DATE CULTURE IN OUR VALLEYS.

An Industry that Might be Made Profitable.

Something About the Date Palms of Foreign Countries—How to Grow Them.

[Written for the RECORD-UNION by W. A. Sanders.]

There are over a dozen species of these palms, all included in the genus Phœnix, and all natives of the main land or adjacent islands of Africa and southern Asia, extending as far east as Hongkong. They are easily distinguished by their pinnate leaves, and the botanist finds another distinguishing characteristic in each blossom having three distinct ovaries. The flower spikes grow out from amongst the leaves and bear flowers of one sex only; the male and the female blossoms being produced on different trees.

Phœnix Dactylifera—Is the species most largely cultivated, and produces most of the dates found in our markets. The trees grow from sixty to eighty feet in hight and are long lived, continuing to produce yearly crops of fruit for centuries. The Arabs recognize many varieties of this species, differing not only in time of ripening, size, yield and color of fruit, but also in adaptability to flourish under contrasting conditions of heat, drought, cold and moisture. Every part of the tree is made use of; poor people make huts of the leaves; the fiber of the stems makes rope and coarse cloth; the stalks make crates, baskets, brooms, walking-sticks, etc., while the trunks make substantial buildings; the heart of the young leaves is eaten as cabbage; the sap affords an intoxicating beverage, or before fermentation is boiled into palm sugar.

Phœnix Canariensis—This species, as its name implies, is a native of the Canary Islands. Reasoner Bros., nurserymen of Oneco, Fla., say of it that, "this palm is perfectly at home and matures fruit in Florida."

Phœnix Farinifera — Is a native of Southern China. It endures the winters of Southern France (never frostless) without protection. Its fruit is of a shining black; pulp mealy, and sweet. Sago is obtained from the stems in the same manner as from the sago palm (*Sagus lævis*), whence its name, *farinifera*.

Phœnix Leonensis—Is largely grown in Europe as an ornamental. It is remarkable for its upright, vigorous and rapid growth.

Phœnix Pumila—Is a quick grower and early bearer. It requires a rich soil. It is less hardy to stand frost than *P. dactylifera*, or the following:

Phœnix Sylvestris—A native of Bengal, and commonly called the "wild date" of that country. It produces large crops of red or yellow berries. But it is more useful from its yield of sap, from which palm sugar is made—each tree yielding from eight to twelve pounds of sugar annually, and continuing to yield from fifty to one hundred years. Over 60,000 tons of this sugar has been produced in Bengal alone in a single year. This is hardy to endure cold—growing along the mountain sides of its native home to an altitude of considerable frosts.

Phœnix Rupicola — From the lower Himalayas, is a fine ornamental species, but it is very tender, with nothing of commercial value to recommend it. It is of acaulescent habit; that is, its whorl of leaves spreads right at the ground, there being little or no trunk to the tree.

Phœnix Reclinata—Is a native of Zululand; very hardy, and an enormous bearer of edible fruit. Its name gives an idea of its habit of growth—bending toward the earth.

Phœnix Tenuis—When small is delicate and of fine color, and is advertised as a "magnificent decorative plant." It is quite hardy to stand frost, but of its commercial value I am unable to learn.

Phœnix Zeylanica—Is the hardiest of all the date palms to endure frosts. It is a dwarf of drooping habit, useful only as an ornamental.

In their native countries, where these trees are so valuable, they never depend upon seedlings, but always propagate by means of stolons or suckers from the base of the parent trees. Stolons from heavy bearing female trees always produce heavy fruiting females; while trees from stolons of male trees always produce only male or pollen bearing flowers.

From a personal inspection of date-growing on the shores of the Mediterranean, I am sure that in time parts of the San Joaquin Valley will make a success of the same industry, but success can come only in the same way it does in date-growing countries—propagate only by means of stolons from such trees as we wish to produce.

Reedley, Cal.

ROSY cheeked, pulpy, juicy, delicious. The peaches of 1894 are the rarest of the century. With Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder they make the richest shortcake ever prepared.

AMUSEMENTS.

At the Metropolitan Theater this evening, the American tragedian, Robert Downing, will appear in the tragedy, "The Gladiator." He will be supported by Miss Eugenia Blair, a most accomplished actress, and who is a woman of exceptionally fine stage presence; by Mrs. F. M. Bates, one of the few remaining actresses of the school in which intellectual merit and hard study were exactions, and by a company in addition indorsed by the San Francisco press as strong and in every way commendable. Mr. Downing is a man of splendid physique, an actor who has risen from the lowest to the upper levels of the dramatic art, who was the pupil of Booth and the support of Mary Anderson, John McCullough, Jo Jefferson, and other leading American artists. We gave the other day a sketch of his successful career. It remains now to add that he is recognized as among the few foremost actors of our own country. The troupe brings with it much scenery prepared for the play, and all the necessary furniture and stage fittings to present "The Gladiator" with classic accuracy. The company will not leave here until to-morrow, so that no fear need be entertained of an abridged or hurried performance. The following notes are extracted from the San Francisco *Post* and the San Francisco *Chronicle*, and give an idea of the enthusiasm with which the critics received Downing in the metropolis:

"A large audience assembled at the California Theater last night to greet Robert Downing in the 'Gladiator.' Many who were there possibly came prepared to criticise. If so, they remained to approve and to call the star and the members of his supporting company before the curtain. It is a long time since the walls of the California have echoed to such hearty applause which was rendered with as sincere good will by the occupants of the seats on the ground floor as well as by those spectators who sat in the higher seats."

The San Francisco *Chronicle*, among other things, said of Mr. Downing: "Every quality he has suits the 'Gladiator'—figure, voice and manner especially fitting. The audience enjoyed the presentation of a kind of part which has hardly been seen here since McCullough's time. Miss Blair has gained, if anything, in charm and attractiveness. She makes a Neodamia about whom there is a classic spirit far enough from this century. She has the method of the old classical play thoroughly learned, and she is a most graceful and easy actress."

At the Clunie Opera-house this evening the "Galley Slave" will be played. It will be given at 2 o'clock to-day for a matinee performance, and will be presented for the last time to-morrow, Sunday evening. It has been very successful this week, and the company has won new honors in it. Extensive preparations are in progress for the presentation of "Michael Strogoff" next week, upon which the management is laying out a great deal of energy and much money.

At the Congregation Church Wednesday evening, December 5th, a testimonial concert will be given to Mrs. Mary L. Ross, the well-known soprano of this city. She will be aided by Willis Bacheller of San Francisco, a tenor, who has just returned from Europe, and study under Shakespeare of London, and Vannini of Italy; Mr. Ladda, celloist, San Francisco, a pupil of Heine, and a first-class artist; Miss Wilcox, late of Boston, a soprano of prominence; Mrs. William J. Younger of San Francisco, accompanist, well known here; Mrs. A. Bonnheim of this city, who has just returned from two years' residence in the music centers of Europe; Mr. Weissmann, basso, late of the Conreid Opera Company; Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Neale and Mr. Vanderhoof, in instrumental trios. Mrs. Ross, will also have two numbers on the programme. The talent thus promised gives assurance of an artistic concert of varied character, and full of interest. Mrs. Ross is one of the best and most reliable of Sacramento's singers. She deserves well, and her concert is quite certain to draw a full house. Tickets can be had at Purnell's bookstore, and of the Cooper Music Company.

The Waites, "hypnotist" and "medium," had a large audience at the Metropolitan Theater last night. The cabinet rope-tying by Harry Waite was done under the criticism of a committee consisting of G. W. Jackson, Dr. F. F. Tebbets and O. P. Dodge. They were unable to discover human agency and left the stage puzzled. Hypnotic experiments followed and the doctor had some good subjects. Apparently they were completely under his control. Two of them he has had on the stage before. He had also a Chinaman and a Japanese subject. His best subject was a young man named Hoffman. The envelope and bank-note tests were not introduced, owing to the lateness of the hour, but are promised for Sunday night, when another entertainment will be given with varied experiments.

The Horseshoe Club will give a party at Turner Hall on Thanksgiving Eve.

BRIEF NOTES.

Mrs. Bowman, of 1718 Q street, slipped and fell at Fifteenth and J streets and broke an arm yesterday.

Governor Markham has appointed C. F. Masterson a director of Agricultural District No. 39, vice J. B. Ludley, resigned.

Rev. J. W. Daniels of San Diego is in the city at work in the interest of the Children's Home Society. This society is successfully engaged in the service of placing waifs and dependent children in choice homes.

During a dance at Shingle Springs on Wednesday night a shooting affray occurred between Sam Kivers and Oscar Sims, but no damage was done.

There is some talk of the railroad company transferring its passenger traffic from Front and R streets to the track running east of the city to Brighton Junction. The understanding is that the river front will be devoted entirely to freight handling and the fruit traffic.

DO NOT forget that Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder makes delicious biscuit, griddle-cakes, doughnuts, waffles, pie-crusts and shortcake. It is the best.

HYPNOTIC HEALING.

How the Treatment is Carried on in Europe.

[From the Los Angeles Herald.]

Very few people are aware to what extent hypnotic treatment and suggestion have been carried in therapeutics. Most of us have heard of instances which have attracted local interest and comment, but even these have not been very well authenticated or understood. There have been published more than one hundred treatises on the subject during the past year, and the general public may be prepared at any time to hear that medical science has adopted and engrafted into it the general practice of hypnotism. Perhaps the most striking work on the subject is the new book by Dr. J. Grossman of Berlin, editor of one of the famous medical journals of the day. He prints communications from thirty of the most eminent professors and physicians in Europe, giving the result of their experience in the application of hypnotic suggestion to the healing of disease. Thus Van Cedan and Van Reuterghem of Amsterdam report that from May 5, 1887, to June 30, 1893, in the institution under their charge, 1,098 patients were subjected to this treatment; of these 28.28 per cent. were entirely cured; 23.69 per cent. permanently improved; 21.02 per cent. slightly bettered; 17.81 per cent. unaffected, and in 9.18 per cent. of the cases the results are unknown. Dr. Wetterstrand of Stockholm has used this method of medical treatment in 7,000, and Dr. Bernheim of Nancy in 12,000 cases, and both express themselves strongly in favor of it. Indeed, Dr. Bernheim does not hesitate to declare that the study of hypnotic suggestion should be made obligatory in all medical schools, and that nowadays a physician who ignores the psychical element in disease, and has no knowledge of the part it plays in pathogeny and therapeutics, is no better than a horse doctor, and should confine himself to veterinary practice. Another important point brought out by Dr. Krafft-Ebing of Vienna is the influence of "autosuggestion" in the production of disease. The number of ailments and morbid conditions of this kind that have their origin in the nervous system and are indicated by pains, paralysis and other systoms of hysterical, hypochrodriac and neurasthenic affections, is astonishing. Although not merely imaginary complaints, they cease with the removal of the "autosuggestive cause," which may be affected by any change of scene banishing it from the thoughts or by hatero-suggestion (*Fremdsuggestion*) on the part of a physician, who may impart it verbally or in the disguise of a dose of medicine. In obstinate cases, in which the autosuggestion is firmly intrenched in mental imbecility, superstition, morbid appetites and passions, inveterate habits or abnormalities of character, recourse must be had to hypnotism. That the great majority of mankind are capable of being hypnotized is shown by the experiments of Dr. Freiherr von Schrenk-Notzing of Munich on 8,705 persons of different nationalities, of whom only 6 per cent. proved to be entirely unsusceptible.

The basic truths in this whole business are perfectly well understood by all physicians and not a few of their patients. There are those who believe that this power can and will be successfully used in dentistry and the more common cases of surgery. But whether this ever comes about or not, it is of the first consequence to know that it will henceforth have the place in therapeutics to which it is manifestly entitled. The good results directly flowing from an intelligent use of this potent factor in the healing art will be at once appreciated by every one; while the remoter effects, if the practice becomes settled and as effective as most of its advocates believe, will be of tremendous significance to society. It can not be doubted that in this line the quack has had the field mainly to himself in the past, and has been able to deceive the patient and the public, to his own enrichment and to the disparagement and discredit of the general profession. More than this. He has made use of the most sacred names and functions of religion itself and dishonored and disgraced them all, by means of the simple forces of mind now just coming to be understood and invoked by the faithful seeker after truth. Let us hope that the ordinary fakir and more detested spiritualist "healer" will find themselves held at their real value and the educated profession take on the character it is entitled to bear. Tremendous responsibilities will come of such prodigious changes as seem to be foreshadowed by the probable early coming of general hypnotic healing.

PEACHES from California? Yes, and from Michigan too. All made into delicious shortcake with Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder.

VOICE OF THE PRESS.

What a Few of the Many California Papers Have to Say.

[San Jose Herald.]

Another San Francisco sensation has been exploded. The school girl who was said to have committed suicide because she was suspended at school turns up smiling, and proves to have been only a cunning little adventuress. Meanwhile, the San Francisco newspapers, with their usual lack of sense and judgment, have pilloried the principal who suspended the girl and the teacher who made the complaint against her as heartless wretches who ought to be in the penitentiary for cruelty to children rather than honored teachers in the public schools. When it comes to such sensations as these, the best that can be said for the newspapers of San Francisco is that they are a disgrace to journalism.

CIVIC PATRIOTISM.

[San Jose Mercury.]

Now that so many advocates of municipal reform are writing, preaching and speaking on the subject of civic patriotism, it may be as well to point out to the average man that there is no reason why civic patriotism should confine itself to politics. Political reform does indeed give a better chance for talking, but there are other things that give a better chance for working and yield better results.

Civic patriotism should concern itself with business as well as with government. A man may advance his city by promoting enterprises as well as by purifying the primaries. He can do as much if not more for the community by co-operating with all efforts to foster new undertakings in the way of local development than by co-operating to organize independent political parties and start non-partisan movements.

IMPROVED HIGHWAYS.

[Los Angeles Herald.]

Los Angeles County needs better public roads in the country districts. As a city, Los Angeles is exceptionally well supplied with paved and graded and graveled streets. Not many cities in the Union can show more substantial improvements in this line, and they are for the most part kept in fairly good repair. But it is different in the county at large. Out of 2,000 miles of road, perhaps 200 miles may be described as good, and 200 more as fairly good, with all the rest but little short of villainous. * * * People who have been used to bad roads all their lives do not appreciate what it means to have good ones, and not a few will be found to declare that the bad roads are good enough. It is self-evident that nothing is good enough which can be bettered to advantage, and although the existing highways may be said to be endurable, and are not worse, but on the contrary perhaps a little better than the roads ten years ago, they, nevertheless, can be vastly improved, and their improvement would be to the advantage of every resident of the county.

A TROUBLESOME VICTORY.

[Red Bluff News.]

It is evident that the Republican party will find the fruits of its great victory like Dead Sea apples. The upheaval that threw it to the top brought up with it a whole lot of rubbish that will be difficult to dispose of. This is the effect of all such upheavals and there is no reason to suppose that that of 1894 will prove an exception. The Republican party will have a great majority in the next Congress. That majority is made up of 126 men elected from districts that were Republican two years ago and over 100 who were elected from districts now represented by Democrats. Some of these are districts heretofore Democratic, while in others the parties were evenly balanced, and they were carried by the Democrats two years ago by narrow majorities. A very large per cent. of these districts nominated new men who have no Congressional experience and are of inferior caliber. When they get together the old and steady leaders who have learned something by experience will have great difficulty in breaking in the fiery and untutored statesmen of the party, who will want to set the world on fire at once and make names for themselves that will be handed down from generation to generation until the angel Gabriel shall blow a blast from his trumpet and proclaim that time shall be no more.

THE SMOKE NUISANCE.

[Stockton Independent.]

A nuisance is described in Section 3479 of the Civil Code in part as: "Anything that is injurious to health or is indecent or offensive to the senses, or an obstruction to the free use of property, so as to interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property." Section 3480 describes a public nuisance as one which affects at the same time an entire community or neighborhood or any considerable number of persons. This describes the custom of burning leaves or rubbish in the city, whether in the streets or on private premises. Law does not permit one to use his own property in a manner that will prevent others from enjoying their property in a reasonable manner, yet city ordinances in several California cities assume to permit every person who feels so inclined to burn rubbish in the streets and send the smoke wherever the wind may carry it; into their neighbors' houses or into their eyes and lungs.

The right or power of a City Council to pass such an ordinance may well be doubted. There are numerous decisions that are against it, and there is also the broad principal of law and good sense that a municipality cannot legalize anything that is forbidden by State statute. Leaf-burning is a survival of the village state of existence; of the days when people depended on a smudge to rid them of the annoyance of mosquitoes, and deserves to be abolished with the sidewalk pasture system of long ago. People to windward of a rubbish fire have to close their doors and windows, and even the acrid smoke penetrates and fills the houses with its odor.

SUNDAY PAPERS.

[Marysville Appeal.]

If the advocacy of a lot of cranks concerning the publication of Sunday newspapers be followed to its natural sequence there would be no Sunday or Monday issues of morning papers, since part of each day is required to get out papers bearing those dates. It is the unreasonable characteristics of the too pious people that causes their doctrines to fail of realization. A little more of the practical and considerate side of worldly affairs would have a tendency to make the sinful ones better. Cranks and cranksisms never prevail.

Borne to the Grave.

Many friends of the late George Edwin McKee, nephew of City Collector Edwin Mckee, joined with the deceased young man's relatives yesterday in the sad duty of laying his body in the grave. The deceased was born and reared in this city, and his death—just as he was entering upon manhood and with a bright future in store for him—is regretted by all that knew him.

The large attendance by his young friends at the funeral gave testimony of their esteem and love for their late companion.

FOR fine dress suits call on Davis & Donahue, Merchant Tailors, 726 K street.

DIED.

LINDSAY—In this city, November 23, 1894, at the residence of J. R. Foster, 1003 L street, William K. Lindsay, Sr., a native of Lexington, Ky., aged 85 years and 8 months.

San Francisco Board of Health.

Royal, the Superior Baking Powder.

We, the members of the Board of Health of the City and County of San Francisco, cordially approve and recommend the Royal Baking Powder. It is absolutely pure and healthful, composed of the best ingredients, of the highest strength and character.

In our judgment it is impossible to make a purer or stronger Baking Powder than the Royal.

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"The Nonpareil"

TO-DAY'S SPECIAL SALE.

DRESS GOODS AND SILKS.

We have decided to clear our stock of several lines of Dress Goods and Silks to make room for Holiday Goods. It would be advisable to anticipate your future wants at prices not likely to be duplicated later.

DRESS GOODS.

LOT 1, AT 35c A YARD.
ALL-WOOL LADIES' CLOTH, 42 inches wide, in ten different shades. Splendid weight for winter wear. Actual value, 65c a yard.

LOT 2, AT 25c A YARD.
50 pieces FANCY COVERT CLOTH in desirable colorings. Made to resemble goods that retail at $1 a yard; full 36 inches wide.

LOT 3, AT 65c A YARD.
FANCY BOUCLE SUITINGS—A new material that is very stylish this season. All rough effects, in brown, navy blue, cardinal and green; 44 inches wide. Worth $1 a yard.

LOT 4, AT 48c A YARD.
ENGLISH SERGE—There is no better material made for general wear than English Serge. There are only ten pieces of them in this lot. Colors, navy blue, garnet, seal brown and black; 40 inches wide.

LOT 5, AT $5 A SUIT.
PATTERN SUITS—Your choice of fifty at $5 each. The suits in this lot have been marked $10, $12 and $15. This is an opportunity that will never present itself again.

SEE OUR NAVY BLUE AND BLACK STORM SERGE, 45 INCHES WIDE, AT 65c A YARD.

BLACK GOODS.

SOME EXCELLENT STYLES FOR LITTLE MONEY.

LOT 6, AT 48c A YARD.
20 pieces assorted BLACK GOODS in fancy and plain weaves; some with small, neat figures; 38 inches wide. Value, 75c a yard.

BLACK GOODS.

LOT 7, AT 75c A YARD.
At this sale you will be able to buy $1 goods for 75c a yard. The lot consists of 30 pieces of FANCY SOLEIL and GRANITE CLOTHS, all 40 inches wide. Among the lot are some of the prettiest patterns that we have shown this season.

SILKS.

An opportunity to purchase Street and Evening Silks at less than half their worth. Don't miss this sale; it means big money-saving for you.

LOT 1, AT 65c A YARD.
This lot is composed mostly of short lengths of from 5 to 10 yards—just sufficient for waists—in FANCY TAFFETA SILKS; all this season's goods. The lengths being short we wish to close them out. Regular prices, $1 and $1 25 a yard.

LOT 2, AT 50c A YARD.
15 pieces COLORED BENGALINE SILKS in tan, navy blue, brown, garnet, gray, green and black. Suitable for full dresses. Regular price, $1 a yard.

LOT 3, AT 60c A YARD.
Evening shades in FIGURED INDIA SILK. A chance to buy a party dress for little money. Colors, light pink, light blue, cardinal, red, yellow, cream and lavender. All perfect shades. Regular price, $1 a yard.

LOT 4, AT 98c A YARD.
BLACK SILKS, including several staple weaves, such as FIGURED ARMURES, BROCADED SATIN DUCHESSE, FIGURED INDIA and HEAVY RIBBED BENGALINE SILKS. Every yard a perfect black. Regular prices, $1 25 and $1 50 a yard.

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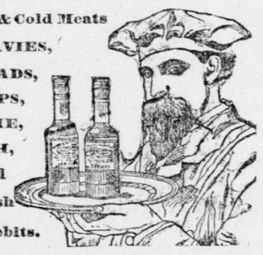

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