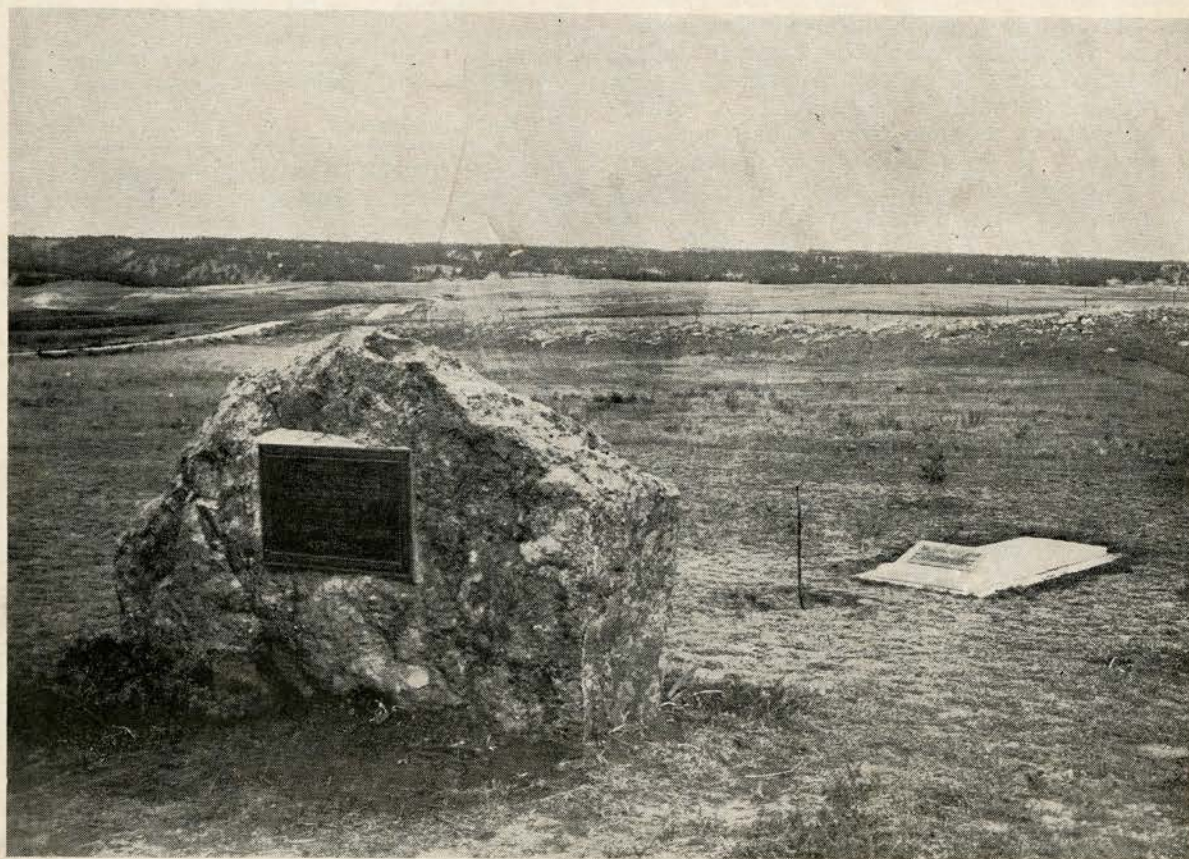


# NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

*South Dakota State  
College Library*

JANUARY, 1941



Final resting place and State Horticultural monument dedicated to the late John S. Robertson. The small tree near the grave is an apple tree planted by Thos. D. Miller.

Photo courtesy of H. R. Woodward





## THE HOUSE SPARROW

by  
O. A. Stevens



O. A. Stevens

This bird has almost always been called English Sparrow in the United States, but House Sparrow had been its name in Europe for centuries before it arrived in America. Perhaps barn sparrow would have been closer yet, but nothing comes closer to describing its position than its scientific name, *Passer domesticus*, which has come down from the oldest writers on natural history.

It is a native of Europe and western Asia presumably, but has spread over a large part of the world. Introduced into America first in 1850, it spread rapidly. There were later introductions and it is said to have been "planted" in as many as 33 different states and 100 cities. We often lament the error in judgment of introducing it to control insect pests, but it probably would have arrived by other means, in fact we wonder that it had not appeared earlier. It does seem to avoid tropical regions. It occurs all over Europe, in northern Africa, in a large part of Asia and Australia. It was introduced into Argentina about 1872 and has occupied a large part of temperate South America.

Several other species of *Passer* occur in Europe, Asia and Africa, but none of these seem to have such aggressive characters. One of them, the European tree sparrow, has been established at St. Louis, Missouri since 1870, but apparently has not spread. Recent authorities consider the house sparrow not closely related to our native sparrows, but perhaps closer to a family known as weaver birds. These are most abundant in Africa. Many of them are noisy and gregarious, build bulky nests, sometimes gathering together a large amount of material containing a number of nests. The Java sparrow, frequently seen as a cage bird, is a member of the group.

Some characters of the house sparrow were aptly summarized by the British author, H. W. Hudson: "exceedingly hardy, adaptive \* \* \* sagacious beyond most species \* \* \* never loses its suspicious habit, and of all birds is the most difficult to trap." The last statement hardly applies to the extensive trapping now carried on for banding purposes. The young ones are quite unwary but the old ones decidedly so. They

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are compact and muscular, not easily injured, always ready to take a chance on escape, whether by mere quick movement, or by squeezing through some crack or by swimming if need be.

The birds have always been considered permanent residents in a given locality. Of late years a number of banders have felt that there is considerable evidence of movements along with native species. They are not usually banded and the evidence is not yet clear. They are prolific breeders, though in this they are probably over-estimated. They have a distinct

(Continued on page 8.)





## NEWSLANTS

by  
Harry A. Graves



**H. A. Graves** Morse Seed Company has a series of interesting garticles in the **MARKET GROWERS JOURNAL**. The articles are titled "Old Vegetables and Some Not So Old." According to the article, spinach was first recorded in a Chinese work of the 7th or 8th century and got into Europe by way of Spain, where it was known as the "Prince of Vegetables" during the 12th century.

While celery appears to be more appreciated in the United States than in Europe, it was first blanched in Europe in 1670. The following amusing comment regarding this crop is taken from the August 9, 1924 issue of the **GARDENERS CHRONICLE**, an English Horticultural publication: "The Americans are very fond of raw celery, and in my early trips to that country in the early 80's, I very often saw guests at good hotels, as soon as they disposed of the regulation quantity of ice water, pour the contents of the salt cellar out on the table cloth and start eating the celery which was temptingly displayed in the long glass dishes full of water kept cool by lumps of sparkling ice, and continue to eat celery between each course throughout the meal." (Tastes in America have not changed much in the last 60 years, apparently).

Parsley was used as a garnish by the ancient Greeks and Romans before Christ, and it still clutters up our plates at banquets.

Horseradish is a native of eastern Europe, perhaps Finland or Russia, while the nightshade family, which includes the eggplant, tomato, pepper and potato, came from widely different sources. It is believed that the eggplant came from India, where a related wild species is still found, while the potato is believed to have originated in the highland of South America.

A letter has just been received from the editor of the **AMERICAN FRUIT GROWER** saying

the arrangement will be continued whereby grower members of our society will again receive the **AMERICAN FRUIT GROWER**. Your secretary is expected to supply this magazine with fruit notes from North Dakota in exchange. You can see now why it is so necessary that some of you members send me some of your observations from time to time.

The Model parsnip seed received from Asgro and distributed to a farmer in each county of the state in 1940 appears to be quite superior to varieties grown here in the past. This is especially true under dryland conditions, where it is often difficult to get enough size growth in our short growing season. This variety also appears to be very free from side branches, a common fault in some of the varieties grown to date under certain soil conditions. In talking with Henry Peterson, Moorhead truck gardener, regarding parsnips under irrigation, however, we find it is a problem to keep the parsnips from growing too large.

The Victor tomato developed by Dr. A. F. Yeager received a very nice write-up in the **MARKET GROWERS JOURNAL** for November. It has been awarded the All American bronze medal for 1941.

There has been some interest in this country in the production of vegetable seed, especially the perennials such as cabbage, which, in the past, has come to us largely from the now war-torn countries of Europe. The Vegetable Growers Association of America has asked the U. S. D. A. to gather information and make it available regarding the imports and domestic production of seed of our principal vegetable crops. A man was in the office recently inquiring as to the possibilities of producing spinach seed in North Dakota.

The Will Nursery has a beautiful new Mum under the name "Uinta". The best way I can describe it is to say that it is a striking shade of red in bud and burnt orange when open.

Note to Dr. N. E. Hansen: "Wayside Gardens lists Bechtel's Double Flowering Crab as **Malus iowensis**, variety **plena**. You will recall we discussed this at Sisseton."

Three good bulletins published by Iowa State College have recently come to my desk. They are as follows: Bulletin P-14, House Plants; Bulletin P-15, Sweet Corn Hybrids; Bulletin P-12, Gladiolus Culture in Iowa. They can be secured by writing to Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.

Anything unusual about these notes can be laid in part to the fact that they were dictated, while sick in bed with the flu, to a wife whose talents are more culinary than horticultural.



## TO AGAIN SELL LOW-PRICED TREES

by E. H. Everson, Secretary of Agriculture and  
Charles S. Weller, Assistant



E. H. Everson

during the last three years, for example, a half million tree seedlings and transplants were sold to an average of some fourteen hundred customers each year.

The varieties offered for 1941 will be substantially the same as the past season.

The first on our list is the American Elm, a tree native throughout the State. It, like most of the trees we offer, prefers sandy soil, and thrives well on sub-irrigated lands, although it gives a good account of itself on upland clay soils.

Next on our list is the Box Elder, another native tree that appreciates extra moisture found at stream sides and around lakes. The pioneer settler made much use of the Box Elder because it is easily established. It attains a size approximating that of the American Elm, making its best growth on sandy loam and on bottom lands. It is short lived on the clay soils of the uplands where it generally assumes a low bushy appearance, just right for wind protection. It has a reputation of being more subject to disease than some of the others, but observation during recent years does not substantiate this charge. South Dakota people are justified in

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture in 1941 will again distribute low-priced tree seedlings and transplants for farm planting. The law instructs the State Secretary of Agriculture to "co-operate with the United States Department of Agriculture \* \* in the procurement of forest trees, \* \* and their distribution at reasonable cost for \* \* farm building \* \* \* and fields."

In 1934, when the law went into effect, this Department sold 124,000 trees to 379 persons. Since then the sales have gradually increased until

giving the Box Elder a chance to re-establish its popularity.

Number three on our alphabetically arranged list is the Caragana, a shrub brought to America from the plains of Siberia. It is one of our best wind breakers, extends its branches close to the ground, adapts itself to sandy loam, and thrives on heavy clay soils. It is not adapted to sand and gravel locations nor wet low places. An objectionable feature of Caragana is that its leaves constitute a relished food for blister beetles and grasshoppers. Even though it may be defoliated repeatedly, it recovers surprisingly.

The next item is the popular Chinese Elm with its property of rapid growth, and its value for farmstead shelter planting. The writer admits a considerable prejudice against this introduced tree, but must acknowledge that it withstands adverse weather conditions, and gives a good account of itself on most bottom and upland soils. It is not a miracle tree and appreciates moisture as do all the others. It is subject to crotch split, and sometimes makes late fall growth, fails to harden for winter, and suffers consequent winter killing.

Cottonwood, the giant among South Dakota trees, is the fifth on our list. It probably possesses more friends among our pioneer farmer folks than any other. Naturally, it grows along the banks of streams, around lakes, and other places where its roots can be moist or even wet. It is not a dry-land tree by any means, and we have often been discouraged in its distribution because of the unjustified expectations of some of our customers that a baby Cottonwood may be placed on an upland prairie and, regardless of unfavorable moisture conditions, survive. If the Cottonwood becomes established during a favorable year, it is surely worthwhile. The Cottonwood of our prairies having attained a substantial size and consequently demanding much moisture was the first of our planted trees to succumb to drouth, but it left such an abundant legacy of firewood that the farmer is justified in re-establishing his Cottonwood grove by the planting of our cheap seedlings.

Next month, we shall record our approval for South Dakota of the Green Ash, Hackberry, Honey Locust, Russian Olive—and for hedge rows, the Sandcherry. For the Evergreens, we "stand pat" on Ponderosa Pines and Red Cedar. Remember, we sell low-priced tree seedlings and transplants, and that to you, our tree planting friends, in appreciation of your good-will and friendship, we extend our hearty greetings. It is our sincere wish that the New Year will bring you Happiness and much Success.



## MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

by  
W. R. Leslie



W. R. Leslie

October at the Morden Experimental Station was a favorable month. Almost an inch of rain fell during the last week. This was a desirable state of affairs as the soil was becoming decidedly dry. It is generally thought that, that first first consideration in Canadian prairie horticulture, winter hardiness, is directly and closely correlated with soil moisture conditions. A year ago the soil was painfully lacking in autumn moisture and the roll call of herbaceous and wood plants in spring was heavily punctuated with voids. Where home-makers had irrigated their plantings in October the lossage was lessened in large degree. Fortunate it is that many prairie farmers have made for themselves reservoir dug-outs and are equipping their estates with water-run facilities so that henceforth they will be able to saturate the upper root-zone soil shortly before freeze-up in seasons of short autumn precipitation.

A year ago snows came hardly at all. This November a substantial blanket floated gently down and comforted the prairie earth. This blessing reminds farmers that the snow ploughing scheme, so effectively worked out at the Scott Experimental Station in Saskatchewan, is now timely. Most prairie snowfall is comparatively dry and fluffy. It may fall evenly but usually it soon becomes the plaything of the winds and is rolled across the plains until it lodges in shelterbelts or accumulates as drifts in coulees or in the lee of buildings, brush, fences, or uncontrolled weed growth. The owner of the estate is largely master of his own fate in regard to snow holding. The snow plough, run up and down across the open fields, throws the snow in ridges. These trap not only local snowfall but much of that escaping from the fields of unconcerned neighbors on the west and north.

Straw mulch has been added to the conic earth mounds piled up against tender roses, to strawberry patches, and to needy herbaceous perennials. Brush has been strewn about the rock garden to hold snowfall and to prevent abrupt temperature changes of the plants.

It is important that recognition be made of the heavy populations of mice. Poisoned grain or chop and carrots placed under inverted boxes in the plantations is being effective. Entrance

holes in each end are made for convenience of these strongly competitive little rodents.

The International Peace Garden has been steadily growing in importance as a joint cooperative effort by citizens of the United States and Canada. It is not a No Man's Land. On the contrary, it aims to be Every Man's Land. During the past four years progress has been impressive. Unfortunately, 1940 sees a necessary let-up in activities on the Northern or Canadian portion. The Dominion Government, under heavy stress of war effort, has been obliged to forego its custom of making an annual grant of money to finance landscape and picnic shelter developments.

Although a resting period as to construction is recorded in the Canadian portion, the Manitoba Government has assisted the executive of the Peace Garden in providing for maintenance. The Morden Experimental Station has enjoyed the pleasing obligation of inspecting work performed under the Dominion aid. A visit in mid-October found the extensive plantings of 1939 in good repair. Evergreens, ornamental trees and shrubs were doing well. The Turtle Mountains received a bountiful share of rainfall this summer and plant growth was vigorous. The ornamental drive of about three and a half miles has been kept graded. Weeds have been restricted and the area appeared to advantage.

The Canadian portion is mostly covered with native woods. Many trees and shrubs still were retaining foliage and the colour effects were varied and rich. Haws, roses, arrowwood, nanny-berries, and Pembinas were gay with fruits as well as some bright foliage. Once again, visitors were struck particularly with the beauty of the Pembina or Highbush cranberry. The Indian name means summer-berry. The clusters of lively red berries do carry the note of summer deep into the winter season.

The United States portion has again been blessed with a C. C. C. camp. Much has been accomplished in modifying the terrain, building drives and walks, and further improving camp sites.

The annual meeting of the International Peace Garden, Incorporated, was at Brandon, September 7. Two members who have been active effectively were elected to the Board of Directors. These are Miriam Green Ellis, Winnipeg, Western Editor of the Family Herald and Weekly Star, and A. E. Thompson, Bismarck, Superintendent of Schools for North Dakota. Mrs. Ellis is chairman of the new Publicity Committee. An illustrated leaflet of eight pages was printed this summer to describe progress achieved.



**WINTER COMES**

by  
W. E. H. Porter



W. E. H. Porter

In Hardy's "Dynasty" the recording angel opens the book and reads:

Now mellow eyed peace is made  
captive,  
And vengeance is chartered  
To deal forth its dooms on the  
Peoples  
With sword and with spear.

Men's musings are busy with  
forecasts  
Of musters and battle,  
And visions of shock and disaster

Rise red on the year.

With January 1941 we turn another page of life: The year 1940 will long be remembered as one of great sorrow. Nations prostrate under the heel of a ruthless dictatorship and even free nations treading a "Via crucis" only a little less thorny. Without warning loved ones pass into the eternal silence, homes with accumulated treasure which in many cases include heirlooms tenderly handed down by vanished generations, obliterated like a puff of smoke, a saving grace being that "hope springs eternal in the human breast", and that applies to all us garden lovers, blissfully residing in our bomb free homes.

Exceptionally mild weather makes some of my garden notes out of the ordinary. Nov. 1st. 42 in shade, light rain; picked some green Allred tomatoes, seeds sown outdoors on May 19th of late plants had been lightly covered with gunny sacking. Violas, Swiss pansies, annual wallflowers, Kelwayi marguerite are very cheerful; foliage of geranium sanguineum turned a bright red. Nov. 4th. Hard freeze forecast so pulled carrots and beets, perfect roots with no splits; dead nettle shows fresh pink bloom, freezing commenced about 5 P. M. Nov. 9th. Cloudy, with snow squalls, 15 above zero, feels like that much below. Garden tho entering its winter sleep, goes down fighting with blooms on the late golden rod. Solidago erectus, mums, violas alyssum, etc. that yesterday were, today quietly resign to fate inevitable. A last chance for fall planting I took advantage of; it was from Hereford Gardens of Oakford, Ill. Presumably they were overstocked for an ad carried 20 Phlox divaricata for \$1 postpaid. The plant is attractive everywhere, hardy, evergreen with large leaves something like that of orange tree,

spreads but not unduly and has large fragrant lavender blue flowers from early spring to mid-summer. Nov. 12th. Raging black and white blizzard, mostly former, for 24 hours, 1 below zero. Nov. 13th. Clear, 15 below zero. Nov. 17th. Calm, sunny, 42 in shade, ground still frozen and a most forlorn looking garden. The exception everywhere being the hardy evergreens. In this class was surprised to note the new Vinca minor periwinkle quite undamaged and besides the grey and silver leaved yarrows Borsch new Campbells sulphur, it appears to be a hardy variety of tomentosa which like other green leaved achilleas succumbed. Also considerable burn on some of Phlox subulata, beet, Daphne cneorum and the new blagayana unaffected tho merzereum, being deciduous shows bare branches which is also the case with Azalea mollis. Veronicas also are both to fold up for the winter, repens retaining its green matted carpet as well as the proved evergreen pectina and my new saturoides, about the best of any for rock gardens with round shiny thick green leaves on the order of English box, and a block of Yucca filamentosa (Spanish bayonet) give that corner of the garden a most unnatural tropical appearance. The few plants of Yucca gloriosa (mound lily) from a packet of seeds from Rex Pearce are unscathed. This species is quoted in catalog as fully hardy north. Nov. 20th. Green Allred tomatoes picked on the 1st have ripened a delicious fruit, no acidity, juicy pulp with melting skin. The scarlet sage (Salvia splendens) makes an ideal house plant adapting itself perfectly to indoor conditions, symmetrical, without leginess, developing a leafless 2 whorled flower spike, the 2 inch Chinese lantern calyx and tubular corolla are a rich mandarin red. Tho Bailey lists it as a tender Brazilian shrub, in northern gardens is treated as an annual. Have lately been re-reading Knud Rasmussen's charming, beautifully illustrated book "Greenland by the Polar Sea," a 1916-17 expedition to northern Greenland the scenery is strikingly like that of Ireland, a rugged majestic coast line with rolling interior, with of course the difference that Greenland is still a living relic of the great ice age and also a vast continent, approximately 1500 miles north to south while no part of Ireland is more than 50 miles from the sea. There appears to be quite a summer flora in this land north of 80. Dr. Wulff, the botanist of the party found on May 4th a saxifrage which tho frozen, was in bloom from previous summer and apparently would complete the cycle that season and the first bloom noted was a red saxifrage on June 12th which species was in an advanced state of fruition by

(Continued on page 10.)





## SOUTH DAKOTA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

### Premium List for 1941

Annual members, in addition to receiving our magazine for a year, are entitled to receive one premium in the plant line, or two, in the seed line. Please make your selection before May 1st and send your selection and your dollar to the Secretary, W. A. Simmons, Court House, Sioux Falls, S. D. Our good friends the Nurserymen, are donating these premiums and when in the market for anything in their line, it will pay you to deal with these firms.

Mr. Claude A. Barr, Prairie Gem Ranch, Smithwick, S. D., offers:

No.

- 1.—3 Plants of Aster kumleini, pink upland aster.
- 2.—3 Plants of Liatris punctata, dwarf blazing star.
- 3.—3 Plants of Phlox andicola, white prairie Phlox.
- 4.—3 Plants of Tradescantia bracteata, dwarf or rainbow spiderwort.
- The Dybvig Nursery, Colton, S. D., offers:
- 5.—4 Concolor lily bulbs, hardy, sweet scented and very desirable.
- 6.—6 Coral (tenuifolium) lily bulbs, a beautiful little gem, the first lily to bloom.
- 7.—2 Double Tiger lilies, an intriguing lily.
- 8.—3 Elegans lily bulbs, a foolproof showy lily.
- 9.—3 Hybrid Delphinium plants, one of the best perennials.
- 10.—2 Red cedars, 6 to 12 inch, a tree that withstands the drought.
- 11.—2 Hansen Bush cherries, plant these and you will always have fruit.
- 12.—12 Gladiolus bulbs.

The Gates Nursery, Rapid City, S. D., offers:

- 13.—6 Ponderosa pine seedlings, the handsome Black Hills pine.
- 14.—1 Pickwell Gooseberry, Dr. Yeager's productive origination.
- 15.—1 Oka cherry, Dr. Hansen's delicious plum-cherry hybrid.
- 16.—1 large sandcherry transplant.

The House of Gurney, Yankton, S. D., offers:

- 17.—1 Hansen Hardy apricot tree, the fruit you have wanted.
- 18.—1 Tomentosa, a spreading shrub with white flowers and edible fruit.
- 19.—1 Prunus Japonica, a very desirable ornamental.

In addition to the usual premiums listed

above, we have this year made arrangements with Dr. Hansen to obtain his new originations, listed below. These are all listed to sell for \$1, but you may have one of these trees with your membership, thus getting double value for your money. These are mailed to you, prepaid, at proper planting time.

No.

- 20.—S. D. Eda Crabapple. Really a choice desert apple. Pedigree Jonathan x Tony crab pollen. This makes it one half Jonathan; one fourth Baccata; one fourth MacMahon White apple. Fruit a deep solid polished and marbled red, thinly striped over yellow. Fruit 2 1/4 inches across x 1 3/4 inches deep.
- 21.—S. D. Jonsib Crabapple. Pedigree Jonathan apple x Irkutsk, Siberia crab. The highly colored fruit is 1 3/4 inches across; a mixed striped red over yellow ground. The sauce is light red and of excellent quality. The highly attractive color gives it a claim upon recognition as a red crabapple for market.
- 22.—Keo; a large Red Siberian Crabapple. The fruit is 1 5/8 inches across, flesh white, sauce red-tinted. The color is really remarkable, an intense polished bright crimson red all over. The fruit would sell at sight in any market.
- 23.—S. D. Bison Crabapple. Fruit 1 1/2 inches across, red and of excellent quality. Pedigree Jonathan apple x Sylvia crab. The tree is a heavy bearer.
- 24.—Nebo apple. Pedigree Alexander apple x Mercer wild crab pollen. Fruit 3 1/4 inches across, round regular. Color red, striped, grayed, mixed and splashed. Flesh pleasant subacid, juicy, cooks up easily into excellent sauce. The tree is productive, the largest, so far, of all apple seedlings.
- 25.—Tolmo apple, Seedling of Tolman Sweet top-grafted on Duchess apple. Fruit 3 inches across, Duchess coloring with white flesh, pleasant subacid; makes excellent sauce. Season fall.
- 26.—Semla apple, the next largest apple in 1939. An open pollinated seedling of Wolf River apple. Fruit very large, 3 inches in diameter, red stripes with mixed and solid red over yellow ground. Flesh pleasant subacid, excellent quality sauce.
- 27.—Wakpala apple, pedigree Mercer crab x Tolman Sweet apple. A good sized apple, 3/4 tame apple, 1/4 wild crab. In 1939 the fruit was 2 1/2 inches across. Color yellow lightly striped with red; flesh white subacid with spicy sweet fragrance. Cooks up quickly

(Continued on page 12.)



**BOOK REVIEW**

by  
Mrs. F. Briley



Mrs. F. Briley

**THE PLANT DOCTOR**, revised and amplified edition, with advice on regional troubles. By Cynthia Westcott, Ph.D. Published by Frederick A. Stokes Co. 443 Fourth Ave., New York. Price \$2.00.

One of the greatest thrills I have had as Librarian for the South Dakota State Horticultural Society was the reviewing of Cynthia Westcott's "The Plant Doctor", in 1937. It takes the reader into the garden, following the season week by week, identifying in clear cut phrases, simple language and lifelike drawings the pests and diseases that infest our plants and gives us practical, usable and effective methods of control. Now we have a new edition more amplified than revised, which gives us further observations from the author's experience and study and up-to-date findings of science. There are four new and very interesting chapters which tell about special troubles and, what is more important, how to meet these troubles in the middle west, southeast, southwest and California. She adds also, for good measure, a valuable chapter on house plants. A third section that has been added is a condensed alphabetical miscellany, giving valuable information on host plants, insects, rodents, disease fungus, poisons, etc. After almost four years of garden dosing and visiting, since the publication of the first book, Plant Doctor, the author still says that if you will give an average of an hour a week, from March to November—only 40 hours a year, out of a total of 8760, she can practically guarantee you a reasonably healthy garden, provided you use the time intelligently and conscientiously. There is no finer book on the market for information for the control of plant pests. Dr. Westcott is a popular lecturer among garden organizations in all parts of the country and a frequent contributor to garden magazines and scientific journals. She also conducts several classes in Plant Pathology for Gardeners.

**THE HOUSE SPARROW**

(Continued from page 2.)

breeding season, hardly longer in our region at least than that of some native birds.

The objections to the sparrow include items of food, of a general nuisance by nesting habits

and competition with other species. Martin houses occupied partly or entirely by sparrows, are a familiar sight. Bluebirds fall easy victims and wrens fare none too well. The adult sparrows feed almost entirely upon grain and small plots near farm buildings are difficult to save.

Their food habits are not entirely bad. The young are fed upon insects and we often see the old birds capturing insects. Often too, they will worry a robin and steal his catch. I have often noted the sparrows feeding upon the seeds of the knotweed which grows so abundantly along our walks and paths.

Control of the sparrows is difficult. Farm buildings, especially barns and straw stacks, offer them ideal conditions. Trapping, shooting, destruction of nests, and sometimes poisoning, have all been used with more or less success. The chief element of successful control is persistence. Martin houses should be taken down during winter or the entrances closed until the Martins return.

Another ghastly mistake we made in this country was to take all the folks with inferiority complexes and convince them they were wrong.  
—Prairie Farmer.

## THE PIONEER SEED HOUSE

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the Northwest*

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## FRUIT & VEGETABLE NOTES

by  
F. X. Wallner



F. X. Wallner

Recently I received a copy of the annual report of the Vegetable Grower's of America, edited by the talented Secretary Dr. H. D. Brown of Ohio State University, Columbus, O. I opened it at page 103 and read most of two pages with interest and was certain from the start this chapter was by C. L. Fitch, of Ames, just from its tone and forceful way all his articles are written, in many papers and magazines.

Another chapter of great interest is "The importance of minor elements in vegetable production," with colored illustrations of tomato plants, showing the plant and symptoms of deficiency of any of these elements. Reprints of this chapter, with the colored plates may be had thru our Secretary for 10 cents, I am told. Only about one sixth of our 360 million acres are receiving commercial fertilizers, still it is only 100 years ago that the very first fertilizer was used in England and Germany. There will be more back yard vegetable gardens in Canada in 1941 than there has been in 20 years. British Columbia produces 75% of the garden seeds grown in Canada and 1941 will see the first harvest of sugar beet seed.

The United States uses more than double the amount of garden produce we did in 1917, but the trade is prepared to grow all that is needed in 1941, without our planting all our front yards and flower beds into vegetables. So do not let the advance propaganda influence you to plant cabbage plants where petunias should bloom. On page 59 of the October issue of LIFE is a natural history story of a bee hunt and the destruction of a large, strong Basswood tree to get the honey. My letter condemning the bee hunt and the destruction of the tree was not published in LIFE but I received a personal letter from Life editors excusing the act. The letter is as follows: "We are inclined to agree that cutting down a tree is a pretty destructive way of obtaining honey. But honey is the spoil of the day's adventure and the only sure way of acquiring it in the limited time allotted to the hunt was by felling the tree. If this were the usual or even frequent way of proceeding, we would certainly condemn its wastefulness but since such hunts are organized only occasionally, it does not seem necessary to take any action. This

does not alter the fact, however, that the bee-hunters stand convicted of an all but inexcusable act." If this had been boys doings or the owners or neighbors, it might be excusable, but the destruction of that tree for adventure and spoils of the day, is not needed for Natural History.

Canadian apples are coming into the States in large volume, this season. Before Nov. 20th, there had been received 680 car loads while the entire amount received in 1939 was 178 car loads. Canada has shipped more into the States than Pennsylvania's 556 car loads and Maryland, with its 657 car loads.

This fall I have made a few trips to the smaller towns in a radius of less than 80 miles from Sioux Falls. I had with me a good assortment of washed root crops, green vegetables—in fact a good vegetable assortment. In a very few cases the grocers stated they were buying local produce, but in most cases the larger chain stores were not buying any local grown stuff, neither were they interested in any produce I had, but were awaiting supplies from their truck, in most cases, out of state. In most cases I called the manager's attention to this fact; the chains were no benefit to local growers. These methods are destructive to the public interests and are gradually but surely eliminating competitive buying and placing price fixing powers in the hands of chain interests. A fruit and vegetable distributing company of Mobile, Ala., made a round trip of 8,000 miles by truck, taking a load of shrimp to California and bringing a load of 201 crates of lettuce back. Less than 300 of the 1800 lbs. of ice had melted on this 4000 mile haul that was made in 3½ days, or 3 days quicker than by rail. The truck was ready in a few hours to make another trip and still the railroads say "no" to faster rail schedules.

Extensive writeups in the trade paper of Dr. Yeager's Victor tomato is very encouraging; this is a cross of Allred x Break o day. It was awarded the bronze medal for 1941 all American selections. At East Lansing it out yielded all strains of Earliana, John Baer, and Rutgers. It is resistant to cracking and of high market quality. No doubt Oscar H. Will & Co. of Bismarck, N. D., who are always quick to list Dr. Yeager's creations will have seed of this tomato. The scarcity of Dutch bulbs has put the American grown bulbs in first place this 1940-1941 season. Narcissus, daffodils and jonquils are American grown and most of the hardy lilies are also American grown. One of our South Dakota nurserymen shipped out more than 30,000 of our umbellatum bulbs besides that many more of six other varieties of lily bulbs, this fall. Nov. 5th.

(Continued on page 12.)





## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

by Professor L. L. Davis



**L. L. Davis**

wax not only keeps moisture in but rot organisms out.

To prepare the wax bath, heat two-thirds of a pail of water to boiling and pour in a cupful of melted paraffin. Maintain a temperature of 170 to 180 degrees. Submerge the bulbs quickly and withdraw immediately.

Dahlia bulbs should be dug when the first heavy frost kills the leaves. The usual procedure is to lift, allow the clump to dry in the sun, cut off all but 4 inches of top and store in a room temperature of between 35 and 40 degrees.

**2. It seems a shame to throw away my chrysanthemums. I obtained them from the local florist. Is there any way of saving them for blooming next season?**

Keep your chrysanthemums plant in a cool room and it will last for a long time. Cut the plant back after it is through blooming and set it near the basement window in a cold place, watering occasionally. When the sprouts begin to show in the spring, divide the plant and set it out in the garden. There may be as many as ten or twelve divisions from one plant. Feed the plant with potato fertilizer and pinch off the ends of the shoots to get large well-branched plants for potting in the middle of August. When the plants are potted, add one-third of rotted cow manure or peat to the richest garden soil. Keep the plants in a cool, shady place for a few days after potting and they will soon put out new roots and resume growth. After they have started growth again, they can be placed in full sunlight but must be watered carefully.

**3. I have heard that rhubarb can be grown in the house in the winter time. How should it be done?**

Rhubarb may be forced in the winter time so that it will produce all winter. Some of the old clumps from the garden should be taken up and allowed to freeze solid. This is a very important factor for the rhubarb will not grow unless it is frozen first. After it is frozen, set it in a fairly

warm corner of the cellar, cover it with soil, moisten it well, and the rhubarb will grow in from two to eight weeks, depending upon the temperature of the cellar. If the cellar is as warm as 65 degrees, the rhubarb will be ready to eat within about two weeks. Two or three pickings may be made from each planting.

In order to get a succession of the product, keep the frozen roots in a cold place until ready for use, when they are set as described above. Roots used for forcing are worthless for setting out in the garden. New rhubarb plants may be secured by planting seed each year, with the two year old roots being used for forcing.

**4. Some of my houseplants are thoroughly infested with a small insect. I am enclosing some leaves for your inspection. What shall I do to get rid of the insects.**

The leaves enclosed in your letter are attacked by scale, an insect that can be controlled only by thoroughly washing the plants with soap and water or by the use of an oil spray. Since the oil spray will not be available, I would suggest that you lay the plants on their sides over a dish of soapy water and wash the plants with a soft tooth brush and the soapy water. You may need to wash the plants at weekly intervals for several weeks to completely rid them of this particular insect. Remember, each insect must be dislodged if the washing is to be successful. Do not use a soap that contains lye.

**5. Can leaves be used successfully for mulching?**

Yes, there is no good reason for wasting completely the large supply of leaves in the fall. They make good mulch for perennials, but they should be used with discretion. The mulch layer should not be too thick, nor should it press down too hard. A little brush will prevent packing. A dump of leaves permitted to rot in a "well" in the garden corner will also provide good compost for potted plants and flower beds.—L. E. Longley, Division of Horticulture, University of Minnesota, University Farm, Minnesota.

### WINTER COMES

(Continued from page 6.)

August 2nd. In the same valley was found a rare night scented stock *Hesperis fallosii* fragrance being exceptional among Arctic flora. Science mourns the untimely death of Dr. Wulff who succumbed to hardships of return journey over the inland ice at the age of 40. Nov. 26th. Over withered remains, from which the soul of beauty has departed, lies a cold white shroud; such healthy green of *Daphne*, conifer, juniper, etc. that pushes thru and over, appears black by contrast.





## SECRETARY'S CORNER

by W. A. Simmons



W. A. Simmons

Our cover picture shows the present appearance of the Robertson Memorial Park 5 miles west of Hot Springs, S. D. In the letter accompanying the picture Mr. Woodward says: "The road in the distance leads off to the Robertson orchard, in the hills beyond. The skyline in the distance represents an altitude of 4200 feet above sea level. In the foreground is the boulder of granite shist with bronze tablet thereon. At the head of the grave is a small apple tree and some cedars are to be seen in the back area beyond. About the boulder have been planted some creeping cedars which are also well established. On the grave cover itself is another bronze plaque with the following words: John Stevenson Robertson, 1866-1937. Eminent Farmer South Dakota State College. From a Homestead to Who's Who in America, a Presbyterian and a Kiwanian. "Nature is Honest With Herself." This latter statement in quotation marks is a quotation from Mr. Robertson himself, when he related how there "was no way to borrow or get credit and no way to draw a year or two in advance, and one dealing with nature can get only what is being given him each year. Nature is honest with herself and a person has to be absolutely honest in dealing with her."

On opening our evening paper on the evening of the 13th, there was disclosed, on the front page, what we had long dreaded, the picture and the notice of the passing of our old friend Mr. J. W. Parmley. Aptly described by Mr. J. B. Taylor, his neighbor at Ipswich, as South Dakota's most unselfish booster, Mr. Parmley had long been in the forefront of every worthy enterprise that would benefit our state and was a member of the Horticultural Society since 1907. The father of the Yellowstone Trail and the Canada to Canal Trail. It was his thot and due to his efforts that the International Peace Garden was located in its present ideal location, where there is no natural obstacle between the Canadian and the United States portion of the Garden. We will all greatly miss his wise counsel and cheery presence at our meetings.

It has been found that the same hormones that prevent the premature dropping of apples will also prevent the dropping of the leaves and berries of Holly, so when spraying of our Christmas wreaths becomes general we can expect them to be much more permanent. Here's hop-

ing they will discover it is equally effective with ones hirsute thatch, tho it is too late for that to be of more than of academic interest to me.

A very pleasant annual meeting was held at Sisseton on Nov. 25th and 26th. Most of the officers arrived on the evening of the 24th and the Nurserymen's Association held their annual meeting that evening. We were pleasantly surprised to find very little snow in that vicinity and the new and very comfortable hotel, was also a surprise much appreciated. The SDEA was holding their convention at Aberdeen that week, so there was no school and we had the fine new \$225,000 school building all to ourselves. Mr. J. C. Anderson of Eden had made all arrangements for the meeting and had evidently impressed the local people with an exaggerated idea of the size of our meeting for they had planned to have us meet in the immense auditorium, capable of seating our entire membership. We took a change of venue to a much smaller room upstairs, the music room, where our average audience of 35 would not become lost. Mr. Anderson had secured several very interesting speakers, most of whom spoke extemporaneously, we regret to say, so we probably won't be able to pass their talks on, in our annual report.

Mr. Abe Crawford told many interesting things about Indian life and tribal education and this was added to by Supt. C. L. Ellis of the Indian Agency. Colored slides were shown and explained by Sid Gurney, of Yankton and Mr. E. C. Hilborn of Valley City, N. D. We were fortunate in having Pres. Will and Sec. Graves of the N. D. Society with us and each presented a fine paper, which will be found in the 1941 annual report, as most convention papers are too long to be published in the magazine. The banquet was held in the large assembly hall, mentioned above and Mr. Anderson had arranged much music for us including songs by a couple of bright young friends of his who call him Daddy. They have attended a number of our meetings and appear a little longer and a little more mature, with the passage of each year, as most of our Dakota youngsters do. Mr. J. B. Taylor was the toastmaster and performed with his usual wit and competence. Professor L. L. Davis brot many boxes containing milk bottles, full of what appeared to be the sort of thing we used juice for in prohibition days, and many mouths matered when he began opening them and passing them around. But most of them contained something that tasted much like vinegar, so were a great disappointment. That sort of drink may be popular in Brookings, but horticulturists are made of sterner stuff.





### PREMIUM LIST

(Continued from page 7.)

into excellent light yellow sauce. Season winter.

- 28.—Lina Apple. A seedling of Malinda. If a late yellow apple is desired the Lina should be tested. Fruit  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches across, somewhat conical, good juicy subacid. Produced a good crop in 1939.

- 28.—1 Hansen Bush cherry, selections from the 15th generation budded on native plum. Such plants are very productive.

Good hardy pears, resistant or immune to Fireblight. All the following were originated by Dr. N. E. Hansen and are one year buds on hardy Siberian pear seedlings.

- 29.—1 Finland pear. 1933. An open-pollinated seedling of the Yellow Early Finland pear planted next to row of Russian sandpear. A yellow pear, 2 inches in diameter and of excellent quality. Stem extra long.

- 30.—1 Finsib Pear. 1939. Pedigree: Finland Early Yellow x Saponsky pollen. The Finland Early Yellow pear was brot from Russia. The Saponsky is *Pyrus Ussuriensis* of east Siberia; the Finsib is  $2 \times 2$  inches, globular. Flesh juicy, melting, quality excellent.

- 31.—1 Krylov Pear. 1933. A fine large early pear of good quality. Pedigree, Saponsky x Lincoln pear pollen.

- 32.—1 Sadko Pear. 1933. Pedigree: Russian sandpear x Vermont pear pollen. A fine large red pear of good quality. Tree strong with good forks.

- 33.—1 Selenga Pear. 1939. Pedigree: Saponsky x White Doyenne pear pollen. Fruit oblong pyriform,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches across,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches deep, yellow with minute russet dots, quality excellent, season October. Tree productive.

- 34.—1 Sladky Pear. 1933. Pedigree: Russian Sand x Lincoln pear. Size  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter, oblong pyriform: yellow; pleasant flavor. Season late fall. Only scions available, 1 foot for 1 premium.

- 35.—1 Tanya Pear. 1939. Ideal x East Siberian. A red late-keeping pear of good quality, hardy and blight-resistant. Size  $2\frac{1}{4} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$  inches, weight  $4\frac{1}{2}$  ounces.

- 36.—Yermak Pear. 1939. Seckel x East Siberian pear. In this pear hardiness and resistance to blight is combined with excellent quality. In the fruit Seckel, the highest in quality of all pears grown in America, contributes superb quality. Fruit  $1\frac{3}{4} \times 1\frac{3}{4}$  inches. Season, early October.

- 37.—1 Kota Plum. 1939. A sister to Kaga, Toka

and Hanska, but the fruit averages larger. Fruit  $1\frac{3}{4} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$  inches, a vivid dark red with large distinct yellow dots. Flesh very firm, richly fragrant and delicious.

- 38.—1 Oacoma plum. 1938. Fruit red, round  $1\frac{3}{8}$  across, of very best quality eaten fresh or as preserves. Skin thin, dissolves in cooking. The high quality of this pure native South Dakota plum should quickly make it a general favorite. The original tree of Oacoma was found a few miles west of Oacoma in Lyman Co. It is of low growth and bears heavy crops at an early age. The pure native plums should not be neglected as they have a superior flavor, all their own and are good pollinators for the hybrids.

Mr. F. X. Wallner, Sioux Falls, offers the following:

- 39.—6 assorted iris roots.  
40. 2 Tawny Day Lily roots.  
41.—Seed of Buttercup squash.  
42.—Seed of Banquet squash, originated by Dr. G. F. Will, Bismarck.  
43.—Seed of Pinkheart tomato.  
44.—Seed of Fargo Yellow Pear tomato.  
The Northern Seed & Nursery Co., Ipswich, J. B. Taylor, Prop., offers:  
45.—Seed of giant zinnia.  
46.—Seed of Crown of Gold Marigold.  
47.—Seed of Bison tomato.  
48.—Seed of Golden Bison tomato.  
49.—Seed of Jumbo tomato.  
50.—Seed of Golden Gleam Nasturtium.

### FRUIT & VEGETABLE NOTES

(Continued from page 9.)

Today's close call to an auto accident reminded me of my childhood when Mother taught me to pray to my Guardian Angel every day for protection. The truck I left standing on a hill was almost upon me when a man called, the car was coming at me. I turned, jumped to one side, onto the running board, grabbed the wheel and turned it enough to miss the corner of the stone barn and other buildings and objects on its way down into the garden. Not until it came to a stop did I have a chance to think and be thankful for the close call.

Origin of the Rome Beauty apple: In 1816, an order of budded apple trees was purchased from General Putnam's nursery at Marietta, Ohio. The first Rome Beauty tree was culled out by the purchaser of this order as a worthless seedling, but retrieved and planted by his young son in southern Ohio.—Monroe McCown in Hoosier Horticulture.