HASTY NOTES ON TREES AND SHRUBS OF NORTHERN EUROPE AND ASIA

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BY CHARLES GIBB, ABBOTTSFORD, QUEBEC.

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HASTY NOTES ON TREES AND SHRUBS OF NORTHERN EUROPE AND ASIA.

BY CHARLES GIBB, ABBOTTSFORD, QUE.

The experience of the Russian Horticulturists is just like our own. They have searched Central and Western Europe for new species, and have found among the many tried a few hardy and valuable. They have searched for new species on this Continent, and in some instances, like ourselves, have received the Southern forms of hardy species. Have you the Ash-leaved Maple? I ask Dr. Regel, the Director of the Botanic Gardens at St. Petersburg. Yes, but it is not hardy here. It is the only street tree in Winnipeg, I replied. Then I have some Southern form, he said. Yes, such is his experience and ours, and such must continue to be our disappointing experience until we establish direct communication with our like climates in the old world. The Russian Botanists had tried to find us years ago. They had endeavored to get into correspondence with the Botanists of the colder parts of Canada through their Consul at New York. They failed in this, but turned their attention to the cold climates eastward to the Pacific.

In the Imperial Botanic Gardens at St. Petersburg, we find the flora of the cold inter-continental climates of Eastern Russia, Siberia, Northern Turkestan, Soongaria, Mongolia, Mantchuria, and Amur, our own like climates in the Old World.

Europe may well be proud of her Botanic Gardens. The large outlay of the European Governments seems to have been money well invested. Botany in its relation to Agriculture, Horticulture and Forestry is a science deemed too valuable to be suffered to remain untaught. Russia is in no way behind in this matter. At St. Petersburg what cannot be grown out of doors must be grown within, thence they have there the largest number

of species under glass in the world. Not only in the larger cities, Moscow, Warsaw and Kiev, but in the smaller towns like Kazan, Voronesh, Orel and Penza (the last not visited by us), we find Botanic Gardens such as we might feel proud to own.

A generation or two ago, when Loudon and Lindley were at work in England, the Royal Horticultural Society imported from all parts of the world the plants likely to be useful or ornamental in England. They sent agents to China. Robert Fortune, however, spent much of his time at Canton, almost in the tropics. He was not in search of plants suited to the climate of Quebec, and yet some of our best hardy shrubs were brought to light at that time. This was probably the age of greatest Horticultural interchange the mild temperate regions have ever seen, and upon it is largely based their present advanced horticulture; and yet this work has been only of minor use to us.

In the tropics, and in the sub-tropical climates, the British Colonies have taken the lead in this matter of Botanic Gardens: wherever there is a Colony of any size there almost always is a Botanic Garden. Ceylon, India, (several), Singapore, Hong Kong, Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, Mauritius, Cape of Good Hope, and many others which I am not sure enough to note have their Botanic Gardens. Also in the West Indies, Jamaica, Trinidad and Demarara. The East and West Indies have interchanged for over 100 years! Read the reports of the Jamaica and other Botanic Gardens in the library of the Montreal Horticultural Society, and you will see that it is this Botanic interchange which has built up the present enormous export trade of the Tropics.

Now there are two points to which I wish to draw special attention.

I. We in the cold North have hardly begun to exchange with our like climates in the old world.

II. In Canada we have no Botanic Gardens.

As to exchange with our like climates, that will begin next fall. As to Botanic Gardens we must speak less hopefully. Our Horticultural Societies have done good

work. Our Universities do not neglect the science of Botany. We have some fair collections of trees, some Horticultural Gardens; but our Government has never seen the need of expenditure upon Botanic Gardens, as have the Governments of the European powers, and the Governments of other British Colonies. That this great Dominion of Canada, which stretches from the Atlantic to the Pacific, should be without a Botanic Garden, or a series of such gardens, is a fact without parallel in British Colonial history.

On the European Forestry plantations I must say a few words. The planted districts in France we did not pass through, but we obtained some idea of their method of work by visiting the Forest School at Nancy. That work one may get some idea of by reading their reports now in the Montreal Horticultural Society's library. In Germany we were continually passing extensive plantations of Scotch Pine (*Pinus silvestris*), bordered with Norway Spruce (*Abies excelsa*). The Germans are most economical in the use of wood, so that Pine so extensively planted must ere long become an article of export. But where are the hard woods needed for a thousand different purposes. Strange this exclusive planting of one species. So well are the forest plantations of Wurtemburg cared for, that the term "high culture" could with justice be applied to them. Evergreens are easily and cheaply propagated in the climate of Germany, and hence the method of planting adopted is that of close crowded planting, which of course, necessitates continued thinning.

In Russia the Government controls, in fact "works," a large proportion of the forests of the Empire. Of natural and planted forest the Government held in 1878 what is equal to 351,780,000 acres, exclusive of Siberia, besides about 51,590,000 acres of scrub at the far North. In 1878 they received from these forests an income of 10,648,000 roubles, and expended on new plantations, and working expenses, 6,400,000, leaving a profit for the year of 4,248,000 roubles, or about $2,124,000. The extent of the plantations in Russia I cannot state. I know, however, that in three

of the Steppe Governments in Southern Russia, 22,880 acres have been planted within the last 8 years. There are 762 forest stations under the charge of a like number of Foresters, and as we journeyed over the prairie regions of Russia, we were continually coming across some Forestry Station with its surrounding plantations. Like the Beet sugar factories they are scattered all over the otherwise treeless plains. Unlike the plantations in Germany the Russians have planted not only their native forms of the Silvestris Pine and Norway Spruce, but largely of Pedunculata Oak, Ash and Basswood, and somewhat of Larch, Birch and Poplar; also in the Southern Steppe regions, Yellow Locust, Maple, Elm, Honey Locust and others.

The Imperial Forestry Association was in session at Moscow at the time of our visit. Delegates from all parts of European Russia had assembled under the Presidency of Dr. Arnold, Director of the Agricultural College at Petrovskoe Rasumoskoe, near Moscow. They meet biennially. We drove to the Government forests in coaches holding eight persons each, on side seats, back to back, driven by four stallions abreast. After luncheon I was called upon (my friend, Mr. Budd, was not present that day) to plant an oak, which is the joint property of the Canadian and United States Governments, and which may be worth several hundreds of dollars some centuries hence.

These Foresters are a fine set of men. It was one of this staff who, of his own accord, and at his own expense, accompanied us through the fruit-growing peasant villages of Kazan, sharing our discomforts and sleeping upon a bundle of hay when necessary.

As to the climates of the places I name, I must refer to my report on "Russian Fruits." Had I had more time I would have shown what these climates are, not from Meteorological tables, but from the flora in their Botanic Gardens. I would merely say that the mildness of Central Europe one may judge by the trees growing in the well-sheltered Botanic Gardens at Warsaw. Here, in latitude 52½, we find Sophora Japonica 10 or 12 inches in diameter of trunk, growing from an old stump which had grown to a diameter of 2½ feet; Juglans Regia had grown up with two

trunks, each 22 inches across; Tulip Tree, large and low branched, measuring 3 feet across its stump at the ground; Gingko, of 8 inches diameter; Cornus mascula, 25 feet in height, and thirty feet across its extended branches. The Horse Chestnut grows luxuriantly, and attains very large size at Warsaw.

I must say that these trees could not be grown in open exposure near Warsaw, for such is the ameliorating influence of a large city that the shelter it affords is equal to a difference of more than 50 miles in latitude. Proscau in Silesia, on account of its elevation of 720 feet, its open exposure and cold soil, is a rather more severe test of hardiness than the sheltered city gardens of Warsaw. North and East of Warsaw the climate soon becomes severe.

These notes I have written as addenda to a somewhat lengthy article on "Ornamental Trees," written by me last year for the seventh report of the Montreal Horticultural Society, so that what I say is merely a jotting down of things not said then.

Also before writing this, I had read Prof. Budd's notes upon the same subject before they were sent to press for the Montreal Horticultural Society's report. I have therefore avoided as far as I could repeating what has been said by Mr. Budd.

ACER.—Maple.

A. CAMPESTRE.—In my paper on "Ornamental Trees," I spoke of this as a tree or shrub that would prove hardy, if only we obtained our seed from Northern stock. Its beauty in Central Park and other places had made me wish we had its Northern forms. In the Imperial Botanic Gardens at St. Petersburg, we find a fine specimen, 18 ft. in height, apparently quite hardy. Another in the Botanic Gardens at Orel, 30 ft.; this latter, however, not cork-barked. In the grounds of the Agricultural College at Petrovskoe Rasumovskoe, near Moscow, their stock did not prove hardy. It is a native tree North of Kursk, in Central Russia, and runs thence North-West into the Baltic provinces. Farther South it grows to larger size. In the Botanic Garden at Warsaw there is a tree 12 inches in diameter of trunk, and at least 45 feet high,

not cork-barked, and in the Vienna Botanic Garden, 20 inches in diameter of trunk, and 40 feet or more across its extended branches. This, too, is not cork-barked. A tree capable of standing drouth well. I am at a loss to know what name to give this tree. English cork-barked Maple will not do for a tree worthless to us if grown from English seed; a tree not always cork-barked. Let us procure seed of this pretty shrub maple—seed of northern growth. We need direct communication with the Botanic Gardens, and Nurserymen and Seedsmen of our own like climates in Northern Europe.

A. NEGUNDO FOL. VARIEGATIS OR ARGENTUM.—This is a variety of our Ash-leafed Maple, with white edged foliage. It is very ornamental, and largely used, top-grafted in Central Europe. Farther North, grown as a low shrub with slight protection, otherwise not at all hardy in extreme climates.

A. PLATANOIDES. *Norway Maple.*—We did not find this tree grown in as large quantity in Russia as I had expected; nor did we even find specimens of it as large as our own sugar Maple. We find it as a street tree, and in gardens in all the Russian towns, but in limited quantity only. I noticed on the Volga, in the dry regions, that the trees growing there, trees looking just like the Platanoides of Western Europe, stood drouth remarkably well.

Var. DISSECTUM.—This pretty thing we found in severe climates, and in Vienna we saw a specimen 8 inches in diameter of trunk, with a dense, round head, nearly 30 feet in height, showing that it attains larger size than I had expected.

Var. FOL. DIGITALIS we saw only at the Pomological School at Proskau, in Eastern Prussia. A small tree with leaves still more cut than Dissecta.

Var. REITENBACHI a curious and a pretty tree. Leaves, dull brown in summer, and in spring, red. I do not remember seeing it North of Warsaw.

Var. SCHWERDLERII.—A Maple with young shoots bright red. Quite hardy at Riga says Mr. Wagner. I should not expect it to prove hardy farther north.