

# NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

NOVEMBER 1940

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**THE WOODCOCK**
 by  
 O. A. Stevens


O. A. Stevens

This bird is probably unknown to most residents of North and South Dakota unless they have formerly lived farther east. It is a familiar bird in the game history of eastern United States, and it was found through the eastern states and northern Canada, wintering from the Ohio Valley to the Gulf Coast. In North Dakota it was never more than a rare straggler, very few cases of its occurrence here being known. Dr. Roberts records that it was never abundant enough in Minnesota, except perhaps along the southeastern border, to make it object of special pursuit.

Wilson's snipe, or Jack snipe as it is more commonly called, probably has been mistaken for the woodcock. The latter is a more stocky bird and less seen in the open. It is reddish brown below, darker brown above, streaked and spotted so as to be practically invisible among dead leaves. The bill is long, the neck very short, the eyes set high and far back in the head. The woodcock has the top of the head cross-barred, with yellowish, the snipe has spots on its underparts. Wildlife Research Bulletin No. 1, recently published by the U. S. Department of the Interior, has good colored pictures of the two species and full discussion of food habits.

The American woodcock was discovered by early explorers and first known as the "little woodcock", it being similar to, but smaller than the woodcock of the eastern hemisphere which extends all the way from the British Isles to Japan and occasionally wanders to America.

The woodcock has been referred to as the owl among shore birds, a wood nymph and a hermit of the alders. It is largely nocturnal in its habits, and prefers shaded places along streams with soft banks. During migrations they may be found in more open places, sometimes in parks or city dooryards. At mating time the males indulge in a peculiar flight, coming out at dusk and perhaps continuing through the night. They circle high in the air with a peculiar twittering which is generally believed to be produced by the wing feathers, then drop slowly down with a series of musical notes.

The nests are placed on the ground in woods, thickets or weedy corners. Among dead leaves the nest and the brown bird are well concealed.

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Mr. Bent wrote that in 40 years he had seen but one with eggs and that was shown him by another party. The eggs are usually four, somewhat pointed or rounded, about an inch and one-half long, buffy, with fine brown spots. The young are brooded for a day or two and sometimes are carried away by the old bird, held between her feet.

The woodcock feeds chiefly upon earthworms. The long bill is inserted into soft soil and the upper part of the bill can be raised somewhat, permitting the worm to be seized without withdrawing the bill. It is believed that

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## NEWSLANTS

by  
Harry A. Graves



H. A. Graves

North Dakota horticulture has lost another good friend in the death, September 4, of Dr. Tracy E. Barber, of Grand Forks. Under the name of The Sioux Gardens, Dr. Barber and sons have been active in the growing of glads in Grand Forks for several years. He had a fine display of glads at our 1937 meeting in Grand Forks and also spoke to the group at that time. Dr. Barber had been a native of Grand Forks since 1910 and is a brother of Clare Barber of

Mitchell, South Dakota, who has won fame as the originator of the Firesteel tomato.

Under the date of September 14, past-president A. L. Truax, of Crosby, sends in some rather interesting contributions to this column. I quote directly from his letter:

"My Sapa plum, planted in 1918 and therefore 22 years old, bore heavily this year, although it is rated as of second degree hardiness and the life of the hybrid plums is usually 12 to 15 years. It has had no special treatment other than having the old and dead wood cut out each year. My Hanska plum also 22 years old, bore one and one-half bushels this season.

"**Adonis vernalis**, spring flowering, brilliant yellow perennial, which I have mentioned in my articles as hardy and desirable for the Dakotas, may be obtained from the Aiken Nurseries, Putney, Vermont. It is very scarce and I searched long before finding a source where plants may be obtained."

I have not met Mr. Truax since he presided at the annual meetings of the North Dakota Society in Fargo in 1936. As I recall now, he and his wife were just starting out on their travels, and I recall very well Mr. Truax saying that while they were going on an extended trip, he had always heard that anyone who lived in North Dakota long enough to drink three barrels of this hard water would never leave it permanently. He said since he had consumed several barrels of it, he would be back some day.

Charles D. Mandigo, one of our members from Bismarck, sent in some interesting observations on tomato varieties he grew this year. Mr. Mandigo grew the variety N. D. 40, and, while it did well for him, he does not believe it can replace Red River in his garden. He also found that with the John Baer variety he got five

times as much fruit from vines which he left unpruned in comparison with vines that he staked and pruned. He does not plan to grow the John Baer next year, however, since he thinks it has too large a vine for the backyard garden, and is also too late most years for North Dakota.

While in New Rockford earlier this fall, I broke my glasses, which, at the time I thought was a misfortune. However, I was directed to the office of A. R. Hawkinson, jeweler and optician, and during our conversation found that he had once been a member of the North Dakota Horticultural Society and a great friend of Dr. Yeager's. He told me that he once had 10,000 glads of his own and still has 165 plants of peonies with 85 varieties represented. We hope to have Mr. Hawkinson back in the fold of the Horticultural Society before another year rolls around.

P. B. Rognlie, who at one time had a sizeable nursery at Esmond, still carries on a certain amount of work along horticultural lines. He made a cross a few years ago between the Anoka and Haralson apples. One of the seedlings from this cross bore a good crop this year and looked very much worthwhile. However, a severe wind blew most of the fruit from the tree. Sister seedlings of this apple were very different, resembling Dolgo in size. The fact that these seedlings produced their first fruits in 1939 after being grown from seed planted in 1936 indicated their Anoka parentage.

If members will turn to page 5 in the August issue of the **AMERICAN FRUIT GROWER**, they will notice that the new hormone spray designed to prevent apple drop has been given the name "Harvest Spray." While I suppose this name is good enough, I am sure most everyone will agree that the name submitted by Adrian Fox, who, in addition to being one of our members, is also Area Biologist and Forester with the Soil Conservation Service, at Mandan, is a much more descriptive title. Mr. Fox's suggested name for the spray was "Stemlock."

Ole Grottodden and I had the pleasure of visiting for a time, recently, with R. L. Wodarz, of Wyndmere. Mr. Wodarz had a display of several varieties of apples in a booth at the Wyndmere Corn Show. R. L. is able to fruit many of the varieties recommended by the Geneva, New York Station by top working them on *Malus baccata* trunks. He had McIntosh apples that were fair size and very good eating quality; also, other varieties too numerous to mention. His choice of all the varieties he grows was perhaps the Perkins, a variety that has not proved to be too hardy at the Minnesota Fruit Breeding Farm.

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by  
H. E. Beebe

### November Numbs Nature



H. E. Beebe

The sumach and woodbine around Ipswich are beautiful due to the lateness of killing frost. Mrs. Beebe gathered petunias on Oct. 13 for church bouquets and several other flowers were still blossoming.

The avenues of trees in Ipswich were yellow and a light red, not as beautiful as the oaks of Missouri and some maples in Vermillion where the flower of the Librarians met on the 11th.

I had the pleasure of a visit with my former engineering mentor, Dean Akeley.

Mrs. Akeley told of her experience on a claim north of Cottonwood. When they left in the fall, they brought branches up to ten feet long from a gully over a mile away, and stuck them in the ground all around the claim shanty just to have one view of foliage before leaving. Perhaps some of the efforts to plant large areas and long avenues in the more arid parts of Dakotas will meet with similar results.

Mrs. Briley, now a full fledged librarian at Dell Rapids wishes the Horticultural Society to sponsor a 25 acre pine tree plot near one of the main highways in the Black Hills, this is the logical place for pine trees, and will be brought up at the Sisseton meeting.

### Peaches, Please President

Mrs. Winona A. Lyon of Sioux Falls is one of the few South Dakotans growing peaches on trees. She has five trees loaded with fruit in her back yard, this fall and sent up several dozen, perhaps to show that the can of peaches which she so kindly gave me at Sioux Falls, were not from the corner grocer.

There are many fruits and flowers which could be cultivated in this part of the United States if protection was given from the air, both summer and winter, and Mrs. Lyon's great success with these peaches is an example.

Mobridge is planning a Garden Club of young active members, and we are looking for glowing reports this coming summer.

One of the standbys of the Bridge City, is Mrs. C. E. Lennan who recently made a gift of \$10.00 to our Society. Mrs. Lennan's husband was in the same business as myself—Farm Real Estate, and saw the ups and downs of this great

prairie country, and Mrs. Lennan knows what can and cannot be done with horticulture on the prairies.

### Pieasing Plant Premiums

Some time ago the Secretary of the Minnesota Society wrote that they received one to two thousand trees and plants from the State Fruit Breeding Farm, for trial purposes by those who sent in their \$1.00 memberships.

Prof. Davis of our own State College Department of Horticulture stopped the other day on the way to Isabel to locate some roots and seed of the Indigo plant which grows wild along the Missouri River.

Davis says that he is considering a similar action and if this is put into effect it should increase the membership of the Society as the added premium list will be very attractive. It would really seem that if Minnesota State College thinks best to do this, that perhaps ours would find it worth while to follow suit. This action would certainly benefit our Society and increase the interest of South Dakotans in Horticulture and the State College.

### Horticultural Hints

The Consumers Guide for July 1940 gives accurate description of poisonous plants with pictures. Send 5c to Supt. of Documents.

Sam Bober will speak at Sisseton meeting, Nov. 25th and 26th on "Horticulture and the Good Life." Sam may say something about good life in Russia from which he returned just in time a year ago.

A recent advertisement in a Dakota paper was, "Send Mother a Gift of Hardly Ever Blooming Rose Bushes."

This reminds me of spring directions for gardeners: "Spade the ground up, hose, rake carefully and then pant."

The November message in poetry is by Angela Morgan, and is entitled, "November Morn."

The grape-sweet air, and apple tinted sunshine,

The fruity look of hills and mountains,

Wind-brown against a clean white sky;

Air which I drink and drink again

Like some intoxicating juice....

This is November!

At the wedding reception the young man remarked: "Wasn't it annoying the way that baby cried during the whole ceremony?" "It was simply dreadful," replied the prim little maid of honor, "when I get married I'm going to have printed right in the corner of the invitations: "No babies expected."—Virginia Fruit.





## PRE-WAR DENMARK

by  
Sam H. Bober



A Danish Formal Garden

its back small villages, scattered square-built and straw thatched buildings, farms, groves of beech trees, windmills, dairies and white churches with red roofs. And you notice the large crane birds standing in their tree nests, resting on one foot. The small towns and farms are beautiful because of the flower-loving habits of the Danish people, who plant flowers and shrubbery not only in public squares and in parks but also in front of, behind and between buildings and residences. The 3,500,000 people in Denmark live in an area that is one tenth the size of Sweden, one eighth that of Norway or Finland.

While the resources of the other Scandinavian countries are plentiful, Denmark has only one important national resource, the tilled soil. They told us that while the soil is not particularly productive, the mild climatic condition, with its variations from sunshine to rain, is favorable to agriculture.

There is neither coal nor metal in Denmark and since raw materials for industry are scarce, the solution of agricultural problems as they have appeared from time to time has been of vital importance to the entire country.

In Copenhagen, a city of a million population, there are very few cars in evidence but there are 400,000 bicycles in use on the streets and highways. Men, women and children use them and it is not uncommon to see a mother riding a bike and carrying the baby in a basket perched in front on the handlebars. We noticed that the Danish people and later on in Sweden and

Finland, the Scandinavian people do not rush like we do. They probably get along on less but live easier and perhaps on the average are a little happier than we are with more of the luxuries of life. When we asked a Danish citizen about transportation he told us: "In this country there are only three classes of people who have cars, the rich people, people who need cars in their business, and fools. I belong to none of these classes so I ride a bicycle."

The farms are small, about 25 acres on an average for most of them, intensive cultivation and diversified crops were in evidence and good farming was responsible for good crops. The main products of the Danish farms are butter, bacon and eggs, which are exported mostly to the British Isles. We noticed too, fields of sugar beets and of vegetable gardening closer to Copenhagen. Our first visit to a Danish farm was most surprising. One of our group called out: "I wish you would come in this barn and see the cleanest pigs you have ever seen in your life." Now I have seen many pigs in my life, I had charge of livestock experimental work at the Government station at Newell for nine years, but I never saw pigs just like these, pure white to begin with and in a white-washed room with clean straw. "This must be an exceptional farm you have," we remarked, and were told, "it is in no way exceptional." It was explained that when the Danish farmer is permitted to put the mark of the cooperative on his product, his method of production must be identical with those of all the other farmers in the cooperative, that every pig in Denmark has the same good breeding background. Most Danish farmers have a 7 or 8 year rotation of crops on the small as well as the large farms, the only difference being that the small farms cultivate comparatively more root crops for their cattle. On medium soils the rotation is often: (1) Wheat or rye, (2) root crops, (3) barley, (4) clover and grass, (5) oats, (6) root crops, (7) mixed cereals used for dairy feed. Because of limited acreage, farmers' cattle in the pasture were tied to a set of pegs with ropes, spaced in military formation, equal distance from each other all facing the same way. These cattle would pasture off the grass around them, then they would be moved forward and so on until the field was pastured off and then they were started over. At present 94% of the farm lands are cultivated by the owners, the remainder on lease. They secure loans from their Cooperative Credit Ass'ns. at reasonable rates of interest. The state assists an agricultural worker 25 years of age with 4 years experience, of good reputation, to become an own-

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## FROST COMES TO THE GARDEN

by  
W. E. H. Porter



Once again we are on the threshold of our long northern winter, a living death, hopeless indeed without the sure and certain resurrection of spring. With summer's departure of vegetative luxuriance, we also mourn the loss of bird music. Even the cheerful chattering of blackbirds is preferable to the monotonous chirping of house sparrows, a year round visitation. But what an expiring glow of autumn glory is granted the nature lover in field, with its well earned fruits of the soil, in wood with the flaming colors of dying foliage and in the garden with lovely fall asters, chrysanthemums, a climax of long summer growth and Violas, delphiniums, baby breath, yarrow, blanket flower, marguerites, hardy sages, white mignonette and other annuals, all continuing the summer tradition with bloom untarnished by blistering heat. A glance thru my diary reveals: Sept. 5th. Third day of hot dry heat, 94 in shade. Jap Table Pine set out in May putting out green needles, Shoo Fly plant, the annual Apple of Peru in full bloom, second bloom on Hansa rose. Sept. 11th. The wand-like *Helianthus orgyalis* 7 ft. 2 inches tall and ready to flower, plants are in 3rd year, an ice making frost is tempered by ground warmth. Sept. 15th. Mrs. Fanny Heath aster in bloom, ray florets dark orchid purple, flowers 1½ inches in diameter. Harvested crab apples; fruit large and juicy of unusual quality. Beautiful is our horse chestnut, foliage a bright ruddy brown. Sept. 19. Temperature 80, flowers expand, hawthorn scented mugwort in full bloom; like all artemisias the flowers are insignificant but very numerous; this is a good background species, foliage dark green much like that of golden glow, topped by heavy massed cream tassels, fragrance very pervading at sundown; plants are yard high. Two of Will's mums, red Mantico and pink rose Laramie are out; found a 2nd albino New Zealand Delphinium; both this year's seedlings and in full bloom. Borsch's yard high aster Harrington's pink in bloom; the shade of pink is both rare and beautiful, classed as Rose Bengal in R. Hort. Soc. color chart. Sept. 25th. Few blooms unscathed after last night's heavy frost; they include Oscar Will's Giant daisy, each plant with from 70 to 100 blossoms, tho their cousins the hardy chrysanthemums

were all badly burned. Undamaged also was Fanny Heath aster, *Daphne cneorum*, also Delphiniums, Harrington's pink aster showed slight damage—some rays frozen white. A last rose of summer contest between Hansa, (2nd bloom) and George Will resulted in survival of Hansa by a day, a pyrric victory however for George Will blooms were more perfect, larger and fragrant. Sept. 29th. Large amethyst violet daisies on the Tohoka daisy (*Machaeranthera tanacetifolia*). I can find this lovely thing listed only in Claude Barr of Smithwick, S. D., seed offerings of last spring. What a pity that it is an annual. Previous to the last heavy frost I transplanted a few small portulacas in small cans; they are blooming freely indoors; all the specimens in the garden being frozen to the ground. Oct. 2nd. With a return to night temperatures of 50 and warm, generally sunny days the garden flames with fall color, asters in pink, red, violet blue, etc. Lingerling summer bloom on achilleas, delphs, violas, pansies, flax, linarias, everywhere lemon yellow masses of never failing *Anthemis Kelwayi*, why is the species *saneta* Johnnis made so much of. My specimens are quite dingy by comparison with *Kelwayi*. Renewed blooms on hardy mums are grand, the brightest and most cheerful being Will's canary yellow double Algonquin. And even *Geranium sanguineum* sports one last out of season petunia purple flower. The Northwest poplar is bare of foliage, its relative the aspen assumes a rich yellow with Cotoneaster and Chinese elm an unchanged green and fragrance from a many colored bed of annual wallflowers reminds that summer's departure is still quite recent.

That fellow who, one rainy day, found the crows roosting under the scare-crow's coat, must now take a back seat. Herb Collins reports that pheasants were eating his hybride golden bantam corn as fast as it matured, so he went to a lot of trouble wrapping the swelling ears in newspapers. Next morn, stealthily approaching the field to observe results, he found the pheasants intent on the war news, while casually eating the corn.—The Earthworm.

A fruit tree in full load is one of the most marvelous objects in nature. We can not understand how the work is done, how such abundance is produced, and how such color and substance and flavor and faultless form are derived of the crude elements of soil and sunshine and air. It gives of itself out of all proportion to the care and affection that we bestow on it. It is a very sermon in liberality.—New York State Fruit News.





## LETTER FROM DR. YEAGER to the NORTH DAKOTAN



Dr. A. F. Yeager

### Climates Resembles North Dakota

Three eventful years have passed since I was in North Dakota. You are to be congratulated upon arriving at a happy settlement of some of the educational difficulties then present. North Dakota Agricultural College is certainly one of the finest institutions of its kind in the country. Its faculty and spirit will rank with the best, and no one need hesitate to send his boy or girl to that institution for his college work.

The University of New Hampshire where I am now located is within 11 miles of Portsmouth where the U. S. has a large submarine base. The state as a whole has a climate varying from that in which peaches may be grown to perfection to places where it is difficult to raise anything. For the most part it is much cooler in summer and the humidity much higher than in N. D., but the problems in many areas are much the same. A great many experiments are under way here at the U. of New Hampshire which should eventually benefit N. D. The new North Dakota raspberry Ruddy is one of the two varieties which came thru the last winter without damage, here at Durham. There is a need for earlier varieties of tomatoes and for muskmelons that will mature in a shorter season—for that matter, ones which will prosper with cooler temperatures than melons are used to out in the middle west. Breeding muskmelons, tomatoes, watermelons, eggplant, blueberries, blackberries, strawberries, raspberries, and squash are leading projects. More breeding work with tree fruits may be added. We are also interested in improving the butternut which is a native of this region. This tree was found to be quite hardy and productive at Fargo. All these things indicate that at least part of my work here is not far removed from North Dakota, after all, excepting from a standpoint of distance. I still believe that North Dakota people need to make better use of their natural climatic advantages. I do not believe that there is any place where onions can be produced so cheaply as in favored sections of the Red River Valley. People who have made a success of raising sugar beets might well try out a small acreage of onions during the coming year, remembering always that the first requisite of a profitable

onion crop is to see that the land is absolutely free from weeds before the onions are planted. New Hampshire is the lilac state. It is our state flower. We have a lilac project here at the University including the testing of new varieties and breeding work with the plant. Possibly some day we may produce new varieties of lilacs which will be of interest and value to North Dakota people. The fact that lilacs do so well in North Dakota provides another link between us. I believe the idea which Mr. Arvold set forth of lining the roadsides with lilacs is the most practical thing in the roadside planting line proposed for North Dakota conditions. Two days were spent by members of our Horticultural staff this spring taking colored pictures and notes on the great lilac plantation at Arnold Arboretum, located in the suburbs of Boston. Since it is only 65 miles from here there is no difficulty in running down every now and then to check upon the project. A day or two at the North Dakota experiment station these days, looking at the new material which the staff there is now producing, and learning what has happened to the test plots of breeding material and varieties which were planted there some years ago should be interesting. Undoubtedly recommendations which I made would now have to be revised. Perhaps new things which were considered doubtful a few years ago could now be put on the list as being suitable. Change is what makes such work interesting. There are always many new things coming on and much to learn about the old. A life devoted to the study of such things wherever one finds himself must always be interesting and satisfying.

—NORTH DAKOTAN.

### SOME BIRD TRAVELS

by

O. A. Stevens

Most birds of our northern regions travel south for winter. The snowy owl, redpoll and snow bunting come down to us from the arctic. Some of the Lapland longspurs and horned larks may remain with us all winter. Tree sparrows and juncoes are a bit less hardy. They may stay in southern South Dakota, but scarcely in North Dakota. The southern half of the United States is the winter home of many species. Still others seek tropical lands or shores of Central and South America. At least ten percent of the North American species reach South America. These include the warblers, flycatchers, and other insectivorous types as well as many of the waders which are scattered along the coasts and

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## FRUIT AND VEGETABLE NOTES

by  
F. X. Wallner



F. X. Wallner

On the 21st of September, at 3:30 P. M. the last onion of my crop rolled down the topper; four weeks topping the best crop ever, but that does not mean that all varieties were good. However, all matured early and we had not the green late ones and scullions or stiff necks one sees in the onion sections of the country, but they are maturing now that the late hot weather holds out.

Maine will harvest 45 million bushels of potatoes this year, a gain of over 6 million bushels over last year. The growers will be paid 14½ cents per bushel for No. 2 grade, if diverted to starch and dextrine. The country as a whole will have 19 million bushels more potatoes than last year. The FSCC will buy 200 car loads of potatoes in Minnesota and 100 car loads in North Dakota, up to Sept. 25th at 55 to 60 cents per hundred pounds.

Apple week begins Oct. 24th, but the restaurants and other eating places will observe apple month all thru November. The U. S. will harvest a few less tons of grapes than in 1939 but still a crop of 2½ million tons and the dry bean crop will be 30 million bushels. Sept. 25th. Another frost last night finished most of the tomatoes and other crops that were frosted two weeks ago. In the state gardens, north of the city of Sioux Falls, the children, the needy and poor were allowed to get melons, tomatoes and other vegetables not needed by the institution, but there were many big new cars there, belonging to people that could well afford to buy these things. Millions of Holland bulbs were destroyed this spring because there was no demand for them from bulb importers in belligerent nations. Some were ground into flour. Some ground into cattle feed and the largest share burned. Only one customer turned away this season because we did not have Ponderosa tomatoes! I told her it was too rough and late to be a favorite fruit compared to so many other good kinds, and here is a good account of it in the NATIONAL SEEDSMAN: "Ponderosa is so late and the plants are so large and spreading and the fruits so large and irregular in shape and so delicate that they are seldom grown commercially." This article states further that Dwarf Stone and Dwarf Champion are recommended for gardens of limited space. To this I say that both are

too late and shy bearers and any of Dr. Yeager's determinate plants yield more, are a month earlier and take up less room. With the stamp plan in operation in most of the larger cities, I wonder where the surplus marketing administration is going to send all the car loads of potatoes they are buying in all parts of the country. Between Oct. 1st and 15th they have offered to buy 150 car loads in New Jersey, 200 cars in Long Island, 300 cars in Colorado, 400 car loads more in North Dakota and 200 in Minnesota. I suppose the west will get some of the eastern potatoes and the east will get the western potatoes. Millions of thrifty tomato seedlings are growing around the tank where the light seed was run off the water and it proves that seed does not have to settle to the bottom to be good. A garden club member wants to know if our Horticultural Society president is talking from experience or just hearsay when he is handing out the advice of love making to widows. The largest grower of produce in Iowa has about 300 car loads of potatoes and onions in storage this fall, most all grown on peat soil near Clear Lake.

Victor tomato, one of Dr. Yeager's introductions while at Michigan State College, will be cataloged next year. This may be the one we had this season under No. 40 and is of the Bison type. It received special mention as a worthwhile variety in the field day in New York, Sept. 16th. Iowa's apple crop is more than one-third larger than last year, or 518,000 bushels and 146,000 bushels of pears, a 5% gain over last year and a 5 million bushel crop of potatoes, which is a little less than last year. The yield was 95 bushels per acre for the state, while for the nation it was 126 bushels per acre.

### PRE-WAR DENMARK

(Continued from page 125)

er. Neighbors must testify to his honesty, industry and ability to manage a farm and he must be able to supply one tenth of the money needed for the purchase of land, stock and buildings, and must not already possess a small farm.

Grafting in New York means one thing: Out in the mountains, where the air is fresh, the cows are ditto, and apples are on trees instead of pushcarts, grafting means fastening a tiny limb of a good apple tree onto the trunk of one of the kind that customers forget. In a few years the tree has a crop of good apples, unless there is a freeze, a drought, a hailstorm, aphids, codling moth, crown-gall, sun-scald, spray-burn, or just plain worms; or all of these.—C. R. Miller in *The Mountaineer Grower*.





## SECRETARY'S CORNER

by  
W. A. Simmons



Writing from his home, Shoshoni, Wyo., our friend and fellow life member, Mr. E. L. Crabb, says: "In your issue of October I note that you have struck one hybrid plum which you acknowledge to be very fine in flavor and that is the Superior. I think that it is about as fine in flavor as any native plum I have ever tasted and you know that I have tried a goodly number of them. I got this of mine a year ago and this year it attained a growth of 7½ feet, rather sprawling, and it had a fine crop of very fine plums on it which were as large and fine as anything that I ever raised. It stood 30 degrees below zero last winter, so I guess it can stand your climate O. K. Have only one fault to find with it, that it is a little late but as we are over 4800 feet up in the air and you are over 3000 feet lower, it would be alright for most of the Dakotas." A letter from the Sociedad PanAmerica, Casilla 315, Quito, Ecuador, offers a good will package for a dime. This consists of a list of Ecuadorean merchandise and trade offerings, Ecuadorean stamps of the latest issue, an Ecuadorean pocket-piece and a packet of good-will seeds of the beautiful Ecuadorean "Passion Flower" which may be pot-grown in North America. The postage to Ecuador is but 3 cents. Our Lady of the Hardy Peach, Mrs. W. A. Lyon, recently brot me a generous basket of this years crop. While not large, the delicious peach flavor is all there and they would be a very welcome addition to any home orchard. Many of the pits are now planted in our garden where we hope they will grow into bearing trees, as this variety seems to come quite true to seed. Why some of our nurserymen are not propagating this peach is a mystery to me. The program committee has arranged a very interesting array of speakers for our annual meeting Nov. 25th and 26th at Sisseton. Past President Hilborn, President Will and Secretary Graves have all promised to attend, from the North Dakota Society and probably there will be others from that state. The dates are for Monday and Tuesday, which allows everyone to attend to their fire insurance on Sunday morning, then hop into their cars and arrive in Sisseton before dark. This system is not original; it was taken from the N. D. Society's plan for their Valley City meeting and

it appealed to many of our members as not breaking into the entire week so seriously as when the meeting straddled the middle days, like Wednesday and Thursday. Oct. 18th. On this, the dead line for going to press, the zinnias, morning glories and Harmony marigolds used in the foundation planting on the south side of the courthouse are still untouched by frost and blooming freely. Apparently the warmth and protection of the building saved them from being frozen to death the night this week when the temperature got down to 30, which ended most things in our garden. This morning we noticed a hollyhock and many petunias and pansies still blooming bravely, even in the open garden. Death, always an unwelcome visitor in our family, is equally so in the garden, but perhaps gardening would not be so popular, were it not for the long vacation from it, we get in the winter. We might get to hate it if we had to pull weeds and fight insect pests the year round. Most of us load our windows with all the plants we can crowd into them and take a postman's vacation, by doing all the indoor gardening possible during the winter. However, the weeds don't bother us in our indoor activities tho the constant battle with mealy bugs occupies much of our spare time and keeps Satan from having to think up mischief for us to perpetrate. The only thing that seems to slow them up is "ill natured" alcohol; I used to lay it on with a pipe cleaner, but found this far too slow to keep up with their birth rate, so I now use the brush end of the typewriter eraser and find this a great time saver. About two goings over a week keeps the plants in condition to dispel the illusion that snow has sifted in and covered leaves and stems of the plants. It is a great pleasure to meet a plant like the red foliage plant *iresine* that mealy bugs don't molest. Apparently crotons are also exempt from their dietary, anyone that has swallowed croton oil can guess why.

### SOME BIRD TRAVELS

Continued from page 127.)

ponds of the interior, even to southern South America. The martin, barn swallow, nighthawk and cuckoo cross the tropics to temperate South America. The still unknown winter home of the chimney swift is thought to be in the upper Amazon region.

Preliminary experiments indicate that it may be possible to delay for a week or two the blooming of some varieties of fruit trees by spraying with hormones. It is, of course, only in the experimental stage, but will undoubtedly be watched with much interest.—Virginia Fruit.





## GOVERNOR BUSHFIELD TELLS OF STATE HOUSE GROUND TREES

by

Charles S. Weller

(Division of Horticulture, South Dakota  
Department of Agriculture)



Few people in South Dakota have a deeper love of trees than does Governor Bushfield.

Only recently I was talking to the governor in his office. The talk turned to trees. I was pleased to learn of his knowledge and interest in a subject which casually seems so far from government, or from his former law practice.

The governor is an advocate of all programs to increase the number of trees in South Dakota, and firmly convinced it can be done.

"In my home part of South Dakota," Governor Bushfield said, "a half century of farmers have proven by their tree planting that trees thrive on fertile soil the same as do other vegetative growth. Trees are, of course, sensitive to their environment, root competition with weeds, other trees and shrubs can rob them of soil water and hinder or destroy their growth.

"Man can conserve moisture or artificially supply it for the material benefit of trees. Even depending on natural rainfall, tree plantings in favorable situations have been permanently established in all sections of the state. It is my hope that all agencies concerned with tree planting will strive to extend the benefits of field and premise shelter plantings to all sections of the state."

The governor considers South Dakota's trees one of the most important blessings nature has given the state.

"While I would not overlook the blessing that nature has so abundantly bestowed upon South Dakota in the form of many nutritious grasses, still one must count the South Dakota native trees as an important blessing," he said. "I must admit my love for trees and my firm belief that suitable varieties of trees are adaptable to the conditions encountered in this large state.

He is greatly interested in the trees found

on the state property in Pierre, where even though most of the soil is gumbo, the use of water has made a nice growth possible.

Although he admits that the sixteen Ponderosa pines and the Black Hills and Colorado blue spruce excite the most comment of the trees to be found on the statehouse grounds, he personally prefers the trees native to the part of the state in which Pierre and his home town of Miller are located—such trees as American Elm, Ash, Cottonwood, Hackberry and Cedar. Other state house ground trees and shrubs include: Russian Olive, Bull Pine, Black Locust, Catalpa, Buck Thorn, Cotoneaster, Spirea, Honey Suckle, Flowering Plum, Rose Bushes, Caragana, Lilac, Mulberry, Currant, Sumac, Dogberry, Horse Chestnuts, Flowering Crab, Black Walnut, Chokecherry, Wild Plum.

The grounds of the governor's mansion give place for some fifteen varieties. "There is one boxelder which serves to remind me that this is a native tree, friendly to the pioneer because of its ability to survive the most adverse handicaps." He thinks that more boxelders should be planted over the state.

The governor's love of nature is not limited to trees. He commented on the beauty of the view from the governor's home across the little artesian water fed lake to the capitol building, which he said "is truly beautiful, made more so by the wild fowl that make their home there. One recent morning I counted seventy ducks and fifty-six geese, about half of them being this year's hatch."

"The philosopher, Emerson, said something about every difficulty of life being compensated in some manner or other. I wonder if he was thinking of trees? Trees are not a one year crop. The tree planter is considerate of others, not selfish. He is doing his part toward making this earth a happier dwelling place for those who come after him," the governor concluded.

### THE WOODCOCK

(Continued from page 122.)

the bird feels for the worms with its bill or sometimes listens for their movements. If the ground becomes too dry to hunt in this fashion they may feed upon various insects and other small animal forms.

They have long been popular game birds, for in the fall they are excellent eating and they start up quickly and fly swiftly. Like many other birds they have suffered in the past from excessive shooting. Night hunting with a light was a popular and destructive method, especially in their winter range where numbers of them were gathered together.



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**BOOK REVIEWS**

by  
Mrs. F. Briley



Mrs. F. Briley

The Garden Clinic; Care and Cultivation of Garden Favorites. Written and illustrated by Laurence Blair, 1940. Published by The Macmillan Company, 60 Fifth Ave., New York. Price, \$2.00.

No matter what the size of your book budget or the room on your book shelf, you will want this invaluable book immediately, because it tells of so many important and vital things that should be done to our gardens this fall such as, winter protection for digitalis and certain trees; winter storage of dahlias and other bulbs, fall pruning; fertilizing soil, etc. Glancing over the table of contents we note that this remarkable book includes chapters on annuals and perennials, irises, lilacs, roses, bulbs, evergreens, flowering shrubs, flowering trees, hedges, vines, water lilies, cut flowers. The object of the book is to tell gardeners how to care for their plants—how to prepare the soil which is to receive them, when to water, fertilize and cultivate them, how to prune them, how to discover their pests and diseases, how and when to use means of control, and how to determine the necessary winter protection. More than one hundred garden favorites are discussed in words and described in unique pictures which show their peculiarities, their habits, and their possibilities. Root pruning is plainly illustrated. You can't afford to be without this valuable book.

**NEWSLANTS**

(Continued from page 123.)

Mr. Wodarz has been a contributor to our premium list for several years.

We were fortunate in securing this above display and adding to it some apples, grapes, and strawberries from the orchard of Chris Geir at Edinburg, which, together with fruit from the Experiment Station, was set up in a display at the State Corn Show at Bismarck. Chris Geir sent us some of the largest Haralsons I have ever seen.

For the past two or three years, we have not had a definite policy in the North Dakota Society as to when the memberships expire or when dues should be paid. In the very near future, we hope to set up a few rules and regula-

tions governing the length of time a person can receive the magazine once his membership has expired. We hope to set up a policy of notifying members when their membership runs out in order that they may re-subscribe and not miss any numbers of the magazine. We know it is merely a matter of putting things off and not one of deliberately trying to get the magazine and maintaining membership without paying dues.

To anyone interested in the new varieties of potatoes, there is an interesting article on the subject in the September issue of the American Potato Journal, by Dr. F. J. Stevenson, Senior Geneticist with the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

We now have on hand several of the papers presented at the annual meeting of the North Dakota Society in Fargo on August 21-22. We are submitting these now to Editor Simmons for publication in the magazine. As they appear from time to time, I am sure you will agree that the meetings this year were too good to miss.

## THE PIONEER SEED HOUSE

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**SEEDS** sistance and Vigor to  
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