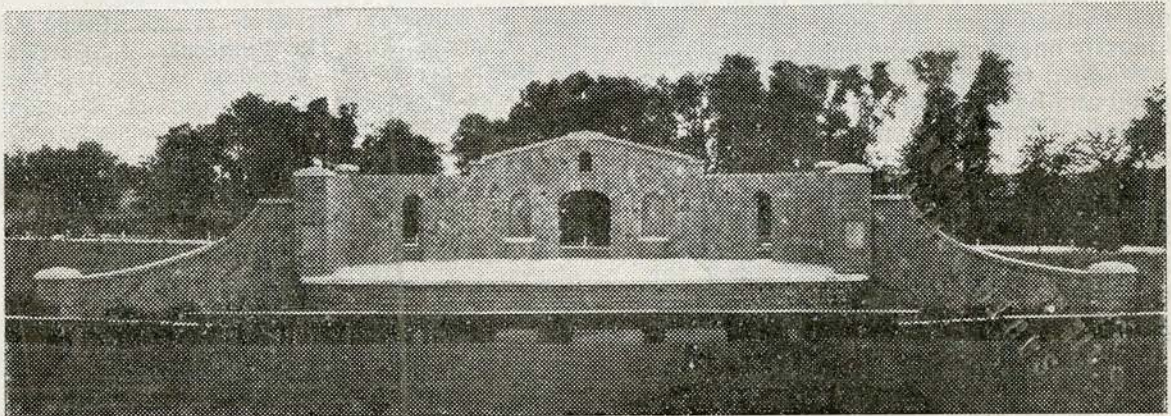


# NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

JANUARY, 1939

*South Dakota State  
College Library*



New Band Shell in the Dell Rapids Park.—Courtesy of the Argus-Leader.

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## THE PINE GROSBEEK

by

O. A. Stevens



O. A. Stevens

On October 28, 1938, when I was making a round of my traps, a new bird started up and flew across the open space. I obtained little impression of its appearance except of some white in the wings. I judged it to belong to the sparrow group, but it was distinctly larger than our common larger ones such as the Fox Sparrow or Harris's Sparrow. It had a wave-like flight suggesting that of the Goldfinch and had a whistling note something like that of the Snow

Bunting. The main possibility seemed to be Pine Grosbeak, a species which I had not definitely identified here before.

The bird seemed rather shy and on account of its distance and restlessness, field glasses would have been of little help. However, after seeing it on two or three later trips, the glasses were taken along. This time the bird was not seen, until on passing a cedar tree, it flew out and into another cedar nearby. Anxiously I remained quiet while it continued to feed upon the cedar berries, but remained mostly out of sight among the branches. Finally it dropped to ground within two rods of where I stood and began picking up berries which it had dropped. Thus its reputed tameness was at last demonstrated. Later in the day two birds were seen and the next day, three.

This particular bird was largely smoky gray, the top of the head and the rump being somewhat brassy-yellow. The wings and tail were black, the upper wing feathers bordered with white. It was evidently either a young bird or a female. In the adult male the body is mostly red or pinkish.

Pine grosbeaks are found in the northern evergreen forests all around the world. Three or four forms of them are recognized in Europe and Asia, several in America. Some of the American ones inhabit the higher mountains as far south as New Mexico. In winter they wander farther south and are often common in northern Minnesota though they do not nest there. They seem to appear occasionally in northeastern North Dakota and rarely as far south as Nebraska and Kentucky. Dr. T. S. Roberts states that in two or three times during fifty years, they have been fairly common in southern Minnesota, sometimes occurring in flocks of 50 or 60 birds.

Nests of this species seem to have been found but rarely. A. A. Saunders in 1921, commented that none had yet been found in Montana since the birds lived at high altitudes which were in-

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frequently visited by man. During the winter, however, they were common in the valleys. The nest has been described as a shallow structure composed of twigs placed in low branches of evergreen trees. The eggs are about an inch long, bluish-green with brown spots or streaks around the larger end.

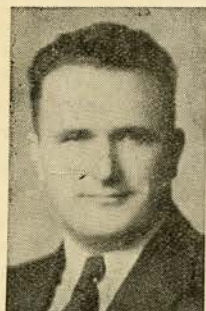
Grosbeaks are so named from their extremely thick, stout bills. Like other members of the sparrow group, they feed largely upon seeds, and with their stout bills are able to crush large, hard

(Continued on page six)



## NEWSLANTS

by  
Harry A. Graves



H. A. Graves

"Soybeans for the Table" is the title of leaflet No. 166. This leaflet can be had from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., for 5c. This leaflet covers food value of these beans, their use as a green vegetable, their use dry, and several recipes. The variety "Agate" is included among the edible ones. The name "Agate" was suggested for this variety by Dr. Yeager after it had shown up well here as a Foreign Plant Introduction. Along this same

line is an article in the November issue of the National Seedsman in which Prof. J. W. Lloyd of the University of Illinois advocates the use of soybeans as a fresh vegetable.

Another note from the National Seedsman carries the information that 1,500 trees were destroyed in the Arnold Arboretum by the hurricane of 1938.

Having just finished reading David Fairchild's autobiography, "The World Was My Garden," I have a strong desire to go to distant lands and poke around in out-of-the-way places for new plants. Since most of us will never have this opportunity let me recommend these 500 pages of good reading.

David Fairchild was head of the department now known as the Division of Plant Exploration and Introduction for 20 years, and for several years was an explorer in the field himself. A son-in-law of Alexander Graham Bell, a brother-in-law of Gilbert Grosvenor, President of the National Geographic Society, and a friend of the Wright Brothers, Fairchild had many opportunities to make his book a history of an American period, as well as a history of plant exploring.

Alpha Thoreson, of Mayville, was selected to represent North Dakota 4-H members in a national 4-H home beautification program for 1938. This state program was supervised by the state 4-H department and awards to state representatives were made possible by Mrs. Charles R. Walgren, horticulture enthusiast from Chicago. Alpha worked over the top soil and re-seeded the lawn, started a foundation planting, set out flower beds, planted a quantity of trees, rerouted the driveway and built bird houses. These programs with national emphasis are a valuable way of stimulating interest, but the important thing, as I see it, is that this girl and many others, have been started on a long-time program of home ground improvement.

Some of our readers may be interested in how Easter Lilies are produced. A 1937 bulletin, No. 312 from the Agricultural Experiment Station, Gainesville, Florida, "Factors Affecting Easter Lily Production in Florida," has just reached my desk.

Some idea of the potential value of certain individual trees can be gathered from the following paragraph taken from the book, "From Forest to Furniture," by Malcolm H. Sherwood:

"About 1835, in a small Missouri town, a man put his family in a covered wagon and started the long trek to the Pacific Coast. After several weary months they reached their destination, the banks of the Columbia in western Oregon. Among their treasured possessions was a tiny tree which they carefully planted in rich bottom land. Many years went by, ninety-three in fact, and one day the descendants of the original pioneer were persuaded by a log buyer to sell the walnut tree that, as a sprout, had made the long journey from Missouri. Competitors dickering for years had forced the tree's price to an exorbitant figure; it might even prove worthless because of defects; fortunately, however, it was found to be perfectly sound and beautifully figured even to the tips of the limbs, a rare phenomenon. It produced nearly 90,000 square feet of veneer, which was sold in its entirety to a furniture factory for approximately \$20,000. This firm, being clever manufacturers and recognizing the sales and advertising value of such an interesting history, designed several suites especially for it. The furniture was of necessity high-priced, yet its rapid sale proved the

(Continued on page seven)

## NORTH DAKOTA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY PREMIUM LIST FOR 1939.

Paid up members of the North Dakota State Horticultural Society for 1939 may choose free one premium from group 1, or two from group 2. Requests for premiums should be on file at the Secretary's office before May 1st. Harry A. Graves, Sec., State College Station, Fargo, N. D.

### Group I.

1. Two Karl Rosenfield peony roots. Mid-season red semi-rose type. 6 premiums available. Donor, Mrs. M. B. Kannowski, Grand Forks, N. D.
2. Two Albert Croussee peony roots. Bomb type, shell pink. 3 premiums available. Donor, Mrs. M. B. Kannowski, Grand Forks, N. D.
3. Two Mons. Dupont peony roots. Semi-rose type, mid-season, ivory white, center petals with huge drops of carmine, golden stamens at base of petals. 3 premiums available. Donor, Mrs. M. B. Kannowski, Grand Forks, N. D.
4. One Sarah Bernhardt peony root. Semi-rose

(Continued on page four)





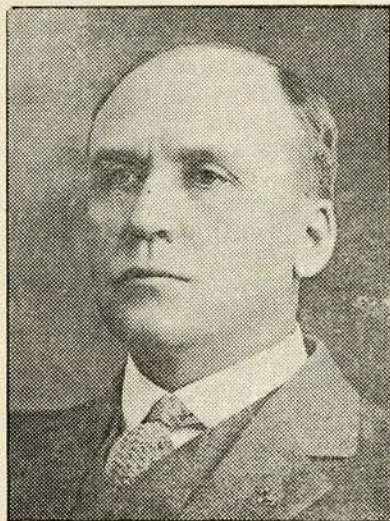
- type, late mid-season, strong growing, apple blossom pink. 3 premiums available. Donor, Mrs. M. B. Kannowski, Grand Forks, N. D.
5. One Reine Hortenst peony root. Semi-rose type, mid-season, soft pink, center of flower flecked crimson. 3 premiums available. Donor, Mrs. M. B. Kannowski, Grand Forks, N. D.
  6. One Solange peony root. Rose type, mid-season, color rare reddish brown. 3 premiums available. Donor, Mrs. M. B. Kannowski, Grand Forks, N. D.
  7. One Papaver (May Queen) semi-double red; very heavy bloomer, the only poppy that spreads by root run; early summer. Donor, W. E. H. Porter, Hansboro, N. D.
  8. Sedum Acre. A low-matted stonecrop; always bright green in hottest or driest weather; flowers in mid-summer; an evergreen; slips that root easily when set in damp earth. Donor, W. E. H. Porter, Hansboro, N. D.
  9. Alyssum montanum. A lovely gray-leaved rock plant; evergreen; covered with yellow flowers in May. Donor, W. E. H. Porter, Hansboro, N. D.
  10. Two plants Chinese Mint (*Lallemantia canescens*). Hardy biennial; purplish blue; very fragrant; sage green foliage; prolific; about 1½ feet. Will bloom in 1939. Donor, W. E. H. Porter, Hansboro, N. D.
  11. Two plants Yellow Baby's Breath (*Isatis glauca*). Tall; large leaves; perennial. Will bloom in 1939. Donor, W. E. H. Porter, Hansboro, N. D.
  12. One tree Red River Crab. Dolgo x Delicious. Dark red fruits; mid-September; pleasant out of the hand; good for sauce and jelly. Very hardy. Introduction of North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station. Donor, Northwest Nursery Co., Valley City, N. D.
  13. One tree Waukon Apple. A Moorhead production; apparent cross between Wealthy x Hibernial. Donor, Northwest Nursery Co., Valley City, N. D.
  14. One Trail Crabapple Tree. A Canadian variety produced at Ottawa. Large sized crab; season early September; fruit yellow overlaid with red; crisp, juicy and sweet; excellent canned. 10 premiums available. Donor, W. W. Row, Cando, N. D.
  15. One Amur Crab. South Dakota seedling of Siberian crab. Rather small fruit, but favored as jelly crab; resulting jelly bright red; very hardy. Donor, W. W. Row, Cando, N. D. 10 available.
  16. One Tecumseh Plum. Produced by Dr. N. E. Hansen; produced by crossing Shiro x Surprise. Fruit large, bright red with waxy bloom; one of earliest of named plums; season, mid-August. Hardy in Manitoba; flavor excellent. 10 available. Donor, W. W. Row, Cando, N. D.
  17. One Beacon Apple. Formerly Minn. 423. Dark red; good sized; fall apple of high quality. 12 available. Donor, R. L. Wodarz, Wyndmere, N. D.
  18. One Rosilda Crabapple. Prince x McIntosh; ovate fruit, frequently 2 in. in diameter; season mid-September; fruit crisp, juicy, and pleasant out of hand. Highest quality canned. Donor, Harry A. Graves, NDAC, Fargo, N. D. 10 available.
  19. One Fiebing Plum. The largest plum on the Experiment Station plots at Fargo. Fruit large, red and excellent flavor. 10 available. Donor, Harry A. Graves, NDAC, Fargo, N. D.
  20. 15 plants of Ruddy Raspberry. Formerly known as ND P-117. A purple variety quite winter hardy; resistant to red spider in summer. For trial where red varieties fail from heat. 10 available. Donor, Dept. of Horticulture, NDAC, Exp. Sta.
  21. Bundle of 25 cuttings hardy Tamarix. Feathery green foliage, rapid growth, pink flowers after mid-summer. Strikes easily from cuttings. Donor, Dept. of Horticulture, NDAC Experiment Station.
  22. Hahn's Branching Ivy. Newest type Ivy which branches freely. Donor, Fargo Floral Co., Fargo, N. D.
- Group II. Steds**
23. *Hesperis steveniana*. At last Dakota raised seeds of this little known rocket. Very graceful plant first year; flowers heavily in early spring second year; many colors; fragrant. Donor, W. E. H. Porter, Hansboro, N. D.
  24. *Saponaria officinalis*. A bushy soapwort; very early; double white with heavy fragrance of orange blossoms; flowers second year; very hardy. Donor, W. E. H. Porter, Hansboro, N. D.
  25. *Dianthus barbatus nigrirans*. The new dark red stemmed, leaved, and flowered Sweet William; flowers second year; very hardy. Donor, W. E. H. Porter, Hansboro, N. D.
  26. *Lycnis Flos Jovis*. Whitish wooly foliage; lovely pink flowers second year and after; a little known but hardy plant. Donor, W. E. H. Porter, Hansboro, N. D.
  27. Packet select Buttercup squash seed. From the latest purified stock of this variety. Donor, Dept. of Horticulture, NDAC Experiment Station.
  28. Packet Redskin tomato seed. Very early, oblong red tomato of medium size. Small, open determinate vine. Seed sown directly in garden last week in May has produced ripe fruits in late August. Donor, Dept. of Horticulture, NDAC Experiment Station.





## SOME NATURE TARGETS FOR HUMAN GENIUS TO SHOOT AT

by  
H. L. Hopkins



H. L. Hopkins

mensity, majesty and power of the great Pacific. As I watched the typical, well-spaced rollers surge up the rocky shore line and suck gurglingly back, I thought of the sheer waste of seemingly limitless energy. I thought of the mighty and constant tides. Nothing in all nature is more regular, more-ordained and dependable. It is perpetual motion. Here is waste power enough to supply the mechanical needs of two little worlds like ours. Then the gigantic thought shaped in my mind: "Why don't the genius of man harness and use it?" It has always haunted me since.

Another case of appalling waste of natural energy is sun heat. Its potential power is almost limitless. Can and will it not eventually be made captive and used in the work of the world?

Still another almost unlimited and unused source of heat energy is the interior of our earth. Can and will the inventive genius of man enable heat to be saved, held indefinitely and used as needed?

Here's still another nature problem. Let human cunning figure out a way to precipitate, as needed, the vast quantities of moisture that idly float, in vaporous form over the drier regions of the earth. Every year ample moisture to make full, fat crops and keep sub-soils well saturated visits our great plains. I am going to predict that than can and will be done in time.

It is known that the waters of the seven great seas carry in solution so many billions in value of gold and other precious metals and minerals that the figures are dizzying. We are all proud and

The first time I saw the sea, nearly fifty years ago, was at Coronado Beach, San Diego, Calif. I wandered off up the shore all by my lonesome for several miles, pondering and dreaming. I sat down on a sequestered knoll about fifty feet from the water's edge and became completely lost to all other mundane things for several hours. I was tremendously impressed by the im-

cocky over the many marvelous things already done but, let it be said, especially to the bright, ambitious youngsters, there are plenty more huge and glittering nature targets to shoot at.

### Movement and Transportation Work of Glacial Age

That glacial ice, in its movement, flows, similarly to water, and follows the law of least resistance, is axiomatic. This observation is subject to and qualified by its difference in structure, greater rigidity, the constant pull of gravity and the topography of its route.

It has been positively demonstrated, by some of the world's leading scientists, in actual experiment with existing glaciers, that their upper surface moves forward considerably faster than the lower portion of the mass, or that part coming in contact with the earth.

The writer believes, and this is a new theory, that this results in a rotaty, or wheel-like movement, together with that of flowing, exceedingly slow, to be sure, but certain.

The effect of this wheel-like movement would be for the ice to gather up the rocks and earthy materials over and through which it passed and carry them upward and distribute them quite generally through its mass.

The writer cannot, on any other theory, satisfactorily account for the apparent evenness of the loads of detritus carried by them, as judged by the great comparative uniformity of their deposits.

### Summerfallowing

First in moisture saving importance the writer would emphatically place summerfallowing. Broadly this means the use of two years' precipitation for the production of one crop. Is it not better to get one fair crop than none at all? In 1894, the severest drouth year since settlement was made, barring a few of the scorchers of the present period, quite a few pieces of wheat on summerfallowed ground, went as high as ten bushels per acre. At the same time where small grains were put in following the customary annual plow and sow methods crops were burned to a cinder.

When the sub-soils come up to seeding time in the spring about as dry as Death Valley it is almost a sure bet that seed sown will be thrown away. It is even worse than wasted because expensive labor is lost with it.

The summerfallowing method has been followed quite successfully for several generations in the San Joaquin and Sacramento valleys or basins of California and the Big Bend district of Washington. They crop approximately half and summerfallow half of each farm each year. Their precipitation averages are much the same as ours. Why not take a big leaf from their book?



## SHOTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

by  
H. E. Beebe



H. E. Beebe

How Cola! which we all know is Sioux for "Greeting, Friend," at least Mr. Will of Bismarck with his knowledge of native Dakota plants used by our ex-landlords Will.

This column and the future of the Horticultural Society rests in your hands. Whenever you find an item applying to our Prairie State will you paste it on a postcard or write me. Personal experiences of our members is especially wanted—I mean along horticultural lines.

Our genial director, George Gurney and I met at the present capital of South Dakota—Miller, for a pleasant visit with Governor-elect Bushfield. He seems to be very firm on his program of saving money and hopes to consolidate some departments resulting in fewer high priced bosses and more good workers in the ranks. Sort of a weed-ing job.

Bushfield, as anyone would know by his name, is a regular horticulturist and would, I believe, sponsor a campaign to beautify our Sunshine state.

"George," as we all greet him, announced the sale of his nursery to the House of Gurney for which he will be general manager. George will boost wherever he is and maybe will put through the dedication of the Avenue of Pines in memory of that great South Dakota horticulturist, George Whiting.

That reminds me that DePagter has some mighty fine colored films and any garden club would do well to arrange with him to show those we enjoyed at Aberdeen. Now is the time to get a date with Peter.

W. C. Allen, our genial host, has a good account of this annual meeting in the Dakota Farmer of December 15. Very practical ideas on tree planting are often found in this magazine and I recommend your subscribing. Pleasant salesmen with the aid of atlases, broom holders and buggy whips have pushed my subscription up to very near the millenium.

W. H. Alderman, chief of the Division of Horticulture of the University of Minnesota, writes: "I have your kind letter of December 10th with marked copy of the paper giving the writeup of the South Dakota meeting. I greatly enjoyed my trip to South Dakota and also enjoyed the meeting. It had been some time since I had met with you people and I really appreciated the chance to renew acquaintances." We feel the same way,

Bill, and we hope that you will accompany us to Morden next summer. When are the apples ripe in the university orchard?

In answer to a very fine letter written by our secretary, Karl E. Mundt, the great Izaak Walton League man of the United States, writes: "You may depend upon me definitely to support any program at any time which is feasible in its operations and which will help obtain the objectives of developing more trees in South Dakota. Mr. Ford is a good friend of mine and I have great confidence in his ability."

Further regarding the Aberdeen resolution recommending Shelter Belt continuation, Chan Gurney writes: "I am mighty glad you were tickled pink with my election. I suppose I have been tickled every color of the rainbow since my election, and I certainly hope I can do a job for the horticulturists while in Washington."

No replies come from Case yet, but from my experience with him on matters west of the Missouri, there is no question but what he works tirelessly for South Dakota. Senator Bulow will take care of this matter with his usual energy and accomplishes quite a bit in a quiet way. In general, South Dakota is to be congratulated on its Washington delegation. "Chan" is a life member of our society.

I will be very glad to hear from all members with some items that will be of interest to the rest of the society. Also with suggestions as to a better heading. George Gurney suggested "Hot Shots from the Big Shot." In the next issue will be "From One President to Another."

## THE PINE GROSBEAK

(Continued from page two)

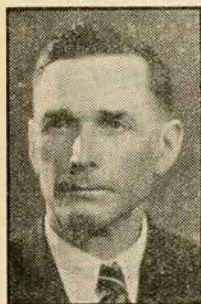
seeds. Our summer fruit-eating birds, such as the robins, catbirds and wax-wings, eat the pulp and discard the seeds. The pine grosbeaks require more substantial fare for the severe winter weather in which they live, and often discard the pulp and eat the seeds. Dr. Roberts describes their feeding upon the fruits of the high bush cranberry, one which seemingly has much pulp and only a thin seed. In a study of nearly 400 specimens, the U. S. Biological Survey found seeds of blackberries most common in the stomachs. Buds, especially of pine, were also very common in addition to various other berries and seeds.

Evergreens are always an attraction to these birds and they are most likely to be seen about a grove of such trees. These and other forest inhabiting birds which sometimes visit us in winter may be attracted by trees and shrubs which retain their fruits through the winter. Some of these are cedar, spruce, hackberry, ash, boxelder, sumac and high-bush cranberry.



## FRUIT AND VEGETABLE NOTES

by  
F. X. Wallner



F. X. Wallner  
Sioux Falls, S. D.

Italy is the only country that competes with this nation in the year round fruit and vegetable industry. Eight thousand million tons was the amount to be shipped to our and other nations this year, not counting the thousands of tons used by the producers. The onion crop is reported as even more than of November 1st, but the wastage, due to rot and other causes, is the greatest ever known. There is a loss in New York state of 230,000 sacks, in Massachusetts of 220,000 sacks of 100 lbs. each, and in the mid-western states there is a loss of 10 to 20%. The rot of onions has been very bad here with us, especially with the late harvested ones that were out on the ground the week of the heavy rains. There are 66 ports of entry in Kansas for out of state truckers and 58 in Oklahoma and other states have about the same number. In Minnesota, a grower in one country cannot sell in another without a license. Two North Dakota potato growers left late in October for Florida, with potato machinery and seed and there they will plant a large acreage in early potatoes and expect to be back in North Dakota in time to put in another crop. Test plots in Florida show there is no spindly sprout in certified Red River potato seed, this year. It was in December last year, the shipment of Red River seed was stopped on account of spindly sprout. Little is said of the severe freeze in California, but the Packer tells about many sections where fruits and vegetables were all frozen, many places recording a low temperature reading of 12 to 14. The Emperor grapes and the vines were wiped out. Tulare oranges badly frozen, Delta celery frosted and the pole pea crop is a total loss. Peppers and tomatoes were a complete loss in most of the state, due to low temperatures for three nights. Ventura county experienced frost as early as October 20, two days earlier than the killing frost in South Dakota. The first pint of Florida strawberries sold at public auction brought \$5, but the 4-H club girl from Illinois that bought a black calf for \$60 and won the International champion award, got \$3.35 a pound for the calf, or a total of \$4,605. She must have had the thrill of a lifetime, still but 14 years of age. Manitoba, Canada, honey producers have brought forth a crop of 9,598,000 lbs. this year; 57,000 colonies averaged 168 lbs. each. Twenty carloads have been shipped to the Pacific coast, England and Germany. The Iowa

corn champion with a yield of 135.5 bushels per acre, has been displaced by two growers in Indiana. One had a yield of 157 bushels per acre, the other produced 147 bushels per acre. On December 7th a carload of new Triumph potatoes arrived on the Chicago market from Texas and another carload of the same variety from California. With plenty of good potatoes in storage in northern states, it would seem as though the new crop is apt to find strong competition. The rose is still the leading flower grown in the United States, while the carnation is second and the violet is third in commercial production. The reason for this is that these are the most popular and adapted to greenhouse growing for about eight months of the year, when other flowers are scarce, but field grown southern flowers of all kinds are being shipped to northern cities in large quantities. The grasshopper danger map, just published, shows that the eastern part of the state and the Black Hills district is in the severe 41 to 100% section while only the section west of the Missouri river is in the light or 16% infested area. They seem to have left the range and idle land section for the section of the state where corn and grains are grown. It is estimated that we will have to spread 30,000 tons of bait. The five million acres of idle, or range land could be dusted in early summer by a few airplanes at much less cost than the sawdust bait can be spread. Over a southern radio station a few days ago we heard a man state that most all grapefruit in the states were no good, they were picked too green, poor quality and too high in price, but for so much cash, sent to him, he would send you the best grapefruit from his grove. Yesterday we bought a big bag at a local store for three cents each and they were of good size and quality. What could the poor southern grower have received for them?

### NEWSLANTS

Continued from page three)

wisdom of capitalizing on the wood's unusual story."

Membership dues from Mr. Brian M. Jeffery, Roxburgh, Otago, New Zealand, have been received with the following comment: "I wouldn't miss the North and South Dakota Horticulture magazine for worlds." Mr. Jeffery, I believe, just about holds the record for long distance membership.

Frederick Wolhowe, peony fancier from Varendrye, North Dakota, believes Longfellow to be the most dependable of all the reds.

L. N. Freiman, County Agent, Coupeville, Washington, reports that Zephyr proved to be the best muskmelon they have tried for home use. He also likes the Allred tomato which is much smoother with them than Bison.



## MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

by  
W. R. Leslie



W. R. Leslie

One of the names used very frequently in prairie fruit circles is Siberian crab. Botanically this is now *Malus baccata*. Formerly it was named by the great Linnaeus, *Pyrus baccata*. In recent times the genus *Pyrus* is restricted to pears, and all apples are *Malus*.

This autumn a number of inquiries coming to the Morden Station upon the Siberian crab have induced these comments.

The term Siberian crab is far from a distinct definite variety, such as is the case when the term Assiniboine plum is used. Siberian crab has similar significance to the local term Wild Plum. Wild plums may be red or yellow, early or late, large or small, vigorous or dwarf, sweet or sour, and abundantly hardy or rather tender.

In general, the Siberian crab is described as a handsome tree, which tends to pyramidal shape while growing vigorously, and, with age, taking on a rounded head, bearing showy white flowers abundantly in May, which are succeeded by small berry-like fruits of red or yellow. These fruits are hollowed at the insertion of the stem and bear a round scar on the flower end in place of the adhering calyx teeth found on many other crab apples. The tree is found in Nature around Lake Baikal in Siberia, and from there eastward into Manchuria and Korea, southward into North China, and south-westward to the Himalayas. Some strains reach heights of 20 feet, others to over 40 feet. Some bear fruit the size of a red currant, others to a diameter of 7-8 inch. Leaves on some are 1½ inches long, on others 3½ inches. Some have leaves downy beneath, others leaves smooth on both sides. Some early planted trees on the Canadian prairies have developed trunks over a foot through. This proves durability against trying climatic conditions.

The early Siberian crabs planted on the prairies came mostly from Russia, by way of the St. Petersburg Botanical Garden. Fortunately, they were of robust hardiness. If the Chinese, or South Korean, forms had been used instead, much less encouragement would probably have been experienced by pioneers hoping to grow apples on the prairies.

Dr. N. E. Hansen, of South Dakota, has been emphasizing for years that *Malus baccata* is a complex material and it is important to isolate strains notable for their Northern inland origin, vigor of growth, and resistance to disease.

A few weeks ago a seven year report of the Morden Station came from the press. It covers results of experiments for the years 1931 through to, and including, 1937. The seven seasons involved were what might be classed as lean ones. For the most part they were featured by scanty precipitation and excessively hot, trying summers. The period of the grasshopper epidemic—1931 to 1933 is included.

The report aims to carry much information which may from time to time be sought by the home-maker in deciding on only such varieties of plants that have won approval on the basis of performance over a series of years. Comment is made upon the leading problems that confront the gardener, such as shelter, pollination, growing seedlings, cultivation, propagation, pruning, combating plant pests, mal-nutrition, and mechanical injury.

Beside the suggestive lists for choice of materials, accounts are given of some plant breeding attainments. A list of Morden Station introductions is found on pages 52 to 55. Unfortunately, one important omission is noted, the Mina plum.

Mina plum was named in 1934, after being given the introduction number of Morden 109 in 1933. Mina is an open pollinated seedling of Pembina. Fruit is fairly large, about 1½ inches through, bright red overlaid with considerable waxy bloom. May be picked for shipping about August 15, picked for dessert August 20 to 24, stone semi-free, flavor spicy. As canned fruit it rates as excellent, juice is lively rich scarlet, flesh smooth, melting, flavor apricot, and skin tender.

A minor omission is noted about the middle of page 6, where the term native Japanese hybrids should be native x Japanese plum hybrids. Examples of fruits of this class are Tecumseh, Radisson, Underwood and Red Wing.

The report has been widely distributed and will be mailed to others requesting a copy. From the multitude of letters already received commenting upon the satisfaction of writers at receiving their report, there is no room for doubt that printed reports of experimental stations are keenly read, and a most valuable means of supplying the general public with results derived from experimental work.

Nature fixes it so we can acquire a temporary tan as protection against the summer sun, but she overlooked any way of growing temporary fur for this kind of weather.—Arkansas Gazette.

The Society of American Foresters has announced that the following trees, in order of their importance, are the most useful: Date palm, coconut palm, almond, apple, fig, mulberry, olive, lemon, cinchona, rubber.—Kablegram.





## SECRETARY'S CORNER

by  
W. A. Simmons



W. A. Simmons

We are deeply indebted to Mr. E. L. Crabb, of Shoshoni, Wyo., for sending us the 1927 Iowa State Horticultural Society's report. This fills up another gap in our file of these fine books and leaves only 1876, 1877, 1878, 1904, 1932 missing. This is getting it nearer complete than we ever expected to get it.

Friends of Mr. John M. Downer, and they include all that have met him, will rejoice that he is recovering nicely from his recent attack of heart trouble.

After surviving upwards of 60 years of matrimony, we could not believe that a small thing like heart trouble could long keep him down.

The annual meeting at Aberdeen, November 30th and December 1st, was a most enjoyable and well attended affair. Our friends of the Dakota Farmer not only printed our programs for us but took us all to their hearts, in their fine building. Mr. Allen, the host, remarked in his address of welcome that our meeting in their building was in the nature of a homecoming, as it was in The Dakota Farmer building, then located at Huron, that our society was organized, 55 years ago and that they have never ceased their interest in us. The genial and most lovable Dr. W. H. Alderman, head of the Minnesota Department of Horticulture, was our guest speaker for the first time in 18 years, and his presence alone was sufficient to guarantee the success of the meeting. He brought many fine specimens of their new apples which elicited much interest and admiration. Our President Emeritus, Dr. N. E. Hansen, spoke twice, once at the regular meeting and again at the banquet, and, as usual, was most interesting, as he told of his new fruits. Mr. A. L. Ford, director for the state for the Plains Forestry project, told of the great interest among the farmers in securing shelterbelt plantings, their applications far exceeding possible plantings, despite the fact that 800 miles of this type of soil protection will be planted in the state this coming year. Survivals of past dry year plantings have far exceeded anyone's reasonable expectations and have not only constituted a great addition to the state's tree wealth but have made the farmers tree conscious to a degree not known since the earliest settlement of the prairies, causing a greatly increased sale of trees by the commercial nursery men of the state. Professor L. L. Davis, head of the Department of Horticulture, Brookings, explained the modern and fast increasing business of quick-

ly frozen fruits and vegetables, showing many packages of these, purchased on the open market. Fine papers were presented by Roger Campbell, Aberdeen; Chas. Weller, Pierre; Dr. J. F. Brenckle, Mellette; Beyer Aune, Newell; E. A. Gates, Rapid City; Prof. H. I. Ashton, Aberdeen; H. N. Dybvig, Colton; Frank I. Rockwell, Brookings; Mrs. Dwight Campbell, Aberdeen; Mrs. O. F. Matter, Ipswich; S. H. Anderson, Aberdeen; Maris Taylor, Ipswich, and informal talks given by the president and many others. Mr. J. P. DePachter of the House of Gurney, Yankton, showed some very fine colored moving pictures, taken by Mr. D. B. Gurney, head of the house, with whom the taking of such pictures is a pleasant hobby. The Aberdeen daily papers gave very fine cooperation, giving our meeting front page positions, all throughout the meeting. The Aberdeen Garden club tendered a fine lunch in the afternoon of the final day and Mrs. Tiffany was busy every minute and for some time before the meeting, in arranging the program from a local angle and in efforts to make the meeting a success. The banquet was held at the Northern Normal and the food was the finest of any banquet we remember. The result of the election will be found on the masthead, so need not be recounted here. The Aberdeen people make fine hosts and we hope to be again invited to meet there, some time in the future and this invitation will probably be forthcoming in a few years, after time has erased from the minds of the local committee members, the hard work such a meeting entails.

A new strawberry said to possess unusual productiveness of plants and large size of fruit has been named "Dresden" after extensive trials in New York state and elsewhere. It is a cross between Beacon and Howard. The berries are firm and fairly resistant to bruising. The quality is rated as good but not high. It ripens early.—Successful Farming.

Now scientists prove that fruits radiate electricity. We've often felt the current of juice from a grapefruit.—Vallejo (Cal.) Chronicle.

## N. O. MONSERUD

Landscape Architect  
Tree Surgeon

Office—First National Bank Building  
SIOUX FALLS, S. DAK.  
PHONE 555



## SCHOOL GROUND PLANTING

by  
C. B. Waldron



C. B. Waldron

Now that the Dakotas are well started on a vast project of the planting of many millions of trees each year as shelter belts, it would seem to be in order to do something for our bare and cheerless and uncomfortable school grounds.

We have not contacted either the state or federal sources of tree supply, but we feel sure that if the residents of any school district will take sufficient interest and make a determined effort that means can

be found to obtain the planting stock.

As a 4-H club project the planting and improvement of the school grounds would seem to be ideal as it would call for the activity of all members and would be a permanent and valuable accomplishment. Doubtless, women's clubs in many school districts would be glad to give the matter their support if it were brought to their attention in a concrete and practical way.

The Department of Public Instruction at Bismarck has issued two publications at different times upon school ground planting, and probably copies of the last publication would be available.

Circular 67, published by the Extension Department of the North Dakota Agricultural College, and which is available, has a brief discussion of school ground planting accompanied by a sketch. The circular also contains a description and discussion of the different trees and shrubs suited for planting in the Great Plains area.

Speaking not particularly for the Dakotas, it is a common experience to drive through a country that has attractive scenes, either natural or as a result of man's effort, but only by the rarest chance do these spots happen to be the school grounds.

Fully exposed to the passing winds and the pitiless sun, plain and bleak and unadorned, they present a picture that is hardly to our credit. We may have just been thoughtless, but if we were in the children's place and had to spend hours each day through the months and years without beauty or comfort, perhaps we would do something about it. Most of our readers know just how to set about it to plant a shelter belt or get a grove of shade trees established.

We will be glad to hear from them if there is any particular question to be discussed, or to take up with them the planning of any particular school ground. The plans should be prepared at any time now, it is a most fascinating indoor win-

## BOOK REVIEW

by  
Mrs. F. Briley



Mrs. F. Briley

*Creative Flower Arrangement*, by Dorothy Biddle and Dorothy Blom. Published by Doubleday, Doran and Co., 14 W. 49th St., Rockefeller Center, New York. Price \$2.00. Illustrated with 31 photographs.

This book is the result of long years of experimentation in making flower arrangements, lecturing and editing the *Garden Digest*. In it we are urged to read, listen, and see all we can with open minds, and debunk flower arrangement of the arbitrary, and those who are governed by a set of rules. The book is charming because it is friendly and simple and makes the reader feel that you and the authors are talking together on the subject of creative flower arrangement. You talk about the three qualities given by flowers and foliage in a flower arrangement; color, line, mass. The most obvious is color, the most subtle is line, with mass midway between. In regard to color in arrangements, we are taken back to our color wheel, of school days, for the rules for complements and analogous plans hold true and are almost unerring guides for the flower arrangement enthusiast. Flower shows are given a full share of the book. Why are flower shows held? What can the average person get from flower shows? What do the judges look for? Individual chapters discuss flower arrangements for the various seasons, coming to a climax with the Christmas season, whose traditions are so old and so a part of man's religious beliefs that we lose something of the spirit if we try to streamline Christmas by attempting to dress it up in too modern forms. Throughout the book we are made conscious of the thought that we are putting something of ourselves into each flower picture that we make. We may have flowers and a vase, but something more is needed; the vision is what makes the beautiful flower arrangement. Each of the 31 photographic illustrations is a masterpiece.

The rabbit would be a ferocious animal if the furriers called him the same names in life that they apply to him in death.—Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

ter sport, and by the time spring comes round, it is to be hoped that you can't resist the temptation to give them expression in the form of an attractive and liveable landscape.



## LETTER FROM MICHIGAN

by

Dr. A. F. Yeager



Dr. A. F. Yeager

Dear Dakota Friends: A happy New Year to you. Here are a few observations you may find interesting. Michigan has a considerable muskmelon industry, the varieties mostly grown are Honey Rock and Hearts of Gold, started in 3" to 4" wood veneer bands and transplanted to the fields. Some put a shovel of well rotted manure and a handful of hydrated lime where each hill is to be set. The Zephyr muskmelon showed great disease resistance and was very

early and productive, but alas, it had no flavor, as did practically all early melons. Descendents from the early North Dakota tomatoes made excellent crops of good quality when seeded May 18, which is near time for setting plants in the field. Redskin was the earliest of all but should be planted not more than 18" apart in the row with rows three feet apart. If you plant any this year, try them that way. Buttercup squash made a nice crop of high quality at East Lansing and is becoming well known, in places. An attempt was made this year to produce seedless watermelons by the use of chemically treated seed and blossoms. A Chinese graduate student did the work with success. A considerable number of winter sweet watermelons ripened without seeds. Some of you may remember the plant at Fargo which produced seedless fruit in 1936. Perhaps it can now be duplicated artificially. The originator of the Gem everbearing strawberry called last week. He lives 95 miles from here and thinks he has newer ones that are still better. Surprises have been to find Russian thistles a pest here and also to see miles of willow winbreaks planted on muck soils, with narrow cultivated strips planted to vegetables, thus escaping wind damage. Golden Bantam is the corn usually packed by canning factories here, however it is not old fashioned Golden Bantam, but the hybrid variety Golden Cross Bantam, which is a few days later, but more attractive and larger. Golden Cross should be good in the Dakotas for that season. Frozen vegetables continue to increase in importance every year. The U. S. 1938 pack on October 1st was nearly 70,000,000 pounds. This is a strange industry because the freezing method was first used extensively by the growers themselves, to preserve their own supply in rented lockers and later taken up by commercial concerns. T. A. Merrill, in Michigan Quarterly Bulletin, warns of the danger of killing trees with kindness, first, by over-treat-

ing with P. D. B. for borers, which are also the borers which kill plum trees and, second, by over-fertilizing newly-planted trees. Water conditioning for greenhouses, lawns and gardens, is the subject of Michigan Circular Bulletin 166. It tells how to treat irrigation water to maintain a suitable reaction. For you irrigators, that means to keep the soil from being alkaline.

A new outlet for fruits has been provided by Sigmund Scisorek, a California chemist, through his recent invention of a magic soda straw. When you're thirsty, Mr. Scisorek hands you a glass of plain water and a number of straws. If you draw one, you'll get lemonade, on another grape juice, still another cherryade—all out of the same water. The straws are stuffed with cotton linters, each impregnated with a different natural fruit flavor.—Country Home.

One of the freaks of the late New England hurricane is thus described by the editor in Horticulture: The tidal wave worked its way deeply under a handsome lawn near the seashore, lifted the entire lawn and kept it intact while carrying it far inland. And when the lawn was deposited in its new location, a large tree which had stood in its center for many years was still there, erect and apparently flourishing.

## THE PIONEER SEED HOUSE

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## LATE EXPERIENCES

by  
W. E. H. Porter



W. E. H. Porter

Last spring a friend paid us and the garden a visit. On expressing admiration something of which we had a surplus, we begged acceptance of a few. Two months later we returned the visit and were presented with a rooted cutting of a begonia. This is now, in November, a fine plant in very full bloom, stocky, with bright green foliage and bunches of flowers, carried well up. The buds are dark pink, opening to paler blue. On looking it up in Bailey, it answers description of Gloire de Lorraine, introduced by Lemoine in 1892, a hybrid of *B. socotrana* and *Dregei*; in fact, probably a sport of Gloire de Lorraine named Glory of Cincinnati that bloomed in December, 1908 and was introduced to the trade in 1910. Its characteristic is durability, and satiny texture of bloom, which my plant certainly shows; I was not the loser in this transaction. Nov. 28th. In the outside garden the only sign of life are numerous rabbit tracks in the snow, which induced me to hurriedly clap a large bottomless pail over my one *Daphne mezereum*; in other respects the "Dark Angel" has assumed control and the somber green of our newly planted upright *Jap yew* is in perfect keeping with the "status quo." A contrasting picture comes from the British Isles, which although in a more northerly latitude, are under the benign influence of the Gulf Stream; the setting is a garden in the county of Gloucestershire, in south central England and represents a tour of inspection, made by a relative on October 16th, 1938. The letter follows: "I have just been strolling around the garden, to see what shrubs are in blossom, or in their autumn garments today. First that maple, (*Acer negundo* boxelder) seed you sent me is now quite growing up, about 15 feet high, I should say and with charming golden leaves, while in front of it is a Persian lilac with red and brown foliage. A sumac, close by, has not turned yet, but I expect it will be a rich, deep red in a few days. The yellow winter jasmine has a few sprays in blossom but we want it to come on later. The scented verbenas are still green and close to it I have a lovely scarlet salvia, fully out. It must be about six feet high and hardy; then next comes the large leaved myrtle, with its white blossoms and near it is a small leaved one, covered with buds, but the frost will come, I fear, before it opens. On the wall farther on, the blue *caryopteris* is fully out and near it a *viburnum Fragens* is showing

its sweet, pinkish blossoms, but we count on it being at its best on Christmas day. I have a white and a red *clerodendron* in flower, but they are disappointing as they don't like being picked. My favorite *veronica Bolryoi* is out in the rock garden and I see more *veronica* in bloom, the common purple, but of course most of these shrubs are over now. The bladder senna is still gay and the *Lysteria* still has its long tresses and several kinds of *berberis*, with bright berries. The Judas trees are green but I lost a branch from one of the bigger ones in a gale. Do you know the snowberry, a troublesome thing for creeping about, but the bunches of white balls are very pretty, tightly packed, 12 or so together. I have some in the house now and they are very effective. We still have pink *hydrangeas* in bloom, but I have not managed to get any blue ones. There is a *magenta cistus* flowering, but I don't care much for it, also a scarlet fuchsia. The silk tassel bush is full of bloom, but at its best about Xmas. Gooseberry fuchsia is rather a curiosity, just beginning to come into leaf; it is so odd to see its fresh green twigs, when other shrubs, except evergreens are all brown or bare." Commenting on some of the things mentioned, the *Viburnum fragens* would be a relative of our high bush cranberry and the *caryopteris* is not even root hardy with us. The *veronicas* referred to are probably figworts of the genus *Hebe*, mostly evergreen shrubs, certainly not hardy in N. D. Our tree *hydrangea* is winter hardy but flowers so late in fall as to be worthless. Likely the fuchsia is *megellanica*, hardy with protection in N. Y. state and the snowberry probably is *Chiogenes*, that would not grow under our arid conditions and by the way, the English think that they have a monopoly of garden pests, with their creeping snowberry; well, they haven't, we have the Chinese lantern. It will be interesting to note when such hardy things as *Daphne mezereum*, witch hazel and Xmas rose (*Hellebore*), that brighten English gardens in mid-winter, will bloom with us; I am trying all three. My two years' experience with fall blooming European *crocus sativus* has been unfortunate, for though the spring foliage is on time, no fall blooms have so far materialized.

A hedge that intrigued me much at the recent Toronto flower show was one made by using Chinese Elm. This tree, closely clipped like privet while young, develops into a dense ornamental hedge. The sample hedge around one garden in Toronto was about 30 inches tall and until the attendant informed me, I was at a loss to recognize it. I was assured that this elm becomes more and more dense with each clipping and, unlike privet, is unaffected by the severe Canadian winters.—Roving Gardener in Horticulture.