

A Real Experiment Station.

The term "co-operative garden," used by Professor Green, seems to me to be a bit misleading. It is not the purpose of the government to make model crops. There is no idea of making a show place. The gardens are workshops, in which experts study garden and orchard pests, try out new species of plants and domesticate them, adding new resources to the country's list of money makers, etc. They are, in reality, experiment farms. But in order not to confuse them with the state experiment stations the name co-operative garden has been adopted.

The work that Professor Green and his men are doing at Brownsville indicates what the co-operative garden would do here. The war department turned the old fort over to the agricultural department early in the summer of 1907. The experiment garden was located on the old cavalry drill ground, between the artillery barracks and the river. The piece is fifty acres in size. It has been packed as hard as iron by the hoofs of the country's war horses for many years. Neglected since the negro troops were withdrawn from the post, it had in the meantime grown up to Bermuda grass. Professor Green and his men cut the grass—two tons to the acre—raked it up and burned it. Then they plowed the ground, disced and harrowed it, turned water onto it and planted.

The little tract contains more varieties of plant life than any other of equal size in America, I suppose. Fifteen hundred different varieties of vegetables, trees, forage plants, flowers, vines, etc., are represented there. A careful card index record of each specimen is kept in the office of the director. He can tell you at a minute's notice, when each item was planted and what success or failure it has made, according to observations taken at frequent intervals, down to date. He has beans from the arid districts of India that are expected to be a valuable food crop for the Southwest Texas regions that cannot easily be watered. He has plants brought from all over the world, contributed without cost to Texas by the federal government. Many of these, like the Indian beans, are calculated to facilitate the making of farm homes in districts that, for want of water, cannot produce the crops native to the soil. He is making a study of soils, waters, trees and insect pests. When he learns how to get the better of a bug that destroys quantities of garden truck, and that the gardeners don't know how to get rid of, he tells them. It's mighty practical work—work that makes and saves dollars. Work, too, that the average farmer or fruit grower has neither the time, the money nor the expert knowledge to do for himself.

OBEYING THE BIBLICAL INJUNCTION.

It struck me that a man who knows how to do such things could make a very strong poem, on the order of the Biblical injunction to turn swords into pruning hooks, after looking into the old barracks, now filled with plows, discs, harrows, spades, forks, shovels and a hundred other tools of peaceful industry. The contrast was made all the more vivid by the recollection that the last military occupants of the old fort were a lot of brawny, disorderly black men, who, because they were deprived of normal, natural, useful labor, ran amuck in the town with guns in their hands.

The Simplicity of Queen Victoria's Education.

Was Queen Victoria's success as a ruler due to the wonderful simplicity of her early education? The remarkable awakening and development of a woman

who, at the age of 18, became the ruler of a great nation, speaks of some powerful foundation beneath it all. Miss Jeannette Gilder, writing of Queen Victoria's published letters for the Review of Reviews credits much of Victoria's success to this early schooling. She says:

"From her earliest childhood it had seemed more than probable that Princess Victoria would in time become queen of England. Her mother, the duchess of Kent, appreciated this probability and trained and educated her daughter with that end in view. She was not taught to be proud and overbearing, because she might one day be ruler of England, but she was, on the contrary, brought up to be just and kind, to control her temper, while not subjugating her will. In the pages of her journal which are quoted in this book, the queen tells us that her mother brought her up most simply, and not until after her accession did she have a room to herself. What do the young girls of this republic who have their bedrooms, their boudoirs and their private bathrooms say to such simplicity? From her letters and journals we gathered that although the young princess was of an affectionate and exceptionally feminine temperament, she was at the same time high-spirited and inclined to be wild. She liked the stir of London and enjoyed dancing, though it kept her up till early morning. She also loved music, particularly singing, but was not much given to the theater. Pictures she loved, but her taste in this line might have been improved. She was fond of reading, and her mother wisely guided her along the paths of history and political science.

One of the chief blessings of Queen Victoria's childhood and middle life was the influence of "an enlightened and high-minded prince," Leopold, her maternal uncle.

One great bond of union between Queen Victoria and her uncle, Leopold, was that the first suggestion of her marriage to Prince Albert came from him. When Queen Victoria first saw her Cousin Albert she admired him immensely, both for the beauty of his person and of his mind. After getting better acquainted with him she liked him very much, but she wrote her uncle that she had not "the feeling for him which is requisite to insure happiness. At any rate, she wrote, she was still young and it was not necessary for her to marry for two or even three years. But, alas, for prudence when the "requisite feeling" came! It was while she was visiting at Windsor castle, in 1839, that she decided that a few months was a long time to wait. Being a queen, it was she who proposed, and he took kindly to the proposal. "My mind is quite made up," she wrote, "and I told Albert this morning of it. The warm affection he showed on learning this gave me great pleasure. He seems perfection, and I think that I have the prospect of great happiness before me." He was quite ready to make the sacrifice for her sake, she wrote King Leopold. A sacrifice she insisted that it was, for she knew that to be the husband of a queen was no sinecure. It meant criticism and it meant opposition, for he was a German prince, and the German influence was not agreeable to Englishmen. Just after she had proposed and been accepted Queen Victoria wrote to her uncle from Windsor castle:

"I write you from here, the happiest, happiest being that ever existed. Really, I do not think it possible for any one in the world to be happier or as happy as I am. He is an angel, and his kindness and affection for me is really touching. To look in those dear eyes and that dear sunny face is enough to make me adore him. What I can do to make him happy will be my greatest delight."

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