

HINTS FOR THE FARMER.

GROWING POTATOES FOR SEED.

There ought to be a business by itself in growing potatoes to be used for seed. The success of the crop always depends very largely on the seed planted. Its care after harvesting ought not to be such as average farmers give to their potato crops. For preparing the very best seed, the potatoes need to be exposed to a degree of sunlight that will entirely spoil them for market or for cooking. Still more is it necessary that the potatoes be well grown and ripened while the foliage is untouched by the potato beetle or its larva, and uninjured by the fungus, which causes blight and potato rot. In how small a proportion of all the potatoes grown do these conditions prevail? And the worst of it is that after the potatoes are harvested it is well nigh impossible to select from the bin the potatoes that are sure to produce strong, vigorous hills if cut and planted as seed. A well-shaped, smooth potato may have been the only one fit for market that the hill which grew it produced. It may have had its foliage badly eaten by potato larva or be prematurely ripened when it's vine blighted. In some seasons, and last year was one of them, very few potatoes came to maturity without injury of some sort. The quality of potatoes for cooking has been very poor this year, and for seed it is probably much worse. The fact that a potato is rough and scabby, and is "waxy" rather than mealy when cooked, is presumptive evidence that it suffered either from blight, or its foliage was injured by the potato larva. Only with healthy and whole foliage can potatoes be grown that will be fit for seed. There are always some hills that are considerably injured by the potato beetle. These the grower of potatoes for seed will throw out by themselves when he is harvesting the crop. Potatoes thus grown will naturally cost more than those taken from crops grown and harvested the usual way. It is not necessary for seed potatoes that the tubers should be large. If well ripened, medium and even small potatoes are as good as any, though in planting small tubers it is best to cut out all the eyes, except the strongest one, and then plant the whole potato. It will produce stronger stalks than if more than one bud is allowed to grow. Much of the admitted advantage from planting new seedling potatoes comes from the fact that the interest of the originator impels him to give extra care to the growing of seed, and so long as he can sell it at much above usual potato price, he is pretty sure to maintain the original vigor which every seedling potato starts out with. It is only when the new variety gets into the hands of those who are careless about growing potatoes that the potato begins to "run out," as it is commonly called. Even the most prolific varieties, after eight or ten years, become poor yielders, and are extremely liable to become affected by blight. And yet we have known farmers who by careful selection and care of seed potatoes were able to keep the old-fashioned Early Rose as a good profitable potato to grow, and that without renewing this variety from seed, as has often been done since. Most of the Early Rose now sold are of comparatively recent origin.

MELON-CULTURE.

The best fertilizer for watermelons is barnyard manure, well rotted and disintegrated; fresh manure, especially in dry seasons, is not nearly so effective. If a manure is scarce, use commercial fertilizers; a good mixture is 800 lb. nitrate of soda, 1,000 lb. superphosphate, acid phosphate, and 200 lb. muriate of potash, making one ton; use 500 to 800 lb. per acre. Watermelons thrive best on sandy soil. If manure is to be used, plough and thoroughly harrow; cross-mark the ground, rows to be eight feet apart. The manure can be applied, two shovelfuls, or more if it can be spread, at each intersection, in either of two ways—by spading or forking it in, or by digging holes, placing the manure therein and covering the soil; we prefer the latter plan, though it takes rather more time. In the case of commercial fertilizers, after ploughing and once harrowing to level the soil, broadcast the mixture, then finish harrowing thoroughly. If the soil is very sandy, nitrate of soda being so soluble, it might be advisable to omit it from the mixture to be harrowed in, applying it afterwards broadcast when the plants are up. A further stimulus may be given by scattering a little of the mixture two feet around the plants when above ground and working it into the soil with a steel rake or manure-fork; this would be of advantage to the plants even when manure is used.

Three strong plants in a hill are sufficient, but it is best to plant two or even three that number of seeds, in case of accident, and to allow of a good selection. As to cultivation, stir the soil lightly with the cultivator as frequently as possible, keeping it up until the growth of the vines prevent it. Pinch off the ends of the vines when two feet or so in length, as it encourages branching, pinching the terminals when the fruit is well set will hasten maturity. If some early melons are desired, plant seeds on inverted sod in hotbed; the hotbed stage

will cover nearly four weeks, so that it can be easily calculated when to start. Do not water seeds in hot-bed until the plants appear.

THE FARMER'S GARDEN.

The best bit of land on the farm is none too good for this purpose, but for the convenience of the family it should be as near the house as possible, for if it is close under the eye of the housewife, things will be utilized just as fast as they come to maturity, which would often be missed until over-ripe if the garden was located far away and the bringing of the product to the house depended entirely upon the men folks, who too often think the kitchen garden of too little importance to receive much of their attention.

Deep ploughing, liberal manuring, and thorough pulverization are the next essentials to success, and if after the garden has been most thoroughly harrowed, it can be brushed over, and even be to the expense of hard raking results will more than pay for this extra labor. Plan to have the rows run lengthways of the plot, and far enough apart to admit the use of horse and narrow cultivator, even among the finer growing plants, or if one prefers to plant a little closer and use some of the hand-weeders and cultivators, greater planting can be crowded into the same space, but for the general farm garden I would plant none of the rows less than eighteen inches apart, and some would need to be more than twice this distance, and expect the horse and cultivator to do the biggest share of the work, of culture, and so reduce hand labor to a minimum.

PRUNING.

In pruning trees the branches removed should be sawed off close to the main trunk or limb on which they grew. If a long stub is left the wound will not heal over, but remain open subject to the attack of disease germs, which, when they have once gained entrance, are sure sooner or later to produce "Black Heart," which may extend through the whole tree.

In cutting back small branches or "leading-in" the cut should be made just above a good strong bud so that no stub is left to die back and invite disease. All large wounds should be painted over to prevent "checking," and to keep out germs while the healing process is going on. When smaller branches have been removed or cut back, it is well to spray the whole tree with Bordeaux mixture, which not only prevents germs from entering the wounds, but also checks their growth on other parts of the trees.

SECOND DELUGE OF BLOOD.

THIS SUGGESTION PROMPTED IN CASE OF A WORLD'S WAR.

The Standing Armies of the Armed Nations—Kingdoms Would Topple Over, Vast Cities Be in Ruins, and the World's Map Be Changed.

The war with Spain and the United States may be short, and peace may reign again in a few weeks. It may be prolonged, and in the latter event the nations that are at this time neutral will find their interests more or less interfered with. It will be to Great Britain's interests to see the war brought to a sudden close, for war means a stoppage of commercial relations with one of her best customers. Should Great Britain undertake to interfere in the fight between the United States and Spain it will require slight provocation for her watchful enemy, Russia, to take advantage of the fact that the attention of Englishmen is temporarily distracted from the Eastern situation to commit some act that will set a match to the train of gunpowder laid to the magazine in the Orient.

Under such circumstances it will be in keeping with the present indications for Japan to join forces with Great Britain, and for Germany, Austria and Italy to be forced into

ONE GIGANTIC WAR

that will change the map and perhaps sweep away kingdoms. Armed Europe is a tremendous sight at present. Germany's stupendous army of 1,946,380 men, officered by 22,672 men, with a cavalry of over 100,000 horsemen and an artillery comprising 2,964 guns, would be a tremendous aggregation of fighters for Great Britain to face, with her little force of 215,281 soldiers, 4,918 officers, 29,812 cavalrymen and 720 guns. All the men Great Britain would have to help her through an alliance with Japan would be 56,237 infantry and 5,760 cavalrymen. The Japs are born fighters, and have proved their prowess as have their British friends, but the odds would be tremendous, and individual courage does not count for much where men are pitted at a distance of two miles by a marksman with a magazine rifle.

What frightful scenes would result from a general war such as that suggested, should France join forces with Germany's millions and swell her fighting strength by putting over 2,000,000 men into the field, with 112,000 caval-

ry and 3,400 guns! If the course of events should ever bring it to pass that France forgets her old grudge against Germany, and makes an offensive alliance with her, what a tremendous army would be ready within mobilization time after the declaration of war!

Whatever the outcome of Great Britain's efforts to obtain an ally, it cannot be hoped that Russia will be anything but an enemy of hers. To the coalition against Great Britain, therefore, would be added the army, of the Czar, numbering 1,116,824 men, with a cavalry force of 163,000, among whom would be the fierce.

COSSACKS OF THE DON.

and an artillery force with 2,672 guns at its command.

Austria would be a mighty ally, for her fighting strength is 862,300 men, and she can supplement this with a cavalry force numbering 163,000 horses, and an artillery with 1,572 guns. If Turkey came into the general scrimmage she would add to the total of fighting men an army of 180,000 combatants, with a cavalry force of 30,400 men, and 696 guns. Not by any means a force to be despised, for most of Turkey's soldiers are veterans of one war.

These figures are appalling when it is considered that they represent men under arms, trained in the use of modern weapons, which are the deadliest used in any war since the world began, and men who are thoroughly educated in the art of war, with nothing left undone that thoughtful trainers can suggest to harden their physique and make perfect the fighting qualities of the troops. But what becomes of the suggestion of even these millions fighting, when it is remembered that they comprise merely the active armies of the countries referred to?

In war times the number of fighters that each nation would put into the field would multiply in some instances by two the forces quoted above. Thus, a million men would have to be added to Germany's army if

THE FIRST RESERVE

be added to the number given above. If the second reserve is to be included, it will be necessary to add nearly a million more. If the grand total of fighting men capable of being put into the field when the entire resources of Germany are drawn upon be added together, it will swell the German army to 5,698,180 men. All the other nations would be able to send to battle vastly augmented forces, should the reserves be called upon, so that where in past wars armies of 70,000, 80,000 or 100,000 men were considered a large and powerful force, in a modern fight between great nations such an army would not be considered more than a small section of the force required to do battle on a scale that promised success.

With millions of men against her, Great Britain has shown that she does not consider her strength puny. She boasts of her "splendid isolation," and talks confidently of her ability to cope with armies numbering millions by the simple process of bottling them up in their own fortified harbors and compelling them to stay there until they tire of the imprisonment and sue for peace. With her vast navy Britain feels absolutely confident that she can settle Germany in a very short time, Germany's limited seaboard would make the investment of her coast towns, say the Britishers, a matter of the greatest ease, and then, says John Bull, what would be the use of her millions of trained men? There is truth in the argument when

THE COMPARATIVE SIZE

of the German and British navy is considered, for Britain's navy possesses no less than 989 ships of war of all classes and sizes, while Germany possesses only 334. It would be a different story should France join Germany, for in that event she would bring her navy of 673 ships to join those of Germany. Italy has a fairly good navy, and Britain should see the help of 330 warships of all kinds, but in Russia she would have another formidable enemy, with a navy of 467 ships. Turkey has 211 warships of one kind, and another, but they are not very formidable craft, and would not make a very serious impression in a naval fight with modern boats. Japan has a fine little navy of 217 ships of all classes, and would do effective work in the Orient, but she would scarcely be an ally upon whom England could count to balance the force on her side with that of a combination of continental Powers.

But it is the awful carnage that would result from such a combination of forces as that suggested that makes men stop appalled at the very thought of general international war, like that which has been so calmly discussed many times recently. It would be a world at war. Not a few thousand fighting men pitted against each other but the flower of the manhood of nations taking opposing sides, every man capable of bearing arms being impressed into the fight for home and fatherland; a deluge of blood as there was once a deluge of water, that would threaten the same dire results of the world. The peace-at-any-price party may be excused for their utterances when such a result is contemplated as that which would ensue from a general conflict of the nations.

THEIR WIVES' ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Between you and me, said Twynn to Triplett, I don't like piano music at all, but I am quite willing for my wife to play because her mouth is kept closed while she is playing.

You are better off than I am, replied Triplett. My wife sings and plays at the same time.

UNREASONABLE.

Jobs, what's the trouble between you and Mrs. Jobs?
O, she makes me tired. The idea of fancy woman tryin' to hold a man to what he said when he was courtin' her. She ought to have more sense.

The Home

HINTS FOR CLEANING CARPETS.

A good foundation is half of the success in life, and surely nowhere is it needed more than in our floors upon which carpets rest for months and years without the thorough cleaning they so often need. Commence with the floor by preparing for the carpet before the latter is down.

The Buffalo moth is the worst enemy known for this part of our household belongings, but keep him away by scrubbing the bare floor with warm water and turpentine, half a pint of the latter in each pail of water. Another good cleansing mixture that is warranted to frighten all kinds of insects away is one and one-half pints of soft soap, the same of lime, and two pints of sand with plenty of warm water.

Do not sprinkle tea leaves over a carpet, but once a month use cornmeal, which revives the colors and effectually lays the dust. In sweeping dip the broom in water, shake it well and then sweep, but the broom must be clean or a muddy appearance is the result.

If the carpet looks faded, sprinkle it with damp bran and brush with a stiff broom, then wet a piece of flannel in strong salt water and go over the carpet doing a small piece at a time, as it must not be wet through. Dry with a second cloth. Ammonia and warm water is applied in the same way if the colors are fast.

Very dirty spots in carpet should be washed out with a scrubbing brush and warm water strong with ox gall; in fact, the latter is nearly pure. Grease spots will disappear under equal parts of magnesia and Fuller's earth, mixed to a paste with boiling water. This is put on warm and left for twenty-four hours, and when it is brushed off the grease spot is a thing of the past. Raw starch and water is another remedy for greasy spots and various stains, repeating the coat of paste several times if necessary.

If oil is spilled on a carpet, at once apply boiling water or heavy brown wrapping paper, and press it with a very warm iron. Fresh ink may be removed by using the blotting paper at once. Take up as much of the ink as possible with a spoon, says an excellent housewife, and then pour cold sweet milk on the spot and dip it up with the spoon until the milk is barely tinged with ink. Then wash in cold water and wipe as dry as possible.

In place of sweeping an invalid's room, try rubbing a slightly damp cloth over the carpet to gather up the dust and brighten it. If you wish to patch an old carpet, cut a piece to fit over the hole, matching the figure, paste it down with flour paste and iron well with a hot flatiron. When whitewash has injured your carpet try a few drops of carbonate of ammonia in warm water, on the spots.

It is said that fleas can be kept out of carpets by sprinkling oil of wormwood around the edges. The carpet moth haunts the edges and housewives often lay a cloth wrung out of hot water on the carpet edges and iron until dry, thus killing the moth and its eggs. This will answer for an ingrain carpet, but the thicker varieties must be loosened and the edges turned back, as the steaming and ironing will have to be done on the inner side.

If a carpet has to be washed, after beating it well on both sides and removing all grease and extra dirty spots as previously described, apply with a clean brush, a mixture of half pound of soap boiled in a gallon of water until dissolved, and then add to it two ounces of salts of tartar. Use this hot, covering not over a yard at a time, and dry with a coarse towel before using more of the liquid. A carpet may be washed on the floor if two persons work at it and care is taken to prevent its being wet too long.

A great deal of what is termed "elbow grease" is necessary in all cleaning, but the results amply repay one when the work is thoroughly done.

All directions for cleansing and renovating carpets may also be applied to rugs, but do not shake the latter as this loosens the edges. Hang them on a line and beat with a rattan, etc., then lay them on a flat surface and sweep both sides with a clean broom dipped in water and ammonia. The highest proof kerosene is sometimes used for this purpose, but we think salt and water or ammonia and water far better.

Straw matings take the place of carpets and should be included in this article especially as the increasing use of large rugs is also bringing more matings into play for summer use, laying a rug over them for colder weather. A matting should be washed with salt and water and wiped dry at once with a coarse flannel cloth. If the matting is a dirty white, wash it all over with a weak solution of soda, which will turn it a creamy shade. Never scrub a matting.

After each weekly sweeping dip your broom in warm soapsuds, shake it well and hang it up to dry. This cleaning and the fact that it is kept hanging when not in use, will make it last twice as long as it would with careless treatment.

When carpets are to be laid away for the summer they should be beaten, cleansed, paper wet with turpentine laid in the folds, and after the carpet is rolled up, cover it with tarred paper or sew it up in burlaps or heavy ticking.

FEEDING CATS.

A good many people who make a pet

of the "harmless necessary cat," do not know how to feed it. Proverbially a cat has nine lives, but it is often true that a pet kitten has an extremely frail hold upon existence. No kitten is beset with more ills than the lot of kittenhood.

Too much cream and too much milk kill many kittens. Wait until the full grown before giving it much cream and then give meat and fish occasionally and offer vegetable food for variety. Some cat owners think that it is a matter of cat appetite which craves cold potato or an ear of boiled corn. "Willie," in one of Miss Willing's stories, whose mistress laid up a winter squash for his special treat had but the ordinary cat's taste for vegetable food in some form.

WELL-MADE BEDS.

Few things are more satisfactory than a sweet, fresh, well-made bed to begin with, every article should be taken off and laid separately over a clean and a strong current of air should be allowed to circulate through the bed. Then the mattress should be turned and from end to end, as this prevents being worn more evenly, and it will sink in the middle, which spoils the looks of any bed, however beautifully covered. The sheets should always be ample large, and, in making a bed, an excellent plan is to place one lengthwise across it. In this way there is a double advantage—less weight on the shoulders and plenty of clean air firm tucking up. A restlessness might be prevented from taking place if blankets were placed across the

THE HUMAN COST OF WAR.

AWFUL LOSS OF LIFE SINCE THE CHRIST.

Do these persons who urge war stop to think of the cost of human life involved in a warfare between nations?

The civil war cost 303,000 lives, this number 98,089 were slain in the vast army which succumbed to disease was no less than 181,231, the remaining 20,000 or so died of wounds received.

At the battle of Waterloo 50,000 were killed or disabled. There were 145,000 soldiers in that great battle and it is estimated that one man was either killed or disabled for every shot fired, counting both the attacking and the defending.

In the Crimean war 95,613 lives were sacrificed, and at Borodino, when French and Russians fought, 32,000 men were left dead on the battlefield.

There were 250,000 troops in the Crimea 80,000 were Parisians who were going to have a holiday along the coast this time, but I expect to see a flag flying for the tip of my

In the Franco-Prussian war Frenchmen were killed. The Germans fired 39,000,000 rifle shots to attack result. During the same war the Germans fired 363,000 artillery shots. Since the birth of Christ 4,000,000 men have been slain in battle. At the beginning of the Christian era losses cannot be estimated, only the very indistinct and inaccurate counts that have been handed down.

In none of the battles mentioned was dynamite used. In the war of the future this terrible agent of destruction must be reckoned on. Who have studied the mortality statistics of the past shudder at the thought of what may be in store in the future that are to come. Only recently the use of dynamite in land warfare has been considered safe for the attacking it. The modern dynamite however, has seemingly solved the problem, and the men who go to war hereafter will face an agent of destruction beside which the charge Napoleon's old guard were to play.

HE DID IT.

The helpfulness of a good man when it comes to assistance in domestic affairs, is apt to be very much exaggerated. The following is a true story as narrated below:

His wife had asked him to hang a picture she had purchased for the living room, and he had said that he would do it "in a jiffy."

"You just get me the cord and picture-hook," he said to his wife, and he went to the kitchen to tell the servant-girl to run down to the grocery store to get a picture-hook. He told the servant-girl to run down to the grocery store to get a picture-hook. He told the servant-girl to run down to the grocery store to get a picture-hook.

"I don't know but a chair would be better than the step-ladder for getting it up. Somebody go out to the kitchen and get me a chair. I want to stand on one of the legs of the chair."

"Got that cord? Just measured about the right length and laid it in those little things at the picture store. There, now, there's your picture hung up in good shape, and about it. The difference between men and you women is that men have anything to do we go right and do it, and no talk about it."

SPRING SMIL

Old Grabber ought to be money he has. He much so that he wags exactly the same-kind Prond Father—My daughter is reaching for C can't you really comp again's to strike you for X's.

The Judge—You must be a lawyer! I won't be a lawyer! I won't be a lawyer! I won't be a lawyer!

How is the young king in his studies? I inquire of the Spanish cabinet. What does he do? He doesn't seem to have much trouble with geometry.

What are you crying, Boob-hoo—Willie's broke his leg! I look him all the fellows who are in the world. Why don't you yell Boob-hoo—I—I can't be a Victim of hard luck, of the sarcastic citizen. In an arm, answered Dis-Wy, my friend, I never give but what the weather is likely to rain.

Boef is likely to be vent the young husband to the good wife. Never mind, the latter, whose housekeeper is nil. Never mind; porterhouse steak.

Yalsley—You look as if you have had a good time. Mudge—I hope not. You why? Because if I did it I don't recollect a thing about a time I had.

What was your first thought, as she seated herself next to you? He replied well, this is a fine fine ride. I'll not be able to ride through the rain.

Dink—Yes, you see, I'm in a fix. I would, never have I'd had the least idea that I should get me, but she did. I suppose again, as if you had that ought to make her an either killed or disabled for every shot fired, counting both the attacking and the defending.

Did you know, said Mike that the young man who proposed to you writes proposing? Yes, Well, he ought to have some sympathy with his subject, mainly very backward.

What is that terrible noise that the startled youth heard at midnight? I thought you heard the navy? answered the man in her breath. So I have. An answer that noise? No, the clearing for action.

First Sea Sergeant—Say, I was going to have a holiday along the coast this time, but I expect to see a flag flying for the tip of my

VEGETABLES' AS MEDICINE.

The value of green food in the maintenance of health cannot be overestimated. Nature provides us with many of her best medicines, and many of her best are actually medicinal. Spinach is actually medicinal. "Spinach" is the name given to the "broom of the stomach," which has for years past been a household word to French patients with indigestion. Spinach is equal to anything in the vegetable kingdom.

Reading English medical literature, it is a common recommendation that a patient in cases of indigestion should use spinach. Spinach is equal to anything in the vegetable kingdom. Spinach is equal to anything in the vegetable kingdom.