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Lieutenant Raymond S. Bamberger, a member of the signal service branch of the United States army, who has been making ascensions, in the vicinity of Washington recently to test the availability of air craft in time of war.

BUG-PROOF POTATO

Massachusetts Man Produces Tubers of Great Superiority.

Spends Years in Experimenting with Various Vegetables and Makes Many Wonderful Discoveries—His Cantaloupes Are Fine.

Montague, Mass.—Bug proof potato vines that show by analysis twice the ratio of food products in them over the average tuber, cantaloupes that run sixteen to forty-eight pounds each that will be ready for picking in half the time that green peas usually require, corn in half a dozen colors and of attractive taste—these things are some of the achievements of Rev. Amos N. Somers, pastor of the little Unitarian parish here, who has spent years delving into the chemistry of nature and has accomplished what he believes is a valuable thing for mankind, especially in potato culture, for this is a necessity of necessities.

Mr. Somers tells his story by saying that the potato rarely matures a seed and notes that the great potato raising companies in Maine offer large sums for small measure of seed. "Of course, everybody knows," he continued, "that potatoes grow from planting the eye of the vegetable in the ground in the spring. Hybridization by mixing the pollen is not a new thing, but with the potato you can't do it, for there's no pollen to mix. So, after many years of trying, I have evolved what I call graft hybridization. The problem was harder, as the potato grows below the ground, while fruits and many vegetables grow above and the stalks or stems can be grafted in the familiar way.

"So one day it occurred to me to graft the sprouts together just at the surface of the ground. I took two cuttings, sliced them off and then fastened them together with the bodies of the tubers touching and the two parts of the sprouts also lying close against each other. Fastening these together, I planted them with the top of the graft just above the ground. At the juncture of the two a new cellular tissue body grew, and from this a new variety of potato grew. I got this new variety, which I call the Standard, from a graft hybrid of the Green Mountain and the Lady Somers, named after my wife.

"The Standard is a very smooth skin potato, with eyes hardly sunken below the surface. This last fact makes it an economical potato, for there is less waste in peeling it and the analysis shows it has just twice the amount of foodstuff in it and twice as much starch as the average potato. The average one shows 15 to 18 per cent. foodstuff. In body weight 100 of my potatoes will greatly out-weigh 100 potatoes of the ordinary sort of the same size, and on business measure the same difference occurs. The Lady Somers I got from the Early Rose and the old Delaware potatoes.

"It was my study of Darwin that started me on this. I have watched the work of Prof. George J. Romanes of England, the author of 'Darwinism After Darwin,' and have corresponded with him, and I have succeeded in this where he failed. Profs. Geddes and

Thompson of Edinburgh are also in the same line, but I feel I have surpassed them in results. My results were first definite four years ago after 35 years of trying.

"The vine of my potato has a peculiar odor and is offensive to the potato bug, for it never goes near them. I have taken bugs from plants of the usual type in the next row to my potato patch and put them on the new vines and in half an hour I can't find one, and I really feel I have got hold of a bug proof potato. It so that's a big thing in itself, for look at the expense saved the farmer in plaster and paris green and in labor. Then, again, the roots of my potatoes are very much longer than the average roots, which, of course, makes them all the better as plant feeders and as resisters of drought.

"This is a summary of my discoveries and results of methods used by me in the preparation of new varieties of food plants, especially new species of potatoes by graft-hybridization."

In Wrong Cottage.

Annapolis, Md.—By the casual remark of a neighbor, William G. Speed of Baltimore learned that he had been occupying the wrong cottage at Arundel-on-the-Bay, near Annapolis, for the whole summer, while the cottage for which he had paid rent in advance had remained idle. Speed leased a cottage from the owner, who is traveling in the west, but misunderstood the directions and occupied the wrong house. The absence of both owners prevented the mistake from being known until a few days ago.

"Toss Up," says Judge.

London.—"I think it would be far cheaper for you to toss up for it," was Judge Smyly's advice to two brothers who were plaintiff and defendant in a dispute heard by his honor at the Shoreditch county court.

Who Pays for Milk at Sea

Owner of Cows Thinks Steamship Company Should Reimburse Him for Product Enjoyed by Crew.

Seattle, Wash.—A puzzling milk problem has been presented to steamship owners here. The cows gave milk while they were aboard the steamer; they were milked punctually each day and the milk was used by the crew. These facts are admitted, but now the question is, who is to pay the owners of the cows?

This is the knotty problem which has been put up to Albert Schubach, president of the Schubach-Hamilton Steamship Company. Mr. Schubach says this claim is the most absurd of the thousands which big steamship companies receive annually.

John Kehoe of Tanana is the claimant, and he declares that unless the company pays for the milk used by the members of the steamer Mackinaw's crew he will seek legal redress. Mr. Schubach has replied, stating that the company is in no wise responsible for what disposition was made of the product from the gentle bovines.

BEE'S STING CURES

One of the Latest Departures in European Medical Science.

Insect Inject Formic Acid That Breaks Down the Poisons in the Blood That Cause the Painful Disease.

London—Bee stings are the latest cure advanced for rheumatism.

The working of the "bee vaccinator," as this invention is termed, was shown at the exhibition of the Surrey Beekeepers' association at the Crystal Palace.

It is an ingenious appliance, secured to a small platform resembling the lid of a box. This is placed over the nose of a hive, and the bees readily enter if a trace of honey is applied as a bait outside a perforated zinc slide, which is part of the mechanism.

By closing the slides the bees are imprisoned, the requisite number thus being secured. The little "vaccinators" can then be removed from the hive, or inspection box, and may be sent by post or carried about ready for use.

The actual operation of vaccination is simplicity itself. The "bee vaccinator" is placed on the affected part of the patient and a knob is pressed down until the bees sting.

"It is one of the newest departures in medical science, a well-known medical man said, "and is still in the experimental stage."

"But for some time past it has been observed that, in a general way, beekeepers certainly enjoy immunity from rheumatism, or, if they have suffered from this complaint, it has disappeared after they have been stung a few times.

"The effect of a bee sting is that the formic acid which the insect injects breaks down, or, speaking informally, neutralizes the poisons in the blood which give rise to the symptoms of rheumatism.

"The operation of bee vaccination should not, of course, be undergone without medical advice. As for the number of bees required—that depends on the patient, and would be for a doctor to decide."

At St. Bartholomew's hospital it was ascertained that a "bee vaccinator" was actually in use in the treatment of patients suffering from rheumatism, but no official statement as to the result of the experiments was as yet forthcoming. Bees are regularly supplied to the hospital for the purpose.

"Personally, I have had the good fortune never to suffer from rheumatism, and I have kept bees ever since I can remember," says a man who is exhibiting at the Crystal Palace.

"It does not follow that beekeeping is a positive assurance of immunity from rheumatism, but beekeepers of my acquaintance who have suffered from rheumatism have told me how these pains have disappeared after they have been stung.

"Any beekeeper will tell you that the first few stings cause inflammation and swelling, but this gradually goes down, and after a while he experiences little or no discomfort from a bee sting. A wasp sting is a different matter.

"I am surprised the medical profession has not taken up bee vaccination before.

"The difficulty, however, has been in manipulating the bees—that is to persons other than beekeepers.

"People operating have been in greater danger of being stung than the patient hitherto.

"This invention has solved the difficulty, and secured the safety of any one carrying out the operation, because it is impossible for any of the bees to escape from the vaccinator."

ARTIST'S LUCKY NUMBER

Alma-Tadema Declares That Seventeen Has Been Connected with His Good Fortunes.

Alma-Tadema confesses to a superstition concerning the number 17. "My wife was 17 when I first met her," he says, "and the number of the house to which I took her when we were married was 17. My present home did bear the same number and he first spade put to the work of building it on August 17. This was in 1885.

"I had then been in possession of the place for three years, during that time designing and making plans and sketches for the house. On November 17, 1886, we took up our residence here."

The artist says that in 1864 he received a visit from the English picture dealer Gambart—il principe Gambart, as they used to call him in Italy. He was held in great respect by artists.

"I remember him on that first visit to me," the artist goes on, "standing before my easel, on which I had posed my 'Coming Out of Church,' and saying: 'Did you paint that picture for the Vanderdonks?'"

"I assured him of the fact. He asked me if they had seen it and what was the price. I told him that they had not seen it as yet.

"Well, then," said Gambart, "I'll take it; and let me have a couple of dozen of that kind at progressive prices each half dozen." It was really as if he had been buying bales of cotton.

"Four years did it take me to carry out Gambart's first commission, and the day arrived when Gambart again paid me a visit.

"I want you," he said, "to paint me another four dozen pictures on the same condition of rising value."

"I consented and did my best not to disappoint him. 'The Vintage' was painted as one of them, and when the dealer saw it, perceiving that it was a far more important canvas than any of its predecessors—a work too that had cost me far more time and labor—he at once insisted upon paying for it the figure which was to have been given for the last half dozen."

BUILDING SOCIETIES GROW

Big Increase in Their Membership and Assets For Year Is Reported.

According to a report read at the annual convention of the United States League of Building and Loan Associations, held in Philadelphia recently, there are 5,599 local building and loan associations in the United States, with a total membership of 1,920,557 and assets of \$784,175,753, Bradstreet's says. This is an increase in membership over last year of 81,138, and an increase in assets of \$52,667,307. The total receipts were \$519,721,570, and of this amount \$134,085,170 was loaned out on mortgages, as against \$209,925,072 in the preceding year. Some idea of the economical manner in which these associations are conducted may be gained when it is stated that the total expense of operation of all the 5,599 organizations was equal to seven-tenths of one per cent. of their assets. Membership and assets increased in 20 of the states, Pennsylvania leading with 1,423 associations, 389,446 members, \$158,510,745 assets and 14,496 increase in membership. Ohio is second, with 645 associations, 327,662 membership. New Jersey is third, with 447 associations, 156,306 members, \$73,518,234 assets (increase in one year, \$5,715,728) and 12,420 increase in membership. Illinois is fourth, Massachusetts fifth and New York sixth, with 235 associations, 108,200 members, \$39,162,602 assets (increase, \$1,529,439) and 750 increase in membership. Population considered, the associations made their greatest growth in New Jersey.

Nagel's Lost Opportunity.

Attorney General Wickersham took a party of public men out to Fort Myer in his automobile to see the aeroplane tests one day recently, says the Washington Post. Charles Nagel, secretary of commerce and labor, sat in the seat with Wickersham and they kept up a lively conversation during the trip.

When they arrived at the fort one of the party asked Nagel how he and Wickersham got along.

"Oh we got along all right," replied Nagel, "until Wickersham began to talk French to me. I don't understand French."

"Then why didn't you get even by talking law to him?" exclaimed Secretary of State Knox.

Pictures from Balloon.

Montana.—The Boyce balloon party, which is visiting these regions with the object of photographing wild life from a balloon, has proceeded to Nalrobl.

POOR BOY.



"Dear me! Why do you cry so bitterly?"

"I'm cryin' 'cause I'm so wicked dat I'm goin' ter play hookey, instead of goin' ter school, boo hoo!"

BABY'S WATERY ECZEMA.

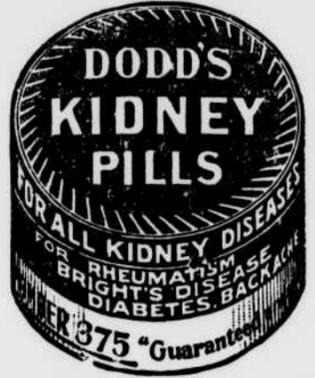
Itched and Scratched Until Blood Ran—\$50 Spent on Useless Treatments—Disease Seemed Incurable.

Cured by Cuticura for \$1.50.

"When my little boy was two and a half months old he broke out on both cheeks with eczema. It was the itchy, watery kind and we had to keep his little hands wrapped up all the time, and if he would happen to get them uncovered he would claw his face till the blood streamed down on his clothing. We called in a physician at once, but he gave an ointment which was so severe that my babe would scream when it was put on. We changed doctors and medicine until we had spent fifty dollars or more and baby was getting worse. I was so worn out watching and caring for him night and day that I almost felt sure the disease was incurable. But finally reading of the good results of the Cuticura Remedies, I determined to try them. I can truthfully say I was more than surprised, for I bought only a dollar and a half's worth of the Cuticura Remedies (Cuticura Soap, Ointment and Pills), and they did more good than all my doctors' medicines I had tried, and in fact entirely cured him. His face is perfectly clear of the least spot or scar of anything. Mrs. W. M. Omerer, Burnt Cabins, Pa., Sept. 15, 1908."

Pottor Drug & Chem. Corp., Sole Props., Boston.

It is daily life that tests us—the manner of men we are.—Max Muller



Not Asking Much.

"The president," explained one of the secretaries, "can't stop at Plunkville on his swing around the circle. In fact, my good man, we are scheduled to go through Plunkville at 60 miles an hour."

"Couldn't you throw out one of his old hats?" asked the leader of the committee, hopefully.—Washington Herald.

After illness

Always after illness, redecorate the walls with Alabastine. It is a perfect germicide, and requiring neither paste nor glue, offers no feeding ground for bacilli or vermin.

Alabastine

The Sanitary Wall Coating

Alabastine is a powder made of alabaster rock sold in packages. Simply mixed with cold water and applied, it is far better than kalsomine. More beautiful, more healthful and more economical.

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