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FLOWERS and VEGETABLES

No. 1

This is the first of a series of timely articles on the flower and vegetable gardening which will prove interesting to our readers. The series, while giving much information of value to the grower of larger quantities, is intended more for the owner of small or "back yard" spaces which can so often be made to return big dividends in fresh flowers and vegetables in a pleasant hobby and in healthful exercise. The series is from the pen of one of Ontario's experts and is an exclusive feature of this page.

Although winter still "lingers in the lap of spring," it is not too early to start plans for the garden that one has dreamed of during the winter months. Experience is not necessary for there is really no mystery about growing flowers and vegetables. With a little planning, some healthy exercise and a small outlay of cash, the ordinary back yard of weeds and spiritedly grass flanked by unsightly fences and leading up to a garage or chicken house may be changed into something upon which the eye will delight to dwell. Those beautiful lawns of broad lawn sweeping up to an informal bed of flowers, or those prim rows of green-topped vegetables are not hard to obtain. Given a seed catalogue, a spade, and a bit of vision, anything in the garden line is possible.

Planning the Garden.

One may live in a garden without a plan, but the results are apt to be disappointing. It is advisable to take an evening off this week and lay out the vegetable plot on paper. Even if the layout is by a matter of a few minutes it is surprising the amount of space a vegetable which may be grown comfortably if it uses a little room in laying out. Of course there space is less limited a full garden may be grown easily. Where the garden is large enough to permit long cultivation, the job is a simple one. Make all rows thirty inches apart, except those for some of the taller or more spreading sorts such as tomatoes or cucumbers, which should have a full yard between. When it is not possible to use a horse, carrots, beets and such can be cut down to twelve inches and beans and peas to fifteen or eighteen. This, of course, is rather narrow. It is a good plan to have alternative rows of quick maturing stuff like lettuce, spinach, or radishes which will be used before the rows out. In ordering vegetables spread out. In order to get the most of the sunlight run the rows north and south. To conserve space, stake tomatoes and place all climbing vegetables near the fence. It is advisable to grow the flowers for cutting in with the vegetables, as these plants are seldom allowed to reach the ornamental stage. Many of them, such as sweet peas, are not at their best under regular vegetable garden conditions. A few showy annuals such as poppies, zinnias and perhaps a few cosmos in the rear row at the end of the rows will not be missed here, but they add a touch of color to the otherwise solid green.

Laying Out the Flowers.

Little planning is necessary to lay out the annual flower garden. Here straight rows, so desirable in the vegetable patch, must be avoided at all costs. The most attractive layout is the informal one. This, however, does not mean a jumbled mass. Best results are obtained by grouping several specimens of one type and color in clumps, with the shorter stuff such as alyssum and nasturtium at the front, zinnias, marigolds, asters and a score of other medium sized sorts farther back, and along the rear the cosmos, dahlias, and similar plants. Another point to remember in planning the annual flower garden is that a succession of bloom is most essential. A good flower garden should make a show from early June until frost. California poppies and sunflowers or bachelor's buttons may be counted on for early bloom, and these along with the annual larkspur and cosmos may be sown on the late snow. Calendulas, candytuft and coreopsis, which also can be planted early, will start blooming in early summer. Nasturtiums and marigolds, if the flowers are kept picked off, will be covered with bloom throughout most of the season. Zinnias, salpiglossis, verbena, scabious, cosmos and petunias will supply plenty of late summer and fall bloom.

Keep Plants Covered.

This is the earliest season of the year on perennial plants. Just now, when the sun is mounting higher and becoming warmer climbers and shrubbery on the south side of the house particularly are liable to start bringing sap up from the roots. After sundown there is an abrupt drop in temperature, and this sap may freeze and burst the tiny cells inside the stems. This damage is not noticed until later on when but weakly sprouts are sent out or perhaps none at all. On the shady side of the house there is less danger, but it is well in every case to make sure that roses, ivy, and shrubbery are well covered around the roots. The perennial border, too, may need some attention in this connection. Straw, old flower stocks, leaves, and snow make the best cover.

Order seeds early if you want to be sure of getting the best varieties.

It is time to look over cold frame and hot bed shades to make sure that all the glass is in good shape.

Pick out a few novelties in both flowers and vegetables, but let the proved varieties be the main crops.

Seed, labels, stakes, and trellis work may be prepared now.

Look up last year's garden plan and study it for improvements.

Special Kinds of Bricks

Sand-lime bricks, cinder bricks, and cement blocks are made at many points in Canada, both in competition with ordinary clay bricks and pressed bricks, and also for use in localities where ordinary bricks are not available except at relatively high cost.

Farm Notes

Barley or Corn For Laying Pullets

An experiment to test the relative values of barley and corn as ingredients in the scratch grain and mash fed to laying pullets has been carried on over several years at the Lethbridge, Alberta, Experimental Station. The results of the test, which are summed up in the latest report of the superintendent, were greatly in favor of feeding corn rather than barley both for egg production and vitality of the birds. In the season in question the amount of barley or corn fed was one-fifth of the total feed consumed apart from green feed, and the corn or barley were added to the basic rations from the time the chicks were nine weeks old. In the 1925-26 test barley was not used until the pullets were placed in the laying pens in the fall. The results were similar to those of the previous year. The pullets in the barley-fed pens were not nearly as thrifty as those in the corn-fed pens. Several died, and egg production was light especially in January and February. After March 1st the barley fed birds were given cod liver oil, which resulted in a great improvement in the health of the birds and a return to normal laying.

Fox Farming an Established Industry

Referring to fur-farming in the Report of the Honorable Mr. Motherwell, Minister of Agriculture, he states that silver fox farming is now one of the established industries of the country and bids fair to go on increasing for many years to come. During the year under review there were inspected by officers of the Department and tattooed for registration 37,000 foxes, which was a considerable increase over the previous year. Despite this increase, the Minister sets out, prices for live foxes held sadly, while pelts in the open market commanded higher prices on the average than in the previous season. Taken as a whole the year is reported to have been a most successful one for the fox breeders who are finding a ready export market in the United States and in several of the European countries.

New Apples Receive Recognition

Varieties of apples originated at the Experimental Farms received unusual recognition during the past year. To a collection displayed by the Horticultural Division at the International Horticultural Exhibition at Paris there was awarded the silver gilt medal diploma. The Melba apple, a fine summer variety with quality as good as the McIntosh, was given high recognition on both sides of the Atlantic. The American Pomological Society awarded it its highest prize in the form of the silver Wilder medal. At the International Horticultural Exhibition at Brussels, in Belgium, it was given the gold medal diploma. This variety is one of the first of the Farms' production and is now listed in nursery catalogues.

Relation of Winter Production to the Hatching Quality of Eggs

An interesting investigation has been made at the Ste. Anne de la Pocatiere Experimental Station to ascertain whether hens with high winter production or those with low winter production produce the better eggs from the hatching point of view. In this particular experiment the eggs of low producing hens proved to be the better. It required an average of 9 of their eggs to produce one wing banded chicken against 3.6 of the eggs of the high producing hens.

Protein Feeds For Laying Pullets

With the object of determining the value of skim milk, beef scrap and meat as sources of protein for laying pullets, an experiment was recently conducted at the Ste. Anne de la Pocatiere Experimental Station. In estimating the results of the experiment, skim milk was valued at 4 cents a gallon, beef scrap at $4.75 per 100 pounds, and the meat, in this case horse flesh, at 3cents a pound. The group of pullets fed skim milk laid 934 eggs at a cost of 2 cents per dozen, the beef scrap pen, 908 eggs at 20½ cents per dozen, and the horse meat pen 717 eggs at 22 cents per dozen. (Issued by the Director of Publicity, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.)

Stock Notes

The best that can be said for a great many stray dogs is that they keep bread from molding. The worst that can be said is that they make sheep raising pretty much a gamble. Let those lovers of dogs to whom this plain statement of facts is offensive keep their dogs at home and give them the care they deserve. Better for both dog and sheep.

Idle horses need more straw to line their stomachs in winter. The straw-fed horse sacrifices his bone structure for maintenance needs, and is likely to become sparvined.

I put drinking cups in the barn over two years ago, and I am sure they paid for themselves the first year in convenience and increased milk production. They surely are a blessing to the dairyman. Every animal on this farm is watered inside the barn, winter and summer. Outside tanks bring mud. My barnyard is practically clean and mudless with no outside tank and no manure pile.

Here's what I heard a farmer say the other day: "We used to lose a cow of indigestion almost every winter before we put in cups; since, we haven't lost one."

A native of Denmark tells me that in that country horses with heaves are rarely known, for there is always a pail of water before each horse.

A Good Living and 10%.

The weight you are paid for on livestock is the weight over the buyer's scales—not the weight at the farm. Stuffing animals with feed to make them weigh heavier means a large shrinkage, for stuffed livestock does not ride well to market. Give hogs 75 per cent. of a normal feed previous to shipping in cool weather, 25 per cent. in warm weather.

A Sport Fast Becoming Popular in Canada

THE GREATEST THRILL EVER—STANDING ON AIR

A most unusual picture of two Swedish skiers just as they took off for the big jump on the famous Fiska torpet course near Stockholm. The finish of the jump will land them 160 feet below.

Sound the Alarm Against Dirty Seed

Analyses Reveal Much Dirty Seed Where Samples Are Filled With Thistle and Other Noxious Weeds

DANGEROUS TO SOW

The unfortunate part of sowing dirty seed is that not only is the yield affected on the field where dirty seed is sown, but the weed seeds ripening are spread, in their various ways, to adjacent clean crops. Some day it will be made an offence to sow dirty seed and a preventive law, strictly enforced, can not be looked upon as an infringement on personal liberty. The following article is well worth serious consideration:

"I don't want to be considered an alarmist, but there is no doubt in my mind that the weed menace is growing and the losses due to it are enormous." This was the recent statement of Professor J. E. Howitt, of the Ontario Agricultural College, to a gathering of farmers, who were further told that valuators were cutting from eight to twelve per cent. off the values of farm lands because of the presence of noxious weeds. And when one glances over analyses of samples of seed sent by farmers to Professor Howitt for examination one is forced to agree to both statements.

From Wellington County came a sample of alfalfa seed, one ounce of which contained 2 seeds of Canada Thistle, 45 Curled Dock, 666 Sheep Sorrel, besides smaller quantities of seven other very bad weeds. Suppose the farmer sending this in for test had sown the seed just as he had received it, allowing 15 pounds to the acre, this would mean that 17,280 Canada Thistle seeds would have been sown on every acre, besides well over a million other bad weed seeds. Each seed of Canada Thistle, Professor Howitt points out, is capable of multiplying at the rate of 5,400 in a single year. In other words 5 pounds of the alfalfa analyzed, had it been sown without cleaning up, would have been capable of producing over sixty million Canadian Thistles in one year's time. But this farmer took the precaution to have his seed tested by a government expert before he put it in his seed drill and thus was made aware of the chance he would run if the supply was not properly cleaned up.

One quarter ounce of Timothy seed submitted by another Western Ontario farmer showed 6 Perennial Sow Thistle, five Canada Thistle, 38 Curled Dock, 41 Mayseed, 47 Lambsquarters and other weeds when put under the microscope. There were not nearly as many weed seeds in this sample, but it must be considered that it was only a quarter the size of the other, and the six sow thistle seeds constituted a very serious menace in themselves.

This weed will multiply at the rate of 3,000 per year, according to Professor Howitt, and once it gets a start, it is decidedly a nasty one to handle. An ounce of alfalfa from Eastern Ontario, which was shipped in to Professor Howitt for examination, contained 692 Twitch grass seeds, 18 Green Fox Tail and 4 Bladder Campion, a nice mess to get in a crop on a clean farm.

Nor is the risk confined to the purchasing of ungraded clover seed. The man who sows untested grain is taking just as big a chance, according to Government officials. T. G. Raynor, of the Dominion Seed Branch, examined 69 samples of grain taken from seed drills in Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec and of this number he found that 43 would have been rejected by the government test had they been offered for sale, on account of the number of weed seeds they contained. The 69 samples showed an average of 156 weed seeds to the pound. Seedsmen would not have been allowed to sell 43 lots of this seed grain tested by Mr. Raynor, but the government cannot protect the farmer from himself. Where standard grade, tested seed, either clover or grain, is being used, the farmer knows exactly what he is sowing, but where he is using his own seed or some he bought from a neighbor, the only safe plan is to have the stuff tested at a Government laboratory and find out just what it contains. These laboratories are located at Calgary, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa and Quebec, and up to three samples will be tested free for any farmer.

When pinning your faith to some men it's advisable to use a safety pin.

Counting Noses

Wild Life Census To Be Made In Big Canadian Game Preserve

A census of the musk-oxen and other wild life in the Canadian Government sanctuary of 15,000 square miles east of Great Slave Lake will be taken early in 1928 by W. J. B. Hoare of the Northwest Territory and Yukon Branch of the Canadian Department of the Interior. He is an experienced explorer with an intimate knowledge of the animal life of the region. The work is expected to take about a year.

The information obtained is to be used by his department to estimate what further expenditures are necessary to conserve and develop the resources of the area. The census has been ordered to determine the inroads made by wolves and other predatory animals.

Mr. Hoare will also report on the measures necessary to protect the musk-oxen and caribou, and on the problem of patrolling the area properly.

The area is believed to be seldom visited and contains no permanent residents, either native or white.

To make the journey he must go to the end of the railroad at Waterways and from there travel 800 miles by dog team to the proposed location of his base camp, which is at Fort Reliance, about thirty-five miles southwest of the sanctuary.

To equip his expedition six Eskimo sled dogs were brought from Pond Inlet, Baffin Island, by the 1927 Canadian Arctic Expedition. The dogs from the Eastern Arctic are highly prized by travelers in the far North, both because of their strength and endurance.

Ontario's Mineral Belt

The larger part of Ontario is occupied by the Laurentian plateau or, "Precambrian Shield," with its typical uneven, forest-covered rocky surface, its innumerable lakes in rock basins and its rivers broken by frequent rapids and falls. It is in this area that mineral development is taking place so rapidly.

Spanish Author Dies in France

Blasco Ibanez Succumbs at His French Riviera Home

Paris.—Blasco Ibanez, author [illegible] was best known for the "Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse," died [illegible] home on the French Riviera [illegible].

He was suffering from bronchial pneumonia, diabetes and pleurisy.

The Spanish author, who [illegible] voluntary exile because of the [illegible] ances of his political views [illegible] those of the ruling powers of Spain, had been ill for several days.

Vicente Blasco Ibanez, after [illegible] ing world-wide renown as a [illegible] attracted attention as an opponent of King Alfonso and the administration of Government in Spain. His attacks against the King led to conviction but Ibanez kept [illegible] reach of the Spanish Government, exiling himself in France.

The purpose of his campaign against the ruler and other Government officials, the novelist admitted, was to overthrow the monarchy and set up in Spain a republican form of Government.

Starting his attacks against the King and government late in 1924, Ibanez declared that he would continue his attacks all over the world.

"I am determined to defy the King of Spain and will remain in exile until I have succeeded in my aim to spend all my wealth to make my once great country a republic and save it from the monarchy and the cities who have brought it to the point of death."

Within a few months after the attack, it was said Ibanez had spent $15,000 in his campaign.

AN ATTRACTIVE NEW

This charming frock is smart in style, and will appeal to the discriminating modish uneven hemline is by means of the skirt being shaped band which encircles the bloused bodice and is a contrasting or matching the sleeves are loose. No. 1678 is in sizes 34, 36, 38, 40 and 42 inches bust. Size 38 requires 3¾ yards 39-inch, or 2½ yards 54-inch material, and ¾ yard contrasting for View. Price 20c for the pattern.

HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS

Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of each pattern as you want them. Send stamps or coin (coin preferred) and write it carefully) for each pattern and address your order to The Wilson Publishing Co., 73 Adelaide St., Toronto. Patterns will be returned by mail.

Rank Incompetence

Mike Conway was a [illegible] Swivel wasn't much of a [illegible] when the doc up and died one day Mike said that he could even cure himself if he tried.

Sunday School Lesson

[illegible]ruary 19. Lesson VIII.—Two [illegible]facles of Power.—Mark 4: 35-41; [illegible] 15-19. Golden Text—What manner [illegible] of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?—Mark 4: 41.

SUBJECT.

[illegible]IST'S POWER OVER NATURE AND THE MIND OF MAN.

INTRODUCTION—The personality of [illegible] was such that his followers could neither comprehend it nor describe it in the language of ordinary human life. When, looking back from a later standpoint, these followers [illegible] of his as the Son of God, they were thinking, not only of the unique [illegible]se to which he manifested the divine love, but of the extraordinary [illegible]e and serenity which he displayed in the presence of the powers of Nature or when faced by crass and terrifying facts in the life of man. [illegible]only language in which they could describe the Master is the language which we find in such a phrase as the Stilling of the Storm. We [illegible] in Jesus who is not easy Yearbook the presence of storm and tempest, who subdues them by his word. So [illegible] presence of dementia, insanity, decay in human souls he is not afraid, but [illegible]ands the evil entities they obey him. If we leave out of thoughts and such incidents as [illegible] life of Jesus we are left with a figure which falls short of the reality.

We do not apprehend the greatness of Jesus as his disciples apprehended it, nor do we grasp the full [illegible]sure of his faith in God.

[illegible]ESUS AND THE POWERS OF NATURE. Mark 4:35-41.

Vs. 35-38. The incident [illegible] recorded here indicates that one of the mightiest factors in the impression which Jesus made was his attitude of serenity in the face of storm and tempest. The incident records a simply religious experience of the disciples. "Master," cried the disciples, "could you not let us go down without a fight?" It indicates the impression which the Master had made on the disciples turn to him in their extremity. Had Jesus been [illegible] a teacher or philosopher, would they have turned to him for help in an emergency of [illegible]?

Vs. 39-41. The rebuke. The rebuke [illegible] element here is [illegible] reproof of the disciples' fears. "Why are you afraid like this?" "Have you still no faith yet?" Surely when they were all engaged in God's business they might have felt that they were in God's keeping! The words which follow indicate how deep was the religious impression made by the incident. The disciples are absolutely overawed, and their question, "What manner of man is this?" shows that Jesus' power is to be explained by what merely appeared to the eye. The disciples are continually being driven back upon a power, indeed, a supernatural explanation of his person.

[illegible]ESUS AND THE POWER OF SIN. Mark 5:15-19.

Vs. 15-19. If in the previous incidents Jesus showed that true religion, true faith in God, was a mightier power than nature, in the incident which now follows he shows also that it is mightier than the Satanic forces which assail the souls of men. The case of the Gerasene demoniac has been described. The demoniac in question exhibited an acute type of mania—[illegible] madness, taking expression in [illegible] cidal and suicidal frenzy. A [illegible] luxury human methods of dealing with the case had failed. To the man with [illegible] frenzied imagination it appeared that a whole legion of demons, that is, six thousand, had taken up their abode in him. We see the maniac no longer driven about by the evil [illegible] mare-like tyrants, but sitting [illegible] a disciple at Jesus' feet, no longer naked, but clothed, no longer mad, but self-possessed. It is a wonderful picture of what was daily happening before the eyes of the men who followed Jesus. The first to notice is that the ex-maniac, ex-outcast, ex-cannibal, ex-[illegible]cate from religious society is now a disciple of Jesus. He wishes to follow Jesus back to Galilee, like the others, but Jesus has other business for him. He sends him to do the work of [illegible] disciple among his own heathen kinsfolk and fellow-countrymen. Imagine the impression which the telling of his simple story would make upon these pagan folks!

Miss Lloyd George Smokes Cigarette

Impersonating Queen Victoria She Takes a Few Puffs

London.—Those Ontario women [illegible] any), who applaud the decision of Chicago's women's societies to cancel addresses by Miss Maude Royden because she smokes cigarettes, will doubtless be pained to hear that Miss Megan Lloyd George has gone Miss Royden one better.

The daughter of Britain's wartime Prime Minister recently attended a fancy dress ball as Queen Victoria, but perpetrated a glaring anachronism by indulging in a casual cigarette. When it was called to her attention that the home life of Queen Victoria did not include the use of tobacco, Miss Lloyd George promptly turned the laugh against her informant by dashing the cigarette on the floor and repeating the famous cry of Victoria as a girl:

"I will be good! I will be good!"

Immigration

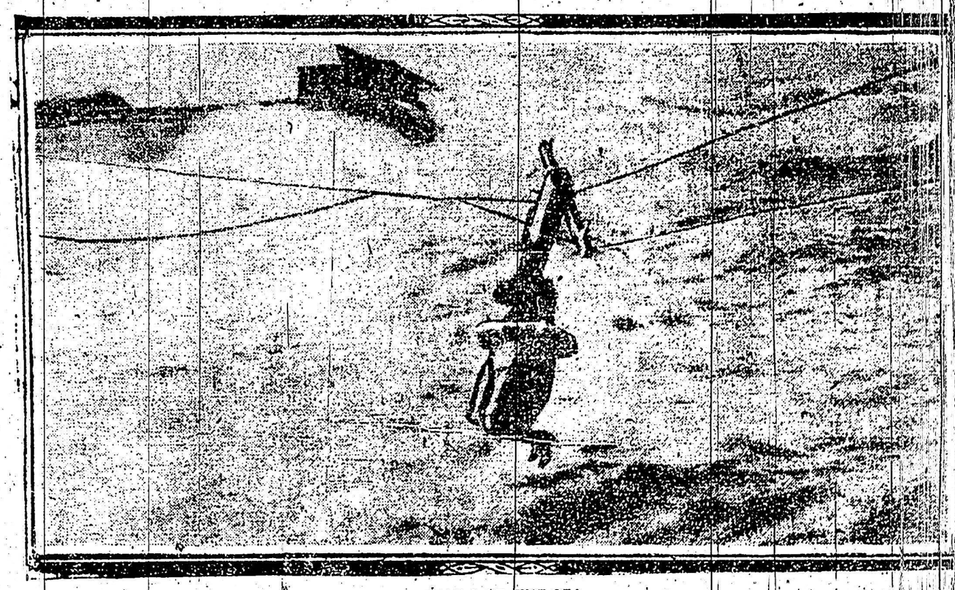
Regina Leader (Lib.): "[illegible] practical unanimity among [illegible] people in the Dominion today as to the urgent necessity of a larger population, and in the co-operation now going on to achieve this end there is apparent little if any racial prejudice.

"What is properly desired is that a policy of preferential British immigration shall be rigidly maintained, shutting the door only to foreign-born immigrants who, either incapable of adopting Canadian ideals or unwilling to do so, cannot be assimilated.

How to Read.

Read those things you can read with gusto and digest after reading and leave other works to those who can appreciate them. That was Roosevelt's plan.—American Magazine.

A Very Close Call



PERILS OF THE SEA

Mrs. Fullerton, wife of Capt. Sterling Fullerton of the barge "Harry A. Keeler," being rescued after the barge had gone on the rocks [illegible] port, R.I. The breeches buoy became entangled with a piece of floating wreckage. It was a narrow escape.