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South Dakota State Horticulturist Society

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NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

Volume III

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NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

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HINTS FOR GARDENERS

Mrs. M. W. Sheafe, Watertown

"Grandmother's gathering boneset today;
In the garret she'll dry and hang it away.
Next winter I'll "need" some boneset tea.
I wish she wouldn't think always of me."

The above little verse came into my mind as I was reminded of a garden variety of the above mentioned plant "Eupatorium" (Throughwort) They are strong growing border plants, fine for cutting. The white variety is perhaps most to be desired, as it combines so well with other flowers. As it grows to a height of two to three feet, it is best placed at the back of the border and in a rather shaded moist situation.

Zephyranthes or Fairy Lilies, a little tender bulb planted after the severe weather of spring is passed, has proven a real joy in my garden. Grass-like leaves shoot up and soon one will see a little pink point appear through the brown earth, and almost before you are aware, a beautiful pink or white lily appears. When cut and placed in water they last for several days. The bulbs are inexpensive and require little care, except to dig them before freezing weather and store as other bulbs, packed in sand.

It has been my pleasure recently to visit two gardens wherein I found fine clumps of "Platycodons" or Japanese Balloon flowers, so called because of the shape of the bud before it opens. Platycodons require a heavy covering after hard freezing in the autumn as they are apt to heave out of the ground if unprotected and in the spring they do not appear. As they are slow to awaken in spring and are rather dark when first coming through the earth, it is well to mark the spot so that they will not be destroyed. As they come late, hence they bloom at a time when everything else is taking a rest. The blue is rather the more attractive.

Dr. E. A. Merritt in "Horticulture" gives the following formula for a paste to be used on the hands when working in the garden, or to be covered with oil or grease. He says the use of this paste has absolutely prevented irritation or staining of the skin and one washing with warm water leaves the hands in perfect condition.

Formula. Dissolve 95 grams of soap chips or Lux and 20 grams of gum arabic in 370 grams of distilled water (boiling). Add 2 grams hydrous wool fat and whip with an egg beater until it begins to harden; add slowly 6 minims of oil of lavender and whip again thoroughly until soap forms. This should be placed in a covered container. Rub the paste well into the skin, taking especial care to work it under the ends and around the nails. In 90 seconds the hands will be dry and smooth and the thin film of soap prevents

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NORTH DAKOTA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWS LETTER, JULY, 1931

C. B. Waldron, Secretary

The annual meeting of the North Dakota Horticultural Society for 1931 will be held at Jamestown on August 21 and 22. Because of its central location and the enthusiasm of the local members it is expected that the Jamestown meeting will rank high both in attendance and horticultural exhibits. Naturally the floral exhibits are centered around the Gladiolus and Dahlias but an effort will be made to have all the more important annuals and the summer blooming perennials exhibited in large numbers. Elsewhere will be found the premium list and it is hoped that anyone having outstanding horticultural products not included in this will forward them as due recognition will be given. The fruit and vegetables will be judged by Prof. A. F. Yeager and Dr. Cooper will officiate as judge of the flowers.

Jamestown has ample hotel accommodations and excellent tourist park facilities. The residents of Jamestown maintain a live Garden Club Association and will have something worth while to show the visitors. Because of nearness of Jamestown to Aberdeen and other South Dakota points, South Dakota horticulturists are urged to be present at this meeting.

In cases where exhibitors cannot accompany their products they may ship them to Miss Ethel M. Newberry, Jamestown. All such exhibits will be properly taken care of and displayed. We would suggest that people living near together in various parts of the state consult with each other in the matter of transportation as that would lessen the expense and make attendance possible which would otherwise be out of the question.

EXHIBIT CLASSES — STATE HORTICULTURAL SHOW 1931

Sweepstakes for exhibits of flowers by one individual awarded the silver cup by the North Dakota State Horticultural Society.

Sweepstakes for the best exhibit of fruit awarded the Northwest Nursery Company cup.

Sweepstakes for the best exhibit of vegetables awarded the Oscar H. H. Will cup.

Class 1. Basket or vase of Gladiolus one or more colors. May contain other flowers or greens.

Class 2. Three spikes of Pink Gladiolus.

Class 3. Three spikes red or scarlet Gladiolus.

Class 4. Three spikes of Gladiolus of any other color not included in class 2 or 3.

Class 5. Basket or vase of 6 to 8 blooms of Dahlias, one or more colors. May contain other flowers or greens.

Class 6. Three blooms of Red Dahlias.

Class 7. Three blooms of Dahlias any other colors except red.

Class 8. Basket or vase of sweet peas one or more colors. Other small flowers or greens may be used.

Class 9. Basket or vase of sweet peas, light shades. Other small flowers or greens may be used.

Class 10. Basket or vase of sweet peas. Dark shades. Other small flowers or greens may be used.

Class 11. Basket or vase or bowl of peonies.

Class 12. Basket or vase of perennials. Other greens may be used.

Class 13. Basket or vase of Asters.

Class 14. Basket or vase of Cosmos.

Class 15. Basket or vase of Zinnias.

Class 16. Basket or vase of other annuals not included in class 13, 14 and 15.

Class 17. Basket or vase of Roses.

Class 18. Fern in Pot or Fernery.

Class 19. House plant any variety.

Class 20. Finest display of wild flowers.

Class 21. Best plate of apples, 5 specimens, following varieties: a-Duch-

ess, b-Anoka, c-Wealthy, d-Patten's Greening, e-Hibernal, f-Okabena, g-Charlamoff, h-Malinda, i-Any other variety.

Class 22. Best plate of crabapples, 10 or more specimens, varieties: a-Dolgo, b-Florence, c-Whitney, d-Virginia, e-Lyman Prolific, f-Strawberry, g-any other standard variety.

Class 23. Best plate of Sand Cherry hybrids, 20 or more specimens each of the following varieties: a-Opata, b-Sapa, c-Compass, d-Zumbra, e-any other variety.

Class 24. Best plate of plums, 10 or more specimens each of the following varieties: a-Red Wing, b-Underwood, c-Lacrescent, d-Waneta, e-Cheney, f-Terry, g-any other variety.

Class 25. Best plate of grapes, 3 bunches, any variety.

Class 26. Best pint of raspberries.

Class 27. Best pint of strawberries.

Class 28. Best exhibit of wild fruit.

Class 29. Best seedling apples.

Class 30. Best seedling plum.

Class 31. Best vegetables, 5 specimens of each of the following: a-tomatoes, b-sweet corn, c-carrots, d-onions, e-beets, f-potatoes, g-cucumbers, h-other small vegetables.

Class 32. Best vegetable, one specimen each including: a-squash, b-pumpkin, c-watermelon, d-muskmelon and e-cabbage.

Class 33. Largest pumpkin or squash.

For the preceding 33 classes high grade gold embossed ribbons will be awarded for first, second, and third places by the North Dakota State Horticultural Society.

In classes 1, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 20 quality of bloom, blending of colors and artistic arrangements will be considered in judging and awarding of the prizes. In classes 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, only the bloom will be judged.

(The following is a copy of a letter we received from Mr. K. C. Sullivan, Board of Agriculture, Jefferson City Mo.)

Dear Sir:

It is illegal to bring into the state of Missouri for sale, storage, examination or other use, bees or bee products which do not carry a certificate of inspection issued by the proper official of the state in which these products originated. (Section 12578, Missouri Apiary Inspection Law).

I am asking that you inform the beekeepers, especially the commercial beekeepers of your state regarding the Missouri requirements. During the coming season inspectors throughout Missouri, and particularly in the larger centers such as Kansas City and St. Louis will be on the lookout for bee products coming into the state from the outside.

We do not wish to be arbitrary, but the beekeepers of Missouri are asking that our bee law be enforced, and the inspectors located in these centers will hold up any shipments of bees or bee products which do not carry a certificate of inspection.

Yours very truly,

K. C. SULLIVAN,
State Apiarist.

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penetration by dirt or grease. This is about the best single discovery I have made in a twelvemonth." Any pharmacist will make this up at moderate cost.

While this has been a most nerve racking, discouraging year for flower growing, there are always bright spots. Regale lilies were wonderful this season, very long trumpets and such waxy, heavy texture, and so many on a stalk. For our severe climate I would advise this lily above all other white ones for ease of culture, and certainty of increasing in both numbers and beauty. Plant deep and cover heavily for winter and do not remove covering until settled warm weather in spring.

EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARY OF A TRAVELLING MAN

W. A. Simmons

Aberdeen, June 5th: Aberdeen is in the throes of their semi-centennial celebration and a carnival, and the carnival spirit seems to have taken possession of the town. One is apt to pass his best friends on the street not recognizing them, hiding as most of them are, behind all brands of facial brush from wind sifters to chest protectors.

The stores have their show windows full of ancient relics, things common fifty years ago, but now mostly forgotten. One of the most interesting of these displays consisted of money; we used to have it in those days, old timers tell us.

It is to be hoped the whiskers, grown for this celebration will yield to beauty parlor treatment after the occasion for them ends with the celebration, though they have gotten quite a start, and some look as though they would be about as hard to eradicate as quack grass.

June, 6: Home again, to find the cat handcuffed and leading a dog's life, as usual during the time the birds are with us, and a neighbor's cat that occasionally honors our place with a visit, threatened with about everything but a long life. The late Iris were blooming all over the place, and while their season is not a long one, they certainly put on a wonderful show and brighten the place amazingly while they rule.

We like to add a few new sorts to our collection each year, and we find the most practical way of doing this is to visit some nurseryman who has a large collection, while they are in bloom, and place our small order for the ones we deem outstanding. We find this much more practical than trying to pick them out from a catalog with its more or less confusing description of colors. The fruit trees are mostly taking a vacation this year, with nothing on their minds but making new growth.

Exceptions to this are three Homer cherry trees, which the birds are glad to see loaded with fruit. Bird fanatics all agree that the birds deserve all they get of the other fellow's fruit as payment for their services in protecting the trees from insect enemies. Without the birds the insects might take the entire cherry crop, whereas the birds take but half, as they scrupulously leave us all the cherry stones. The Waneta plums have again proven their amazing adaptability, by setting a fair crop, despite the hard freeze that caught them when they were in blossom. Apples were seen on but one tree, some topworked branches of Okabena, having a few specimens.

At Brookings I found the same conditions, an entire failure of the apple crop, so that all of Dr. Hansen's apple breeding there is lost for the year. Fortunately Mr. Wood had pollinated some of Mr. Robertson's apple blossoms at the latter's orchard near Hot Springs, this year, and it is hoped some of these have escaped the freezes. Of course with the many varieties in Mr. Robertson's orchard, his apples are pretty well cross pollinated every year, but modern scientific plant breeders are not satisfied with the work done by the bees and other insects and the wind. They demand Eugenic methods where they can be sure both parents to the union are known and eminently respectable.

June, 8: Had the pleasure of visiting Mrs. Sheafe, our State flower authority today and seeing her garden, which was rampant with blossoms even this early in the season. Was rather surprised to hear her complain of the drought, so soon after their 7.14 inch cloud burst. But apparently little of that great rain soaked in. It found the ground hard and dry and ran off leaving it in much the same condition. About the only benefit from it was the raising of the water level in Lake Kampeska 23 inches.

One citizen of Watertown has figured out that this amount of water would last the city barring seepage and evaporation, for 23 years provided the residents of the town don't bathe any oftener than at present, and we are not insinuating that this would be desirable.

June, 15th: Have found by experience that one of the best places to see the new things suitable to our climate is at Valley City. Whatever the sea-

son, Mr. Hilborn always has some lovely things to show me, and always finds time to take me out to the nursery that I may see them. Today he had enough Iris on display in his offices to make a good sized flower show. The one that particularly took my eye was Juniata, a mammoth blossom of a fine shade of clear blue, and slightly fragrant. Out at the nursery he had a long row of Van Fleet's Dr. E. M. Mills roses in bloom and they were a most lovely sight. Mr. Hilborn tells me these roses have never had a bit of winter protection and absolutely no sign of winter killing was in evidence.

The roses came in such masses and in such picturesque sprays, much as the spirea Van Houttei bears it blooms, that it makes this rose most distinctive and beautiful. The color is a creamy white with a suggestion of pink in the center, and each blossom is a little gem. This rose appears to me to be a very decided acquisition and addition to our short list of hardy roses and I believe our nurserymen should take it up, and push it to the limit.

Another very handsome early rose, the Agnes, was also a lovely mass of bloom. Mr. Hilborn believes that this rose, like the yellow garden lillies, should be grown in partial shade, to get the best effect, as the blossoms seem to fade out, when in full sunshine. He also showed me a large Tetonkoha bush in full glory of bloom, and he also thinks very highly of this, and believes each garden should have it. Having the delicate fragrance of the wild rose, it fairly scents up the whole neighborhood. A low growing shrub, the Pigmy Caragana is a lovely sight when in bloom and its foliage is very ornamental at all times. Growing to a height of about 18 inches, it makes an ideal shrub for foundation planting.

Some years ago, Mr. Hilborn obtained a supply of blue juniper seed from Missouli, Mont. and from this, he has raised long rows of seedlings, many of which show some very interesting variations. Some are pyramidal, some rather squat and at least one weeping, in form, and most, of a fine blue shade. He plans to propagate the selected shapes, by grafting, so as to perpetuate the good qualities of the selected individuals. He has some very lovely blue spruce, and says that were he to start over again in the nursery business, with an eye singly to the main chance, he would raise nothing else, as they are always salable at remunerative prices.

His grounds show that there is a way to overcome the loss of lilac blooms that are so often killed by late frosts, in our states. The Hungarian lilacs came later, and were now in full bloom having escaped the early freezes.

A few of these lilacs in ones plantings will insure lilac blooms. The spring seems like a total loss without lilacs, regardless of the presence of other flowers.

Miles City, Mont. June. 28th: The prairies just now are gay with cactus blossoms, and remind one that this is about the easiest wild flower to domesticate. These of the northern plains are perfectly hardy, require no coddling or extra care, and furnish about as much beauty when in flower, as any wild flower I know about.

If you have a dry sunny location, where nothing else will live, turn it into a plains wild flower garden, with cactus and yuccas and make it a beauty spot.

OUR MOST DEPENDABLE FRUIT

A. F. Yeager, Fargo, N. D.

Gooseberries again have proven themselves to be our surest fruit crop. Even currants have been greatly damaged by the combination of drouth and cold, but the gooseberry plants of any adapted variety look as fine as could be wished.

Do you have all you care for of this dependable fruit?

Carrie is the most sold commercial variety here. However you will be still surer of success if you have Pixwell or Abundance, our new North Dakota varieties. Both have been offered as premiums and will soon be available from nurseries.

Gooseberries do not require cross pollination, hence only one variety is needed.

GENERAL FOREST TREE PLANTING

J. B. Taylor, Ipswich

In planting seedlings over the state I wish to impress as strongly as I can the thorough preparation of the soil before any planting, is done. New land must be thoroughly subdued. I have done this in one season but believe two is much better. If land is virgin it can be brought under cultivation quicker if the land is broken rather shallow then thoroughly pulverized or disced, then re-plowed to a depth of eight inches and then disced the second time. But as I have stated, taking two years is much better, then after thoroughly discing and dragging, to plant a garden on this spot the first year, with cultivation and thoroughly working it during the growing season most of the tougher grass roots will be rotted before another year, so that when it is re-plowed the following spring it will work up and level up much better and be easier to cultivate as most of the clods will be subdued and the ground will not go back to a soddy condition so quickly. It will hold moisture a little better, I always prefer new land whenever possible and in our new nursery we have the virgin soil although many have thought it queer that we picked this particular piece of land instead of adjoining land that had been under cultivation thirty or more years. Give me new land rich in humus and other life giving elements that help make a quick growth.

If old land is the only place you have to use, do not be discouraged by what I have expressed as we have been fortunate to settle on the richest spot on earth, an endowment which those of little faith do not want to lose sight of.

After the soil is subdued or before planting is done a good fence is necessary and where a close woven wire fence can be afforded it generally pays the best in the long run. The bottom wire should hug the ground to keep the rabbits out more particularly the cottontail that bothers the nurserymen and which are want to nibble and girdle the bark impairing or killing the small trees. Many will sprout up unless trimmed at once making a scraggly bushy tree.

The varieties that will do well over the entire state are the same ones the South Dakota Nurserymen sent out last spring. All are perfectly hardy and with care will make wonderful growth and be an enduring monument that will last.

In the north-western part of South Dakota and in the South-Western part or nearly all that section west of the Missouri River, except the Black Hills, rainfall generally is not as heavy but this can be overcome by thorough cultivation and retaining the precious moisture. In even the south-eastern part, years like 1930 impressed those living in this section, subject to copious rains, realize they are not a sure thing and those who lived where they know thorough cultivation is necessary, did better last season in proportion on account of the practical knowledge acquired.

All of the varieties that the South Dakota Nurserymen sent out in the spring of 1930 will do well anywhere in the state or even in North Dakota, this included, Ash, American Elm, Russian Olive, Caragana and Chinese Elm.

There is one variety though that should be included or anyone should have the privilege of substituting native cottonwoods as where moisture is plentiful or when planted in low places will make a really grand tree. A cottonwood is long lived if planted in a congenial place and it will not only make a fast growth, a good windbreak and sun shade, but a great deal of lumber and fine fuel. I never thought so much about its burning quality as I have this last winter as we grubbed and thinned out quite a few of our Cottonwoods and had them sawed up and burned them in the furnace which is saving us many dollars in heating cost.

Also we have an egg box factory at Yankton that is using great quantities of cottonwood lumber. It is light and at the same time strong and durable.

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OUR FINEST MEETING

The extreme heat that was so oppressive had broken. Pep and enthusiasm prevailed from the beginning of the meeting until the last handshakes and goodbyes were exchanged.

As we left Rapid City the first morning heavy clouds threatening rain covered the sky but they cast no gloom on our crowd. You could hear the Horticulturists shouting to one another "let it rain." However, the barometer was rising and little rain fell.



R. W. VANCE

Comments on the beauty spots of the smaller towns was the order of the day. In spite of the fact that this is the driest season in the Hills for the past fifty years, the trees and shrubs made a fine appearance. Beautiful flowers were in evidence in many places.

At Spearfish we were met by Mrs. B. T. Bettleheim and Dr. and Mrs. John Wolzmuth, who showed us their city and extended courtesies that added much to our short stop in their city. First we visited the Fish Hatcheries and when we came to the large trout the face of every man took on a sparkling youthful appearance that fairly said, "I'd like to drop a hook over in there." It surely will take years of work to catch the thousands of tiny trout that we saw especially so if everyone fishes trout as I do. They may not be smart when hatched but they get that way very young.

After viewing the fish we were shown a large corner lot bordered on the lower side by a sparkling little creek. We were told that a laundry had once covered this space but had been removed and cans and rubbish

had collected until the plot had become an eyesore. This last spring three loads of soil were placed over the eyesore and flowers were planted. Common hardy flowers such as hollyhocks, iris, zennias, phlox and delphinium were used in the planting. The beginning of a rock garden was started along the creek at the lower bordered. I wonder how many thousand little ugly spots in our cities and towns and along our highways could be made into beauty spots.

At the school we were shown a fine lawn of blue grass and clover. This lawn one year ago was just plain red soil. In addition to the lawn the Garden Club planted iris, tulips, spirea and ivy. The ivy was well established and had climbed a considerable distance up the wall. Not being satisfied with planting the school grounds, plans are made to plant trees on the long sloping hill back of the school ground.

We assembled in their fine modern city park, which afforded all conveniences even to gas stoves. Here we ate our picnic dinner. Everyone took part in this particular fete and if the average stomach will not hold more than a quart we were certainly a most extraordinary group.

From Spearfish we proceeded up Spearfish Canyon, the most beautiful canyon in the Hills. Many stops were made and it seemed that there was no end to the picturesque scenes. One wanted to stop oftener and longer. The Bridal Veil Falls and Roughlock Falls were of exceptional interest and rare

beauty. There is something fascinating about them you want to stay and watch them forever. During the stops many plants were examined and everyone sampled the ripe June Berries. At one stop all within a few rods of one another were June berries, Pin cherries, gooseberries, raspberries and strawberries. The true horticulturists were gathering seeds and how many times I heard someone say in their enthusiasm, I would give so and so much to have this particular shrub, tree or rock at my home.

It is my hopes that sometime we can establish a camp at Spearfish and use this place for headquarters for future summer meetings. We did not visit the many orchards there because the late frost killed the fruit, but they have many orchards and more varieties of apples than one will find in any other part of the state.

The banquet held the evening of the first day was a lively affair and many interesting topics were discussed. Mr. Simmons was toastmaster. Mr. Troth, State Secretary of Agriculture, gave a talk stressing the value of farm planting and forest planting. He favored the idea that the state and Federal Government furnish help in reforestation for commercial purposes which will partly prevent the great shortage of timber that is sure to arise if some reforestation work is not done in the near future. Mr. Robertson told how anyone living in any part of the state could grow trees if they selected adapted varieties and planted them properly and cared for them after they were planted. Mr. Dybvig stressed the value of our Black Hills Pine. He discussed the method of planting trees in groups at suitable places along our highways, also of establishing parks at reasonable distances apart along our main highways. These parks would afford resting and camping places for those traveling the highways. There is some good food for thought in his suggestions. Other short talks pertaining to the well being of our state were given.

The second day we visited Rushmore Memorial. This piece of work is like many other things in the Hills, so large that it is beyond comprehension.

From here we drove to Sylvan Lake, then to Mt. Coolidge. The altitude of this mountain is 6,240 and the Forest Service has built a huge tower 50 feet high on its top. It seemed that the "lady bugs" as they are commonly called, were holding a convention on top of this mountain. One could have shaken a pint from a small bush. The Ranger told us that they were numerous on top of the mountain every year. They eat the eggs of other insects and are considered the friend of man, but I never realized they were so high minded.

The next and last stop was at Mr. Robertson's orchard. Many varieties of fruit were examined and compared. Mr. Robertson could give detailed facts about everything but one cannot begin to look over his orchard in so short a time. The people from Nebraska and Wyoming were anxious to drive part of the way home before dark but we are all looking forward to a time when we can visit his orchard again. He gave each person a bottle of cider and asked them to take it with them. One fellow came out of the cellar with a fine looking wealthy apple. The Wealthy is not just a fall apple.

Many of the party expressed a desire to attend the State Fair this fall. We hope that as many of you as possibly can will attend.

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What tremendous dividends a planting of seedlings make. It means first more happy and contented homes, a place where merry laughter of children ring, where weary bodies can relax and be thankful for a cooling shade and where one can muse and be inspired to practical thoughts and expressions and give to his heirs a heritage never erased from pleasant memories; a place or spot that adds to the dollar value as no other improvement does. That will move a home many miles south during cold winters and protect the patient animals which the farmer has domain over, saving feed and aiding growth.

I think the best results of a successful planting is the high esteem in which one is held by his fellowmen and no monument is as lasting as a good grove.

A CHIMNEY SWEEP

O. A. Stevens

These are well known birds which are recognized by their behavior rather than their appearance, for rarely do we have an opportunity of seeing them at close range. We know them by their rapid, bat-like flight and chattering notes. We see them always flying high in the air, perhaps entering chimneys, but never perching upon a branch, roof or other object. They feed upon insects which they capture while flying and even gather twigs for their nests by breaking off dead tips of limbs while in the air.

The chimney swifts are not swallows but belong to a family of birds more closely related to the nighthawks. About 100 species of swifts are known, and they occur mostly in the tropical regions. The white-throated swift which nests in rocky cliffs in the western states is found in the Black Hills. Two other species occur in western United States. One well known species of the East Indies produces the edible birds nests.

The chimney swift originally nested in hollow trees but has found chimneys very suitable and now is rarely found nesting elsewhere. There are occasional reports of their nesting on the walls of attics and of old buildings, one record of a nest on the wall of an open well seven feet below the ground. The nests are made of twigs attached to the chimney wall by means of a jelly-like secretion from the birds' mouths. The edible nests are made entirely of this material. The average date of arrival at Fargo is May 12 and the departure is at the end of August. Since their stay here is within the frost free season they can use ordinary chimneys without much danger of interruption, though unused chimneys, ventilating flues, etc., are probably more often utilized. Instances are recorded where the birds have been dislodged when an unexpected fire was built. One flock about ten years ago entered the chimney of a New York dwelling house and several hundred birds went down through the fireplace and into the room below. It has occurred to me that artificial wooden chimneys might attract them but I do not know of this having been tried.

The chimney swifts nest throughout the eastern United States and as far north as Labrador and Manitoba. In the fall they gather in large flocks in the southern states, then disappear until March. Their winter home is still a mystery. No records of them south of the Gulf Coast were at hand until recently when some birds were seen in Haiti, apparently migrating northward. It appears that they must spend the winter in some unexplored part of South America.

In the last few years these birds have attracted the attention of some bird banders who have captured the birds by placing traps over the chimneys after the birds have entered for the night. On October 16, 1928, Mr. Wyman R. Green of Chattanooga, Tenn., placed such a trap on the chimney of a school building and captured 1900 birds. The following fall in three attempts he took 10,760 birds. One catch of 7000 included 8 of those which he had banded the preceeding fall and 11 which had been banded at some other places. One of the latter had been captured at Kingston, Ontario during the summer and one in Pennsylvania two summers previous. Eight had been taken during the fall migration one or two years before at Charleston, Virginia, and one at Thomasville, Georgia three years before.

One swift banded at Kingston, Ontario on September 2, 1928 was captured at Charleston, West Virginia twelve days later and again at Kingston the following May. Another banded in October, 1925, at Thomasville, Georgia was caught at Claremore, Oklahoma in June 1928 and again at the same place in May, 1929.

THE HISTORY OF THE MENDEL PEAR

(Paper given a year ago at the South Dakota Horticultural meeting
by Carl A. Pfaender of New Ulm, Minnesota.)

What might have happened if the children of the late Wm. Pfaender, Jr. (my father) had not followed his instruction closely when he brought home a basket of pears and told them to eat to their heart's (or stomach's) content, but to save all the cores. If for instance, I, or one of my brothers or sisters, had swallowed by mistake, or dropped one of the seeds of the lot of pears, who knows, the Mendel Pear might never have been originated although is it not likely that just one seed might have been the one which produced the Mendel Pear?

Well in case of the pears that father brought home there happened to be just one seed in the whole lot and there were no doubt several hundred seeds that proved to be a winner. This seed produced the Mendel Pear, and was clearly a case of the survival of the fittest. This to my notion, seems to place the Mendel pear correctly, the survival of the fittest, for it alone, from a batch of seventy seedlings that father obtained from this lot of seed, survived the elements. It survived the coldest winters, in the last 23 years. It was spared by rodents, when its partners were killed, insects did not get it, nor disease, and the best of it all, it has been immune to the dread fire-blight.

Here is the history in a few words as written by father; he wrote this in 1923, and the tree was then 20 years old. "Twenty years ago, I planted a lot of seeds of Winter Nellis, and Duchess de Angoule pears. From this planting, I secured 70 seedlings. These were transplanted for the purpose of growing them to fruiting age. Every season some were lost; some were killed by rabbits, and the others by not being hardy, but most of them were killed by blight. Finally there were but three trees that survived this lot, and one of these, that I have named Mendel, had the first fruit six years ago. The other two and a number of named varieties of pears, standing next to the Mendel were killed by blight, since the first fruiting of the Mendel. The fruits of this tree are fully as large as that of the Bartlett pear. Fruits hang well to the tree, are of excellent quality, sweet and juicy and keep well into November." He adds a postscript—"The original tree had 133 fruits on it this season in spite of the fact that we had to cut it back severely for the purpose of getting cions for propagation."

This the short history that father wrote of his origination.

Father was only the originator in the sense of the word that he owned the seed and planted it and cared for it. Nature did the rest. However, Father had experimented with seeds from Germany and other countries but only this one lot of which I speak contained a promised seedling. I know that he deserves much of the credit of the original, for he was burdened with many problems in his life, and still took the time to nurse and watch this lot of pear trees for fourteen years before he saw the result of the soul survivor. Everyday I realize more and more how much of a romance this horticultural game really is. I can picture the enthusiasm with which the originator of new varieties awaits results. Men like Dr. Hansen belong to the age of pathfinders. Pathfinders to better and finer fruit and ornamental plants to gladden our hearts and appease the ever new wants of our appetites.

Coming back to the Mendel Pear. I believe that in a few years there will be numerous orchards of this pear planted in Minnesota and all the northern states, as well as the southern and eastern states. Fire blight is everywhere a menace to the pear.

That the Mendel is immune to this disease is as near a fact as anything can be from the tests we have given them. Its hardness is proven. It has withstood forty-five degrees below zero and has shown no signs of winter killing, except in the rare cases that happen once in a while where a young tree made a long sprout laid in a wet fall and did not mature. The hardest oak will show winter killing I believe in such a case.

Professor Ruggles, state entomologist of Minnesota is greatly enthused over the Mendel pears. He had a Duchess apple tree blight to death right next to the Mendel pear and it did not bother the Mendel in the least. Deputy State Inspector, J. D. Winter of Minnesota is also favoring it highly. The past summer he took several pictures of a young Mendel Pear at our nursery which we have growing in a row with some government pear stock test trees. The trees on either side of the Mendel were just about killed by blight and were rubbing the tender twigs of the Mendel. Slight abrasions showed where the twigs had rubbed but no sign of blight. This surely is an acid test. About twenty-five feet from the original tree another variety blighted to death this past summer but the Mendel showed no signs of it.

Pacific coast nurseries will not take stock in any blight-dasn proof pear until Professor Reimer of the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station has given it the acid test. We forwarded a few small trees to Professor Reimer in the spring of 1923 to be tested for blight resistance. Professor Reimer inoculates pears with bacteria and the usual varieties are killed shortly by the plant.

In the case of the Mendel he inoculated the very tender young sprouts with the A. E. bacteria and produced some slight infections. I feel safe to say from the tests we have made that a Mendel Pear tree planted with the care of an orchid apple tree will be practically blight proof. If any infections take place they may come like a wound on a healthy man's hand. It may produce a slight infection but his strong blood readily over-comes it. I believe that if any infection sets in on the Mendel Pear it will extend only as far as the wound has been made. Father took blighted twigs from other varieties and rubbed them on the Mendel trees and could produce no infection. He also tried to inoculate young trees with the disease but failed to produce infection.

As to the quality of the Mendel. Such men as Professors Alderman, Brerly, Haroldson, Dorsey, and Ruggles tested the fruit and pronounced it A No. 1 in every respect. The Fruit of the Mendel is as large as the Bartlett. It is a golden yellow in color when fully ripe, fine grained, no grit, very juicy, and sweet. The skin is tender which is another desirable characteristic.

Up to the last year we had restrictions on propagation for sale of this pear by other nurseries. Last year, however, we lifted the ban and are allowing interested nursery men to propagate it. To prevent unscrupulous dealers and nurseries from substituting some other variety we have thought of a plan which interested nurserymen favor.

Substitution should not be but sometimes is resorted to in the nursery business. When substitution is done the customer is usually advised by the nursery and a variety of equal merit or better is substituted by the firm. But there are always a few (I think among Horticulturists and nurserymen one finds the least number of deliberate cheats than in any other profession or line of business. I suppose it is the influence of nature that accounts for it)—yet as I was about to say there are always a few who will deliberately misrepresent. Now in a case where there is no equal and we claim there is no equal for the Mendel in resistance to blight, coupled with extreme hardiness and other desirable qualities, it is therefore, a gross offense to misrepresent in this case. We found a nursery agent from another firm deliberately selling what he claimed to be Mendel Pears to people only fifty miles from our nursery. He, of course, offered large trees at the standard pear price and people listened to him. Now in a few years, if not in the first, these trees will blight or winter kill and as they are supposed to be Mendel Pears we get the kick.

Well here is my idea. We offer a certificate to every nurseryman who has secured stock from us, that his stock is genuine Mendel Pear Stock. If he sells through agents we supply agent's certificates. If he sells through catalogue we supply him with a cut to be printed in his catalogue. The certificate states that the nursery has genuine Mendel stock it also states that if any customer is in doubt he may have his tree identified by sending in a sample twig to us. In this way we hope to curb misrepresentation. We will

also show this certificate in future advertising and will advise readers to buy Mendel stock only from those who have this certificate. Also if, for instance, Gurney's nursery would have stock from us they would like to sell cions to Mr. Dixon, we would upon notification furnish a certificate to Mr. Dixon. This as yet is only an idea but interested nurserymen endorse it.

The bearing age of the Mendel is no doubt the question that arises next. The original tree bore at fourteen years of age. This was, of course, a seedling that had at first stood in a seedling row planted close together, when transplanted and transplanted again to make room for some other stock. Then it came unto an unfavorable location and it still stands there. I believe that the Mendel Pear will bear as early as most of our winter apples like the Northwestern Greening, Malinda henceforth. In favorable conditions it will no doubt bear earlier.

We bud and graft and Mendel on the *Pyrus Ussuriensis*, which come from Northern Manchuria. Professor Hansen told us about his trip in quest of hardy pear stocks, and I hope that I too may some day have the adventure to go in quest of securing seed from the hardiest varieties in China. I have read of the work of Professor Reimer of Oregon and a certain man, Meyer who finally lost his life on one of his trips.

It may be of interest for you to know that the Mendel Pear is being tested in California, Washington, Oregon, Florida, Mississippi, Vermont, Montana, North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Pennsylvania and in Canada.

In closing I wish to thank South Dakota's State Horticultural Society for inviting me here to give the history of the Mendel Pear. My father the originator, was a member of this society and attended meetings here in the past. If he were living today he could tell you more about this work than I. I am proud to be able to do this to spread information of this work. It is my first attendance at a meeting of this kind as I have been in the business only the last few years although I was raised on a nursery.

I have enjoyed the meeting since I came Tuesday night. I have met many of your members and learned much within the past forty-eight hours. It does one good to rub shoulders with you ladies and gentlemen who have had many years experience in life and work. I find the work more and more interesting and hope to be a real Horticulturist some day. Thank you for your kind attention.

PEAT

W. M. Nicol, Florist, Watertown

(Paper given a year ago at our Horticultural Meeting.)

If you take up your dictionary and turn to the definition of Peat you only find one word—Bog. There are many kinds of peat imported from Germany, England and from the majority of the states. It is generally used by green house growers for certain kinds of plants, such as ferns and heather and all hard wood plants. Peat generally contains fifty per cent more moisture than any other soil. The nearest peat that I know of used in green houses as a soil comes from around Minneapolis.

I attended a convention of Florists in St. Paul and heard Prof. L. E. Longley, Horticulturist of the University of Minnesota, discuss the subject. There are two types of Minnesota peat, acid or low lime and the basic neutral or high lime. The former is valuable for growing acid loving plants such as Laurel (*chimaphilia*) Arbutus, Blueberry, and Wintergreen. The value of high lime peat is to lighten the soil and retain moisture. Professor Longley informed us that ordinary sand will hold only about twenty percent of its own weight of water. Garden soil can retain fifty per cent whereas peat will hold ten times its own weight of water. Peat is of organic origin and adds humus to the soil. It is high in nitrogen. Some of the farmers use it for bedding for their horses and cattle and it absorbs the liquids.

GROWING AND PROTECTION OF TIMBER

John B. Hanten, Watertown

(Paper given a year ago at our Horticultural Meeting)

South Dakota development since 1878 has been aided by the culture of forest timber, orchards and fruits. The next fifty years should be made to show a state beautiful and better fit for homes of its people. Forest growth, its protection and preservation are factors for advancement of increased wealth, of a moderate climate and a happy condition for rest after toil and shade and shelter for all living in this state.

To promote the planting of timber should be the aim of all its people, and of State and local governments. Forests and parks can be realized by small outlay of money, some work and much care. The waste places along streams, in low lands, on hillsides and stony and rough places can be turned into stretches of timber and bring good gain for the owner.

South Dakota laws help the planter of timber, by the County paying him a bonus of \$5.00 per acre up to ten acres, for ten years from year of planting, not less than 150 trees per acre; provided he complies with the provisions of said law. Chapter 212, 1927 Session Laws.

Trees, shrubbery and wild flowers are protected on Highways and State and other public parks, by Chapter 213, 1927 Session Laws, from being destroyed or injured, by fine and jail sentence if a person is guilty of such misdemeanor.

Funds are distributed from the forest reserve fund of the United States under act of June 30, 1906, to Counties, as provided by Sections 8048 and 8049 of 1919 Revised Code. School and Public lands on which timber is growing or planted and protected is under the supervision of the Commissioner of public lands.

It is unlawful to denude timberland without paying tax on land, as provided by Section 6783, 1919 Revised Code.

Injuring timber is a misdemeanor, punishable on conviction, by fine and imprisonment, by Section 4332, 1919 Revised Code.

For wrongful injuries to timber, treble damages may be recovered, for compensation of actual detriment, by Section 1995, 1919 Revised Code.

Our state may match the federal government, to the extent of from \$2000 to \$25,000 appropriation a year, to establish nurseries or plats where trees may be grown and sold to farms, schools, parks of state, county, city, town or townships or individuals at actual cost and at a price as low as one cent each for seedlings.

North Dakota and Nebraska take advantage of this act. It is estimated that over fifty millions of trees have been planted because of the passage of this act.

Our state game and fish fund could be used to some extent in the counties of this State for the growth of timber and the planting and care of such plats of young trees and could be looked after by Deputy game wardens, without harm to other activities of such Officers.

For the individual, there is no better or finer sport, no greater pleasure, no hope of reward exceeded by any other pursuit, no finer heritage for the coming generation, no greater boon to his fellowman or no finer playground or healthier climate for man, woman or child, than to plant, to care for and to develop a tract of forest or orchard.

Trees grow well in South Dakota and planting more, means better conditions for growth, and a grove of living trees is a lasting, living monument for the maker of it.

Living trees minister to the needs of the life of mankind and its desire for shelter, food and pleasure.

The state or nation that has fine and large forests has a store house of wealth as safe and certain as any natural or produced resource for the satisfaction of human wants. Timber is utilized today for fuel, for pulp, for charcoal and all kinds of buildings, ships, tracks and its by-products are the materials for many artificial things.

Planting of timber in this state had its main stimulus from the United States Timber Culture act, providing for the right of entry of one quarter of a section and obtaining title to it by patent from the government on showing growth of ten acres of standing living timber to the extent of a certain number of trees.

The desire for shelter of homes and stock was another main factor for the growth of the farmstead grove. After that came the growth for financial gain, for means of pleasure and for personal satisfaction of artistic desire and a higher standard of life.

Trees and shrubs stimulate humanity to love the creator, to study the wonders of nature, to appreciate the forces of the earth and universe and to marvel at the beauty and strength of their structures.

Many kinds of trees and shrubs can be grown with success, but the best choice are oak, elm, ash, maple, hackberry, basswood or Linden, box elder, birch, cottonwood and willow, black walnuts, butternuts, chestnuts and hickory, mountain ash, Russian olives, Russian peas, buffalo berries, spruce, pine, fir and larch and cedars, as I have found from experience. Work and care must be given and results depend on the amount of each furnished from the time of taking up the tree for transplanting or putting in the seed or nut, and doing the cultivating or mulching and keeping the ground fit for the growth, for giving the protection against fire, flood or insects or parasite, and in restraining the acts of destruction of animals, birds and human beings, to maintain fences, furnish fertilizer, to spray, trim, cut out dead timber, thin out the growth and stand of superfluous or crippled or illshaped trees, remove the brush, weeds and windfalls. To make a good, fine healthy tract of living timber, is an accomplishment well worth the efforts.

You will appreciate the statement that the mechanics of the planting, cultivation and protection of trees are better described by the nursery man than any one else or one who gets his best information in those matters from them and some from his own experience and that it would be improper to repeat with less technique the art of growing trees and shrubs. That source of information is existing and they who want to get it, will on application get ample and satisfactory instruction. Experience is acquired by the act of the individual, with or without instructions and that which is thus acquired will be shown by the actual existence of the individuals efforts. Success and satisfaction comes to him who strives to win out in the struggle for the welfare of the succeeding generation of God's creatures.

With kindest greeting to you all and hope of the continued advancement of South Dakota and better conditions for all its people, from your efforts so generously given.

BEEKEEPERS MEET AT ANETA

J. A. Munro, Secretary, North Dakota Beekeepers Association

Sixty beekeepers attended the annual meeting of the North Dakota Beekeepers Association held at Aneta, North Dakota, July 15, 1931.

That North Dakota has many desirable features, including conditions which make possible the production of high quality honey was the declaration of Hon. J. A. Kitchen, Commissioner of Agriculture, Bismark.

The delegates were welcomed to the meeting by M. P. Mark, President of the Aneta Commercial Club, W. F. Boylan, Carrington, responding in behalf of the beekeepers.

Chas. Engle of Fargo, President of the Beekeepers Association, was chairman of the meeting.

Commenting on package bees, which are used for restocking hives and increasing the size of apiaries, Prof. L. T. Floyd, Provincial Apiarist of Manitoba, recommended that beekeepers buy their bees earlier for this purpose. He pointed out that the additional returns secured from a two pound package, hived early in April, as compared with packages hived a month later, will more than pay for the bees.

Miss Clara Richards, Librarian of the Masonic Temple, Fargo, addressing the beekeepers, following the noonday luncheon, reported on the suc-

cess of the bee and honey exhibit, featuring North Dakota, at the Triennial Convention of the Knight Templars held in June at Minneapolis. Miss Richards pointed out that bees and honey served admirably to represent the state and also commented on other natural products of the state, which might also be used for future exhibits.

Laurence A. Carruth, Deputy Bee Inspector, Fargo, in commenting on bee inspection, stated that the object of the bee inspection service is to find any bee disease that exists and eradicate it. He also stressed the importance of giving proper care to colonies for increased honey production.

Charles Hausmann, Commercial Beekeeper of Hillsboro, in discussing practical swarm prevention, stressed the importance of providing colonies with adequate room for brood rearing and storage space for the nectar gathered. He indicated that swarming is not a problem with the beekeeper who gives his colonies proper attention.

Beekeeping in various parts of the country was discussed by W. O. Victor, Jr., Commercial beekeeper of Chaffee. Mr. Victor is now owner of 600 colonies of bees at Chaffee, N. Dak, but has had experience in beekeeping in several other states. Remarking on the status of the industry in North Dakota he said that it is a beekeepers paradise compared with many other parts of the country.

Resolutions were adopted thanking the Aneta Commercial Club for the splendid arrangement made for the entertainment of the delegates and adopted a resolution expressing regret for the illness preventing the attendance of W. W. Remington, Moorhead, a past President of the Association.

Many of the potatoes in the high part of the hills from Custer to Lead were killed by the frost which occurred the night of August 9. Some of the fields were still in blossom but in others one could find potatoes as large as eggs.

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