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PRODUCTS OF HAWAII

A Gardener's Notes On Island Crops.

WHAT FLOURISHES IN THIS GROUP

Data of Value to Homeseekers Prepared by Expert Gardener of Moanalua.

The Gardener's Chronicle, an English publication, has the following article from the pen of Donald McIntyre, head gardener of Moanalua:

As everyone in the horticultural world knows, sugar is the staple industry, and is largely cultivated throughout the islands. It was cultivated in very small quantities before 1876, when a treaty of commercial reciprocity with the United States came into effect. Under the provisions of this treaty an era of unexpected prosperity set in, and the production of sugar, as well as rice, increased more than was ever anticipated. Large barren tracts of land were brought into cultivation by extensive irrigation, some of the ditches being forty miles in length, carried through dense woods, tunneled through rock, and spanning wide canons. The Ewa Plantation, near Honolulu, is one of the largest and finest in the islands. About 90,000 acres are taken up with the various plantations, with a yearly yield of about 225,000 tons of sugar. It requires an average of eighteen months for a crop to mature, the ordinary yield being three and one-half tons to the acre; yet on specially rich alluvial soil, it is sometimes as great as nine tons to the acre.

Next in importance comes rice. Its culture is principally carried on by the Chinese, and in the San Francisco market it grades with the best coming from China. The ground is plowed and well harrowed, the field is then submerged, the water being allowed to stand until the crop ripens, when it is drawn off. The method of cultivating is crude and primitive. The Chinaman sows the seed thickly in a small field; when the plants are about six inches high, they are pulled up and taken to the field for planting, where they are set out in the mud by hand in rows about eight inches apart. When matured the water is drawn off to allow the straw to ripen. The crop is then cut with the sickle. No threshing machines are used by the Chinese rice grower, but the grain is separated from the chaff by being beaten out with the hoofs of horses or Chinese cattle, as in ancient times.

Coffee is cultivated, but not to a large extent, although Hawaiian, or Kona, coffee takes a high place among the best coffees of the world; the trees are grown anywhere, from the sea-level up to 3,800 feet above the sea. One of the greatest difficulties to contend with in insect blight, which is greatly kept in check by peculiar parasites, and ladybirds that have been introduced for each kind of insect. The cultivation of tea is carried on with good results, the best quality of leaf being obtained on the higher elevations. The high price of labor prevents its more extensive cultivation.

Hemp has been experimented with, and pronounced by experts to be of a good, strong description. The expense of cultivation is trifling, and the yield per acre is about thirteen and one-half tons. Rami, or vegetable silk, grows luxuriantly, but the industry is not developed, owing to the want of suitable machinery.

The soil and climate of Hawaii cannot be excelled for the production of tropical and sub-tropical fruits, and their introduction has added largely to the prosperity of the islands, especially so in the case of semi-tropical fruits, such as the alligator pear, banana, lime (citrus limetta), orange and lemon. The alligator pear grows to a large size, and the fruit is of a superior quality. The flesh is of a butter consistency, with a nutty flavor, and it makes a delicious dressing for salads; the largest of these heads is about six inches long, and weighs upwards of three pounds. The mango grows in great profusion, and several varieties are used for making chutney, the best varieties having been imported from India and Jamaica. It is an evergreen with small glossy leaves; and a gum which exudes from the trunk of the tree is used in medicine. It bears fruit several months of the year, and it is not unusual to find trees with fruits on one side and blossoms on the other.

Cocoanuts grow all along the seashore, or any spot where nothing else will grow; but they are now very little cultivated. The sapodilla, soursop, pomeio, cherimoya, custard-apple, papaw, citron, watermelon, granadilla, pomegranate, and tamarind are some of the desirable exotic fruits that do well in the islands. Vegetables of all descriptions are raised throughout the year, and water and cantaloupe melons are superior to those grown in most countries. Pineapples grow wild on all the islands; there are some twenty-five varieties taking their names from the localities whence they are obtained. Near Pearl City, some eight miles from Honolulu, a plantation of an excellent variety exists. The average weight of the fruits is eight pounds, although the fruits of some varieties have been known to reach a weight of seventeen pounds. The pineapple season is from the middle of the month of May to the middle of August.

Bananas are raised in great quantities and shipped to the west coast of the United States, the cost of cultivation being very small. Along the mountain ranges are trees and vines in luxuriant growth, forests of a magnificent species of tree, whose wood has beautiful markings, and capable of tak-

ing a high polish, equalling the finest walnut and mahogany; this is the koa-tree. The islands at one time were very rich in sandal-wood, but when the natives found it would be a great source of income to them, they cut down the old trees in a very short space of time, and sold them to dealers in the United States, and neglected to plant young trees for a future supply.

Not the least important vegetable product is taro. It consists of two kinds—the upland, which grows on the hillsides in dry ground, and the lowland, or more important staple, which is propagated like rice, under water. Long irrigating ditches are required in preparing the bed. The ground is levelled off and enclosed by a wall impervious to water. The floor of the patch is made as rich as possible, and the top is cut from the ripe roots and set out in hillocks placed several feet apart. The water is let in, and allowed to remain until the crop is mature, i. e., in about twelve months, the only labor required being to keep the soil clear of weeds, and provide a depth of about six inches of running water. Taro can be planted at any season, and a ripe crop obtained. The root is oblong, the largest being about one foot in length, and from three to four inches in diameter. The root is baked by the natives, who make from it what they call poi, the baked root being pounded till it forms a paste, which is thinned by adding water, and afterwards allowed to ferment. As a food it is most nutritious.

Another important plant much used by the natives is the ti; it has also a large, oblong root, and the leaves are of a shining green tint. The ti-leaves were at one time woven together, and formed a short cloak, which the natives sometimes wore. The root, after baking, is sweet and pleasant to the taste. It is also used to make an intoxicating drink, by bruising the roots with a stone, and steeping in water until it ferments.

Besides the plants mentioned, there are many beautiful flowering and foliage plants, among which coleus (crotons) are worthy of special mention. All the varieties grow in great luxuriance, and show exceedingly rich leaf-coloring. Round the college grounds, in the suburbs of Honolulu, is a hedge of a night-blooming cereus (cactus nictyalus), which is a magnificent sight when in flower, the blossoms ranging from two to three feet in circumference.

GREAT AUDIENCE WILL GREET SENATOR THURSTON

(Continued from Page 1)

nomination for delegate. The nominating speech may be made by Senator Crabbe. Crabbe was named for the member of the Territorial committee and the delegates decided that they would support A. N. Kepoikal for the position of chairman of the convention, in the event that he should not appear as the candidate for the nomination for delegate. Arrangements for the convention are being made and it is probable that there will be one of the largest meetings that has ever assembled in the

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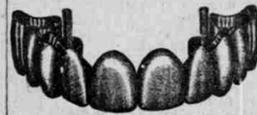
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city. All the delegates from Hawaii have signified their intention to come over at the end of the week, and the arrangements are such that there will be boats arriving Saturday or Sunday from both sides of the big island, as well as of Maui. There will be some speeches during the deliberations of the committees, and it seems probable that there will be at least one United States senator on the platform, and as well a former senator, with other distinguished men who are now in the city.

CONFIDENCE

said Lord Chatham, "is a plant of slow growth." People believe in things that they see, and in a broad sense they are right. What is sometimes called blind faith is not faith at all. There must be reason and fact to form a foundation for trust. In regard to a medicine or remedy, for example, people ask, "Has it cured others? Have cases like mine been relieved by it? Is it in harmony with the truths of modern science, and has it a record above suspicion? If so, it is worthy of confidence; and if I am ever attacked by any of the maladies for which it is commended I shall resort to it in full belief in its power to help me." On these lines WAMPOLE'S PREPARATION has won its high reputation among medical men, and the people of all civilized countries. They trust it for the same reason that they trust in the familiar laws of nature or in the action of common things. This effective remedy is palatable as honey and contains the nutritive and curative properties of Pure Cod Liver Oil, extracted by us from fresh cod livers, combined with the Compound Syrup of Hypophosphites and the Extracts of Malt and Wild Cherry. It quickly eradicates the poisonous, disease-breeding acids and other toxic matters from the system; regulates and promotes the normal action of the organs, gives vigorous appetite and digestion, and is infallible in Prostration—following Fevers, etc.—Scrofula, Influenza, Asthma, Wasting Diseases, Throat and Lung Troubles, etc. Dr. W. A. Young, of Canada, says: "Your tasteless preparation of cod liver oil has given me uniformly satisfactory results, my patients having been of all ages." It is a product of the skill and science of to-day and is successful after the old style modes of treatment have been appealed to in vain. Sold by all chemists.

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