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NOTES TO FARMERS.

WORDS OF ADVICE FROM CANADA'S AGRICULTURAL EXPERTS.

The Value of Russian Apples for Canadian Planters and Fruit Growers—Corn for Ensilage and How to Grow it.

A subject of growing importance to the Canadian Fruit Grower is the value of Russian apples. In order to get results more rapidly and arrive at reliable conclusions to be brought before our nurserymen and fruit-growers, I was authorized by the Minister of Agriculture, last season, to examine the oldest orchards of these fruits, which are now found in the western States, those having been planted about twenty years ago. After looking over the whole field carefully, the following conclusions have been reached:

First, that the northern limits of apple culture can be materially extended by planting the hardiest of the varieties. Second, all fruit-growing districts of Canada may be benefited by adding a judicious selection of the best kinds. Third, that among them are many valuable summer apples. Fourth, experience seems to indicate that among them are winter apples of fair quality and superior hardiness. Fifth, that in the milder portions of Ontario these winter apples are not of sufficiently good quality to be recommended. It is difficult in many localities to get an unbiased opinion in regard to the Russian apples. Two schools or factions among apple-growers have sprung up; one of which maintains the supremacy of our native fruits, while the other endorses the Russian apples. Without personal examination it is difficult to get at the actual status of the case. No doubt, amongst them are many valuable summer varieties, but owing to unpronounceable names, many mistakes and synonyms, the work of selection has been very slow. It is also assumed that there are a few varieties of long-keeping winter apples of good hardiness, but I do not think they will rate high in quality. In my report for 1892 I have described about thirty of these varieties, and have recommended that nurserymen should propagate them, because I think the time has come when these should be disseminated. In this list there are ten summer varieties, six fall varieties and twelve winter varieties.

The following varieties are selected for their hardiness and vigor from those which have been recommended in this report, and are deemed sufficiently promising to be taken up by nurserymen.

Summer.—Yellow Transparent or Thaler, well known; Brestkova, No. 52, good quality; Borovinka, Duchess type, later; Blushed Calville, a little later than Yellow Transparent; Lubsk Reinette, a fine summer apple much prized in Wisconsin.

Fall.—White Pigeon, very hardy, first quality; Golden White, large handsome, Zolstreff, Duchess type, handsome, poor quality; Switzer, doing well in Quebec and Wisconsin.

Winter.—Ostrokoff (4 M), fine tree, fruit mid-winter; Hibernal (378 Dep.), of value as a cooking apple for the extreme north, and a top-grafting stock; Red Reinette (316), tree fairly hardy, fruit large, handsome, a good keeper; Gipsey (1,227 Dep.), tree hardy, vigorous, fruit large, good quality; Arabka (imported by Eliwaiger and Barry), tree hardy, fruit of the Blue Pearmain type; Zussoff (No. 585), grades with Fameuse in hardiness, fruit large, handsome, fair quality, good keeper.—John Craig, Horticulturist, Experimental Farm.

CORN FOR ENSILAGE.

How to Secure a Heavy Yield of this Valuable Fodder Crop.

The value of this crop for producing cheaply a large quantity of palatable food has now become widely recognized. Sweet ensilage is now acknowledged as a valuable ingredient in the ration of cattle, both for milk and flesh production. The convenience in having a large supply of coarse fodder in a small compass renders the silo exceedingly useful to the farmer, stock-raiser and dairyman. By its means, food may be preserved in a succulent condition for use during the winter months.

The following suggestions, based on the results of the experiments of the last three seasons, are offered to those growing this valuable fodder crop:

1. The tillage of the soil should be as thorough as possible, in order to allow the roots to freely penetrate the soil. The plowing should be well done. The corn plant is one that readily responds to a rich soil. It will, therefore, be good practice to have it in a good mechanical condition and to give it a liberal application of manure.

2. Plant in drills or in hills. Sowing broadcast should be abandoned, as a great loss of cattle food per acre ensues from this course. The drills should never be less than three feet apart, and never be most varieties at three and a-half feet. This plant requires plenty of room to properly

develop and mature. It is mistaken economy to sow too thickly, 18 lbs. to 20 lbs. of seed per acre will give the best results. Essentials for rapid and generous growth are sunlight and air. When the rows are too close or too thickly seeded the plants are stunted and undeveloped, and the crop is not as suitable for preservation. It should be remembered that it is by the agency of sunlight that the leaves are able to appropriate the carbonic acid of the air—the source of all the carbonaceous food material formed in the plant.

3. Only varieties should be sown that yield a heavy crop and come to the glazing condition of growth before there is danger of damage by frost. Pearce's Prolific, Long-fellow and Thoroughbred White Flint are excellent for many localities. There are, however, other sorts which yield good results. Care should be taken to ascertain before purchasing seed if the variety is a heavy cropper and will come to maturity in the climate of the grower.

4. Begin cultivating early and keep the crop free from weeds. As the plants grow, restrict the cultivation more and more to the center of the rows, otherwise there is a danger of cutting the principal roots which feed the plant.

5. Harvesting should be commenced when the kernel begins to glaze. The stalks at this time are beginning to turn yellow near the ground. If allowed to remain standing after this period the digestibility of the fodder may be impaired. If intended for the silo, and the weather permits, it should be left to wilt for two or three days after cutting. Sweeter ensilage results as a rule by this method than by at once drawing in and filling the silo.—Frank T. Shutt, Chief Chemist, Dom. Exp. Farms.

Lice on Cattle.

Government property has no greater immunity from the attacks of parasites than that of private individuals, and during the winter of 1890-91 some of the cattle became infested with lice. That fact is mentioned for the purpose of stating that a most effective, safe and simple treatment can be given by applying a kerosene emulsion. The method of preparation is described thus in Bulletin No. 11, prepared by Mr. Fletcher, Entomologist:

Kerosene (coal oil).....2 gallons
Rain water.....1 do
Soap.....1 pound

"Boil the soap in the water till all is dissolved; then, while boiling hot, turn it into the kerosene, and churn it constantly and forcibly with a syringe or force pump for five minutes, when it will be of a smooth, creamy nature. If the emulsion be perfect it will adhere to the surface of glass without oiliness. As it cools it thickens into a jelly-like mass. This gives the stock emulsion."

For use on the cattle it was diluted with 18 times its measure of water. Besides killing the lice, it seemed to have a beneficial action on the hair and skin. One quarter of the quantity mentioned above is sufficient for a large herd.—Jas. W. Robertson, Central Experimental Farm.

"HOT HAND."

How the Shanty Men Spend Their Evenings in a Lumber Camp.

A correspondent writes from Napanee: My friend Irvine kindly volunteered to take me over to the shanty on Reids Creek to see how things appeared at night among the motley crowd that composed the gang. As we drew near our ears were greeted with roars of laughter, which indicated that some lively game was in progress. On entering we found that a lot of the "boys" (some of them bearded men of 30 or more) were engaged in the diversion known as "hot hand." A semi-circle of the men stood in front of one seated with a hat in his lap, the victim leaning over with his face in the hat and his hands, palms out, resting on his hips. While in this position he must receive the vigorous slaps of the men composing the semi-circle until he could "spot" the one who struck last. After receiving a shower of blows he would raise his head, and if he could indicate the one who struck last was allowed to take his place in the circle and the man spotted became the next victim. The fun consisted chiefly in the mistakes made by the victim in pointing to the one he thought gave the last slap; as some one who did not "make believe" that he gave it by rubbing his hands and that he gave it by striking a striker. An assuming attitude of a man who had often seen this game at Irish wakes, he had often seen this game at Irish wakes, whom the boss reported among the best of the gang. They participated with great zest in the various games of the shanty. In the center of the shanty was a large fire of pine knots which illuminated the whole interior sufficiently to enable the men to read, play cards and indulge in "hot hand." Around the sides of the shanty were the platforms on which they slept in their blankets, the marks of moccasins. The men were a remarkably healthy lot, not one missing a meal or losing a day through illness occupied this shanty.—Meal.

WORLD'S FAIR FOR \$45.

A Fairy Story in Figures for Interested Visitors.

At the meeting of general passenger agents in Chicago, Mr. Roberts, of the Erie, remarked that he had heard Frank Thomson, of the Pennsylvania, declare in the trunk lines meeting last week that 54,000,000 people would have to be carried by the roads entering Chicago during the six months of the Exposition. Mr. Thomson is accepted as authority, but says the Chicago News Record, the figures staggered Mr. Roberts' auditors a little and they said so. They all agreed, however, that the traffic would take all the facilities available on every line entering here.

Then there was some speculation as to rates. Mr. Heaford said he had been figuring to see what a six days' visit to the Fair, including transportation, would cost a man living 300 miles from Chicago. "I estimate a trip like that would cost just \$45," he said, whereat there was a derisive laugh from the Eastern men who have read New York stories of Chicago extortions. That put the Chicagoan on his mettle and he produced his figures, as follows:

Round-trip ticket (600 miles).....\$12 00
Sleeper (four days).....4 00
Six admissions to the Fair.....2 00
Miscellaneous, pleasure.....9 00
Total.....\$27 00

"Now," he said to the sceptics as he gave his figures, "that means a margin for car-fares and foolishness, and it isn't a low estimate, either."

This precipitated a discussion, but the Chicago figures stood for a fair estimate.

THE WORLD OF LABOR.

ECHOES FROM THE BUSY MILL AND THE WORKSHOP.

News and Happenings of Special Interest

in the Various Fields Where the Mechanic and Artisan Hold Sway Night and Day.

Paris has the largest sewers. A steam dynamo is the latest. There are 110,000 species of plants. Uncle Sam has 6,000 postmistresses. There are 17,000 styles of silk goods. London has fifty miles of pneumatic tubes. Indelible ink is made from banana juice. Paris has a 41 foot 5 inch long barometer. In New York city dwell 800 Armenians. The world has 33 magnetic observatories. Smokers now have an electric cigar lighter. The Union Pacific Road cost \$108,778 per mile. Telephone receivers have pneumatic cushions. St. Louis street cars are to carry the city mails. Georgia taxes every cigarette seller \$300 a year. Stone bridges were built in China 2,900 years ago. Paris gardeners use toads as insect exterminators. Caldwell, N.C., has produced an 8-pound potato. Mexico exported 43,750,000 pounds of coffee last year. In India the Government runs the opium business. Paris hopes to secure its water supply from Switzerland. A colored woman controls the ice trade in St. John's, N.B. One of the New York weekly papers is run by a woman. Consolidation of the lead and oil interests is contemplated. The London sewage is carried 14 miles down the Thames River. Ten horse plows shovel snow from Duluth (Mich.) sidewalks. Chinese physicians prescribe cat's meat as a remedy for lung diseases. Clocks were worn as ear pendants in Germany in the days of Charles V. A Dunkirk locomotive company conduct a training school for mechanics. There are 80 miles of tunnels in Great Britain, their total cost exceeding \$6,500,000. A ship canal 60 miles long is to be built to get around the falls of the Columbia River. The Croton aqueduct in New York surpasses all modern engineering efforts of this kind. The damage to wheat and oats in Michigan by smut this year is estimated at \$1,000,000. The production of distilled spirits of all kinds in this country last year was 117,186,114 gallons. New Hampshire man has invented a machine that trims and punches belts in one operation. A block of marble 15 feet long, 5 feet 4 inches wide and six feet thick has just been quarried in California. The engineers of San Francisco propose to supply that city with water from Lake Taos, 150 miles distant. In manufacturing occupations the average life of soap-boilers is the highest, and that of grindstone-makers the lowest. Owing to the contractions of the iron of which it is built, the Eiffel Tower is 8 inches shorter in summer than in winter. Most heavy tunnel work is done by machine drills, driven by compressed air, which also serves to ventilate the works. Jonesboro, Ga., has a resident, who, it is reported, has only spent \$8 in the past six years for clothes. He is said to be worth over \$10,000. The fleeces of ten goats and the work of several men for half a year are required to make a genuine cashmere shawl a yard and a half wide. Of the whole length of the Suez Canal, 66 miles are cuttings, 14 have been made by dredging through the lakes and eight miles required no labor. The celebrated high electric light mast at Minneapolis, which is 237 feet high, is proved ineffective for lighting purposes and is now no longer used. Some of the English pumping engines perform work equaling the raising of 120,000,000 pounds one foot high by the consumption of 100-weight of coal. In a shingle mill at Gray's Harbor, Wash., recently, the entire works were kept running all day on a single cedar stick, which made 188,500 shingles. Stenography was first used in the French Parliament about the year 1830, and one of the few official stenographers of that period still surviving is M. Lagache, now a Senator of France. In China the cobbler still goes from house to house, announcing his approach with a rattle, and taking up his abode with the family while he accomplishes the necessary making and mending. A magnet at Willett's Point Long Island, is considered the largest and strongest in the world. It is made of two 15-inch Dahlgren guns, wound around with eight miles of cable charged with electricity. According to the international telegraph bureau of Bern, there were dispatched in Europe during last year 207,595,000 telegrams, and in the remaining portion of the world 88,422,000, a total of 296,017,000. The \$5,000 presented by the German Emperor for the advancement of aerial navigation is to be used for the construction of a large balloon, with which it is proposed to make weekly ascents during the year for scientific observations. Count Tolstoi purposes paying a visit to the United States next spring. His object is "to live with the farmers, to study their methods of agriculture and stock raising, to become acquainted with the people of America who cultivate the soil." The largest vessel yet built on the Weir in England, said to be the greatest cargo vessel in the world, was successfully launched last month. The vessel, which is built of steel, is 465 feet long, 52 feet breadth and 36 feet depth, has a gross register of 6400 tons, deadweight capacity of 9250 tons on 25 feet draught, and gross displacement of 13,600 tons. The engines will drive the vessel when fully loaded a speed of 10 1/2 knots.