

# FORTUNE FOR THE MAN WHO RAISES GINSENG

## The Root Is Worth Its Weight in Gold in the Flowery Kingdom—Harold Simmons' Plantation at Howard Lake.

American ginseng was discovered by Father Lafitte near Montreal, Canada, in 1716. Soon afterwards the French began collecting root through the agency of the Indians for export to China. The demand thus created was so large that ginseng presently became an important article of commerce in Canada. The first consignments were very profitable, the root valued at but two francs a pound in Quebec, selling as high as twenty-five francs in China. At that time the company of the Indies controlled the trade. In 1751 ginseng was worth twelve francs a pound in Canada, rising as high as thirty-three francs a pound soon after. About this time ginseng was discovered throughout the New England states. As the population moved westward ginseng was met in abundance as far as the first tier of states beyond the Mississippi.

**Quantity vs. Revenue.**  
The following table compiled from the United States treasury department represents the American trade in ginseng from 1858 to 1893.

Exports—	Total Pounds.	Average Price Per Pound.	Total Amount.
1858-1868	4,343,519	\$0.88	\$3,822,095
1869-1878	3,232,888	1.10	3,556,177
1879-1888	3,577,330	1.84	6,582,286
1889-1893	1,257,462	3.01	3,785,773

An examination of the above table will show that while there has been a decrease in the quantity exported annually there has been a much more rapid increase in price. These changes are owing to the greatly increased demand for the American root in China and the dimin-

out the weeds, but they may require some protection from mice during seed time.  
**Seed Crop Worth \$1,500.**  
Starting in 1896 with about 200 wild roots and a handful of seed gathered from the forest home of the plant, Mr. Simmons laid the foundation of the Minnesota ginseng plantation. In 1900 the revenue derived from the sale of roots and seeds was \$175; this year (1901) the seed crop is worth fully \$1,500, leaving undisturbed about 30,000 fine plants still in the plantation. In selecting a location for the plantation, Mr. Simmons paid no particular attention to soil, but began operations in the midst of a wheat field with only the soil common in this vicinity. He erected a paling fence and cover constructed of common lath, for the shading of the plants, giving them as near as possible the shade of the forest. He has experimented widely in the propagation of the plant from the seed of the cultivated plant and demonstrated that it is the better plan to grow the plant from the cultivated seed than from the seed of the wild plant. The price of the wild dried root is from \$4.75 to \$5.25 a pound, while the cultivated product is worth from \$9 to \$9.50 a pound. What constitutes the difference in price is the much better appearance and the greater size of the cultivated root.

Under cultivation from a well-developed plant, as many as 150 seeds will be secured per head, while the wild plant rarely yields twenty seeds a head. Mr. Simmons is disposing of a large part of his seed



THE SIMMONS GINSENG PLANTATION AT HOWARD LAKE, MINN.

ishing supply of the wild product. Summarizing for two periods of five years each, we have

From 1858 to 1862	Pounds.	Price.	Amount.
From 1858 to 1862	1,257,462	\$0.87	\$1,094,192
From 1889 to 1893	1,257,462	3.01	3,785,773

Thus the number of pounds exported during the last five years has been about one-third less, but the price per pound about four one-half times greater than during the five years from 1858 to 1862. It thus appears that a much larger quantity could be sold with a good profit. The continuance of the demand may be argued from the conservative character of the Chinese. They have used ginseng for many centuries and will doubtless use it for a long time to come. It became a practical question then, how to maintain and perhaps increase our supply. The obvious means to his end is the enlargement of the yield by artificial plantations.

The cultivation of ginseng is practical to some extent in northern China and Korea, and has frequently been attempted in this country, but never until recently with success.

**A Home Grower.**  
One of the successful growers of ginseng is Harold Simmons of Howard Lake, Minn., who has experimented largely for the past six years, with excellent results. Ginseng can be cultivated in the orchard garden, or forest. Any light rich soil will answer, such as will produce good garden vegetables. Well rotted manure may be used to good advantage in the preparation of the bed. The seeds are planted one inch apart in rows three or four inches apart, and in two years the roots should be transplanted four inches apart each way. Roots of two years growth will yield a few seeds and an increasing number each year until matured. It takes from three to five years to grow roots large enough for market from the time of planting the seed. Two or three year old roots will bring two and three cents each when dried for market, five year old roots which have made good growth are worth from ten to fifteen cents each, and one acre will produce from 750,000 to 1,000,000 roots. Can anyone show better results from an acre of ground in the length of time? The plants require no cultivation aside from pulling

**STEALING A PICTURE**  
A Romantic Fancy Concerning a Collector.  
London Morning Post.

The announcement that another important picture has been stolen suggests some curious reflections. If you lose by theft a good chronometer that cost a hundred guineas you may at least console yourself with the reflection that the thief actually gets very few pounds for his booty. Yet a watch can quickly be turned into a lump of salable bullion. The man who steals a great picture has by him a thing that cannot be reduced to its elements in this way, and that is known to everybody who is regarded as possessing any value at all. It cannot be denied that the mere lust of possession is one of the motives that most strongly actuate the ardent collector. He may be thoroughly alive to the artistic merit, and may—though this is unusual—possess nothing that is merely rare. Yet he gets pleasure from the knowledge that he is owner until the time of his death, of objects desirable to us. We do not hesitate to say that the European who collected, and was content never to show his treasures, or to let it be known that he had them, would be a very rare bird indeed. Yet expert thieves, with banks and jewelers' shops on every hand, do now and again steal pictures, valuable in the open market but quite worthless (one might imagine) to the biggest of "fences." For he it is noted, the stolen pictures rarely come back as the result of the owners paying blackmail.

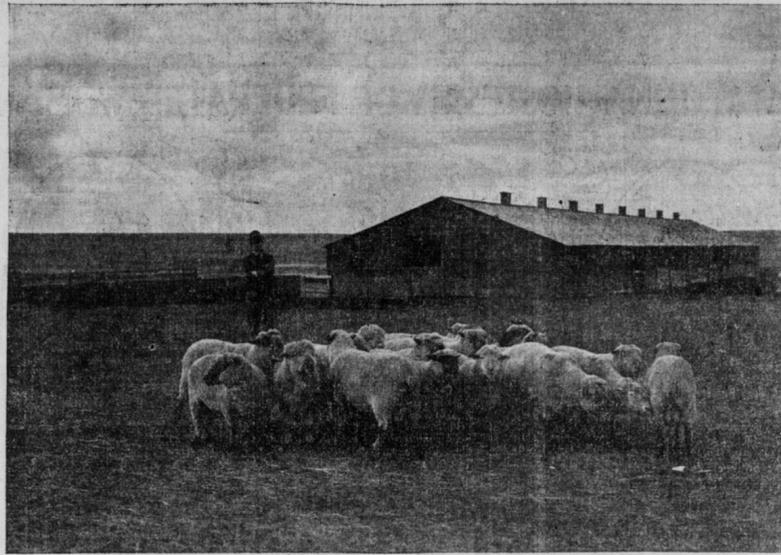
It is a romantic thought that there may exist somewhere a collector who does not care for other collectors; that perhaps he is even the representative of generations who have held similar views. Suppose, in short, there should suddenly be discovered in some quite ordinary mansion or castle, a collection of the world's unaccountably lost masterpieces! For surely it is most earnestly certain that expert thieves only covet what is not theirs when they know some one who desires to make it his, and is willing to pay those who enable him to do so!

Before the end of this year telephonic communication will have been established between the cities of Italy and Switzerland.

# THE SHEEP RANCHES OF NORTH DAKOTA.

GREAT PLAINS OF BUFFALO GRASS WHERE MILLIONS OF SHEEP HUSTLE FOR THEIR OWN LIVELIHOOD.

—Photos by A. S. Williams.



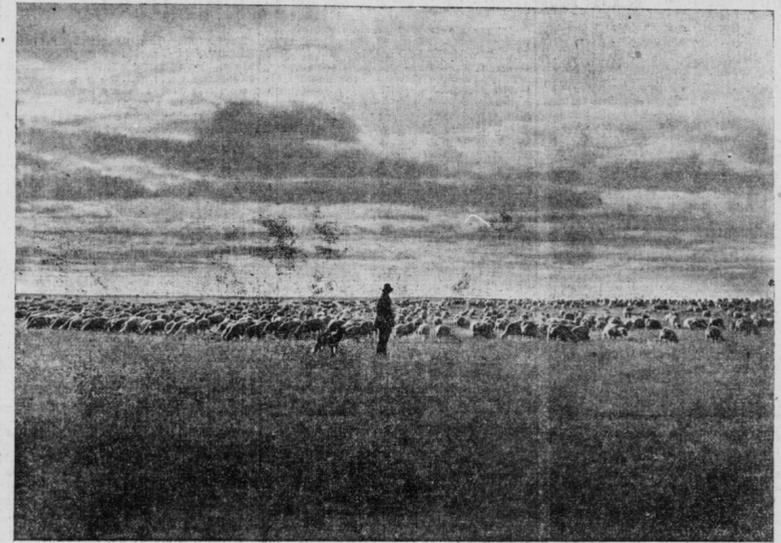
A GROUP OF BUCKS.

North Dakota is a great sheep state, and the industry on her western plains that are fit for little else but grazing is growing fast. These plains areas covered with the nutritious buffalo grass which cures itself on the ground, thus affording in case of an open winter such good feed that the sheep need but little hay. However, the prudent sheep-raisers no longer take chances and provide plenty of hay for emergencies.

The accompanying photographs were taken for The Journal on Merzdorf's sheep ranch near Napoleon, N. D., on the "So" road. There are three big ranches in this section. Two of them this year lost over 500 tons of hay by prairie fire which burned over a strip of country ten miles wide and thirty long. The authorities of the county (Kiddler) have at public expense made fire breaks to protect the property and lives of the citizens. There are four of them, each made with

sheep furrows. There is sixty feet between each pair, and the latter are thirteen miles apart. The contract for making them is let to men who live in a shack on wheels. This is moved as often as necessary. The men plow about two miles each way from their moving home, using four horses to each plow.

Shepherd dogs are of inestimable value in looking after the sheep. One man and a dog can look after a vast number of animals, the four-footed guardsman showing marvelous intelligence in helping his master.



A BUNCH OF 3,000 SHEEP, WITH SHEPHERD AND SHEPHERD DOG.

# JAPAN'S WONDERS OF THE DEEP

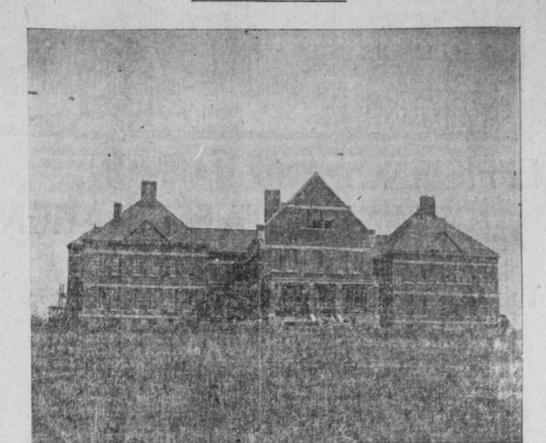
## A Magnificent Ship Is the Kaga Maru—She Was Constructed Entirely in Japan.

New York Tribune.  
"The finest ship of war at Queen Victoria's funeral was a Japanese battleship," said Admiral Seymour, who commands the British Asiatic squadron, at a recent dinner in Shanghai.  
The Japanese present were very much pleased and patted one another on the back. There was more cause for a show of pride a few days later, however, when the new Nippon Yusen Kaisha liner, the Kaga Maru, of the Hongkong-Yokohama-Seattle route, pulled alongside the Shanghai wharf.  
"She is the finest mail and passenger steamer that has ever been alongside the wharf at Shanghai," was the verdict of shipping people who saw her.  
"We made every bit of her," said the Japanese. And so they did.  
The Kaga Maru is one of three new vessels which have been built for the Japanese American run. The others are the Shimano Maru, recently built in Glasgow, and now on her way to the Orient, and the Iyo Maru, another product of Japanese shipbuilders, which is being fitted up at the Nagasaki shipyards. They will run across the Pacific in connection with three vessels which have been on the route for several years, increasing the service from monthly to fortnightly trips.  
The Kaga Maru arrived in Seattle a few days ago, after a fast run from Japanese ports. She is said to be as fine a vessel as the Japanese have ever constructed. She is built of steel throughout, and has

twin screws which give her high speed. She has a gross tonnage of 6,301 and registers net 3,909 tons. She is 460 feet over all, 47 feet beam and 35½ feet depth of hold. Her length of poop is 64 feet, length of bridge deck 120 feet, and length of forecastle deck 55 feet. The other two vessels will be as near like her as it is possible to make them.  
The new boats will carry a limited number of cabin passengers, for whom elaborate quarters have been fitted up amidships. The Kaga has eighteen state-rooms in a steel house on the bridge deck. Each room is fitted for the accommodation of two passengers, and is elaborately furnished as similar rooms on any trans-Atlantic liner. The dining saloon is under the bridge, in the between decks. The builders have departed from the orthodox fashion, followed in the east, of finishing the cabin interior in white. Fine grained Japanese maple has been used, with panels of the same wood, grained by a peculiar process. The wood, which the Japanese call "kagi," has only recently been used for this purpose. It is found in Hokkaido province, Japan. To correspond with the maple, all of the fittings are electroplated. Delicate Japanese carving of exquisite design appears in the dining saloon. The ship has a small side hall on the bridge deck, which is fitted with a piano and music folios. There is a large smoking-room at the end of the passenger promenade deck.

To Americans the most interesting thing connected with these Japanese ships is their crews. They are Japanese to the man, sturdy little brown-skinned fellows, who obey orders like men-of-war's men, who keep their heads in time of accident, and who can do a vast amount of work, which seems utterly out of proportion to their small stature.  
The officers are European; at least, as far down the scale as the second officer. The captains are English, German and Swedish, first officers mostly Englishmen, and chief engineers English or German. The third officer, purser and assistant engineers are Japanese. Some day not very far away the services of Europeans will be entirely dispensed with. They are no longer employed on the coasting lines of the company.  
"There is no real need of our employing Europeans to officer our boats," said one of the Japanese stockholders of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha when he visited the United States recently. "It is a concession which we make to our white passengers. You see, Japan is a new country, and you people who have been longer civilized have not yet learned to trust us. Besides, our old captains and engineers have been with us for years. They trained the younger Japanese officers who run our vessels at home, and we do not like to turn them off."  
Captain Ekstrand, who has been given command of the Kaga Maru, has been navigating the Seven Seas for more than half a century. He is the senior captain of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha company, and is known as the "Commodore of all Japan," for he commanded the first foreign-rigged ship that ever left Japan with a Japanese crew on board.  
The best place to observe the Japanese crews of the Nippon line is at the entrance of the Straits of San Juan de Fuca, where the vessels stop for quarantine in-

# Only Asylum for Insane Indians in U. S.



THE INDIAN ASYLUM AT CANTON, S. D.

Special to The Journal.  
Canton, S. D., Oct. 19.—During the fifty-fifth session of congress Senator Pettigrew introduced a bill for the location for an asylum for the care of insane Indians at or near Canton, and while it did not become a law at that session, it later received favorable action and an appropriation of \$55,000 was made. Last year the Indian department purchased, under this act, a beautiful tract of land one mile east of this city, a contract was let for the construction of the asylum, and to-day the building stands completed, one of the best in the state and the only Indian asylum in the United States.  
There was a later appropriation of \$100,000, which was added to the building fund, and then during the last session \$12,000 was appropriated for furnishing and maintenance. As the building has just been turned over to the authorities, there has been no opportunity to fill the various offices necessary for the conduct of the institution, but it is confidently expected this will be done by Jan. 1, when work will at once be begun to the end that all the insane and idiotic Indians of the United States will be gathered at this point.  
The census of the Indians shows there are on the various reservations somewhere in the neighborhood of sixty crazy Indians and a few idiotic ones.

# FAMOUS WOMEN PREACHERS

Miss Anna Downey of Chicago, Ill., assisted by the Methodist pastors of the city, will begin on Sunday a six months' evangelistic campaign. Miss Downey is a native of Indiana, being the daughter of Professor Charles D. Downey for sixteen years professor of mathematics in De Pauw university. She is a classical graduate of this institution, receiving the degrees of A. B. and A. M. She is also

Europe for purposes of mental enrichment, and is the author of a book entitled "Heavenly Places in Christ." Miss Downey was a life-long friend of the late Frances E. Willard and possesses many of her characteristics. As a preacher, she is thoughtful, earnest, but not vehement, emphatic but not dogmatic. People who hear her once are eager to hear her again. She is a woman of great



MISS ANNA DOWNEY.

a graduate of the Theological school and was the first woman in the United States to receive the degree of "Bachelor of Sacred Theology." She has been engaged in Evangelistic work since 1886, has toiled from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and has witnessed the conversion of thousands of souls. She has lectured extensively in the interest of the great moral reforms of the day, has twice visited

resources and adapts her methods to the needs and exigencies of the occasion. It is expected that her work in Minneapolis, where she is already known by hundreds of people, will result in a great spiritual awakening and in many accessions to the kingdom of God. Her first services will be held at North M. E. church, from there she will go to Bloomington Avenue, and thence to Park Avenue.

specimen. The government doctors come out to the ship in the early morning through the bank of fog which usually hangs over Port Townsend, the port of entry. A gong sounds through the ship, and the spy Japanese stewards hustle the steerage passengers out of their dismal nests in the hold. They line up in silencing, kimono clad lines on the west deck, some with bare feet, some wearing more than sundials of straw. They wait for the physical examination with wondering, chattering patience, amazed at the foggy air which surrounds them, the like of which they have never seen in their recently deserted land of sunshine and flowers.  
Then the crews appear for inspection. They are Japanese coolies, who seem to be almost without minds of their own, but they work well under direction of others.

# A PIOUS PARROT

How He Learned a Sentence From a Rival Parrot.  
Forest and Stream.  
If Coco meant the half of what he said and was even a quarter as wise as he looked, he was a wonderful bird. I met him in Paris, where he lived with an old English lady, who spent her life in her own apartments between her maid and her parrot. Coco was thus her almost constant companion, her guide, counselor and friend. He had an easy flow of conversation, and said many funny and apt things that I have forgotten, but no one who saw and heard him at his devotions of a Sunday morning is likely to forget it. His mistress, being unable to attend the English chapel, read the service in her own room aloud, with Coco for congregation, for none ever exceeded the unctious of his long-drawn "Amen's," nor the contrite quaver of his "Good Lord deliver us" in the litany, and when it came to "miserable sinners" he rolled up his eyes and nodded his old head in dismal approval. It would have been unkind to smile during the performance, for Coco's feelings were sensitive, and, moreover, the old lady found comfort in the thought that he, perhaps, mimicking the parrot's nasal voice, Coco, meanwhile, showed evidence of great excitement. He sidled hand over hand across the back of the sofa on which the visitor sat, puffing out his chest and holding his breath till all of his feathers stood on end. Something was on his mind and he was straining to get it off. As the visitor rose to go his efforts culminated, and as he passed out of the door he screamed the sentence after her, exactly as he had heard his rival quaver.

THE RIVER WAS FROZEN.  
A new theatrical story is always welcome. Here is one, whose novelty is vouchsafed by one of our readers. When Miss Delaville Barrington was playing Miami in "The Green Bushes" at the old Mary Street theater, Cork, a ludicrous incident occurred. Miami has to jump into the Mississippi, but when Miss Barrington reached the rocky eminence from which she had to leap, she saw there was no mattress below to receive her, also the ledges of rock in front of the supposed river was too low to conceal the actress after the lead. Miss Barrington, however, nothing daunted, took her leap, and came down with a thud on the bare stage. The situation struck a member of the "gods," for a stentorian voice called out: "Oh, be jabbers, 'tis frozen!"

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