

NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

AUGUST, 1938

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Annual Meeting of the North Dakota State Horticultural Society, August 8th and 9th, at Bismarck.
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THE BURROWING OWL

by
O. A. Stevens



O. A. Stevens

The first description of this interesting species was given in 1782 by a Spanish naturalist on the form which is found in Chile. Another form occurs in Florida and several in the region of the West Indies. In 1820 the expedition of Major S. H. Long to the Rocky Mountains encountered burrowing owls along the Platte River. Professor Swenk, the Nebraska ornithologist, has concluded that they first saw them just east of the present town of Kearney. From this expedition came our first knowledge of what is now known as the Western Burrowing Owl which inhabits the plains from western Iowa and Manitoba to the Pacific Coast and southward as far as Panama.

In our latitude it is migratory, arriving in the spring in April or early May. As far north as Kansas it remains during the winter and ventures out of its burrows in mild days. Several birds banded by Dr. J. F. Brenckle at Northville, South Dakota, were recovered in Texas and others in Oklahoma, showing a considerable distance of migration. He states that the first ones appear at Northville about April 1 and the last ones leave about October 20. Dr. T. S. Roberts believes that these owls first appeared in western Minnesota about fifty years ago and have been slowly spreading eastward. In North Dakota they seem to be rather generally distributed, but not very common. On a recent trip through the state we observed but a single bird. Dr. J. A. Allen in 1875 found them only occasional. N. A. Wood in 1921 saw only a few.

The burrowing owl has been generally described as living in prairie dog towns. It seems that they use various kinds of old burrows since they occupy a larger area than that of the prairie dog. Over and Thoms state that in South Dakota it is more abundant west of the Missouri River where it uses prairie dog burrows, and that east of the river it uses those of skunks, badgers or foxes. Dr. Roberts states that in Minnesota they use the old burrows of badgers. They also use the burrows of various species of ground squirrels in some parts of the country. Some writers state that small burrows are enlarged by the owls but there seems little evidence that they actually dig new holes. Dr. Brenckle tells me that they often use the ground squirrel holes which have been enlarged by other animals in digging for the squirrels. Wetmore and Swales, in a recent work on

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the birds of Haiti state that the form found there digs its own holes. The eggs are reported as usually six or eight, sometimes ten or twelve. They are white, nearly round, about one and one-fourth inches in diameter.

Dr. Roberts states that the body of the burrowing owl is smaller than that of a screech owl, but that the birds seem larger on account of their long legs. They are often seen standing at the mouth of the burrow during the day time but the most of their hunting is done in the early evening or at night. They frequently visit the roads and since the advent of high speed automobiles, many owls are killed on the road.

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NEWSLANTS

by
Harry A. Graves



H. A. Graves

Rock gardeners have in **Antennaria**, or Cat's Paw, a native plant that should do well almost anywhere in the state. Bergman lists five species in his Flora of North Dakota and I believe I have seen at least five species this summer. Some of these species were observed in Cedar Canyon near Watford City while attending the McKenzie County 4-H camp and the rest in the Sand Hill area near Leonard. One species is very low growing while the

largest species perhaps reached an average height of two inches.

* * * * *

Lilium Philadelphicum, our prairie lily, often wrongly called Tiger lily, was once found growing in profusion in low meadows and in moist soil in valleys. This year rather close observation in several of the former haunts of this attractive flower has revealed only four blooms. No doubt there are still isolated areas where this lily still can be found in quantities but they are hard to find. No doubt we can expect their return with seasons of more abundant rainfall.

* * * * *

One of the best and most convincing jokers I have seen was called to my attention in late June. A telephone call from a local resident informed me that they had apples growing on one of their plum trees. They thought it quite rare and I told them they were about as liable to find apples on their elms as on a wild plum. The gardener was insistent, however, and seeing was believing. The tree had a heavy crop of plums and every so often an apple would be found fast to a fruit spur. Closer examination, however, disclosed a clever job, on the part of some prankster, of firmly sticking apples from a neighbor's tree on the plum spurs. The fact that the apples had been on the plum tree without nourishment for two weeks and still showed no sign of wilting made the hoax all the more convincing.

* * * * *

Oddities and Random Observations—

Mrs. E. F. Hughes of Lakota has a native honeysuckle **Lonicera glaucescens**, doing very well under cultivation. O. A. Stevens tells me he has a specimen doing very well in his yard also. Solomon's seal makes an attractive plant when cultivated. O. Skarison, Mayville, raised sixty bushels of Bison tomatoes from eighty plants last year. Mr. Skarison also has a good idea for a tomato vine support. We now plan for a mimeo-

graphed drawing of this appliance—drop us a card if you are interested. Fire blight is unusually common in the Fargo area this year. The catalpa that furnished the seed that some of you received last spring did not have any leaves May 20, but was in bloom July 4th. This tree grows in the midst of a clump of common lilac and I wonder if the lilac doesn't tend to harden up new catalpa growth early and partly explain the hardiness of this tree?

Odd Mention—

Mrs. Kannowski, Supt. of Parks at Grand Forks, reports a pink wild plum; Wm. R. Page, Grand Forks County Agent, a double crabapple blossom and I found and pressed a double Juneberry bloom this season.

THE BURROWING OWL

(Continued from page 86)

The burrowing owl feeds largely upon grasshoppers and other insects, also upon mice, ground-squirrels, lizards, snakes and other small animals. Small birds are taken at times but the owls are regarded as decidedly beneficial in their habits. They are rather silent birds but during the night often utter notes and cries which various writers have compared to the bark of the prairie dog, the cry of a small child, etc. To these may be added a variety of squeaks, squeals, used especially when disturbed.

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NATURE DEPARTMENT

by
H. L. Hopkins

Misnomers.

"What's in a name?" We have in our wonderful America hundreds of rhythmical, musical, altogether delightful and appropriate names of physical things. The most beautiful names come from the aboriginal tongues. They are usually descriptive and based on some characteristic of the object named. What, for example, could be more enchanting and glove-fitting than Minne (water) ha ha (laugh), for a waterfall? Or

Yankton, or Winnipeg, for a city?

I think of no Indian name of lake, stream or mountain that I would prefer changed. Consider the following nomenclature from Indian and Spanish: Kentucky, Manitoba, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Dakota and Colorado, Nevada, Florida, Arizona, California—all seem to fit as though tailor-made.

What a mess we English speaking people have made in some cases. Perhaps the most outstanding misfit and freakish name in North America is "Black Hills". There are so many that it seems that almost every altitudinal hump, from the Mississippi river eastward in the United States, higher than a toadstool, is dubbed and duly accoladed "Mountain". The higher elevations in the so-called Black Hills—are about a thousand feet higher than anything east of them—including the sky-scrappers of Manhattan. They are mountains in every sense of the word, measured with any proper yardstick.

Let us take definite measures to have them legally and permanently named, mapped and atlased—"Black Mountains"—which they truly are. The term "Mountain" is highly distinctive and significant, while "Hills" are as commonplace and meaningless as warts.

Origin of the Missouri or "Western" Coteau

No human knows or can know. The question is moot. The Missouri or "Western" Coteau is the huge, mountainous structure which serves

as the divide or height of land paralleling the great stream across both Dakota's and extends several hundred miles into Canada. It divides portions of the watersheds of the Red, Saskatchewan and Mississippi rivers. It is slightly under a thousand miles in length, fairly uniform in width and height and its highest altitudes are about the same as those of the des Prairies Coteau and the Turtle Mountains. A fairly close familiarity with the topography of all of these elevations has convinced the writer that they are hoary with geologic age and all, including the Manitoba Escarpment elevation, a part of the same very ancient landscape. In actual physical bulk of materials the Missouri Coteau would equal scores of Turtle Mountains structures.

The theory has been advanced that the Missouri Coteau was "pushed up" by the Keewatin or last glacial visitant.

Moving glacial ice, according to all recognized authorities, "flows like water" and "follows the law of least resistance." The moving Keewatin ice encountered the other elevations mentioned directly and headon and flowed "over" them while any pressure exerted at its western, or Missouri river edge, would have been lateral, or a side-swipe. Presumably the great Missouri river was eagerly gnawing at its western edge while the "push up" process was in operation. It would also have been a tremendous "uphill" push. For example, Mobridge is nearly 400 feet higher than Aberdeen and they are only about 100 miles apart. If this mammoth elevation was "pushed up" by the Keewatin ice where did it get its material? Did Keewatin ice spread as far north as the northern end of the Missouri Coteau? Quite questionable. Under all conditions does it look reasonable or probable that the ice "pushed up" and built this enormous structure with a side motion while it flowed "over" the others? In my researches I can find no similar or comparable case in a study of the work of glacial ice. I am convinced that the whole "pushed up" theory in the case of the Missouri Coteau is cockeyed and untenable.

Our Native Short Grass

During the ages that have gone into the limbo of vanished centuries, nature has fashioned a marvelous short grass that seems capable of retiring into its innermost vitality and holding on to the spark of life during the prolonged periods of drouth on the vast mid-western ranges. It is richer, pound for pound, in vital nutritive animal food values, than the alfalfas and clovers. It is one of the greatest boons with which the god of nature has blessed all animate creatures of those regions. By old timers it is called "buffalo grass". Its ordinary growing period ends in late summer

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NORTH DAKOTA STATE PARKS

by

Dr. Geo. F. Will, Bismarck



Dr. Geo. F. Will

This CCC work is done directly under the National Park Service, and the site as well as the work performed must conform to National Park standards and specifications. These are most strict, as you doubtless know and the requirements assure us park work developed along the very best possible lines. The parks are already being increasingly used and the volume of visitors to such places as the Larimore Park, which is purely recreational, and the Fort Lincoln State Park, which is largely historical, is almost unbelievable. The Bad Land parks, were it not for the shameful condition of roads in the western part of the state this year, would have had a tremendous number of visitors this season, and development is naturally slow as a very large area is involved. There is still, I think, some hope that this area, when developed, may appeal to the government and be taken over by them. Otherwise it will in time represent a considerable cost for maintenance to the Park Board, although I feel that it would nevertheless represent full value.

This park has been divided into two areas, a northern one near Watford City and a southern one at Medora. As an added attraction to the southern park area, last fall the Duke of Valambrosa, son of the Marquis de Mores, who made the Medora region famous in the 80's of the last century, turned over to the state park committee a deed for the chateau at Medora and the small park within the limits of the town; also a deed for the site of the large packing plant which was erected at that time in Medora. The deed for this valuable property was accompanied by a gift to cover repairs, and has since been augmented by a large number of valuable historical items including pictures and photographs, as well as by some fine pieces of furniture which were formerly used at the chateau. The gift included all of the furnishings which had been left by the de Mores family at Medora, and which represent a very large value as those of you know who visited the chateau during the past few years when it has been open to the public.

In the northeastern corner of the state we have a state park at Walhalla. This was supposed to mark the site of an early trading post and was acquired in the early days of the Historical Society. Unfortunately, at present it em-

braces neither the site of the early trading post nor the recreational camp grounds which have been placed there through local endeavor. It is a nice location and in a very beautiful part of the state.

At Pembina we have the site of one of the historic trading posts on the west bank of the Red River, but an additional area there would render the historic interest considerably greater as it would then include the site of the oldest fur post that existed at that point. In the southwestern part of Pembina County is also a small area known as the Oak Lawn Historic Site.

At Abercrombie the state has long owned a park site which was intended as a historic site but actually had been merely a recreational park since the actual site of Old Fort Abercrombie was not on the land owned. Happily this has been remedied through the public spirited efforts of citizens in the upper Red River Valley region, who have raised money and purchased the necessary acreage to include that site.

Near Arvilla is one of our largest recreational areas where a CCC organization has been working for the past two years or more. This is one of our finest natural areas and well worth development.

Last winter a recreational area near Lake Metigoshe was by special enactment turned over to the park committee. This was the former Transient Camp at that point and consists of a considerable acreage of land and some very fine buildings. This should develop into one of our best recreational parks. The park committee is also technically in charge of the work on the North Dakota side at the International Peace Garden. The exact status of this area seems almost impossible to unscramble, but the Society is obliged to take responsibility for all CCC work done at that point.

In the western part of the state the two Roosevelt Parks, both historical and recreational, are the largest areas owned and being developed. South of them near Marmarth is the Fort Dils State Park. This is an area of some ten or twelve acres containing the earth works thrown up by the immigrant party which was besieged there in 1863 for a number of days by the Sioux. West of the river also we have one of the old Indian Flint Quarries on Knife River, which was presented to the Society by Mr. Matt Crowley of Hebron.

The Society also owns the site of Old Fort Clark and the Indian Village Site adjoining.

In Mercer County an Indian Village Site known as the Molander Site north of Square Buttes is also owned, and last year Col. C. B. Little of Bismarck presented to the Society the site of the very large Mandan Indian Village

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by
F. X. Wallner

August 15, 16, 17 and 18, are the dates set for the 1938 tour of the Northern Great Plains Section of the American Society for Horticultural Science. Representatives are expected from Canada, Colorado, Wyoming, Iowa, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, as well as many Government Scientists from Washington. The gathering will meet at Watertown, S. D., at the Lincoln Hotel, on Sunday evening the 14th, and

leave Monday morning the 15th, at 9 o'clock, visit Dr. Hansen's State Orchard south of town, then proceed to Brookings where the rest of the day will be spent inspecting the Horticultural Department of State College, where all the new and hardy fruits and vegetables will be seen and compared; they will be at their best at that time for judging the comparative earliness and quality. Hundreds of samples of hybrid sweet corn and other vegetables will be studied. At 7:30 in the evening, a meeting will be held at Brookings, which meetings are always full of interest, as the brightest minds of northwestern Horticulture will be there.

Tuesday morning the Horticulturists will drive to Sioux Falls and inspect the State orchard and rose garden, then the rest of the day will be spent en route to Ames, Iowa with occasional stops at points of interest. At 8 a. m. they will assemble at the Horticultural Building on Iowa State College campus and spend the day visiting experimental plots. Another evening meeting will be held at Ames. On the 18th, for those who are interested, inspection trips will be arranged to visit an interesting orchard section near Des Moines or the truck crop section near Muscatine, Iowa. Either or both of these trips will be arranged, as the visitors may desire. This is a worthwhile tour for horticulturists and it is hoped that many from this state will take time off to go on this trip.

June 24th. The hail storm today did considerable damage to vegetable crops here. Small tomatoes have one to four bruises where small stones hit, there are two to six branches cut from each plant, onion tops are badly cut and pounded into the soil. Vines are also badly cut and bruised so that it will take some time for them to recover. The driving wind and rain, first from the west, then from the southeast was near to being a tornado, a few miles southwest. Plant breeders have produced a new small lima bean, using the small Henderson and the large Fordhook in the cross

breeding. It is a new small bean holding its green color and good quality, but it is only for canning or freezing as the Fordhook is still the best bean for fresh use.

Sec. Fitch, of the Iowa Vegetable Association, has a good story on potato bugs in the June 18th Packer. He states that in Iowa most potato beetle eggs are eaten by Lady bugs, but claims that potato beetle eggs when fresh, are not bad eating and taste like duck eggs. It was before 1900 that the Colorado potato beetle gazed upon the Atlantic ocean and a few spys got into bags of potatoes and got over to Germany, but they were discovered and exterminated. In World War times some beetles got over to France among potatoes sent to our soldiers, but they too were discovered and destroyed. In their western travels they didn't get across the mountains and deserts so very easily and so they did not see the Pacific ocean until about 1912. They spread slowly east from Colorado in 1827 so that in 1860 they were eating up all the potato patches in the country. It was about 1870 that a male and female beetle caught a ride on a train and got pretty far east and found each other again in the spring where they found a potato patch and the mother laid 930 eggs and the job was done. The story goes on to state that the Colorado potato beetle had been found in England this year and they are going to destroy every trace of it. Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri and Virginia had reduced the potato acreage 12 percent, but the crops are in such fine condition that these five intermediate states will have 10,740,000 bushels, only 4 per cent less than in 1937, or 27 percent below the 10 year average of 1927 to 1936.

Winesap apples have finally taken the lead over Delicious as the shipping season, drawing to a close in Washington, shows 4906 cars of winesaps and 4898 cars of Delicious shipped out of that district. The pear crop will set a new high record of 29,876,000 bushels for 1938 while the cherry crop will be under the 1937 crop of 144,720 tons and the peach crop will be under both the 1937 crop and the 10 year average, or about 50,920,000 bushels.

Melon growers in the Imperial Valley have plowed under one third of the largest acreage ever planted in the Valley. The market is depressed even with a daily shipment of 150 to 250 cars. An advance of 25 to 50 cents a crate after the plow under. More than 200 have entered the Michigan 1000 bushel onion contest; the onion king last year averaged 1147 bushel per acre, only Texas growers shipped more onions last year than Michigan growers. State and Federal men of Michigan were out destroying all black currants, host plants of blister rust in pine trees.

The new 2-row potato digger used in the 1000

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LETTER FROM DR. A. F. YEAGER

Dear Dakota Friends:



Dr. A. F. Yeager

Every time I see something new or some new method of culture used, I wonder how it would work out in North Dakota. Michigan State College has one of the most beautiful campuses in the country. It is always a source of inspiration to look at the magnificent trees. When I do, I am impressed again and again with the fact that the trees here are especially beautiful because they have not been pruned up from the ground. The great spreading

branches of the hard maple trees nearly touch the ground, making a canopy within which there is seclusion. A man with a saw could ruin them in a short time.

There have been many surprises as to the kind of plants that will survive in this area. The temperature at East Lansing sometimes gets down to 15 below zero, and yet there are magnolia trees of good size. With all the great variety of flowering shrubs, you might be interested in knowing that the stand-outs in the whole lot were some of the flowering apples, The Eley crab, which blossomed April 25th., and the Carmine crab, which bloomed April 30th, surpassed any of the more exotic things. I am wondering if these two varieties might not be hardy in North Dakota as well.

Some kinds of shrubs do not do nearly so well here as up north. For instance, the Tartarian honeysuckles and the lilacs seem to be much less showy here. Prized specimens in the shrubbery border include some of the native North Dakota plants which are not so much appreciated there. They should be used more. An example of this is *Potentilla fruticosa*. There are variations of this plant providing not only golden yellow flower, but also light yellow and white. Some of the ideas recently picked up which would be worth a trial to many of you people would be the use of the Derris dust compounds as means of control for cabbage worms, particularly on cauliflower and broccoli. Our entomologist also tells me that he gets nearly perfect control of corn ear worms by the simple process of clipping off the silks with a pair of shears as soon as they have been well pollinated and are starting to show signs of browning.

A variety of head lettuce which seems to be giving a little better results than New York No. 12 is New York 515. In the upper peninsula of Michigan the variety Cosberg seems to be able to grow without tip burn where other kinds fail.

The first variety of tomato to ripen in trials

this year is Red Skin. There is very little to it but fruit, tho. I am wondering how these plants are working out in the far north. From what I can learn, conditions at Fargo should be quite good this year and there is a large amount of material to be seen. I hope that many of you will be able to visit the N.D.A.C. horticultural plots and to give Mr. Mattson encouragement and support, which he must have to carry on. Last week I visited the trial grounds of the Ferry-Morse Seed Co., where a good many North Dakota boys have gone for summer work in the past, and was gratified to have the management there say that all had been of a superior class. While I am not now located in North Dakota, I still appreciate as much as ever hearing from my friends there and learning how new things are behaving in the hands of farm folks.

A trip to South Haven July 16, disclosed an extension blueberry budding project. A new industry is in the making; blueberries the size of a penny growing on bushes as high as ones head, are a thrilling sight. A new experience has been to see corn sprout, start and die because of lack of potash in the soil. Fertility and fertilizers largely replace water and irrigation as a major problem. When the season ends you will get a report on the behavior of the new northern varieties in this environment. That's a promise.

NATURE DEPARTMENT

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and it dries and cures on the ground, attached to its roots, retaining its phenomenal nutritional qualities. It supplied year around sustenance for the myriads of bison and other native quadrupeds that roamed those regions in days of yore. It has also made ideal range and pasture for many millions of sheep and other domestic animals during the more recent period of white human occupation. It was truly the "happy hunting ground" of the aborigines. Including the full extent of it on both sides of the Rockies, it is easily the largest natural semi-arid live stock range on earth.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

(Continued from page 90)

acre patch in the Shafter, Colo., district is drawn by a caterpillar tractor; it cuts and removes the vines then while the two rows of potatoes are going over the elevator a large roller packs the ground smooth where they are easily picked up and sorted. Eight car loads or 2400 bags were grown on 8½ acres. This grower planted March 2nd, and dug June 13th, 103 days from planting to marketing and used 700 lbs of fertilizer per acre.



SECRETARY'S CORNER

by

W. A. Simmons



W. A. Simmons

Under date of June 27th, M. Hardin, one of our Oklahoma members, writes from Geary, as follows: "Lots of moisture this season. Tomatoes have been ripening for a week, cantaloupes will soon be ripe. Repeated trials indicate that tomato varieties with determinate vine type, are best suited here. Bison is the most dependable cropper in standard varieties here. I have several new varieties with determinate vine type of my own development and will tell you about them later. Some are earlier than Bison, some 100% smooth and uniform in shape."

Mr. Chas. Vitak of Sioux Falls, relates the following interesting experience with Pink Cushion Chrysanthemum. Several years ago he obtained some plants and being in doubt as to their hardiness, set one in a large pot and kept it in the house over winter. In the spring he set it in the garden where it bloomed in early July, while its mates, kept over winter in the garden bloomed very late in the fall. Since then he has propagated a number of plants from the early blooming one, all of which blossom in early July. They seem to be completely befuddled about the seasons and continue their early blooming characteristic. He wonders if other plants that often run a losing race with fall frosts, could be speeded up in the same way. It might be interesting to try this method on some of them.

Stark Bros., of Louisiana, Mo., are preparing to hold their annual seedling fruit contest on August 18 to 20, for early ripening fruits, with a later one in November for the later ripening varieties. Prizes of \$1500 are offered for the different fruits, including apples, pears, peaches, plums, cherries, grapes, berries and miscellaneous fruits. Anyone having a deserving seedling is urged to write for an entry blank and to submit his sample as soon as ready, without waiting for the date of the contest. All samples received will be opened and judged as soon as received, then placed in cold storage till the date of the show. It is the endeavor of this firm, the discoverers and introducers of delicious, Golden delicious, starking and other high quality apples, to find and introduce the best seedling and bud sport varieties of each of the above classes of fruit. In fruits, 5 or more specimens should be sent. In addition to the prizes, five in each class, everyone who enters

will receive free, a copy of an 128 page book, "Guide to Profitable Orchardling."

"The Bardolph, Ill., Future Farmers of America chapter figures that its recent pest contest resulted in a saving of \$856 thru destruction of pests. Ralph S. Harris reported that the 30 members chose up sides and after 8 weeks had destroyed 1533 sparrows, 962 mice, 402 starlings, 88 rats, 16 hawks, 2 moles and one crow. They based the figures on the estimates for a year's economic damage caused by a single one of each type of pest."—Prairie Farmer.

It is hoped that those "Future Farmers" will some day grow up and learn not to monkey with the balance of nature. The destruction of the sparrows, starlings and hawks was little better than a crime. The former two are our most valuable insect destroyers and are wholly beneficial, never injuring any cultivated crop. Had they allowed the hawks to live, it is more than likely they would have eaten many times the number of rats and mice these young hunters succeeded in killing. Instead of saving \$856, it appears to us they have incurred a large liability and richly deserve to have their crops destroyed by grasshoppers.

You will be glad to know that the fence around the Robertson Memorial to which fund most of you contributed so liberally, is now completed and planting the grounds will be one of the first things started next spring. The last contribution to the fund came in today, a dollar from Miss Gladys Robertson, of Freemont, Neb., a niece of John's. This makes the total amount received \$226.70. The cost of erecting the fence was \$78.25 leaving the Society to pay but \$63.89, as after paying for the fencing material, there was a balance of \$14.36, left in the fund to help pay for the cost of erecting it. This has been a very satisfactory growing season, so far and there were plenty of weeds knee high by the 4th of July. Just what the grasshoppers will do to us remains to be seen, but the indications are that it will be plenty. Now that the small grain has been harvested the hoppers are developing a taste for green corn and it will be a near miracle if any corn fields escape destruction.

The annual meeting of the North Dakota State Hort. Society will be held at Bismarck on Aug. 8th and 9th. These dates fall on Monday and Tuesday, giving everyone an opportunity to take their Sunday drive in the direction of the State Capital. These meetings are always very much worth while and from personal experience, in past years, I can assure you that the Bismarck members make very charming and attentive hosts. All that can, from either Society, should attend.

When love and skill work together, we may expect a masterpiece.—John Ruskin.



MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

by
W. R. Leslie



W. R. Leslie

There is a very considerable opportunity each year to select superior individuals among shrubs. These may be increased by grafting and budding, or now with greater ease by greenwood cuttings, due to availability of plant hormone acids.

The Russian Almond is notable for variability. Some bushes are sprawling and prone to extensive suckering. Others are erect in habit and economical in the energy put into sucker

formation. Flower colour may be pale pink to brilliant scarlet and carmine. All tend to fade more or less heavily with age. One white flowered selection has been isolated and is available in the trade. Once a prized selection is isolated, it may be increased by root cuttings, as well as by the means outlined above.

Many inferior Tartarian honeysuckles are planted. This is unfortunate as charming subjects are available with blossoms glistening white, rich pink, or rosy red. The Morden Station has a number of good reds. The deepest colour located has the shortcoming of narrow petals. The combination sought is broad petals and live lasting colours. The faded, washy hues exhibited by many bushes are unattractive. An aristocratic bush requires no more room or care than its plebeian relative.

Variation in bloom colour is widespread. It is encountered in seedlings of many species. Included are crab apples, plums, apricots, lilacs, spireas, dogwoods, viburnums, hawthorns, roses, cinquefoils, and many others. Now that the results of shrub and tree bloom is before the husbandman, it is timely to suggest that prairie plant growers join in the alluring game of hunting for improved plant individuals.

Ants are a nuisance. That statement is seldom, if ever, challenged by humans. Aphids or plant lice are called the milch cows of the ants and are cared for by them. However, gardeners do not care for the wishes of aphids, which are also known as nuisances or something worse.

Each year many communications come to the Morden Experimental Station relative to ants destroying their peonies or troubling the cook by sharing the pantry. It is a question whether ants eat any plant parts of the peony or asters or calendulas. They climb the peony plant to gather the waxy nectar covering the bud as food. They frequent many other flowering plants to obtain the honeydew shed by aphids living as

parasites on those plants. In all cases, their company is undesirable.

Among the methods of control a few of proven effect are outlined.

Ant nests are readily destroyed by making holes a foot deep with a sharp stick, about six inches apart. Pour in each hole a small cupful of carbon bisulphide, or of sodium cyanide, an ounce dissolved in 2 quarts of water. Cover the holes with earth and then spread a wet rug or burlap over the nest for several hours. The gassing is best done in early morning or in evening when most worker ants will be home with their queen. Cyanide is cheaper but poisonous. Carbon bisulphide is inflammable.

Lawn ants make holes surrounded by little earth mounds. Boiling water, kerosene or carbon disulphide poured in the holes often succeed. Cyanogas placed along the runways on a still sunny day causes death to journeying ants. Freeing the lawn may require a number of treatments.

Ants making galleries about the roots of flowers are discouraged by ridding the plants of plant lice. Nicotine sulphate, 1 part to 800 of water, poured around the roots of the plant destroys the lice and the ants depart.

Ants in houses and otherwheres are often cleared out by poisoning. The enemy relish sweets. One sweet poison is made of sugar $\frac{1}{2}$ pound, arsenate of soda 1 level teaspoonful, water 1 pint, honey 1 teaspoonful. Boil until arsenate is all dissolved. Place the ant syrup in pieces of sponge, or in a metal container punched with the handle of a file. The ant carries the feed to the nest where all tend to succumb.

Poison receptacles are to be carefully labelled and placed out of reach of children. There are many approved poisons. If this one fails, meat scraps or other bait may be tried. Unpoisoned bait may be dipped in boiling water when heavily infested with foraging ants.

Two field days are booked for the Morden Experimental Station. Garden and Orchard day August 12, Live Stock and Poultry day September 24. Each occasion commences at 1:30 p. m., and coffee will be supplied in the picnic grove at 5 p. m.

Garden and Orchard day, Friday, August 12, is held at that early date to endeavor to precede the round of garden shows which follow the middle of the month. Attempt will be made to assemble full equipment used in garden and orchard from spring until winter. Demonstrations will be made in different methods of propagation, and pruning. Guides will comment on plantations and features. Discussions will be in the Station tent at 4 p. m.

Live Stock and Poultry day, Saturday, September 24, will specialize dairy cattle and utility

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**BOOK REVIEW**

by

Mrs. F. Briley

The Northern Garden Week by Week, by Daisy Abbott. Published by the University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, Minn. Price 75c.



Mrs. F. Briley

The Northern Garden fills a long felt need in our part of the middle west. It is arranged to suit the planting time of the Twin Cities but can be adapted to various places in the temperate zone of this country by adding or subtracting about a week for every hundred miles north or south of the 45th parallel.

Coming to this country from England and finding she could not grow plants as she had done at home, the author showed her good judgment by turning to

that best source of information, the Horticultural Society, for assistance.

The author is very zealous in her praise of the Society and advises every beginning gardener to become a member. She gives the professors in the Society all credit for her success in gardening. The Northern Garden is the result of many years of experimenting with growing things and is indispensable for the gardener. With it to follow one just can't go wrong. Every phase is explained so simply that the amateur has no trouble following directions and as you read on and on you lose yourself and really feel that the author is speaking directly to you. She tells you how to remake your garden without destroying what can't be moved. The color scheme is quite new and sounds logical. She tells us what to plant and why, and when and where; also what not to plant, and why. She tells us how to care for the grass; settles that much debated question when and how to transplant peonies; how to plant and care for iris, lilies, evergreens, shrubs, etc., and concludes with "And so to bed." Nothing is left out and with every fact that you read in the book you have the feeling that "It's so if taint so, cause Ma said so." When you plan your garden next February, be sure that you have a copy of the Northern Garden along with your seed catalogs.

BOOK REVIEW

by

W. A. Simmons

The Gardener's Omnibus, Edited by E. I. Farrington, the talented Editor of the indispensable magazine "Horticulture", published by Hale, Cushman and Flint, 116 Newbury St., Boston, Mass. Price \$3.75.

How can one do justice to such a book? Con-

sider that its pages are $8\frac{1}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{4}$ and there are 886 of them, with 600 illustrations and that the book weighs $5\frac{1}{2}$ pounds. From this one might think it heavy reading, but tho there is plenty of weight in the book the articles are all plain and easily understandable. As long time Secretary of the Massachusetts State Horticultural Society and as Editor of the great magazine HORTICULTURE, which publishes 24 issues of their fine magazine each year, during all of the 16 years it has appeared, the Editor naturally had a great store of horticultural lore from which to draw. The task of collating and arranging this material, however, must have been colossal. It is all arranged in 39 chapters for interesting reading and is completely indexed, so one can easily and quickly find the special information one may seek and so, be used as an encyclopedia. Many of the articles were written by the Editor and his assistants and others are from the pen of top rank amateurs, and all are authoritative and contain sound advice. Most, tho not all the articles have appeared in the above magazine, but tho one had carefully saved every magazine, and not loaned many to "bookkeeping" friends, the information would require much time in ferreting out. In this book it can be found in a few minutes. In the foreword the Editor says he likes to think of this book as being written by amateurs, for amateurs. This is probably an apt characterization of this book as there is nothing high brow about it, but it is all easily understandable and very practical. Ownership of this book will give one a splendid foundation for a horticultural library and a book that one will refer to many times a year for the little but vastly important points in culture that one cannot possibly carry in ones memory storehouse.

MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

(Continued from page 93)

poultry. Percherons, Ayrshires, Hampshire sheep, and Barred Rock chickens of the Station will be on exhibit, and discussions led by cooperating authorities. Present prospects are for an early harvest and it is hoped the day selected for stockmen will meet general convenience.

At each field day the various portions of the Experimental Station will be open to visitors, and all are encouraged to study whatever plantations and equipment are of concern to them. A visit is the best means of becoming closely familiar with the experimental activities.

"Yep," said the farmer, "when a feller has to know the botanical name of what he raises, and the entomological name of the bugs that eat it, and the pharmaceutical name of what he sprays on it—things is bound to cost more."—The Earthworm.



SUMMER ARRIVES

by
W. E. H. Porter



W. E. H. Porter

June 6. Strong N. W. wind, 56 above. Spring flowers such as crab apple blooms, tulips, steviana rockets gone or on the wane and to take their place, lilacs, bush honeysuckle, matronalis rockets and the lovely pale blue fringed mat of Penstemon crandallii, all at their best. Just now the three things in my garden most admired by the uninitiated are yellow lotus clover, blue penstemon crandallii and a dwarf pink dianthus neglectus, all of which make a

display brighter than their size would suggest.

June 8. Our brown thrasher sings intermittently all day, his favorite rostrum being a tall aspen or one of two boxelders within gunshot of one another. From the latter he is heard but not seen; the song can be described as heavenly. A first red blossom of May Queen poppy, every shoot of this root running poppy has its own flower bed. Another erodium, macradenum, pink with dark blotch, a flower something like a pelargonium, several crimson star columbines that are coming true tho a distinct blue tint is apparent on opening calyx, and the climbing milkweed makes its first appearance thru the soil. So this rather rare bee plant, a native of Illinois, is hardy in N. Dakota. Three plants of Lychnis, survivors of seed sown a year ago, show blossoms for the first time this year, the massed pink flower heads remind me of what used to be a very common, beautiful flower in English gardens in Victorian days.

June 14. A cloudy sky, cool north wind, developed into a welcome all afternoon rain. Aster alpinus is very charming, purple and white flowers of the China aster type tho not as double. Geranium sanguineum crimson and Wallichianum a root spreading large double dwarf type; these two are somewhat ahead of the taller English blue wild geranium. Tho early lilacs are passing, our double Leon Gambetta lasts and the later Chinese species Syringa villosa, a whitish pink, shows promise of its customary midsummer perfection. I noted a tall 15-inch spike of white Lupinus had every one of its flowers systematically visited by a bumble bee, altho to us the flower is scentless.

June 15. Our Amur maple has small white flowers with the fragrance of hawthorn and another blue patch of Bachelor's buttons, from last fall seeding and pink Glacier Park wild geranium are also in bloom.

June 17. After some chilly days and chillier nights, it got up to 82 today. A warm breeze

wafts scent of ripe apples from sweet briar foliage. Anthemis kelwayi yellow, Penstemon, blue hood over magenta lip and black red nigricans variety of sweet william, all coming into bloom with explosive suddenness. Another pretty border or rock garden plant is Veronica teucurium, blue flowers over yellow foliage; tho plant was set out in fall of 1936, this is its first flowering period. As with violas, the dainty mauve flowers of annual asperula are continuous.

June 20. Sultry, 93 in the shade. Large pink blooms of Mons Jules Elie peony herald the peony pageant. I was surprised to note a plant of Anchusa capensis (Cape forget me not), dark blue, in full bloom. Tho a true biennial, it is usually an annual in our latitude, but judging by the size of the plant, this one must have survived the winter.

June 21. Still hotter, 94 today. Oriental poppy Mrs. Perry flaunts her beautifully expanded bloom, 6 inches in diameter, adjacent to lych gate entrance in the garden. The lych part of the gate, by the way, is a wire trellis arch, a plant also of miniature white variety of Linaria (Kenilworth ivy) in blossom from seed sown indoors in

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NORTH DAKOTA STATE PARKS

(Continued from page 89)

about thirteen miles north of Bismarck and generally known as the Double Ditch Site. The Fort Lincoln site south of Mandan comprises both the site of two military posts, Fort McKeen and Fort Lincoln proper, and the site of an old Mandan village. A CCC Camp has worked at this point also for several years, and the three block-houses and connecting palisade at Fort McKeen have been rebuilt, a number of excellent roads have been made, five Indian earth lodges have been constructed on the site of the old village, and a fine stone museum and custodian's residence is getting well along toward completion. The camps where CCC activities are in progress are provided with first class engineers, architects, landscape architects and technicians and you may be sure that the work is done well and satisfactorily in all particulars. If it is not the National Park Inspector fails to approve and the whole building, bridge or road may have to be rebuilt entirely. This has happened on several occasions.

On down the river the state owns a very large and very interesting Indian Village Site near Huff, and on down still further it owns and has recently improved the site of Old Fort Rice.

In Logan County is the recreational Beaver Lake State Park, and in McIntosh County the recreational Doyle Memorial State Park. These two areas are both located on fine lakes.

In Dickey County is the Whitestone Hill Battlefield State Park containing the monument erected to a number of soldiers who were killed in a battle with the Sioux which took place at that point. Also in Dickey County on the James River has recently been given to the state the Hudson Townsite Park. This is the location of the earliest settlement in that county.

Recently a Mandan Village Site has been discovered north of Menoken in Burleigh County, and owing to its interest as an inland site has been acquired by the State Park Committee.

Near Streeter is the Streeter Memorial State Park on Salt Lake, which is also a recreational area, and some ten or twelve miles east of Lisbon on the Sheyenne River is the Strong Memorial Park, which is also recreational.

Among the historic sites are a number of points which mark camping places of the Sibley Expedition in 1863; including are the Camp Weiser Historic Site, the Birch Creek Historic Site, the Camp Arnold Historic Site, the Camp Corning Historic Site and the Camp Sheardown, all in Barnes County; the Buffalo Creek Historic Site in Cass County, the Camp Atchison Historic Site in Griggs County, Camp Kimball Historic Site in Foster County, the Burman Historic Site and McPhail Butte Historic Site, both in Kidder County and the Chaska Historic Site near Dris-

coll in Burleigh County.

Near Jamestown we have the Homer State Park and the Fred Smith Memorial Park, both of which are small recreational areas of natural beauty. We have also there part of the site of old Fort Seward. Further north we have in Benson County in the southwestern corner the Palmer's Spring State Park. This is a small area marking the site of the killing of a number of soldiers by the Sioux in 1868.

In Bottineau County is the Butte Saint Paul State Park, a small but finely timbered area marking the highest point in the Turtle Mountains, and also another small area known as the Saint Claude State Park is located in the Turtle Mountains in Rolette County.

SUMMER ARRIVES

(Continued from page 95)

March. This variety appears as a neater, bushier form than the purple type. Our bush catmint is also covered with long tubular blue flowers, foliage sombre green, and ever spreading clumps of sedums are bright with yellow stars, and the varied dianthi are now coming into their own, about every color except blue. The lacy airiness of *fimbriatus*, fragrant like most, is outstanding for its height and delicacy. Tho lacking fragrance the double rose blooms of *Lychnia viscaria*, also an evergreen, resemble dianthi very closely, and regardless of the calendar, the bronze red starred mat of *Anagallis arvensis* (scarlet pimpernel) tell us definitely that midsummer is here.

July 8. Midsummer beauty in a N. D. Garden: the flaming reds of *lychni chalcidonica* and fulgens with soberer chandiliers of Russian lilies, and dark red coxcombs of maple leaved pig weed, the mallow pinks, musk. Among its massed numbers I note one albina plant. Tree mallow *lavatera cashmeriana*, the tall hemp leaved hollyhock, with annual volunteer rose mallows showing everywhere and rioting of apple scented white pink corymbs of New England vetch, with last and least, the lovely dark pink single flowers of a wild geranium from the British Isles, blending with taller pinks are salmon clumps of *Lychnis salmonea* and exclusive clusters of Sweet Williams, from a black maroon thru pinks to white, a perfect blend indeed. Blues, from dwarf *echium vulgare*, the blue bedder to bush like, fragrant *Nepeta Souv. Andre Chaudron* catmint; taller ragged English blue geraniums, quite effective when in occasional clusters, stately *anchusas* and perennial *delphiniums* just coming into their own. Starred mats of *Sedums* in yellow, pink and white over blue red, green succulent foliage, the neat cactus like flowers of *sempervivums* with added advantage over cacti of lasting quality and perfect winter hardiness. Who says its hard to grow flowers in North Dakota?