

### The Crossing Of Grains For The Canadian Farmers.

The name of Luther Burbank, the Californian who crossed various species of flowers and obtained new and beautiful blooms, has become famous on the American continent. With this Californian wizard Professor Zavitz spent some weeks last year. It will be some time before the practical results of this visit are known in Ontario, but the work of crossing different varieties of the same kinds of grain is now well under way at the Agricultural College. There are varieties of oats, barley and wheat now growing without a name on the college experimental plots. In other words, there are new kinds of these grains, and the best of these kinds will be sown by farmers in the years to come. The crossing of grains is a tedious task. The professor himself confessed that, though he added that it was extremely interesting.

"Luther Burbank obtains his results from grafts and runners. Our work of crossing is more difficult, since we have to deal with seeds," explained the professor to The Globe. "You see those few rows of oats there?" he added, pointing to a small patch of grain. "There we have oats upon which there appears no smut. I figure that between one and two million dollars is lost by Ontario farmers through smut in the outfields. If we can produce a variety upon which smut does not come we can save that much money."

Though he did not say so, it may be inferred that such an oat has already been obtained by the crossing of different varieties. The professor is simply waiting to be absolutely certain of his results. Supposing smut does appear on these few rows of oats, he will doubtless again start out with the purpose of attaining this ideal with reference to oats.

One of the aims of Professor Zavitz is to produce a spring wheat for Ontario which will be hardy, as free as possible from rust, with a compact head of fair length, without a beard, and with a grain of high milling quality. There are at present varieties of wheat without the beard, which, the professor says, is of no practical value, but these varieties have not the requisite length of head to be good producers. On the other hand, many good yielders have bearded heads. Then, again, a wheat that gives many bushels to the acre may not be high in milling quality. A combination of all good qualities produces the ideal, and to get this combination is the problem of the experimentalist. While the flower of one variety is quite green the stamens are taken out and then the pollen from another variety is inserted. Thus the mixture is obtained. Then the head upon which this operation has been performed is wrapped in tissue-paper, in order that no foreign pollen may enter. Generally two or three of these crosses are made in one head. The grain is allowed to ripen and then thrashed. The year following the seeds are again planted, and in the harvest time the results of the crossing are discernible. Then the experimentalist sees the fruits of the tedious labor of crossing, for in the work every flower has to be handled with the utmost care. Sometimes, and in fact frequently, there comes only one head that is satisfactory. This is preserved, and from year to year the number of seeds multiplies, until a good-sized field may be sown.

For many years Ontario farmers have been growing oats and barley as feed for live stock. After thrashing, these grains are generally mixed and the whole ground. If farmers eventually mix the grains, why not grow them together? That was the idea that occurred to the professor. He knew that barley ripened a week or ten days before oats, and the problem was to make up this difference in time. Apparently he has succeeded, though the grains in the experimental plots have not come near enough to maturity to enable him to be absolutely certain of the results. Barley and oats that can be sown together and reaped together will prove another benefit to the Ontario farmers. It is the general conclusion among agriculturists that beardless barley is a poor producer. The heavy-producing varieties are all heavily bearded. Any farmer's boy can tell of the annoyance and discomfort caused by barley beards, and there have been cases where farmers did not grow barley just because of the beards. Prof. Zavitz is crossing the famous Maudscheuri barley with its coarse beards and a beardless variety. The results being attained this year are encouraging, and it will not be long before there is a barley which is a good producer and which has no beard.

The question of pasture is always an important one with the farmer, especially in the dairy districts. A man must always keep looking ahead if he desires to preserve a grass field for his cattle, for grass seed cannot be sown in the spring and then the land pastured in the summer. Farmers have long wanted just such a condition as was impossible with grass seed, that is, a spring-sown pasture. Once again the energies of Prof. Zavitz and the opportunities presented by the experimental plots of the O. A. C. have come to the rescue. Now that the work is done, the solution seems a simple one. The

prescription for a spring-sown pasture is the sowing of fifty-one pounds of oats, thirty pounds of early amber sugar cane and seven pounds of red clover to every acre of land.

"We tried seventeen different experiments before we got this mixture," said the professor. "Last year we had seven acres under such pasture. Seven head of cattle were turned loose in the seven acres, and they could not keep the growth down."

This year at the college there is a pasture field sown with the above combination. A herd of cattle has nothing else to eat, yet the animal experts say these cattle thrive as well as any on the old-fashioned clover fields.--Toronto Globe.

### The Letter of the Law.

(From The Canadian Courier.)

Dean Harris is one of the best known clergymen of the Roman Catholic Church in Canada, and is as remarkable for his literary productions as for his ecclesiastical virtues. In the city of St. Catharines he was so popular with citizens of all denominations that he found it comparatively easy to collect subscriptions from Anglicans, Baptists, Presbyterians and Methodists. But the time came when the last-named brethren were desirous of erecting a new church, and they ventured to call on the Dean in the course of their financial canvass. The latter expressed his deep regret over not being in a position to contribute towards the new tabernacle. He was reminded that members of Protestant churches had assisted him in the church-raising industry.

"I know, I know," replied the genial priest plaintively. "I'd be glad to help you, but the rules of my church positively forbid the faithful to contribute towards building a Protestant church." The conversation then took a less painful turn, and finally the Dean asked: "And what are you doing with the old church?"

"We're going to pull it down," replied one of the heretic callers.

A great light dawned upon the Dean's countenance. "And will that cost you anything?"

A matter of several hundred dollars."

"That's a fine situation. Now, I'll tell you what I'll do. The Mother Church has nothing to say against pulling down what the Protestants have set up, and it'll be a good deed to destroy the works of the enemy. I'll help you tear it down."

And the Methodist brethren went on their way rejoicing, with a substantial sum towards the levelling of their place of worship. The Dean had made good.

### Take the Postmaster's Word for It.

Mr. F. M. Hamilton, postmaster at Cherryvale, Ind., keeps also a stock of general merchandise and patent medicines. He says: "Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy is standard here in its line. It never fails to give satisfaction and we could hardly afford to be without it." For sale by All Dealers.

### An Effective Riddle.

On one occasion, when he was busy, President Lincoln received a delegation of men who were endeavoring to hurry the passing of some petty bill. When then entered, Lincoln looked up gravely and said:

"If you call the tail of a sheep a leg, how many legs will the sheep have?"

"Five," said the spokesman.

"No," replied Lincoln, "it would only have four. Calling the tail a leg would not make it one." The delegation departed in discomfiture.—New York Tribune.

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### When Lost in the Woods.

When a man goes out hunting where he has never been before, he very often gets lost, says the North American Trapper. When you find you have lost your way, don't lose your head; keep cool, try and not let your brains get into your feet. By this we mean, don't run around and make things worse, and play yourself all out. First, sit down and think, cool off, then climb a hill or tree and endeavor to locate some familiar object you passed, so as to retrace your steps. Should it get dark, build a rousing camp fire. Ten to one you will be missed from camp and your comrades will be searching for you, and your fire will be seen by them. Give

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distress signals, but don't waste all your ammunition thus. It is probable that in the morning with a clear head, after a comfortable night, if you make it so, you will discover the fact that your camp is closer to you than you imagined.

Men have been lost within rifleshot of camp. A cool head can accomplish much, a rattled head nothing.

To locate your position note the limbs and bark of trees. The north side of trees can be known by the thickness and roughness of the bark. Moss is generally found near the roots on the north side. Note also branches, which generally are to be found longer on the south side of trees, while the branches exposed to the north are generally knotty, twisted, and drooped. In the forest the tops of the pine trees dip or trend to the north.

If you find water, follow it; it generally leads where civilization exists.

The tendency of people lost usually is to travel in a circle. By all means keep cool and deliberate. Blaze your way by living marks on trees to indicate the direction you have taken. If you keep a cool head and a stout heart you will find that to be lost from camp is really a comedy.

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### English Language Universal.

A Japanese statesman, Baron Kirkuchi, in an address in London recently declared that in his judgment the Japanese ought to make English their language to the exclusion of the native tongue, and a writer in a Yokohama paper, quoted in the New York Times vigorously supports this idea. Ordinarily one would think such an idea the dream of an extremist, but the fact is that there is a substantial national tendency behind the idea. English is taught in all the Japanese schools, and it is not long ago that a visitor, after a long stay and close observation, declared his belief that it would not be many years before English became the prevailing language of Japan.

The natural thing to expect in Japan, where growth and vigor characterize the life of the nation, would be the spread of the language and not its decay. But the prospect of a further extension of English is gratifying, and if the Japanese do not extend their own language they will extend some other language, for already they are firmly established in Korea, and Formosa, and their influence and interest on the mainland, especially Manchuria, is large.

Commerce with the East is growing, and all the commercial nations are struggling for it. The more English is spoken in the Orient the more the language will become important to the rest of the world.

It seems to be a long look and a far cry to the time when English will be the language of the nations. It is not to be forgotten, however, that the world was on the verge of a similar achievement once when Latin was the universal language of the learned, and ever since it has been a dream of the world that the time would come when the confusion that was wrought at the Tower of Babel would be overcome.

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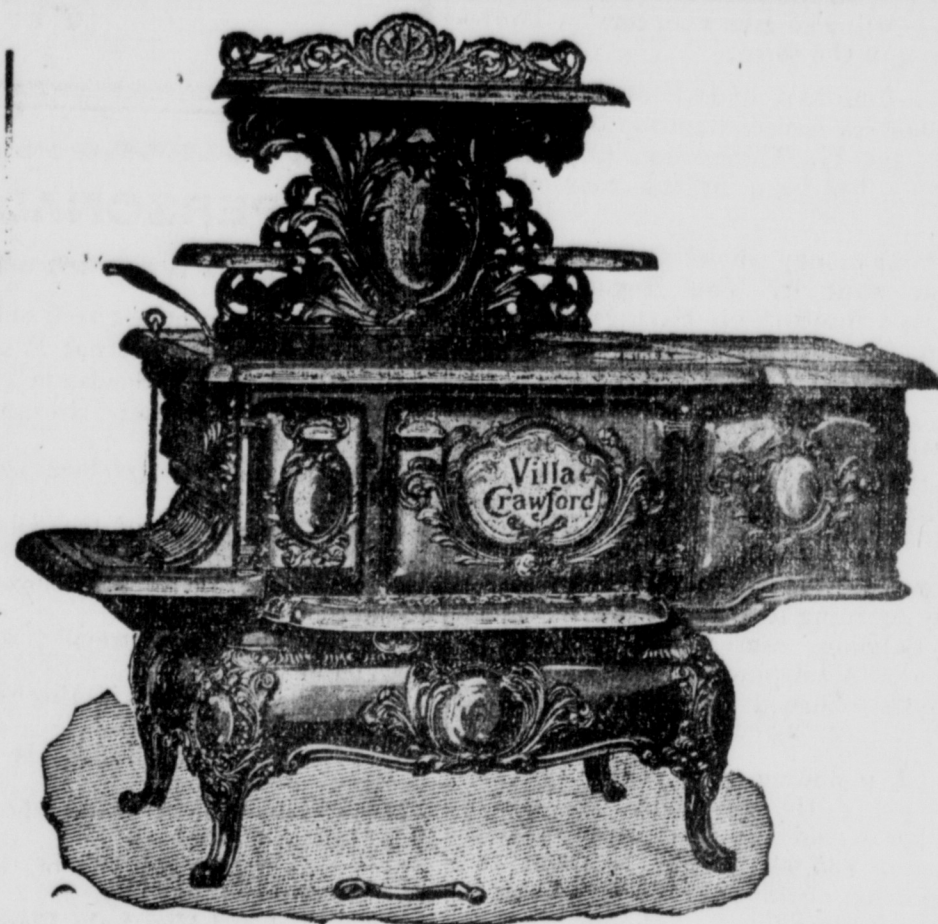
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