed and the utmost selfishness (to use no stronger term), with regard to the true interests of the country, has often been exercised, in allowing land unfit for agricultural purposes to be taken up, only to beggar those poor creatures who made the attempt at independence, with a stout heart, but devoid of the necessary experience or judgment to discriminate. Much of the land offered for sale in the Province of Quebec, as farming land, and much that has been sold already, is likely to produce no better result than the ruin of the person inexperienced enough to make the attempt to cultivate it to a profit.

This should be prevented, and land only fit for cultivation offered for sale; the unsuitable land to be restored to forest, as it ought to be, and improved as such.

No country can become rich, while its citizens are being ruined, and surely the interests of our agriculturists are worth being considered in the most favored light. Give to agricultural purposes all the land fitted therefor, and let all unfit land be utilized in the best possible manner, and for the purposes to which it is best adapted. To

continue this past unprofitable plan is impolitic, if not criminal. We are not only selling our own birth right, but dishonestly selling that which belongs to posterity also, for a mere mess of pottage! We have an immense region, starting from the shores of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Labrador, to the coast of British Columbia, wherein are thousands of square miles specially planned and pre-eminently fitted for the uses here advocated, and in accordance with the plans of the GREAT ARCHITECT, who never plans or builds on a sand foundation. We should take as many lessons as we can get from Nature.

Let one grand system of national parks be laid out from ocean to ocean, and dedicated, as it ought to be, to the people, and let them know that it is theirs, their very own,—allow them to feel proud of it, as they well might be if carried out on such a magnificent scale, never to be subverted to any other use while the footstool remains. With the proper care and cultivation of our forests, the productions of our fur, fin and feathers would increase in value to an extent that cannot now be dreamt of.

The suggestion made to the United States Houses of Representatives, to employ their army as forest rangers, should receive the consideration of our legislators, who should be urged to employ our soldiers in the same useful manner. The highest utilitarian effect would be accomplished, our forests and fisheries would be protected, and our worthy sons of Mars usefully employed as producers and builders up of our commonwealth.

The views of an expert Canadian financier, recently expressed, have a strong bearing upon this subject, from another view point, and might be befittingly quoted here :

“The proposal to put an export duty on logs, both of pine and spruce, has much more than a political aspect. I will not say a word on any question of politics. But an export duty has a far more important aspect as a means of conserving our great forest wealth, a wealth which can never be replaced if it is once exhausted. At any rate, this matter of the conservancy of our forests is worthy of the

attention of our respective governments, and they are nearly all interested in it.

The conservancy of our forests has been a matter of consideration and discussion again and again. No doubt, the system of leasing tracts of country, technically called "limits," makes it the interest of every owner of them to protect every good tree, for his own sake. And self interest, as you know, is a pretty strong motive. But sometimes the interest of the individual and the interests of the nation do not coincide. It is well known that on the continent of Europe, where large forests of pine and fir exist, the whole matter of the conservancy of forests is under Government control, and no trees are allowed to be cut down but such as have been marked by forest rangers as suitable for the purpose. By this means a succession of trees is secured and the forests made practically inexhaustible from generation to generation.

We have had in former years such enormous areas of forests that such proceedings would seem unnecessary. But the time is undoubtedly coming when the areas of available merchantable timber will be so reduced that for the sake of the country's general interest some means of protection may be found desirable."



SUMMER BLOOMING BEGONIAS.

BY MR. G. W. OLIVER, U. S. 'BOTANIC GARDEN, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Outside of the tuberous rooted section of the Begonia, there are several very valuable summer bloomers which come in exceedingly useful for either out-door planting or for the decoration of the greenhouse. *Begonia corallina*, I find from several years trials, to be one of the most desirable species. It can with little trouble be had in bloom at any time of the year, but during summer its growth is very rapid, and what growth is made during that period can be depended upon to produce enormous clusters of its bright red flowers. This is probably the best sun-resisting Begonia in cultivation, that is, if the ground in which it is growing is kept in a moist condition during protracted dry spells. Near this city there is an amateur gardener who has had great success with this plant. He has several specimens from 6 to 8 feet in height growing in tubs made out of whiskey barrels. After midsummer these plants are worth going a long way to see. In growing his specimens he starts with plants in three inch pots, gradually shifting them into larger pots as they require it. The secret of his success is in the potting material which he uses, but he makes no secret of it to those who visit his place; this is very evident, as several of the neighbors around him are getting to have splendid Begonia plants too, through following his instructions. The compost is made up in this way : one part each of hen manure, coal ashes, loam and leaf mould, are mixed together and spread out in the barn yard to get thoroughly dried out. The poultry are encouraged to scrape in it by throwing a handful or two of oats over it; in their operations they soon remove any insect larvæ that may be in the compost. When dried out in this way the sun will nullify the burning qualities of the fresh manure, so that it is safe to use a greater quantity of it than we otherwise would. After the drying process, it is thrown into a corner till wanted. After getting a shift the plants are never allowed to get dry, nor are they allowed to stand

in the full sun until they are thoroughly established in their new receptacles. With this amateur gardener the question of giving them house room in winter has been easily solved. He has a part of his verandah fixed up so that a moderate sized sash can be put in place, giving the conveniences of a small and neat looking conservatory. In very cold weather a small gas heater does the work, but in ordinary weather one of the windows of the dwelling house is left open so that the heat from the room, in which there is a large stove, can pass in, is all that has been found necessary to keep the plants in a healthy condition. Begonia "President Carnot" does splendidly with the above treatment, except that it requires a little more shade than *B. corallina*.

G. W. OLIVER.



THINNING vs. PRUNING AN OLD ORCHARD.

BY MR. WM. CRAIG, JR., GIBBLAND FARM, ABBOTSFORD, QUE.

Our old Fameuse orchard was planted 18 x 20 feet apart. The trees soon began to crowd each other; the fruit grew smaller, and the growth less each year. I deferred as long as possible the unpleasant task of destroying what we looked upon as old friends; but suffering the inconvenience and annoyance (particularly while spraying) of getting our faces scratched, clothes torn, having to look behind for our hats, very frequently proved too much of a wear and tear upon temper and clothes, and for slaying rather than praying or spraying. After looking over the orchard, I first removed all the poorest trees, then continued the process by taking out the weaker specimens, until each tree was clearly separated from its neighbor. This treatment was followed by the pruning of the remaining trees.

The result has been satisfactory thus far.

If not digressing from the subject, I might say that our pruning

was done during the early spring, but wounds appear to heal over more rapidly when made during the months of May and June.

I have every reason to believe that lessening the number of trees per acre is a more beneficial and effectual means of treating a crowded orchard than pruning each tree severely. Heavy pruning during winter in our severe climate always injures, and often proves fatal; furthermore, it encourages the production of superabundant shoots, the removal of which means labor.

But to return to the orchard in question. As a first effect, the total quantity of fruit has been reduced, it is true; but the quality is improved, for which higher prices are realized. A better article has been produced, and less expense is incurred in marketing, etc.

The orchard now makes a good hog and sheep pasture; a variety of suitable crops can be grown, if desired. Thinning and pruning, assisted by cultivation and manure, has brought about this result.

It is better in this case to cut out an offending tree than many offending branches. Let us plant so that this thinning will be unnecessary. If trees are too closely planted, destroy and remove the weakest rather than allow nature to follow her own course. The fittest will survive, but the struggle will be a long and expensive one to the farmer.

W. CRAIG, JR.



SEASONABLE HINTS.

To prepare for a display during the fall and winter months scarcely any plant responds to proper treatment better than the Geranium—Zonal and Nosegay Pelargoniums. They are very easily propagated and attended to at this season. By putting in the cuttings any time in July, in the open garden, without any shading or watering whatever, they root freely, and make very thrifty plants which will, when potted in five-inch pots, continue to flower most profusely during the fall and early winter months. If the garden soil is inclined to be on the heavy side, some sand may be well mixed through it to the depth of five or six inches. If the soil in the garden is of the ordinary friable and easily worked type, nothing is required further than to plant the cuttings. These should be of a good size, say six inches long, and be inserted about two and a half or three inches in the soil, resting the end of the cutting at the bottom of the hole made for its reception. The finger is a very good dibble for this operation, as it cannot make the hole deeper than required. An ordinary dibble inserted unnecessarily deep, is apt to leave a cavity below the cutting, thus *hanging* it, as it is termed. In about three or four weeks these cuttings will require to be potted. This operation should be performed into clean pots not larger than five inches. The soil should be firmly placed round the roots to encourage a short, jointed, hardy growth, and the plants should be plunged in the garden as long as it is safe to allow them to remain. On the appearance of frost, they should be taken up and protected by a hot bed sash, as long as it is safe to keep them out. During fine weather they should get all the light and air possible by removing the sash altogether. When raining, the sash should be tilted at the back to allow a sufficiency of fresh air all the time, night and day. Plants propagated and managed in the above way, will continue to bloom well in a properly exposed window during the whole of the winter. The Geranium is one of our most satisfactory winter blooming window plants when rationally treated.

The greatest insect enemy to the successful cultivation of the rose and hardy grape vine is the annoying "leaf-hopper," or as it is often miscalled, the "grape vine thrip." How to thoroughly frustrate their too amiable, but damaging attentions to these two favorites is often puzzling. If allowed to continue their own plans, without molestation, they will generally claim the field as their own, with only the dry bones of vases and grape vines left as an unsightly monument. How to combat this numerous, but ferocious little enemy, and entirely route him, is what we want to do, but scarcely know how best to accomplish. Fumigation, if properly done, is an effectual way to exterminate them, but is a very difficult and tedious process. An emulsion of Spirits of Turpentine is here recommended, to be lightly sprayed all over the under sides of the whole foliage. To miss any part is to court failure. Frequent applications will also be required. For small gardens the following will be found sufficient, and for larger places increase the ingredients in the same proportions here recommended :

Spirits of Turpentine, 1 qt.; common, or whale oil soap, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; soft water, half a gallon. Bring the water to the boiling, and during this time add the soap in small quantities, until the whole is dissolved. When dissolved, add while still hot the spirits of turpentine, stir well, and allow the mixture to stand and cool. This mixture will keep in a cool place for quite a length of time, if covered and kept free from dust. Before using, which may be done carefully with a common whisk, or with a syringe, add to one part of the emulsion seven of water. Crude carbolic acid may be used in the same way and proportions, with this difference, to one of the emulsion add fifteen of water. Either of these applied frequently will exterminate the "leaf-hopper."

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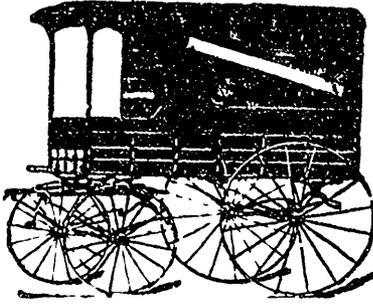
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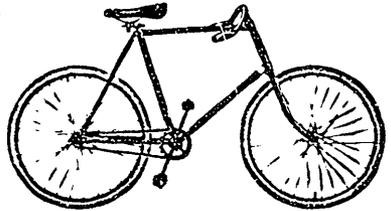
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