

W. G. M. 1915



Spring business has opened up in Ontario with a vim and from all sections of the Lower Snake and Payette River Valleys come reports of prosperity. The farmers throughout this section are enthusiastic over the prospects for a bumper crop in all lines of agricultural endeavor, and if our splendid spring weather continues and no unusual conditions arise, our crops will be unprecedented in size and quality.

Already the earlier varieties of fruit have reached that stage where it will take a real freeze to hurt them. Light frosts will not now damage the early cherries, peaches or other early varieties. For the fruit is now set, and light frosts can do little harm. Throughout this section the apple crop will be probably more than twice as large as last year for the reason that so many new orchards are coming into bearing this season. And there is every prospect now that the price of apples will be good this fall.

The corn acreage has been increased at least ten fold over last year, according to A. G. Kingman who has recently visited nearly every section of the county in perfecting arrangements for the corn carnival in Ontario this fall. Mr. Kingman says that corn growing will not be on an experimental basis this season and that large fields are being prepared for corn planting which will start the last of this week or the first of next. Nearly every ranch and farm in this section of the country will devote some acreage to corn this season, and some wonderful showings are looked for this fall.

In the mercantile line merchants of Ontario all report an excellent spring business, and, while there will probably be no records broken during the year of 1915, yet there can certainly be no cause for disappointment and dissatisfaction. Co-operative sales days arranged by the merchants this spring have become very popular with the people throughout this section, and has made Ontario a most favorable shopping center.

The jitney bus which started this week is also the result of co-operation of Ontario merchants with the residents of the rural sections, and has already proved itself a

Rambles of a Visitor

(Continued from page 1)

seeded clover and alfalfa. The irrigation ditch and the public road take out about four acres from the place, so that there is left only about twenty acres of farm land, and of this half is taken up by the orchard. Of the remaining ten acres, two acres is devoted exclusively to alfalfa, producing three crops during the season. Two acres are in blue grass and white clover pasture and the remainder will be planted in corn and potatoes. Throughout this section of the Lower Snake and Payette River Valleys there are many blue grass pastures. Often you will find them mixed with some other grass, but the blue grass will eventually crowd out the other varieties. And there is nothing so valuable, nor so indispensable to a well managed farm as a blue grass pasture. For with the proper care it is good nearly the entire year, and there is no wearing it out. Year after year it gets better and becomes more valuable, and its possibilities as a fattener of stock is a wonder to those who have tried it. In the livestock line, Mr. Magnuson now has on the ranch a cow and calf, two mares, both with colts, and eleven hogs. He marketed eight fat hogs on the fifteenth of April in Ontario. In addition to this he is making a specialty of thoroughbred White Leghorn chickens, having kept about

Jitney Bus Ready

(Continued from Page 1.)

built in Portland. The machine has comfortable seats. Following is the schedule: Leave Ontario at 6 A. M. and arrive in New Plymouth at 7 A. M. Leave New Plymouth at 7 A. M. and arrive in Ontario at 8 A. M. Leave Ontario at 8 A. M. and arrive in Nyssa at 9 A. M. Leave Nyssa at 9 A. M. and arrive in Ontario at 10 A. M. Leave Ontario at 10:05 A. M. and arrive in New Plymouth at 11:05 A. M. Leave New Plymouth at 11:10 A. M. and arrive in Ontario at 12:10 P. M. Leave Ontario at 1:30 P. M. and arrive in Nyssa at 2:30 P. M. Leave Nyssa at 3 P. M. and arrive in Ontario at 4 P. M. Leave Ontario at 4:30 P. M. and arrive in New Plymouth at 5:30 P. M. Leave New Plymouth at 7 P. M. and arrive in Ontario at 8 P. M. Leave Ontario at 11 P. M. and arrive at New Plymouth at 12 midnight. Orders taken for flowers for Decoration Day. Ontario Floral Co. Headquarters, Argus office. Phon 49-J. eighty chickens through the winter. He expects to put in several acres of corn of a yellow dent variety, and besides an acre of potatoes, will raise about a ton of onions. (To be continued.)

ONTARIO WILL HAVE CELEBRATION JULY 4

That Ontario will have a Fourth of July celebration is assured by the committee consisting of H. C. Whitworth, C. E. Watson and Lee Fieser, which has spent several days this week soliciting funds for the celebration. The announcement has been made that practically two-thirds of the required amount of funds has been pledged and they feel that it is only necessary to visit the remaining business houses to secure the balance necessary.

NEW FARM EXPERT ARRIVES IN ONTARIO

W. W. Howard, the new county expert, arrived in Ontario last Friday and took charge of his work Monday morning. Mr. Howard graduated at O. A. C. last year and has just completed a post graduate course at Ames College in Iowa. He comes highly recommended and has taken hold of the work here with an enthusiasm that is sure to win. W. R. Shinn, who recently resigned, has not decided where he will locate, but is considering some offers in the middle west.

Making the Little Farm Pay

It is time for progressive farmers, especially those with small places near town, to get ready for money making with fruits. These products properly belong in any thorough system of mixed farming, and they can be made to pay \$200 to \$400 an acre net. Small fruit growing is peculiarly adapted to those having large families. Small fruits well planted in perfectly straight rows and kept well cultivated make a most pleasing picture as well as a profitable crop. A fruit garden connected with any home can be made an attractive object. From a commercial standpoint for the beginner there is no crop that will



STRAWBERRIES IN CRATES.

roll back the corners of a mortgage quicker than the strawberry bed if enough be planted so that the whole family and the neighbors can be employed, especially in picking time. Fit the ground early in April the same as for corn. Mark one way as for corn; then set the plants about sixteen inches apart and cultivate as for corn and hoe whenever there is a sign of weeds or crusty soil. It takes about 7,000 plants per acre when set as directed. When the blossoms appear the first summer pluck them off. Do not try to secure fruit from the plants until the second season. As cold weather comes on be ready to give the strawberry field a thorough mulching. If it is done too early the plants will be smothered and hurt. It is not applied altogether as a winter protection, for strawberries are defiant of cold. It is the mulch that equalizes alternate freezings and thawings, which upheave the plants. The material to use in covering the beds or rows of plants is anything in the way of coarse vegetation that is free from weed seeds. Clean straw and coarse grass are of this character, but there may be weeds in the straw or grass. Timothy hay is always troublesome because of the seed it contains, and coarse manure that has any considerable proportion of timothy is objectionable on that account. Marsh grass or cattail flags are free from anything that is troublesome. The refuse from sorghum mills can be used with good results. It lies close to the ground and if not put on too thickly will serve the purpose of keeping the strawberry plants from feeling the violent changes of winter, retain the moisture in the soil and keep the berries clean the following summer. Cornstalks, pine needles, tanbark and cottonseed hulls can be utilized in this way. There is a growing market for gooseberries and a bright future for all that will be raised. This fruit does best on a good sandy loam. Plants should be set six by eight feet, thus requiring 1,210 plants per acre. The first season potatoes, beans or any low growing crop may be planted between the rows. Give thorough but shallow cultivation. As to varieties, the Downing gives best satisfaction. Buy only extra good year old plants. Profits are fully as good and often better than with strawberries. They should bear some fruit the second year from planting. Blackberries are profitable if rust does not attack the canes. There seems to be no cure for rust. Set the plants 4 by 6 and give deep culture. We prefer the Kittatiny, as they seem more hardy than others. Blackberries do best on a lightish and rather sandy soil. They must be planted in rows and kept well cultivated. The pruning of the blackberry is different from that of most other small fruits. If you cut back the canes severely you are likely to remove a large portion of the season's crop. But you can thin out the shoots where they are numerous and cut out the dead shoots. Red and black raspberries should be set 6 by 6, which will require 1,210 plants per acre. These plants must have shallow culture, as their roots are all near the surface. Many fine plantations are almost ruined by deep culture. The crop is profitable when picked on time and neatly marketed. A grower can pay for his land in a single season with a good crop of berries. Currants are easy to grow and market. They pay at the rate of \$300 to \$500 an acre. The average price should be \$3 per bushel, and 100 bushels to the acre is only a fair crop. Each currant bush ought to pay 25 to 50 cents above the cost of picking.

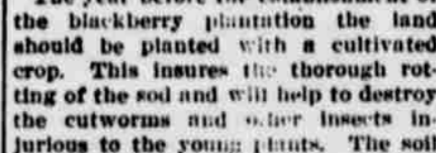
Blackberry Plantations.

Under good management an average yield of 2,300 quarts of blackberries per acre can be expected, according to a recent publication issued by the United States department of agriculture. Where the soil is very deep and rich and the best moisture conditions are found this may be increased to 5,000 quarts, and certain varieties on the Pacific slope have even given 7,000 quarts an acre. The last census showed that approximately 50,000 acres were devoted to blackberry plantations in the United States. This acreage is distributed over practically the entire country. Missouri leads with nearly 6,000 acres, and New Jersey is second with 4,300. As a matter of fact, blackberries can be grown successfully on almost any type of



BLACKBERRY CANES OF UPRIGHT TYPE TIED TO A SINGLE WIRE.

soil and in a wide range of climates. In the colder parts of the northwest the severe winters frequently kill the plants, and in the arid sections of the west hot, dry winds destroy the ripening fruit. The choice of proper varieties, however, will do much to overcome natural difficulties. In selecting a site for a blackberry plantation the most important considerations are the moisture of the soil and the accessibility of a market. The blackberry is a tender fruit, the keeping qualities of which are seriously affected by jarring over rough roads. It is, moreover, essential that the berries should be placed on the market as quickly as possible after they are picked if they are to command a good price. The best land is a deep, fine, sandy loam with a large supply of humus and abundant moisture at the opening season. On the other hand, the plants are often killed if water stands on the plantation during the winter. The year before the establishment of the blackberry plantation the land should be planted with a cultivated crop. This insures the thorough rotting of the soil and will help to destroy the cutworms and other insects injurious to the young plants. The soil should be plowed to a depth of about nine inches in the spring, and a thorough harrowing should be given the whole field before the plants are set. This is usually done as early in the spring as the land can be properly prepared. The earlier the plants are set the larger the proportion that live and the better their growth. The roots should be set deep, for the canes break easily if the crowns project above the surface of the ground. The tops should be cut back to six inches or less in length. Cultivation is necessary, and the plants should therefore be set sufficiently far apart to permit of it. During the first summer some intercrop may be grown between the rows, which will greatly reduce the cost of the berry field that year. This should be one that requires constant cultivation and at the same time one whose growth will not be large enough to shade the blackberry plants. Such truck crops as cabbage and potatoes are excellent for the purpose, while corn and small grains should be avoided.



BLACKBERRY CANES OF UPRIGHT TYPE HELD BETWEEN TWO WIRES.

ed. By the second summer the plants will be large enough to occupy all the space, and an intercrop will not be possible. In both summers cultivation should begin early in the spring and be continued at intervals of from one to two weeks throughout the season in order to provide a dust mulch for the retention of moisture and to keep down suckers and weeds. Suckers are apt to spring up from the roots at various distances from the parent plant, especially when the roots are cut. Digging up these suckers is a favorite way of securing new plants, but this practice interferes, of course, with the yield of the berries. Blackberry roots live for many years, but the canes—excepting two varieties—bear only in their second year. After the fruiting season, therefore, they should be cut out and burned. The one-year-old canes may usually be left to themselves throughout the winter. Not more than three or four new canes should be left to each plant, however, and the others should be thinned out at the same time that the canes which have fruited are thinned. In some cases it will also be desirable to train the plants in order to facilitate cultivation as well as to prevent them being damaged by winter snows. A wire trellis may then become a profitable investment. The simplest form of such trellis consists of a single wire attached to posts set at intervals of from fifteen to thirty feet in each row of plants. The canes are tied to this wire about two and one-half feet above the ground. Another method is to nail cross pieces to the posts and stretch two wires from the ends of these cross pieces, which form a support for the blackberry canes on each side. Varieties that grow somewhat like a grape vine require a much higher trellis with two wires—one about five and one about three feet from the ground.

Farm and Garden

PREVENTING POTATO SCAB.

Method of Treating Large Quantities With a Minimum of Labor.

The value of treating potatoes for scab is well known, but most methods are tedious and impracticable when large quantities of seed are to be treated, writes T. M. McCall in the Country Gentleman. Growers cannot afford to take the time to dip potatoes in sacks for forty or more acres or even to handle the dipping solution more than once, so they seldom treat more than is needed for the seed plot. The writer, to do away with the tediousness of treating in sacks or barrels, has devised a simple method by which one man can treat and cut enough potatoes in a day to keep a one row planter busy. An old 150 gal-



POTATOES GROWN FROM SCAB FREE SEED.

lon tank is equipped with a shoveling board across one end. Ten bushels of seed are poured in and immersed in seventy-five gallons of formalin—one pound of formaldehyde to thirty gallons of water. After two hours these are shoveled out on a draining hopper and another ten bushels are immersed. The draining board is set at an angle so as to slope down to the potato cutter. With the seed supply handy and the tanks and cutter conveniently arranged, one man can cut ten bushels in two hours and can thus treat and cut enough stock to keep one planter busy. Many growers prefer to cut the seed in the field at the time of planting. In such a case the tank may be hauled directly to the field and filled with the solution, one charge being enough to last a day. Care must always be exercised to prevent reinfection of seed after it is treated. Cost of treating does not exceed 75 cents for fifty bushels of seed—less than 20 cents an acre. The cost may be less if all the treating materials are convenient.

Burning Dead Hogs.

There is a trick to the job of burning the carcasses of dead hogs, and where they have died of cholera the trick should be learned. Dig two trenches crossing each other. Make them several inches deep. Pile the fuel at the crossing of the trenches. Lay a large iron wheel or strips of metal to hold up the carcass. Open the carcass completely, spread it open and lay it belly down on the support over the fuel. Sprinkle kerosene liberally inside the hog before putting it in place. Light the fuel. The carcass will burn fiercely, especially if the hog is fat. The trenches and the metal supports are for draft, and the dimensions of these things depend on the size of the carcass. This system is recommended by the Nebraska station.—Farm and Fireside.

Don't Overfeed the Birds.

Intensive poultry keeping involves of necessity heavy feeding, but one should constantly be on the lookout to guard against overfeeding, which puts the bird into a state of lowered vitality in which its natural powers of resistance to all forms of infectious and other diseases are reduced. The feeding of high protein concentrates, like linseed or cottonseed meal, needs to be particularly carefully watched in this respect.

EGGS FOR HATCHING.

Can you look at an egg and tell if it will hatch? Probably not, but you can greatly increase the hatching power of the egg by following these suggestions, which are offered by W. A. Lippincott, professor of poultry husbandry in the Kansas State Agricultural college: Select eggs which do not weigh less than two ounces, rejecting all exceedingly large and abnormally shaped eggs. The unusual shaped eggs will probably hatch, but pullets raised from such eggs will probably lay abnormal eggs. Never wash eggs before setting them. Keep the eggs in a dry place at a temperature between 55 and 65 degrees, turning them at least once every other day. An egg in which the germ has become fastened to the shell will seldom hatch. The germ spot is always in the uppermost part of the egg, and if the egg is not turned the germ will stick to the shell if evaporation takes place. The eggs should be gathered at least twice a day unless they are to be put into the incubator immediately.