

MODERN MACHINERY

As Applied to the Planting and Harvesting of Potatoes.

With the up-to-date and efficient labor-saving machines for the economical handling of the potato crop now on the market it savors of "old fogeyism," to say the least, for potato growers to attempt to raise potatoes as a money making crop by old fashioned hand methods. The potato cutter, planter, sprayer, digger and sorter have accomplished for the farmer engaged in raising potatoes for market what the grain drill and harvester has done for his brother in the grain growing sections of the world. The production of a crop of potatoes by hand methods requires a great deal of tedious and disagreeable work—work that is entirely unnecessary and which can be done much better by machinery and at a great saving in cost. One of Minnesota's most prominent and successful potato growers, in response to an inquiry as to the advantage of using labor-saving machinery in the handling of his crop, replied:

"At present we are growing 780 acres of potatoes on a farm of 2,100 acres. If it were not for machinery we would not be able to handle more than perhaps one-sixth of that number of acres with the same number of men. We figure that one man and a team can easily take care of forty acres of potatoes from the time of commencing to prepare the ground in the fall, and attend to the grain crop besides. We are at present using nine potato planters, six sprayers, twelve diggers, twenty cultivators, cutters, sorters, etc. Machinery in this instance makes it possible for one man to do the work that would otherwise require six men and, at the same time, machinery gives employment to just as many or more men, on account of it being possible to handle a larger number of acres, thereby increasing the returns and lessening the cost of production in growing the potato crop as well as in other lines of farming."

The men who are making money raising potatoes nowadays are the ones who are taking advantage of every means to increase their acreage and at the same time reduce expense of production. While there is an occasional season when prices are so low as to leave little or no profit in the potato crop, yet, taken year in and year out, it is doubtful if there is another farm crop which brings better returns.

With the rapid spread of blight throughout the potato growing sections of the country it is imperative that the potato growers in the northwest (where blight is just beginning to make its appearance) should take prompt and vigorous steps to prevent the spread of this disease. The experiments which have been conducted by the New York agricultural stations for a number of years prove conclusively that blight and rot can be held in check, if not wholly prevented, if the potato vines are thoroughly sprayed several times during the growing season with Bordeaux mixture properly made. The tests made by the New York stations in 1904 showed that sprayed fields would remain green and in a growing condition from four to six weeks after the vines in unsprayed fields had died and withered up, and an average gain in yield of something like 60 bushels per acre was obtained, due to the longer growing season.—Grand Forks Times.

Root Growing.

Bulletin issued by Northeast Experiment station, Grand Rapids, Minn.:

An acre of ground well manured and well cultivated will produce from 15 to 20 tons of roots, either mangles, stock carrots or rutabagas. The total labor expense from plowing the ground to getting the roots in the cellar need not exceed \$10, and taking an average yield of 15 tons to the acre, the cost of producing this feed would be less than 70 cents a ton. You need a garden drill for planting and a wheel hoe for cultivating close to the row when the plants are small. The cost of both implements is less than \$10.

The quantity of seed required per acre is five pounds for mangles, three pounds for stock carrots and one and a half pounds for rutabagas. Grow the stock carrot for dairy cows, mangles for hogs and the rutabagas for sheep or young stock.

Sandy soil is preferable to clay. Manure and plow deep. Harrow the ground till perfectly smooth. Plant in rows two feet apart. As soon as the plants are well up start cultivation, using the wheel hoe to run over the row and the horse between the rows. When the plants are about two inches high thin out with the hand hoe, leaving the stock carrots six inches apart, the rutabagas ten inches and the mangles from twelve to sixteen inches. In this way you need practically no hand weeding and the yield will be greater than if the plants grow closer together. Cultivate once a week all summer. The amount of hand hoeing necessary will be determined by the number of weeds in the land. The cultivation must be thorough and the

weeds kept out to get a good crop.

In pulling the roots lay them across the row with the tops even. They can then be topped with a corn knife almost as fast as a man can walk.

A man can plow, harrow and plant an acre of roots in a day. Three hours a week will keep them cultivated and free from weeds. Two men can pull, top and get them in the cellar in two days.

To save labor in feeding it is necessary to have a root cellar in connection with the barn. A pit in the ground, covered with any kind of a cheap roof will answer the purpose. It must be made frost proof.

Roots will largely take the place of grain. For dairy cows they are splendid milk producing food. Furthermore, they keep animals in the best of health. Grow roots. They can be grown at less than a dollar a ton, and when compared with the price of bran and other feed their food value is worth over \$4 a ton. Give them a trial. Plant the last week in May.

Journalism in China.

United States Consul Anderson at Amoy has made a report on journalism among the Chinese. He says:

"It is rather surprising, in view of the comparatively small population of foreigners in China, how many large publications there are in foreign languages. The prices they obtain for their publications and their work probably explain the situation. Shanghai has five daily newspapers, three morning and two evening papers; one is French. It has six foreign weeklies, one German. It also has four Chinese dailies and a large number of Chinese weeklies.

"Practically all of the foreign papers sell for 4½ cents gold per copy. The subscription price is about \$15 gold per annum, postage extra. The Chinese dailies sell for about one-half cent gold per copy. In addition to these publications there are many religious papers, mostly in Chinese, published by the mission authorities.

"In the south Hong Kong dominates the publication business, and as it is a British colony English publications might reasonably be expected to lead, but on the face of the record the Chinese predominate. There are four English dailies, the Post, the Press, both morning papers, and the Telegraph and the Mail, both evening papers.

"There are six Chinese dailies, and, as in the case of Shanghai, there are a large number of publications designed to fill various wants in South China, a Portuguese weekly and the Government Gazette being among them. In nearly every port of importance in China there is an English publication of some sort.

"The publication houses, as a rule, both newspaper concerns and concerns for general printing only, are fairly well equipped for their work. Some of them attempt work in the line of high grade magazines and book publishing, and while it is not always an unmitigated success from a technical typographical standpoint, it demonstrates that the Chinese workmen, who do most of the work under foreign supervision, will in time acquire considerable merit in this line of effort.

"It is rather interesting to note that China at present seems to be passing through much the same process with its newspapers and other publications that many parts of the United States have passed through. All over the empire native newspapers are being started in the colloquial dialects and are more or less local in character.

"It is unfortunate in many respects that the publication of newspapers in the several local dialects has developed so generally. While such publications will afford means of educating the people of the empire in some lines, they also furnish the means of deepening the gulfs, dividing the several provinces which differ in dialects. Each newspaper center, if it performs its natural mission, will develop its own language in its own field to the exclusion of a language which might in time become common for all China.

Caught Cold While Hunting a Burglar.

Mr. Wm. Thos. Lanorgan, provincial constable at Chapeau, Ontario, says: "I caught a severe cold while hunting a burglar in the forest swamp last fall. Hearing of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, I tried it, and after using two small bottles, I was completely cured." This remedy is intended especially for coughs and colds. It will loosen and relieve a severe cold in less time than by any other treatment and is a favorite wherever its superior excellence has become known. For sale by Princeton Drug Co.

Examinations at Baldwin.

The county examinations will be held in Baldwin school district, number 10, Sherburne county, on May 3 and 4. Thursday afternoon, May 3, 1 p. m., spelling; 1:30 physiology; Friday morning, May 4, 8:30 a. m., arithmetic; 10:15, geography; Friday afternoon 1 p. m., grammar; 2:30 p. m., history. Anyone who wishes to do so is welcome to take these examinations. Deborah B. BeVier, Teacher.

Splendid Cities of the Range.

Spring's activities are bringing new evidences of the growth of the range cities.

At Virginia, which is now a metropolitan city of 7,000 inhabitants, the council has largely extended the fire limits, a sure indication of its business growth on a substantial basis. A number of new brick business blocks, also, will be built this season and its business streets are to be paved; work will begin on this by June 1.

At Chisholm, the citizens on Wednesday voted down a proposition to build a \$60,000, twelve-room school house because this did not provide a building large enough to more than accommodate the present needs of the city. Another election will be held next month and the amount to be voted will be increased to \$85,000.

At the new town of Coleraine a \$60,000 school building is being erected.

A visit to Hibbing, Ely, Eveleth, Biwabik and other range cities will show similar evidences of permanent business prosperity.

There is a popular notion, in distant parts of the state, that these towns are but scattered mining hamlets, straggling in their construction and with temporary buildings. They would be surprised to see, instead, brick and stone blocks, handsome residences, paved streets, large churches and splendid schools and all the attractions and public improvements of modern cities.

The range cities have passed beyond the days of mining towns and are now varied in their interests and permanent in their growth.—Duluth News-Tribune.

The Government Distribution of Seeds.

Anent the free distribution by the government of garden seeds Secretary of Agriculture Wilson says in one of his reports: "With regard to the securing and distributing of miscellaneous garden and flower seeds, the fact remains that this work does not accomplish the ends for which the law was originally framed. There are collected, put up and distributed now, on congressional orders, nearly 40,000,000 packets of miscellaneous vegetable and flower seeds each year. These seeds are the best that can be obtained in the market, but from the fact that large numbers of packets are wanted, the seed obtained can be of standard sorts only, such as are to be found everywhere for sale in the open market. As there is no practical object to be gained in distributing this kind of seed, it seems very desirable that some change be made. To this end, it would seem wise to limit our work entirely to the securing and distributing of seeds, plants, etc., of new and rare sorts. This is the line of work that would result in very much more value to individual districts throughout the country than the distribution of a large quantity of common varieties of garden seed which have no particular merit so far as newness or promise are concerned."

Mark's Next Sale.

Mark's next sale will be held at Princeton on Saturday, May 5. This sale will be especially for the disposal of western and native horses. Will have on hand 500 head of westerns. Mark has purchased the best grade of Percheron-bred draft horses, consisting of mares with foal and suckling colts, also yearlings, 2 year olds and 3 year olds, as well as grown stock weighing from 1,000 to 1,500 pounds each, broken and unbroken. This consignment will be sold wholesale or retail, from one head to a carload lot. Will also have on hand 100 native horses, draft, drivers and saddle, which will be sold for cash or on time. The horses will be there and the sale will take place rain or shine. The horses must be sold.

E. Mark, Auctioneer.

The greatest auctioneer in the world, Holland, will assist at this big sale.

First Dance in Carlson's Hall.

The first dance in the new hall at Long Siding built by me will be given on Saturday evening, May 5. Good music will be provided and a time of much enjoyment is promised. I have spared neither time nor money in constructing this hall. It is perfect in detail—admirably adapted to dancing requirements. I intend to conduct it upon business principles and to neither allow the sale of intoxicants or admit inebriated persons within its doors. An invitation is extended to ladies and gentlemen to be present upon the evening of Saturday, May 5. O. E. Carlson.

Is the Moon Inhabited.

Science has proven that the moon has an atmosphere, which makes life in some form possible on that satellite; but not for human beings, who have a hard enough time on this earth of ours; especially those who don't know that Electric Bitters cure headache, biliousness, malaria, chills and fever, jaundice, dyspepsia, dizziness, torpid liver, kidney complaints, general debility and female weaknesses. Unequaled as a general tonic and appetizer for weak persons and especially for the aged. It induces sound sleep. Fully guaranteed by C.A. Jack, druggist. Price only 50 cents.

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Church Topics

+++ Sunday and Weekday Announcements +++

METHODIST.

Morning 10:30, Mission sermon; 11:45 a. m., Sunday school; 6:45 p. m., Epworth League; 7:30 p. m., "Youth and Its Opportunities."

CONGREGATIONAL.

Morning 10:30, Rev. S. R. Merrill, D. D., of Minneapolis will speak in behalf of the Home Missionary society and the annual offering for Home Mission will be taken. Sunday school 11:45 a. m.; Y. P. S. C. E. 7:15 p. m. Evening, 8 o'clock, Dr. Merrill will preach and a splendid musical program will be given. The usual enjoyable praise service will precede the evening preaching service. All are invited to worship with us.

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