
NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

OCTOBER, 1933



City Park, Swimming Pool, Ball Diamond and Tennis Court at Gregory, S. D.

NORTH DAKOTA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWS LETTER



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

According to the latest estimates on potato production, this year's crop is the lowest per capita production for 25 years. If the history of the past repeats itself it would behoove anyone who has potatoes to store them or anyone who needs to buy potatoes to lay in a supply this fall, because usually with a short crop the price increases greatly from fall to spring.

One of my friends was showing me a little trick in peeling tomatoes recently. It is this: If you wish to peel a few tomatoes without scalding them, take a paring knife and scrape it over the surface of the tomato so as to bruise the skin slightly. The skin may then be separated easily without tearing the flesh.

Earlier in the year I suggested that probably persons who wished butternuts and walnuts to plant could get them. I am now obliged to say that it is impossible for someone living near here is evidently fond of butternuts. The trees were practically stripped of their crop before any of the nuts were ripe.

Plant your tulip bulbs as early as possible in the fall about 4 inches deep and then water them. By this treatment the bulbs will be well rooted before winter and will make good blossoms next spring. If the bed is located where the snow is likely to blow away, put some litter on so as to collect the snowfall.

Despite its many friends and supporters, I am still unwilling to endorse Chinese Elm without reservations. Its rapid growth and drouth-resisting ability are strong points but the fact that it sometimes winter kills and the branches are brittle and break easily is against it. If one wishes to use it, alternate Chinese Elm with White Elm and in that way you will play safe.

I have a question about the method of moving apple and plum trees of bearing age. I believe the best thing to do would be to plant new trees rather than move large old ones. Bearing age fruit trees do not stand transplanting well. Even tho they survive the ordeal they rarely do much thereafter.

The effect of previous treatment of the soil has shown up very strongly this year in this neighborhood, particularly with potatoes. While many fields have produced nothing but small inferior potatoes where the ground has been cropped to small grain the preceding year, there is an occasional field where sweet clover was plowed un-

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der and the ground kept clean the rest of the season as a preparation, where the potatoes are making a fine crop. On one such field the man who purchased the land within the last three years stated that this year's potato crop would pay for the land.

If, because of the drouth, hail or grasshoppers, your gladiolus or dahlias failed to bloom this year you need not throw them away unless you have money for new ones, because with proper treatment they may bloom next year, or at least make good enough growth to bloom the following year.

Melons of all kinds made a very fine crop here this year. In a rather extensive variety trial, Golden Champlain came out ahead for earliness, but for a real quality melon the first one to ripen was Delicious. Among the later varieties the one judged best in quality was Perfecto. Varieties listed as Superfecto appear to be only selected strains of the older variety. For persons who like the honeydew type of melon, Honeymel would be pleasing. Tho quite late, it, nevertheless, ripened all of its crop this year. Among the water-melons we have still to see anything better in quality than Winter Sweet, a variety sent out for trial under the name Green Russian two years ago. This is not a variety developed here but merely increased from seed sent from Russia for testing.

There will be seed of two new tomato varieties sent out for testing this year. One is an ovate



pink tomato which is heart shaped, good sized, very productive, with the Bison vine type. The other is a below-medium sized tomato with the Bison type of vine and earliness, which produces very smooth tomatoes, the unusual feature of which is the fact that they ripen all over at once and never have the dark green but common to other tomatoes.

A correspondent complains of dandelions troubling on her farm lawn and asks the reason. Inasmuch as she mentions particularly that the grass was kept mowed very close with the lawn mower, I suggested that that is very likely the difficulty. If the grass is not mowed so close dandelions do not thrive so well.

If you are raising sweet peas do not plant them continuously in the same place unless the soil can be dug out and replaced by fresh. The reason is that soil diseases may increase and cause the young sweet pea plants either to be sickly or entirely killed.

There are varieties of groundcherries which reach the size of an inch-and-a-half in diameter. Seed from a large fruited variety will be offered as a premium this year.

Now and then you hear some famous plant breeder given credit for the origination of grapefruit. The only thing new about grapefruit is the using of it. It is as distinct a plant as lemons or oranges and has been known for hundreds of years. The nectarine is also a fruit about which wild stories are told. In reality, nectarines are merely varieties of peaches which do not have a downy skin.

Mr. J. Hoellinger states that he would plant trees as far apart as 12x24 feet and bases his recommendation on trying out close and wide spacing. Personally, I feel that even tho one expects finally to have the space 12x24 feet, it is better to plant many more trees than that because one will quickly get the effects of a grove by closer spacing. If you are in doubt as to what varieties to plant, more than one may be planted, some of which may be removed later, and the additional cost of extra trees is very little if one plants small sizes, as I believe one should. Planting a grove with trees 5 or 6 feet high is very expensive but planting it with one-year-old trees is a very different proposition.

Mr. McElroy, of Grand Forks, says that the most striking flower and plant he has is *Lithonia speciosa*.

A recent letter tells of a beautiful Ash tree, the trunk of which is splitting down the middle between two large forks. The owner proposed putting an iron band around it to strengthen it. Such an iron band would kill the tree within a few years. The proper way to remedy such a situation is to bore a hole thru the tree, using a long auger; put a half-inch bolt thru it, screw it up

tight, using good sized washers, and the tree will be firmly held. In time the bolts will be entirely covered by wood.

Sheep manure is one of the most valuable of fertilizers. Because it is rich and clean to handle, greenhouse concerns often carry it in bags to be sold like commercial fertilizer.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture reports that the Dutch Elm Disease has again broken out in the United States. This is a foreign introduction and seems to be a serious menace to the elm trees. Fortunately, this latest outbreak is in New Jersey, but simply emphasizes the necessity for nursery inspection laws and some restrictions on the movement of nursery stock so as to prevent the spread of such a plague all over the country.

We have a call from the National Council of Garden Clubs Federation, asking for the names of Garden Club officers in local communities. If you have such a local Garden Club please send in its name and a list of the officers so that I may forward it.

A correspondent at Velva asks whether shoots which come up from lilac bushes, if moved, will ever bear flowers. Yes indeed, that is the way lilacs are propagated on their own roots. However, many varieties of lilac have to get about as old as an apple tree does before they will produce blossoms, so if grown in a location which is a bit shady or unfavorable for plant growth it may be at least ten years before blossoms of any consequence may be expected. Of course some of the hybrid lilacs and named varieties will bloom very quickly after transplanting.

Those of you who knew Mrs. Fannie Heath would undoubtedly enjoy an article published in the Journal of the University of North Dakota this last spring, entitled "Fannie Heath, Flower Woman of North Dakota." It is written by her daughter, Mrs. Pearl Heath Fraser, who is a graduate of that institution.

Inquiries regarding the standard weight-per-bushel for various crops prompts me to state that according to a federal law passed in 1928 a bushel contains 2150.42 cubic inches. Legal authorities consider that this law makes inoperative the numerous weight-per-bushel laws previously passed by states. If crops are sold by weight they should be quoted by the hundred pounds.

For the first time we have this year two Golden Delicious apples on a tree planted 12 years ago. Inasmuch as these are inferior specimens and the tree is the only remaining one out of 10 planted at that time, in addition to which is it anything but a thrifty specimen, we would not feel that this variety was one worthy of planting in the state.

Water all trees and shrubs well before the ground freezes.



THE ARRANGEMENT AND CARE OF CUT FLOWERS IN BASKETS, BOWLS AND VASES



Purley L. Keene

For a continuous supply of cut flowers the garden should preferably be arranged in regular beds of rectangular shape with the flowers grown in rows. This system will give much better flowers for cutting than where the plants are grown in beds or borders with massed arrangement.

It is surprising how much longer flowers will keep if they are properly taken care of. The best

time to cut flowers is in the early morning before the sun has caused them to lose some of their moisture. The flowers should be cut with a sharp knife and placed immediately in a container of water. They should then be removed to a cool place for several hours so as to soak up as much water as possible.

The water in the flower bowls or vases should be changed daily and the stems cut off an inch or so with a sharp knife, thus removing the decaying ends. The bowls and vases should be cleaned thoroughly at least once a week to remove the scum from the decaying stems and leaves and also any deposit of lime or iron from the water. Flowers will keep better in deep vases than in shallow bowls. Flowers placed in a draft or breeze will wilt and go to pieces quickly.

A few flowers like the Calendula and Chrysanthemum very often wilt after being cut. This may sometimes be prevented by splitting the stems for half an inch or so up from the lower end. Flowers with a milky juice or sap like the Poppy, which are hard to keep once they are cut, may be kept if the ends of the stems are dipped into boiling water as soon as cut. This sears the ends of the stems and prevents the escape of sap which causes the wilting of the flowers.

Some flowers like the Poppy, Peony, Rose, Iris, Gladiolus, and Tulip, should be cut while still in the bud stage. Wilted flowers may be revived by placing the stems in hot water for 15 minutes, then plunging in cold water. This should be done in a dark, moist place.

The purpose of cut flowers in the home or any other place is to create beauty whether they be used as simple single arrangement or as an elaborate decoration. Beautiful materials, each perfect in itself, do not necessarily make an artistic effect when put together in an arrangement. A few weeds or mediocre flowers well arranged are

far more interesting and effective than the finest flowers poorly arranged. Therefore, when we arrange flowers, we should try to produce an artistic picture, which will not only be pleasing to the eye but at the same time interesting.

The setting in which we place flowers should be carefully selected. Flowers should generally be given the place of honor and should be the center of attraction whether they are in bowls on the dining room table or in vases on the hall table or mantle or whether they are in large baskets on the floor. They should not have to compete with arrangements of old newspapers, magazines and pictures. We should also give consideration to the background and surroundings whether or not the combination of flowers and container harmonize with the wall paper, the rugs and drapes as well as other features of the room.

In order to arrange flowers most effectively we must have a suitable container in which to place them. We should not look on this container as merely something to hold the water but rather as a part of the complete picture we are striving to create. The container should harmonize with the flowers in color, shape and size. For home use the containers should be those with the widest possible use, since most of us can not have more than a few good vases, bowls, and baskets. Professor Victor H. Ries, Extension Specialist in Floriculture, at the Ohio State University, in Extension Bulletin No. 99 of that institution, "The Home Flower Garden," gives the following necessary qualities for a good container:

- "1. It should be plain, without any definite design either in color or on the surface; if designs must be used a conventional type is better than a realistic one.
2. The shape should be simple and serviceable; avoid very flat shallow bowls, as they do not hold enough water; also, avoid vases with small narrow necks and those which have a peculiar or unusual shape.
3. The color should preferably be neutral, a sand color, a gray, or grayish-green, or a black. Of course, bright colored bowls are often more interesting, but they can be used for only a few varieties of flowers; neutral colors, which do not clash with any ordinary flower, however vivid its color, are of more general use.
4. The cheaper bowls are very often the best for arranging flowers because of their simple shapes and colors. Clear glass bowls are always serviceable. Old crocks are often useful."

One factor which we frequently overlook in the arranging of cut flowers in containers is the relationship in size of the container to the size of the floral arrangement. How high should the flower in any particular container be? In open



bowls the flowers should be two to four times the height of the bowl. In vases and baskets the flowers should be from one to one and a half times the height of the container. While this rule is not necessarily followed strictly, nevertheless the rule suggests the general proportions to follow. The kind of flowers will cause slight variations in this rule. For instance the gladiolus and iris will naturally make a taller arrangement than sweet peas or peonies.

The most important point to keep in mind is the arrangement of the flowers themselves. Simplicity should be the keynote. Too often we attempt to use too many different kinds of flowers and to use too many of them in the container. Perhaps we have seen some mixed flower bouquets that were very beautiful and artistically arranged. We try to make a similar arrangement but are not successful due to lack of experience. Would it not be better for us to start at first using just one kind of flower in a container and after we have mastered this, then try mixing in other flowers? As a general rule one kind of flower should always predominate or be the outstanding flower in the arrangement. For instance, "That is a bouquet of Zinnias, with a few Marigolds and a few Cosmos."

Quoting from Professor Ries' bulletin again, we have the following general principles on arrangement:

- "1. An arrangement of flowers should be well balanced—that is, one side should not outweigh the other side. At the same time, one should try to avoid having the arrangement too symmetrical and even.
2. There should be a complete harmony between the shape, size and color of all the flowers used.
3. The darker flowers should generally be toward the bottom and the lighter flowers toward the top, but do not arrange them in "layers."
4. The larger flowers and the more fully opened ones should be towards the bottom and the smaller flowers and the buds toward the top. Here again, this should not be mathematically accurate."

As far as possible it is usually preferable to use foliage of the particular flowers you are arranging. Some flowers, however, do not have sufficient foliage of their own and we must add some other foliage. This foliage should resemble that of the flowers we are using as much as possible. Plants with small leaves and branches are frequently used. This includes asparagus, Queen Anne's Lace, Baby's Breath and Statice. Even carrot tops and clover are sometimes used to advantage. These greens should be scattered in among the flowers rather than being placed in layers or masses. Use just enough foliage or

green to fill out the bouquet, to make a background for the flowers but not enough to make the bouquet massive or to smother the flowers.

The arrangement should not be too flat and squatty as is apt to be the case in arranging sweet peas or nasturtiums in small mouthed vases or bowls. Too frequently too many flowers are used in the bouquet with the result that a heavy compact, massive bouquet is secured. This type of bouquet is frequently referred to by the home-ly expression of a cabbage head bouquet. The arrangement should have just enough body to be artistic and yet should be light and loose enough to give an atmosphere of airiness. Our arrangements of cut flowers should have a personal touch to them. It is only with a great deal of practice that this can be secured. Professor Ries closes his remarks on the arrangement of cut flowers in vases, bowls and baskets with the following few final thoughts:

- "1. Remember that arranging flowers takes patience and thought, so that if you don't succeed at first, try, try again. The more you work with flowers and arrange them, the more interested you will become in this fascinating work.
2. Above all else, try to create an artistic picture which will interest not only yourself, but your friends.
3. Your work should have simplicity. This should be the keynote of artistic effort."

WILSON'S SNIPE

O. A. Stevens

"Jack Snipe" or merely "Snipe" is the more usual designation of this well known bird, though the latter name is also likely to be used to indicate any kind of small wading bird. Mr. W. L. McAtee in his bulletin on "Local names of migratory game birds," mentions some twenty other names. The name very properly commemorates Alexander Wilson, commonly called "the father of American ornithology," who published in 1808-14 the first notable work upon this subject, in which 32 American birds were described for the first time.

Wilson's snipe belongs to the sandpiper family but is of stockier build than most species of the group. Sometimes it is confused with the woodcock which is quite similar and closely related, but distinguished by having the eyes set unusually high in the head and the underparts reddish brown rather than gray with darker markings.

The snipes are birds of wide distribution, nesting all the way across the continent from Labrador to Alaska and south as far as northern Illinois. In winter they may be found as far north as the southern edge of their summer range and



been found in Greenland, Hawaii and the Hebrides. The Common Snipe of Europe, which occurs similarly all over that continent is only slightly different from our bird, and Europe has also the similar Great Snipe and Jack Snipe.

The snipe migrate fairly early and appear as soon as the frost has left the marshy ground, for it is there that they seek their food. Early records for South Dakota fall about the middle of March, and for North Dakota, a month later. On warm spring days they frequently fly overhead and may be recognized by their sharp calls. Migration movements occur chiefly at night and on foggy or misty days. The birds may appear suddenly in considerable numbers and disappear the next day. They feed upon angleworms, various insects and other small animal forms which inhabit the soft mud near water. They have also been seen picking up food from the surface of the ground where the usual type of feeding place was lacking.

The nests are placed in clumps of grasses or other plants in marshy ground. The eggs, usually four in number, are about one and one-half inches long, quite pointed, buffy or olive-colored with brown spots. Both birds take part in the care of the eggs.

The snipe has always been a popular game bird. Mr. A. C. Bent states that "probably more snipe have been killed by sportsmen than any other game bird," and quotes figures of a noted hunter in the eighties, of whose bag these birds made up about three-fourths of the total. Their movements are very quick and erratic. When flushed they spring up with a startled cry and dart away in the twisting or zigzagging flight. The harsh "scaipe" note made as they fly is perhaps their most characteristic feature.

Wilson's Snipe appears in our region chiefly as a migrant during late April and in October. Apparently it never was common as a nesting species in this part of the country except perhaps in certain localities. It is reported by Thomas and Over as nesting in eastern South Dakota. Mr. H. V. Williams at Grafton, North Dakota, states that it "bred in large numbers from 1882 on." Mr. E. T. Judd, however, seems not to have found it nesting in the Cando region in the early days and not always common in migration. Mr. N. A. Wood did not find it nesting in North Dakota in 1920 and 1921. Dr. Thos. S. Roberts (1932) reports that it "nests rather uncommonly throughout Minnesota," citing recent records in Pine, Polk and Kittson Counties.

Walnuts and butternuts should be planted now. It is best to plant them where you intend to have the trees grow. Mark each place with a stake.

EXTRACTS FORM THE DIARY OF A TRAVELLING MAN

W. A. Simmons

Red Lodge, Montana, August 23: This pretty little city, of high altitude, seems to specialize on perennial phlox and dahlias, or at least it appears so just now. These one sees everywhere and I have never seen phlox grow so tall or to seem to enjoy life so much. Beside a division fence one row of lilac colored phlox seemed to have formed a veritable hedge and stood up nearly a foot above the fence top. I had to view it at close range to convince myself it was really phlox and not some kind of an unknown shrub.

Golden glow seems to be a great favorite in all these Montana towns and it stretches up to a height of over six feet and adds a very cheerful note to the garden. I had never appreciated this flower till I saw it in its near perfection in this state.

One of the interesting things I saw in a garden here was a round bed closely planted to pansies, which looked as though giant plants over a foot in height occupied the center, gradually tapering off to those of the usual height at the edges. The owner explained that this effect was attained by mounding up the soil in the bed toward the center and closely planting so the trick was not discernable. The effect was very beautiful.

"Filbert McNutt just received a wire that land has been discovered on his Florida real estate." Gabe Caffrey in **Sioux Falls Argus Leader**.

D. C. Carpenter of the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, reporting to the American Chemical Society results of a series of experiments testing the effects of different colors of light on fruit juice, says, "Keep fruit juice in green bottles and it will retain the natural color and flavor." Other colors such as orange, yellow, and red light were found to have a favorable effect on both the aroma and flavor but they darkened the color. Blue and green-blue were found to cause the color to fade and the flavor and aroma to diminish.

"The new bull market proved a bitter disappointment. A million wounded veterans of '29 were just climbing back when their shoe strings broke." **Des Moines Register**.

Hardin, Montana, August 25: Victor A. Bolsius, custodian of the Custer Battlefield and National Cemetery, has certainly wrought great improvements in the few years of his tenure of office. The new pumping plant now furnishes abundant water for irrigation from the Little Big Horn River, and a green carpet of lawn grass now has replaced the sage bush and cactus in the front yard and over most of the cemetery. The gravestones have been straightened up and secured with cement and the whole square mile of cemetery tidied



up. Mr. Bolsius is a man of energy and ideas and he finds the National authorities ready to adopt his plans once they are presented to them.

A project to make the two battlefields into a national park is in abeyance at present on account of the Crow Indians, whose property it is, having suddenly discovered that these barren hills are immensely valuable and demanding \$25 an acre for them. It is disheartening to note that the Indians are no more public spirited than the whites when a project of this kind is in the offing.

A hard surfaced highway from Belle Fourche to Crow Agency and the battlefield is now in prospect. The Montana State Highway Department is enthusiastically for it, as all of it but about 26 miles will pass through Indian reservations or National forests, where the National Government would have to foot the bills.

The Cheyenne Indians, who were participants in the battle, still stick to their story that most of Custer's men shot themselves or each other. Max Big Man, a Crow, says this is done to try to relieve themselves of the onus of having relentlessly hunted down and killed every man and boy that was with Custer. However this may be, how are we to account for the fact that in the two days of fighting in the combined battles the 7th Cavalry lost 265 of its 600 personnel, while the Indian death loss was but 31? It would seem that Custer's men were compelled to accept ruinously depressed prices for their lives. Even this loss seemed excessive to the Indians, who withdrew as soon as Terry and Gibbons appeared with their scant 450 men, saying, "Too many of our young men have already been killed."

Is it possible the Indians are minimizing their losses to make the victory seem more overwhelming? As all Indian accounts of their losses agree as to the number, this seems improbable. However, the only way the Indians could recuperate their losses was by raising some more fighters. Unlike Uncle Sam, they could not hire all they needed for \$17 a month.

This same thrift in keeping down losses characterizes the actions of the Indians in practically all their battles. Unless surrounded, their loss was never great, for if things seemed to be going against them, they would withdraw with the declaration that "The Medicine was bad," and await more favorable conditions. In their engagements with the whites, their losses were often exaggerated by the latter, and as the Indians invariably carried off the bulk of their killed and wounded, an accurate count was impossible. But it can be set down as a certainty that it rarely exceeded that of their opponents.

September 1: Part way down the long White-wood hill, some one painted a sign in large letters on the rocks, "Prepare to meet your God." As I had the car in second speed, I felt adequately

prepared, provided He did not have too large a car and kept the right side of the road.

Driving through Sturgis my eyes were taken by an especially vivid shade of red in a pretty little garden, and on alighting to identify the plant, found it was red Salvia, in the garden of Rev. C. D. Erskine. Mrs. Erskine said they obtained greenhouse plants each spring, and they certainly produce an eye-taking effect.

Snow-on-the-Mountains borders many of the roads west of the river and it is interesting to note the way Nature has spaced the plants widely apart, generally about three feet, so that each one has ample room for development. How is this effected, is the question that naturally arises in one's mind. Each plant produces quantities of seed. What intelligence decides which ones shall remain in the ground to provide decoration for our prairies on a year when crop failure through extra severe drought or prairie fire would otherwise cause the plant to become extinct? Spaced as they are, widely far apart, each plant is a veritable bouquet with an umbrella-like top, often two feet in diameter, and the plants are stocky and strong, usually about 14 inches high. I have often seen meadow larks sitting beneath their welcome shade on an extra hot day.

In its natural habitat, Nature seems to produce better results than we in our gardens with man-improved varieties are able to effectuate.

September 8: "Jerusalem the golden, with flowers and tubers blessed." Borrowing part of the words and meter from the beautiful old hymn, thus we might hail the Jerusalem artichoke. I have been viewing them daily along the road sides for the past month or more and ever with increasing appreciation and admiration. The tubers are supposed to be edible and we are told the Indians got away with them, as they got away with most everything, including murder, until the whites cramped their style, also their stomachs, with squirrel whiskey. In early youth I attempted to eat the tubers alive and found I did not care for them, but some day I am going to dig some and try cooking them and will eat them if they kill me.

The tubers do not attain much size until the latter part of October, but they must be fairly numerous and sizable at that time, as writers maintain yields of 10 tons to the acre. Some think they will eventually have a place in our agriculture, as from them one kind of extra sweet sugar can be had. But aside from their utilitarian use, the long stalks carrying masses of bright golden blossoms put on a brave show that should pay their way in most any garden, and picking the flowers is said to increase the size of the tubers.

"Passing through a military hospital a dis-
(Continued to page 120)



STATE FAIR OBSERVATIONS

Charles McCaffree, Canova, S. D.

An Apricot For South Dakota

That an apricot suited to the conditions of our state will be introduced next spring is the happy announcement made by Dr. Hansen as he prepares the stock for next season. It is a variety he brought from China found at the northern extremity where Chinese territory extends 100 miles along the boundary of Siberia and where the thermometer goes down to 46 below, with scant rainfall. The apricot is of marketable size and good quality. The trees in the orchard at Brookings bore heavily last year and fairly well this year. He will also introduce a cross between a sand cherry from Manitoba and a Japanese plum. These will be presented in his spring list.

There may be people who do not know that fish are horticulturally minded. But some varieties seem to be. Witness: The pool in the center of the horticulture building was filled just before the fair and it contained small fish the next day, evidently a pure desire on the part of the fish for horticulture for no other building was so recognized, not agriculture, nor automobiles, nor nor the lively Boys and Girls Club, nor even the inspiring Women's building. It is supposed the fish found a way up through the drain into the lake.

Our President Wins Sweepstakes

John Robertson of Hot Springs, was awarded the sweepstakes at the State Fair by the judges on an exhibit which was pronounced by the superintendent as the best exhibit during his fifteen years administering the horticulture building, and that means the best fruit exhibit ever made in South Dakota. George Gurney of Yankton, was awarded second place and Charles Benike of Clark, third.

Mr. Robertson's exhibit consisted of 35 varieties of apples, 13 of pears, 34 of crab apples, 16 of plums, and ten of grapes. The state's largest fruit grower had a good season with no hail, rainfall adequate with his system of conservation, but further the season is advanced and his apples colored up well, making a showing to compare with those of the famous apple producing districts. It is interesting also that his crop will be 6,000 bushels, largely of Wealthy and McIntosh Red.

The exhibit of grapes showing ten varieties could surprise one because five of the plates had larger grapes than the Concords, some of them from the State College originations. Mr. Robertson has been growing all the Hansen plums and has furnished more experience for the records than any other person. He exhibited some of the Minnesota new ones also. Both of these states

may take a laudable pride for this invaluable work.

Many of the visitors were greatly surprised at the showing of pears. Several of the 13 varieties shown were larger than the pears found in commerce. The Patten was very large and choice in quality. Minnesota No. 1 was larger than a housekeeper would care to buy. The Tait was large and delightful in flavor. A number of the South Dakota originations were included and looked very inviting.

State College Had Big Exhibit

The Hansen-State College exhibit, always of greatest interest to the ambitious horticulturist, might possibly be considered the best showing through the many years Dr. Hanson has been taking the public into his confidence at the State Fair. Many show booths were not used, so to accommodate the management the doctor with his time tried orchard assistants, Arne Larsen and Will Wood, placed six single booth exhibits besides the entire east wing of the Horticulture building which was filled with as fine gladiolus as have been shown in our state, about 400 varieties in all under name. Each of the separate booths was noteworthy for its fine display of gladiolus and fruits. Several stalks of the new Phillipine lily made an educational exhibit, with one plant holding seven blooms as large and somewhat similar to the Regal.

The state plum orchard at Sioux Falls provided a great display of the many varieties originated by our greatly respected horticulturist. These are established and some in every worth while garden. They score by a good production of good fruit in a bad season. Grapes shown indicates the process of selection has been advancing. On display were seven varieties as large as market concords, with the largest, Sonoma, a green, looking and tasting just good enough.

These should lead a big advance in South Dakota grape growing during the next decade. Pears are well on their way now for the Sunshine state. A big red under number (not yet named) would please the most critical. When the best is selected from the 14 varieties of Russian sand pears 1½ to two inches through, all of which look good we should have something very valuable. Linda Sweet has been enlarging her waist line and was displayed at two inches in diameter.

* * * * *

George Gurney Nursery was a new exhibitor, and this is the first time out. It has been understood for some time that the Gurney Company started by Colonel Gurney and conducted by his large family of sons for all of South Dakota history was reorganizing. Charles, son of D. B., many years president, is said to now control WNAX and the organization as it has been con-



ducted. George has for many years been in charge of the nursery part of the business and is the grower of the brothers. He has withdrawn from the company and started a rather pretentious nursery of his own, and in doing so acquired part of the nursery farm planted and conducted by George Whiting, the reliable pioneer who gave competition for Colonel Gurney when the present middle aged Gurneys were still in knee pants. He will be offering a full line of nursery stock suited to this area next spring. S. S., who had been looking after the field work for the Gurneys, has also separated from the firm and is getting an independent nursery under way.

Boys and Girls Club Participated

In the club building members of the clubs showed flowers and vegetables. Zinnias and Gladiolus made most of the flower show but quite a variety of vegetables indicated more exhibitors. The bright, eager faces and business like energy in evidence all about the building were the best show on the grounds anyway. The live stock and poultry work with the demonstrations staged by Superintendent Jones of the Boys and Girls Clubs rather obscure the horticultural work though there are prizes offered. The thought came that our Horticultural Society may be able to add interest to our own line by attention and perhaps some prizes. We certainly want the orchards and gardens to be in the care of the next generation which will be giving the initiative before we realize it, as trained, interested growers.

Other Exhibitors

Northern Nursery was represented with its usual comprehensive display of hardy fruits. J. B. Taylor, for years a member of the State Fair board and the most useful horticulturist of Northern South Dakota, assisted by his almost too good-looking son, cared for inquiries for any sort of information as they have through the years. House of Gurney exhibit as usual showed in their exhibit the advantages which the southern location in our state gives for fruit production. They grow some good peaches down there as well as many varieties of pears. The WNAX program was broadcast. Carl Hansen showed and preached and sold glads as has been his State Fair custom since he went into the nursery business. He lists nearly all his father's originations, which no other nursery undertakes in the same way. Walker, the Florist, displayed his usual big sign "Flowers by telegraph" (that applies to delivering, not growing) and seasonal green house flowers. Honey was an important and inviting exhibit and the fact demonstrated that South Dakota is particularly adapted to its production. One exhibitor had three tons accumulated this season by August first, and his bees had not yet signed up for the blue eagle. Furthermore he is right at the center of the driest area and the devastation of the

hoppers. Perhaps his bees have found a method of making use of the hoppers, no one nor nothing else has.

MISCELLANEOUS BRIEFS

Charles McCaffree

Our own Claude A. Barr, living in the foothills of the southern Black Hills, has written an article "A Garden Adventure of the High Prairies," which is announced for the next issue by Gardener's Chronicle of America, one of the highest class magazines of the country and organ of the National Association of Gardeners, published at Baltimore. Mr. Barr is so highly educated horticulturally that he knows all the flora of our state by its first (scientific) name. He supplied the bulbs of *Calachortus Nuttalli* which have attracted attention on our state capitol grounds said to be the first time these have ever been used for landscaping. The plant is a wild tulip, native in the Southern Black Hills.

The Pierre papers have advertising of a car of apples and cider from Spearfish which is being sold there. That is good sense and good business. For 20 years off and on apples have wasted in the Spearfish Valley because freight rates would not permit shipping to Pierre or further east. Perhaps this car will show the way for regular business and these sections of our state may be helping each other.

American Fruit Grower is again in the hands of its own publishing company and will issue October manned by its own staff of national authorities. It looks good and should take an outstanding place in the horticultural field. It is now published in Chicago. The publishers announce pretentious plans and expect to cover the entire country giving a big opportunity because "America leads the world in fruit growing and fruit consumption; it is the leading exporter of both fresh and canned fruits; the national income from fruits and nuts exceeds that of wheat, corn, oats and many other farm crops."

Tulips Come With the Spring

The catalogues should all have arrived by this time so we may go ahead and plant. But we lose something fine if we forget the tulips. They may give us the most brilliant or soft colors, they may come early and there are kinds to suit all tastes. Perhaps we of the West have not been as ambitious with our tulip planting as we might be with satisfaction to ourselves. Mass effect is needed with tulips more perhaps than with any other flower. Dozens are needed in any planting and hundreds for any sizable bed. The display growers and the custodians of public grounds use thousands of a kind.

First come the single and double early. The peony flowered doubles will give the brightest



vision of early spring. It may be somewhat low-brow in taste to select these when there are such wonderful high-class exploited varieties but if we wish bold, showy beds after a drab winter the double early are the most gratifying of all. One never knows what to omit. Surely there should be some of the single early, they come first, which increases their value to us, then the double early have still greater showiness and can't be spared. Almost the entire range of tulip colors will be found in them. An ease of selection is offered in the doubles also by the fact that a wide range of colors, as many as would be desired, will be found in the Murillo class, all of a common ancestry, blooming at the same time and of about the same size therefore matching perfectly in a planting. Any requirements for a design should be met by the range from white through pink and orange to dark red, with a further choice favoring lavender. But the catalogue will tell.

and tulips
(Cottage) tulips seem to have been overshadowed by the more common Darwin in our gardens but will give some new interest to tulips when tried for they have a dainty grace hardly equalled by the more sturdy kinds. (Seraphine is new and attracting attention. Pride of Inglescombe is in some gardens of this state and a happy choice. The white Themis comes early. Jeanne Desor is very striking with orange petals bordered with scarlet. If we have a little more than the least possible money to spend for results we may enjoy the delicate shaded Jersey Beauty, unusual Los Angeles or the big Mayflower.

Everyone starts with the Darwin and every planter has City of Harlem and Clara Butt, the most quoted of all tulips in catalogues. Most of us think Darwins when we mention tulips and it is only a matter of desire and taste for the colors. Some new ones have been recommended as different like Reve d'Armour, which having made a start as a white changes its mind and winds up as a strawberry red. Yellow Giant is very highly recommended but has not appeared in the observations of this observer. The catalogue will be needed for ordering and not a catalogue has been available to this desk this season. Breeder tulips are not so common out in this "Great Prairie" of North America. The deep colors and the bronze make a rich show. The Parrot tulips are the last on most lists but they give a variety, they have rich colors and may be possibly the most enjoyable of all. There is sort of a saucy suggestion in the Parrots which bring a reminder of the irrepressible school bad boy. They are bizarre and do hold interest which may add spice to our beds. Tulip bulbs of good size seldom fail to grow, though there was a lot of disappointment three years ago. But the gorgeous show will be with us in the spring if we do

our part. There should be six weeks of possible planting after this reaches the reader and that gives time to buy all the bulbs most South Dakotans can find money for this fall. But the garden needs some and the horticultural taste which leads to reading this magazine calls for the enjoyment which they will give beautifully.

It is noticeable that the State Fair exhibits show that the old varieties of both apples and plums are going out because people are not planting them in recent years. Some of them were good old friends too.

Delicious apples give a good account of themselves about the state both in size and quality. Those of us who have been suspicious as to hardiness for our conditions are very happy to be convinced. In the southern part of our state this year the pear trees carried more fruit than the apple trees. That gives something else to consider.

President Robertson has settled on the Izo (Hansen) crab as the best for top working in our conditions. It doesn't look dumb to have some of these on the way so we may try out the new apples, which are coming, just as soon as they appear. The Izo is a thrifty grower, sturdy and worth while for itself in proper quantity.

Secretary Vance reports that where all the trees had their leaves removed by hail last summer the honey locusts were the first to grow new leaves and the same where hoppers played the winning hand at their strip poker game (if that is the result of such a game) during the summer. My Caragana agreed with Mr. Vance's observation, for they renewed quickly when a beetle denuded them in July and out further west the Caragana followed the locusts quickly in putting out new foliage. Caragana increases our faith as it is used more.

Did you read that article on windbreaks in the last issue. If not, may we just ask you to look it up? Many of our shelter belts are gone and going. We must renew and the quicker we plant the quicker we may enjoy the comfort and security and beauty. The trees planted now will be different from the old planting back in the 80's and 90's. And at that perhaps those trees which have only bare arms left have done their part, as to shelter and many a family has gone through recent winters without buying any coal.

President Roosevelt is not a subscriber to this magazine and it not likely to see it unless either Senator Norbeck or Senator Bulow may have a copy projecting from his pocket while he is around with the president and thus excite the presidential curiosity. This is appropo to the Roosevelt inquiry as to giving the West River country back to the Cow Men. The buffalo berries just didn't berry out there this season except in a few locali-



ties. Governor Berry will not want to use this in his reply to the president. Also the wild plum crop was almost a plum failure, and those wild plums along the draws are not beaten in flavor by any fruit, Arctic, Temperate or Tropical, nature's compensatory process.

Diary Simmons, a high light of this indispensable magazine, asks why not have a bounty on rattlesnakes? No one has a negative answer unless it may be the official who would have to count the corpses delicti to compute the amount due. The rattlers kill a child occasionally, cattle are lost, game is reduced and there is continual worry because the threat exists in a considerable area. They are the great snake worry since prohibition came. This commentator was called in last year to see over 300 photographed in the Capitol and that gave the first idea to a young, inexperienced reporter what was meant by the expression formerly heard, of "Seeing snakes." Both the Game Department and the Department of Agriculture have given attention to the cause. A bounty would help reduce this menace, as it affects some territory.

NOTES

The Russian Olive seems to withstand the dry weather better than most of our broadleaf trees. It also grows well on the more alkaline soils. The honey locust is another tree that is showing its drought resistant faculty. It occurred to me that the highly concentrated waters caused by the continued dry weather might be the cause of some groves dying. Water from a shallow well near one grove that was practically dead seemed very hard. Upon adding soap to a basin of water four double handfuls of scum was removed and upon the addition of more soap about that much more scum formed and still no suds. The tree roots undoubtedly reached the water but the excessive amount of salts may have caused it to be useless to the tree.

The birds are making surprising inroads on the fruit. Some of the buckthorn and like seed that was to have been harvested for seed purpose was taken early by the birds. In some localities where water is not available for the pheasants, they dig into the potato hills and eat the potatoes. Mr. J. G. Evans of the Evans Nursery at White Butte showed me part of his tomatoes that the grouse picked regularly, but he was convinced that they did more good by eating insects than they did damage and was protecting them from hunters in addition to feeding them.

A visit to Mr. F. L. Block's orchard at Ortonville, Minnesota, was a real treat. Mr. Block passed rapidly through his large orchard and told about his many varieties of fruit. He gave so much good information that it was rather difficult to remember everything. He classed Wor-

den Seckle, Patten and Sudduth as the hardiest pears he had. His Sudduth pears were fine quality and he told us he had pears of this variety that would weigh thirteen ounces. Betchel's Angoulene did not appear to be hardy, but was about seven feet high and hearing. Clapps Favorite was six years old and had never frozen down. Bosc pear had fine large fruit, but showed winter injury. The Mendel was about six feet high and bore some good sized pears. The Minnesota No. 4 was thorny and as we say wild in appearance. He had top worked some Lincoln on this variety. The Douglas and Tate were too small to bear. The Anjou froze back as did Kiefer; the

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Sioux Falls, S. Dak.



Kiefer seemed to recover and is bearing at present. The Flemish beauty did not freeze back and produced a vigorous growth and fruit that weighed over one half pound. The Cayuga has not frozen back but it has not experienced any severe winters.

The Haralson apple is giving a good account of itself in this orchard. The fruit was extra large and fine appearing. Mr. Block informed us that it was a biennial bearer, but considered it one of his best varieties. He considers the quality good. One two-year-old tree bore 68 apples. The Wedge apple was fine in appearance, but its weakness is that it blows from the trees. The Eastman is a large apple, but does not keep well. The Dolgo bears well and always finds a ready sale. The really outstanding thing in the apple line was the large number of top grafts of Golden Delicious and they were loaded with fine fruit. Golden Delicious did not form good union when worked on Winter McLean. This variety is supposed to be a good pollenizer. Red Delicious has never produced well, even when topworked. Pickwich is a good apple, but tree is not hardy and blights. McEwin is good shaped tree and might be valuable for top working. The Perkins is a large fine appearing apple but needs a long season and the tree does not bear early. The Fameuse has fine flavor and quality, but does not keep long. Red Wing is hardy but the fruit is sour. Malinda is hard to sell; it is woody, but keeps all winter. He had many Cortland topworked, and they are exceptionally fine in appearance and apparently a good apple in every way. The Cortland and Haralson were well shaped trees. Spitzenberg was hardy. Erickson was a satisfactory apple. He had Jewells Winter, Pewaukee, Red Spy, Milton, McIntosh, York Imperial and Anoka and, no doubt, others that I missed.

EXTRACTS FROM THE DAIRY OF A TRAVELING MAN

(Continued from page 115)

tinguished visitor noticed a private in one of the Irish regiments who had been terribly injured. To the orderly the visitor said, "That's a pretty hopeless case. What are you going to do with him?"

"He's going back to the front, Sir," replied the orderly.

"Going back?" said the visitor in surprise.

"Yes," said the orderly. "He thinks he knows who done it." **Kalends.**

Sisseton, S. D., September 6: Some of the farmers are certainly making every endeavor to obtain feed. Today near Wilmot I saw a large field of corn only about four inches high. If frost holds off late enough it may be knee high by the 4th (of December.) Anyway, that farmer is trying,

even if he didn't get at it very early in this particular field.

My friend, Dr. R. R. Hogue, of Linton, N. D., describing conditions in Emmons County, in an Associated Press item, says, "If conditions continue as they are for eight months, a large part of the population will have to move out. We have no marketable crops, no feed, no forage, no gardens, all as a result of the drought."

As Dr. Hogue was arguing for the expenditure of a large sum of Federal money in North Dakota in the Missouri River diversion project, it is quite possible that if conditions were any worse he would have mentioned it, but there is no denying they are bad.

One of my customers said today, "This is getting to be a wonderful next year country."

Fargo, N. D., September 9: Commenting on the automobile fatalities of the year, the **Fargo Forum** says, "With a deadliness that has seen no parallel in the four-year tabulation of auto deaths in North Dakota by the Fargo Forum, car fatalities continue to mount. Friday reports of the fourth fatal accident of the day sent the death box for the year to 73—nearly triple the figure at this date last year and three ahead of the 1931 figure, which mounted to the record of 114. Deaths by cars in North Dakota from January 1st to date—73 in 1933, 29 in 1932. Since September 1st—nine days ago—11 persons have been killed in North Dakota by cars."

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