

HORTICULTURAL.

"The Capabilities of a Town Lot."

Had the lecture given in the Town Hall Saturday night last, had better conditions as to weather, time of week, &c., the hall would have been crowded. From start to finish the lecture was a decided treat, and Mr. McNeil has left the impression that he is filled with his subject, believes in it, likes a good story and is a right good fellow.

Inspector Campbell was voted to be the chair and in his opening remarks dealt at some length and very interestingly on the moral aesthetic and pecuniary benefits of horticulture. He dwelt on the work the local society was doing, no fewer than 1929 articles having been, or to be, distributed this spring. The great value obtained for one dollar in this society was fully set forth and really the many privileges of seeds, bulbs, books, received during the year by members, seems out of all proportion to the subscription. It is correct however, and these can all be secured yet during this month.

The speaker, Mr. McNeil is from Windsor, Ont., where he has an extensive graperly of fifty acres and is a professional fruit grower and florist besides. He began in an amateur way however, and the first part of his lecture dealt largely with his trials and triumphs in the improving of a barren town lot which he bought. He now claims that there is too low an idea existing as to the capabilities of such a lot, and we have noted a few of the devices or plans which he recommends.

He began with a facetious reference to his reading of catalogues which were generally too rosy. A lot should be levelled to look well, a mixture of Red Top mack, in his experience, the best lawn. Out of 150 varieties of grapes there were only three that he could recommend, the Concord, the Niagara and the Warden. He trellised these round the house and even over the roof of a "lean to" with great success. He preferred Bartlett pears and gave his experience in peach planting, and though out of reach of South Grey, there were other equivalents we have in hardy and well flavored apples, &c. His experience with flowers, in and out of the house led him to believe they were good for health, good for morals, (a list of prisoners in Sing Sing penitentiary he had examined had not one horticulturist among the occupants though there were several ministers even.) good for the whole community. One enthusiast might influence many, there was no genius required but a genuine love for fruits and flowers and a little industry. A little more of such missionary work would enhance the natural advantages of Durham and neighborhood and he hoped for great things from the home society which had the most enthusiastic set of officers he had yet met with.

There was no need of aiming for greenhouse plants as one dollars worth of seeds (annuals) judiciously used would make as good a show as \$10 worth of plants. He believed in some of the old kinds which were now to be had greatly improved, such as asters, which should be sown in a shallow box, Portulaca which required to be sown early in box, and put in ground the latter part of May. The blue flower Zinnia had improved greatly of late years and would bear transplanting, the old snapdragon had fine colors and was a persistent bloomer, as was also the sweet pea. These he sowed in a slight trench filling in as they grow, and to keep the plant from going to seed, it is essential to pick the buds as they come. A plant will bloom longer if thus treated. The same treatment should be extended to the beautiful pansy which should not be planted to get the full glare of the noon-day sun.

HOUSE PLANTS.

He spoke eloquently on the value of personal effort in this as in other departments. Geraniums were easily handled, but cuttings should not be grown in ordinary soil, as it was not nourishment so much they wanted at first as heat and moisture, and sand and water was good at first. Cuttings could be set nicely in an ordinary bowl placing them thick. A good potting soil was equal proportions of well rotted barn yard manure, garden soil, and sand, put through a sieve if possible. In planting see that the roots are brought in contact with the earth, the heels had a use as well as the head, and he told a good story to illustrate the point.

Plants, to thrive, like human beings should be kept clean. The leaves were the lungs and digestive organs. Winds, rains and dews keep outside plants in shape but a dusty house makes artificial cleaning necessary indoors.

He referred to the possibilities of schools and school yards, and thought a healthful public sentiment could be created to make them the most beautiful places in the neighborhood.

He complimented the Yankees for many things but sneered at a certain artificial patriotism they manifested. Canada however was ahead in many things as shown by the Columbian Exhibition, and the Ontario Fruit

Growers' Association was the largest Society of its kind in America, numbering 4000 members. It had been a revelation to many to find that Ontario in cheese, in fruit, in live stock and in other departments was right to the front. Our patriotism should be founded in the excellence of our own country, while respecting the source from which we sprung.

An "experience" meeting followed, several questions being handed in. The Cuthbert raspberry was the best, Golden Queen good. Of gooseberries Whitesmith, Houghton and Downing were all good. Plants should be syringed with cold water to remove the red spider. Nitrate of soda either dry or in solution was effective for the white wire worm. Climbing roses would be benefitted by a reasonable amount of pruning &c.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the lecturer who came at the request of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, and on motion of Mr. G. McKechnie the chairman also received the thanks of the meeting for his services and interesting opening remarks. Mr. McKechnie spoke of the advantages of the society urging all to join.

PIONEER LIFE.

A Sketch of the Life of Mr. Peter Smith.

Continued from last week.

But the Saugeen River and surrounding country had caught his eye and he was soon back, down the River to the mouth, down along the Lake to Port Elgin Bay, and right here in Port Elgin all alone, he found a settler. This was a man named Lachlan McLean, better known as 'Lochbuie,' who in the late fall of 1850 had been left ashore at Port Elgin Bay.

He had some provisions and by means of catching fish all winter in the Lake he managed to survive. 'Lochbuie,' Port Elgin's first settler, lived for some years about Tiverton, went to Manitoba afterwards where he died a few years ago, aged more than 90. Mr. Smith did not long wait to enjoy 'Lochbuie's' hospitality but took up land, and the first day of May, 1851, found him on his farm planting potatoes. He then went back for Mrs. Smith and in the month of June they were fairly settled in the bush. In the meantime old Walker had located at Walkerton and Jas Rowland, Wm. Gowenlock, Jno. Wallace, Thos. Bryce and others had pulled up along the River and taken up farms. In June Mr. and Mrs. Smith were accompanied by Donald Bell and Jno. McLean a brother of present patriarchal postmaster of Walkerton. They came down the River on a raft, brought hens, cows and a cat. Angus Cameron followed the cows. Here the household was established. That summer, Mrs. Smith was wont to tell, nine weeks passed without seeing the face of any one and she often to d with what joy they saw a wandering Indian one day approach their dwelling. Mr. Smith tells thrilling stories of being lost in the woods in those days. Neither can he forget the many calls made at the shanty by weary travellers on the lookout for land. More than once did the now Senator Vidal make a friendly call on his way along the river.

Mr. Smith recalls with some humor that as a tax payer he helped to build the first jail in our county town, namely, at Guelph, Owen Sound, Goderich and Walkerton.

It was a few years after settlement before the pioneers had regular church services. Still as early as 1852 zealous home missionaries found their way to the homes of the people conducted services either with the single family or a group of families. Mr. Smith remembers that in that year, Rev. Jno. Scott, afterwards D. D., and pastor of St. Andrews, London, visited at his shanty and held public worship. Rev. D. McNaughton was the first settled pastor with headquarters at Southampton.

Peter Smith gave his first vote in 1845 at Durham. Ferguson Blair was the Liberal candidate. There were only three polling places between Ferguson and Owen Sound. At that time a voter to be qualified was compelled to hold the deed of his land. This led to great abuses and the governing party was charged with issuing deeds with much more alacrity to its political friends than to its known opponents. Mr. Smith gets quite warm yet when he denounces the iniquity of the case. The first election in Saugeen in which he took part was between Mr. McMurrich and Mr. Cayley. Three counties took part in the election—Bruce, Grey and Simcoe. Mr. McMurrich won.

Mr. Smith was always a strong Liberal, never flinching in any battle, though on more than one occasion great inducements were held out. He stood by Sir John A. Macpherson, thorough Highland as the latter was strongly as he appealed on national grounds. In Peter Smith all the Liberal candidates had a staunch supporter as Mr. McMurrich, Mr. Snyder, Dr. Douglas, Mr. Gilles, were they alive would testify.

In 1858 over the signature of Sir Edmund Head, Governor-General of Canada, Mr. Peter Smith was gazetted Captain of the Reserve Militia for the County of Bruce. This position he has held since that time and for some years after '58 an annual drill of the militia was held in Port Elgin. "Capt." Smith had a commanding appearance and got along well with his men.

Mr. Smith has a family of six sons and three daughters living. The sons are Alex. Secretary of the Ontario Liberal Association; James, a practicing barrister in Chicago; Donald, at home on the farm; Duncan, a home missionary in Algoma; Arch. and John, ranchers in Montana. There are three daughters living at home. Rev. Dr. Frazet Smith, late missionary in Honan, China, but now in India, is a nephew.

Mrs. Smith died last March after sharing the hardships and triumphs of her husband for 46 years.

Altogether Mr. Smith is one of the whitest of the Bruce pioneers. Though now totally devoid of sight, he lives a happy and contented life and much enjoys a talk with an old neighbor or brother-pioneer. We trust he may yet be spared many years to enjoy the well earned rest and leisure of old age.

ROB POY.

Mr. Hugh Campbell is busy at present making preparations for rebuilding his barn which was blown down some time ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Archie Little, of Varney, and Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis, of Teeswater, visited friends in this vicinity one day last week.

Messrs. John Gray and D. Brown have been treating themselves to new seed drills lately.

Mr. Farquhar McKinnon lost one of his horses last week.

Mr. Thos. McComb disposed of his fat cattle to Mr. Archie Little one day last week.

Miss Susie Kennedy spent a week visiting Mrs. Dan Atair, of Artemesia.

Mr. Alex. McCormick bought a horse the other day from Mr. C. McKinnon, of your town.

Mr. Wm. Bratton, of Bentneck, is busy drawing his household goods and a quantity of lumber out to his new home in this part.

Mr. Malcolm Beaton, of Markdale's vicinity came out here the other day for the remainder of his grain and other articles which were left here since last fall.

Miss Kate Ferguson, of Egremont, was visiting at her sister's Mrs. T. McKinnon, of the Corners.

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Beaton, of the Corners visited Mrs. Bratton's mother, Mrs. Ritchie, of Edge Hill, who is very ill at present.

HOPEVILLE.

At last the mail contract is settled and the old mail carrier has secured it at about 50 cents per trip.

Wednesday, 17th inst., was a notable day in this neighborhood. The Hopeville Ladies' Aid Society held their Social that night instead of the 18th as first stated and quite a fine time was spent. The Tanner family, of Mount Forest, was here and helped to make things lively. There was a full house although there was other attractions in the neighborhood. At the same time a Social in the Methodist church on the 16th con., a Social in the Victoria Hall, Dundalk, by the Catholic church.

Two weddings in the neighborhood. Mr. William Ferris to Miss Flora McLean, daughter of Mr. Thos. McLean and Mr. John Patton to Miss Catherine McMillan, daughter of Duncan McMillan, all old settlers of the township. Their old minister, the Rev. Mr. Morrison officiated at both places. Also a social at Mr. Thos. Phillips went off here, also some went to Mount Forest Fair. All these taking place in one day here left it a very notable day. Whether it was on account of it being the time of the Corbett and Fitzsimmons fight, or being Saint Patrick Day we will not say.

The Hopeville Ladies' Aid Society had another Pic Social in the McLeach Church Hall on Friday night, the 19th, but the quilt is not yet disposed of.

Quite a stir here by our young men moving around for work and some of them have left for the summer.

TOM.

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HOW IS YOUR SUB?

FAIRWELL CORNERS.

Mr. Colin Lamhout sold a fine pair of drivers to a Waterloo buyer last week.

Mr. Edwin Reilly and family, of Normanby, are moving up on the Pitt farm near the Corners. Mr. Reilly has rented the Pitt farm for a few years and we are glad to welcome him in our vicinity and wish him every happiness and prosperity in his new home.

We chronicle with regret the death and burial of the late Mr. Stewart Bottwell, who was a highly esteemed friend and good neighbor of ours for years. He was very highly respected and esteemed by all that had the pleasure of knowing him. He left behind to mourn him his wife, three sons; Stewart, William and Thomas and one daughter, Mrs. James Muir. The late Mr. Bottwell died on the 15th inst. and was buried at Ebenezer on the 17th. Following the remains were a large number of mourners from far and near. We sympathize with the family in their bereavement.

Mrs. D. Coleridge, Sr., spent a few days in Durham visiting her daughter, Mrs. Chas. Ramage, of the Riverview.

Times are somewhat dull now therefore news is scarce. Roads are bad almost impassable, but by all appearances we may hope for good wheeving soon. Some have started sugar making, but look useful over it, a dull dark days and no frost to make the sap run.

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G. T. R. TIME TABLE.

Table with columns: Leave, Arrive, Durham, Varney, Holsaten, Mt. Forest. Includes times for 8.30, 9.00, 9.15, 9.30, 10.15, 10.30, 10.45, 11.00.

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