

Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., February 13, 1903

The Culture of Ginseng.

The Result of an Interesting Experiment Carried on by Prof. Geo. C. Butz, Horticulturist at the Pennsylvania State College.

The cultivation of American ginseng is attracting the attention of many farmers who have facilities for growing a small bed of the plants on trial. Dealers in seeds and young plants are freely advertising that immense profits may be made by the cultivation of ginseng, and speculators are allured by seductive arguments to purchase seeds and plants in the hope of some day reaping the profits. The supply of the native root is continually diminishing and the price per pound is correspondingly increasing, while the constant demand for the drug in China apparently stands as a guarantee of a steady market for ginseng in the future.

An investigation of the ginseng business in Pennsylvania in 1897 and subsequent correspondence with ginseng growers revealed the fact that many difficulties were encountered and that the culture of this special crop is more numerous than the successes. For the purpose of determining by experience what difficulties may arise, the experiment affording the data for this bulletin was inaugurated in October, 1897.

The general plan in starting these ginseng beds was to test the relative value of, first, the small roots obtained from the wild when collecting the native roots; second, the two-year-old seedlings from a dealer in cultivated plants; third, the seed which had been properly stratified for a year, and fourth, fresh seed planted as soon as gathered from native or cultivated plants.

To test the four different ways, roots native and cultivated, and seeds stratified and fresh were prepared.

The native roots were small. No effort was made to select them with any discrimination except to make sure that a good bed and sufficient roots to insure growth were possessed by each plant. The native roots were of many shapes and bore the darker color and wrinkles of roots which had developed under unfavorable circumstances. The annual scars appearing upon these plants numbered from three to fifteen per plant, showing that some of these plants were as much as fifteen years old.

The cultivated roots were an excellent lot of plants—two-year-old seedlings—obtained from George Stanton, a successful grower of ginseng near Summit Station, Onondaga county, N. Y. These roots furnished a remarkable contrast in comparison with the native roots. The former were long, slender, plump, white roots, resembling young pumpkins. Being taken from seed beds of deeply prepared soil, the roots with their unbroken rootlets measured from 4 to 7 inches in length.

On the other hand, the native roots, having grown in firm soil, usually lost a large part of their rootlets, much to the injury of the plants for transplanting purposes.

The stratified seeds were of the crop of 1896, preserved by stratification with moist, finely sifted woods soil. The fresh seeds had been removed from the berry pulp, and to prevent drying were also stratified and kept thus until the soil was ready for planting. Ginseng seed will not germinate until it has been kept eighteen months after maturing, and during this time it must not be allowed to become dry.

An important factor in the successful culture of ginseng is the soil. This should be a light, friable loam, rich in vegetable mold and possessing good drainage. The choice should not fall upon a clay soil or a heavy clay loam. This consideration developed the first obstacle in the beginning of this experiment, for the only soil within easy reach of the station is a heavy clay loam. Ginseng has not been found growing in this region within a radius of twenty miles, and it was a question whether any good conditions from an expert in such soil conditions as these. However, it was determined to make the best of the clay loam soil. The site chosen is along the northeast side of an old orchard, near enough to the apple trees to be partially shaded from the warm sun after mid-day.

In preparing the soil, everything was done to improve its condition. A covering of two or three inches of good woods earth was spread over the entire surface, and was then thoroughly incorporated with it by spading ten inches deep. All roots of the apple trees encountered while spading were removed and all stones were thrown out. It should be stated that the plot of ground had been under cultivation for a considerable term of years, and had been occasionally enriched with baryard manure. Summer tillage kept the surface broken, so that there were no grass roots to contend with at time of planting, or in the after-culture of the ginseng.

The roots and seeds were all planted on October 9th, 1897. The roots were planted eight inches apart each way. For this work a planter's dibble, ten inches long, was used; a hole was made deep enough to admit the longest root without bending. This is an important matter to insure the development of straight roots for the harvest. The top of the root or "bud" was two inches below the surface of the ground. The after-growing of these plants was such that eight inches of space was not too much for cultivated plants; six inches would crowd somewhat, though the development of roots would not be seriously interfered with. It is certain that a distance of four inches, sometimes recommended for planting, is too close for plants in rich soil.

The seeds were planted in shallow drills, dropping them one inch apart and covering with an inch of fine soil.

By the middle of November the entire bed was mulched with a good covering of forest leaves and brush. This mulch was removed the following April, to permit the soil to warm up the soil. The first appearance of growth in the spring was recorded April 25th, 1898, when the heads of the cultivated plants began to break through the ground; the seedlings followed April 28th, and the sluggish native plants on May 1st.

A few roots grown in pots in the greenhouse for study showed a considerable development of new fibrous roots all along the growing bud.

The shade afforded by the fruit trees near the plot was not considered sufficient. Therefore a lattice was constructed over the bed. Eight uprights made of 2x4 inch hemlock scantling were planted, four on either side of the plot, two feet in the ground and six feet above it. These were joined by cross-bars of 1x3 inch stuff. The cross-bars were stiffened with braces at the sides. The top of this frame was covered with lath screens. Lath one inch or less apart were also nailed against the sides and ends from the ground to a height of three feet, and on account of the nearness

to poultry, wire netting was tacked upon the remaining three feet of sides and ends, to exclude them.

The care of ginseng after it is planted and shaded is exceedingly light and simple. As already stated, the beds were mulched at the approach of winter, and this mulch was removed in the spring. About three times during the year weeds were hoed out and the surface soil broken up. When the seed was ripe it was harvested and stratified.

A record was kept of the growing plants to show the losses which occur from time to time. The cultivated plants made excellent growth, but the native plants and the seedlings were very uneven.

Cultivated Native Seedling plants plants plants

Planted, Oct. 1897..... 138 100 300 (seeds)
Growing, June, 1898..... 130 80 142
Growing, Aug. 1899..... 126 56 44
Growing, Aug. 1900..... 122 42 33
Growing, Aug. 1901..... 119 32 28
Growing, Aug. 1902..... 119 32 26

Per cent of loss in 5 years 48 91

This record shows a decided advantage in favor of cultivated plants.

There was a small crop of seed in the season of 1898, but no record was made of it. The number of seeds per seed-bearing plant in 1902 averaged 55 on cultivated plants, 17 on native plants and 30 on seedling plants.

The entire planting of 1897 was taken up on October 22nd, 1902. The roots were dug with great care to avoid breakage.

After weighing the several lots, all the roots under the thickness of a slate pencil, which it is known would dry into mere brittle hairs, were removed and the trimmed roots were then washed clean, again.

The selected roots are those which were chosen for drying and marketing, rejecting those which were under one-half inch in diameter. These latter roots were replanted for a future harvest. The cultivated roots in every way far exceeded all the others. The largest root of each lot when trimmed and washed weighed as follows: seedling, 3 ounces; native, 2 ounces; and cultivated, 5 ounces. This last magnificent root was seven and one-half inches long when trimmed and measured five inches in circumference.

The loss of weight on account of rootlets is calculated from above figures to be:

12.81 per cent for the cultivated root,
14.75 per cent for the native root, and
13.54 per cent for the seedling root.

Roots in drying lose about two-thirds of their weight. Cultivated roots lose less than native roots. Drying is usually done by spreading the roots on trays or tables in the sun. This method will require six to eight weeks. A quicker and better method is to use artificial heat and subject the roots to a temperature of 100 to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. This method was used in drying all the roots of this experiment, using the heat from a steam radiator.

In sixteen days the roots, even the largest were as "dry as bone," and ready to be packed away. The drying could have been done in fourteen days if an oven, through which the warm air could pass over the roots, had been employed.

The 106 cultivated roots weighed fresh, when trimmed, 200 75 ounces; when dry, 74.5 ounces, or 37.1 per cent.

The 106 native roots were 39 ounces, and when dry 13.5 ounces, or 34.62 per cent.

The profitability of growing such a crop could not be estimated until the root was marketed and the proceeds noted. The root was sent to Samuel Wells & Co., Cincinnati, Ohio, a long-established firm dealing extensively in ginseng, who, after seeing it, wrote as follows: "Enclosed find statement for your ginseng."

Your cultivated root is very handsome, and the large, smooth, heavy, white, dense-fibred root is the ideal sought. . . . Root averaging up to your cultivated lot would be used without sorting."

Their price offered, was:

5-16 pounds cultivated root, at \$8.50 per pound..... \$43.03
15-20 pound native root..... 4.87

This offer was accepted and the price was paid.

Estimates of profits from crops, based upon the experience of a very limited area are as a rule not very reliable. Much of the literature on ginseng, being disseminated to induce speculators to go into ginseng culture, promises such returns as, if any, will ever realize. The methods set forth for calculating profits are faulty, and are intended to secure purchasers for seeds, plants or capital stock, rather than to benefit the grower.

In our experiment 138 plants occupied 1-580 part of an acre, counting in a proper share of the walk space. To plant an acre thus would require 20,040 plants. In various ways, through losses and the rejection of small roots, the number of roots actually marketed was 23 per cent less than the number planted. The experimental plot having yielded five pounds of dry root, an acre, under equally good conditions, should yield 580 times five pounds, or 2,900 pounds.

Most of labor and materials will vary greatly, according to local conditions. In the following estimates the most conservative figures are given.

20,040 plants, at 10 cents.....\$2,004.00
900 posts 8 feet long, at 10 cents..... 90.00
Lath for screen roof..... 200.00
Boards for cross-bars and braces..... 100.00
Setting posts 2 feet in ground..... 75.00
Clamp netting on screen..... 150.00
Planting and preparing soil..... 100.00
Planting 20,040 plants..... 50.00
Weeding and mulching for 5 years..... 250.00
Digging root, 5,000 pounds..... 100.00
Washing and drying crop..... 100.00

\$2,949.00
2,940 pounds dry root, at \$8.50 per pound..... \$25,080.00
Deducting cost..... 2,949.00

Net profit in five years.....\$15,401.00
No account is taken of cost or rental of land.

There are no enemies of the ginseng plant that make a business of its destruction. Dogs and cats, if allowed to run over the beds, may break down or dig out some plants. Chickens and turkeys eat the ripe berries and are fond of scratching in the rich loose soil. Mice and field mice are a nuisance in the seed-beds and should be trapped or killed with poisoned bait.

No particular species of insects are known to injure ginseng. Maggots or larvae of a fly have been found about decaying roots, but they are not the cause of the rot.

The most serious loss may be caused by a fungus or several fungi usually present in wood soil. In consequence, a disease known as the "damping off" of seedlings, and cuttings speedily attacks young ginseng plants at the surface of the soil, causing the stem to become soft and shrivel in a very short time. This disease was found in some ginseng seedlings sent by Mr. N. B. Curstead, Olyphant Furnace, Pa., in 1898. This fungus extends rapidly from plant to plant when they stand closely and in a single night may mow down and area of two or more square feet. The only treatment that can be recommended is to scatter hot sand over the area of the disease to kill the fungus, or to remove the neighboring heal-

thy plants at once, take up an inch of the infested soil and replace it with new soil.

Another enemy likely to do damage is a microscopic worm known as a nematode worm. Such worms are often found in the soil, and are very numerous when favorable food is found. They attack young ginseng plants at the root, causing them to shrivel or turn black or brown. Upon a small plant may be found from fifteen to twenty of these minute enemies, but only with the aid of a microscope. Soils infested with such animal life should be baked or sterilized with live steam before using for delicate plants.

A Hero at Fourteen.

How Earl Gulick Won the Gold Medal of a Life Saving Society.

When Andrew Carnegie presented the gold medal of the United States volunteer life saving corps to Earl Gulick, a fourteen-year-old boy, in Carnegie hall, New York, in the presence of 5,000 persons a few days ago, he introduced the blushing lad as a "hero of the higher civilization of to-day."

"A strange kind of hero," said Mr. Carnegie, "indeed would he be to our ancestors, for he has never killed anybody. He has only at fourteen years of age saved a man of thirty from drowning. That's all. 'What is he compared to the slayer of thousands?' inquires the barbaric past, which hallooed not the man who had served or saved his fellows as a hero. The civilized future is to hail none other. So moves the world to higher ideals."

Earl Gulick had previously won fame as a sweet singer. He is known by the title of "The American Nightingale." He has sung in many of the big cities of the country in concert, in which he has scored almost unprecedented success. Musical critics have united in conferring the most unstinted praises upon his technical ability as well as the wonderful sweetness of his rich soprano voice.

The deed which the gold medal of the life saving society commemorated was performed last summer. Young Gulick, who is a member of the boy's department of the society in New York, was spending his vacation at Freeport, on Long Island. One day James Lawless, a man thirty years of age, was swimming in Rudegus channel at that place, when he became exhausted and called for help. Earl happened to be nearby and at once went to his assistance. It proved a difficult feat for the boy, but he finally succeeded in bringing Lawless to safety, though in an unconscious condition.

On presenting the medal the society awarded him the gold medal.

Mr. Curtis Johnson of 583 Bishop Street, freight truckman, says: "I had backache and lameness across my loins for a year or more. At times the lameness was so acute I could lift nothing and if I stooped it was impossible for me to be straight. When driving there was steady aching over my kidneys the whole time and I had a dull, tired feeling which took away all my ambition. I procured Doan's Kidney Pills from F. Post's Green's drug store and they soon cured me from the whole combination of troubles and they did it quickly and thoroughly. 'My wife was also suffering from a direct grinding backache and she used Doan's Kidney Pills and they invigorated her generally. She now speaks of them as highly as I do. We never came across any remedy which surpassed Doan's Kidney Pills.'"

For sale by all dealers. Price 50 cents a box. Foster-McMillan Co., Buffalo, N. Y., sole agents for the United States. Remember the name—Doan's—and take no substitute.

Notes from The Pennsylvania State College.

Mrs. Isabel Beecher gave a recital in the college chapel Jan. 31st. All of her work was very much appreciated. Her rendering of "The Man Without a Country" was especially fine.

In order to express a little of the feeling of relief which comes when examinations are over, the students held a "stag" dance in the Armory Friday evening, Jan. 30th.

Candidates for the Senior class for membership in the honorary fraternity, Phi Kappa Phi, are R. R. Bate, E. H. Becker, A. R. Dennington, W. H. Kirk, J. B. Landis, J. M. Nelson, A. S. O'Neil, I. C. Palmer, C. W. Rogers, J. H. Snyder, H. E. Stitt, R. L. Streeter. Eligibility for membership in this fraternity is based on scholarship standing for the entire college course.

The officers elected by the Literary Club for the ensuing year are President, Prof. Espenshade; Vice-presidents, Prof. Foster, and Prof. Willard; Sec'y and Treas., Mr. Dowell; Executive committee, Prof. Gill, Osmond, Shed and Powell.

Prosperous times in baseball are expected at State this year. The competition for places on the team is stronger than for many years and the candidates are not only numerous, but are also very promising. Games away from home have been scheduled with Steubenville, Franklin and Marshall, St. Mary's, Gettysburg, Annapolis, Yale, Fordham, Villanova and Dickinson. Games to be played here are scheduled with Syracuse, Villanova, Dickinson, Franklin and Marshall, Cuban Giants, Bloomsburg Normal and Lehigh. Manager, Robert '03 is captain, and Dorworth, '04, is manager.

More Eight Park Liquor.

Members of the Women's Christian Temperance Union of Philadelphia added their protest Thursday to those already filed to the Legislature against the passage of the bill to permit liquor selling in Fairmount Park. Mrs. A. C. Peacock presented a resolution at the semi-annual conference, held in the Wilkeson Street Methodist Church, which was carried unanimously. It asserted "that our beautiful park would be changed from an orderly, safe place for women, children and respectable citizens to a resort where the dissolute and intemperate would menace the entire community." We deplore such attempted vicious legislation.

A petition now in circulation in Germantown is receiving many signatures of those opposed to a Park license scheme and it will be forwarded to the Governor and members of the legislative committee having the Park bill in charge. A largely attended meeting of business men was held Monday evening at which Dr. Harry Mansfield, Dr. Nathan Keyser and John J. Kenner were appointed to draft the petition. Members of Prospect Section No. 33, Sons of Temperance, have taken similar action. Judge Breggy was commended at the Women's Temperance Union meeting for his recent utterance regarding indecent theatrical posters, and in another resolution the union protests against the bill afflicting the unduly closing law. Miss M. J. Burk described the prevalence of polioxy playing throughout the city and said: "I know women very prominent in the church, who rent their houses for policy shops."

Choking Restored Sight.

Recovery of Vision Lost Thirty-Seven Years Ago.

Blind for thirty-seven years in the left eye. Emil Fradenek, of Bethlehem, found three days after having had a narrow escape from being choked to death by a shirt sleeve catching in cogwheels at the Bethlehem Silk Mill that he could see from the optic.

The sight, surgeons say, was restored by congestion of the blood vessels. Fradenek's eyes were almost bulged from their sockets by the accident. Physicians have hopes that he will now retain his sight.

Scolding.

Yes, I know you are tired and worried, and your nerves are "like needle points," but do try not to scold. It doesn't help matters in the least, and you do feel self-condemned after it is all over. If only we could go away, by ourselves, when we feel the "cold fever" coming on us, how much better it would be for all concerned. And if only "the family" would understand, and take no notice of it, until you could get yourself together again. But they are human, too, and add fuel to the flame by losing their temper, and blaming it all on you—poor dear!

But for the children's sake, don't scold. They often learn to take pleasure in fretting you, because of the continual fault-finding and fretting; and as they are always getting the blame of wrong doing whether they deserve it or not, they grow callous and unamiable, and lose all ambition to please or help one who is so unlovely, and it is the greatest misfortune that could befall you. Whatever happens, try hard not to scold.

MYSTERIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE.—One was pale and sallow and the other fresh and rosy. Whence the difference? She who is blushing with health uses Dr. King's New Life Pills to maintain it. By gentle arousing the lazy organs they compel good digestion and head off constipation. Try them. Only 25c, at Green's Pharmacy.

Medical.

CERTAIN RESULTS.

LEMONS, finest Mediterranean juicy fruit.....30 and 40cts. per doz.

BANANAS, the finest fruit we can buy.

FRESH BISCUITS, Cakes and Crackers.

Sweet, Mild Cured Hams, Breakfast Bacon and Dried Beef.

CANNED MEATS, Salmon and Sardines.

OLIVES, an excellent bargain at.....25cts.

TABLE OILS, home made and imported.

PICKLES, sweet and sour, in bulk and various sizes and styles of packages.

PURE EXTRACTS, Ginger Ale and Root Beer.

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CEREAL PREPARATIONS. We carry a fine line of the most popular ones.

PURE CIDER VINEGAR, the kind you can depend on.

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Our store is always open until 8 o'clock p. m., and on Saturday until 10 o'clock.

Telephone.

YOUR TELEPHONE is a door to your establishment through which much business enters.

KEEP THIS DOOR OPEN by answering your calls promptly as you would have your own responded to and aid in giving good service.

If Your Time Has a Commercial Value. If Promptness Secures Business. If Immediate Information is Required. If You Are Not in Business for Exercise stay at home and use your Long Distance Telephone. Our night rates leave you an excuse for traveling.

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THE NEW EDISON PHONOGRAPH We are Direct Agents PRICES FROM \$10 TO \$100.

Genuine Edison Records \$5.00 per dozen or 50c. singly. Will deliver machines and instruct you how to make your own records and operate machine. 10 years experience in phonograph business. Send for catalogue.

J. H. WARD, Pine Grove Mills, Pa.

Green's Pharmacy.

CHAPPED ROUGH AND DRY SKIN.

For healing chapped hands and for moistening and softening the skin when it is rough and dry.

"CYDONINE" is one of the nicest things we know of—It is cooling and pleasant to use, and quickly restores the skin to its natural smoothness. A little goes a long way and it costs you but 15c.

We have sold hundreds of bottles under our guarantee "satisfaction or your money back." It gives universal satisfaction both in quality and price—Try a bottle.

GREEN'S PHARMACY Bush House Block, BELLEFONTE, PA.

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BUSH HOUSE BLOCK.

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Don't spend your strength during this extreme weather in a fruitless search for what you need, but come straight to us and get the goods promptly.

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Travelers Guide.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD AND BRANCHES.

Schedule in effect May 26th, 1902.

VIA TYRONE—WESTWARD. Leave Bellefonte, 9:30 a. m., arrive at Tyrone, 11:35 a. m., at Altoona, 1:00 p. m., at Pittsburg, 5:50 p. m.

Leave Bellefonte 1:05 p. m., arrive at Tyrone, 2:30 p. m., at Altoona, 3:10 p. m., at Pittsburg, 6:55 p. m.

Leave Bellefonte, 4:44 p. m., arrive at Tyrone, 6:00, at Altoona, 6:50, at Pittsburg at 10:45.

Leave Bellefonte, 9:30 a. m., arrive at Tyrone, 11:05, at Harrisburg, 2:40 p. m., at Philadelphia, 6:47 p. m.

Leave Bellefonte, 1:05 p. m., arrive at Tyrone, 2:30 p. m., at Harrisburg, 6:45 p. m., at Philadelphia, 10:30 p. m.

Leave Bellefonte, 4:44 p. m., arrive at Tyrone, 6:00 at Harrisburg, at 10:00 p. m.

VIA LOCK HAVEN—EASTWARD. Leave Bellefonte, 9:32 a. m., arrive at Lock Haven, 10:30, leave Williamsport, 12:40 p. m., arrive at Harrisburg, 3:15 p. m., at Philadelphia at 6:23 p. m.

Leave Bellefonte, 1:05 p. m., arrive at Lock Haven, 2:10 p. m., arrive at Williamsport, at 2:30 p. m., Harrisburg, 5:00 p. m., Philadelphia 7:32 p. m.

VIA LOCK HAVEN—EASTWARD. Leave Bellefonte, 4:44 p. m., arrive at Lock Haven, 5:45 p. m., leave Williamsport, 7:45 a. m., arrive at Philadelphia at 7:22 a. m.

VIA LEWISBURG. Leave Bellefonte, at 6:00 a. m., arrive at Lewisburg, at 8:06 a. m., Montandon, 9:15, Harrisburg, 12:15 p. m., Philadelphia, 3:17 p. m.

Leave Bellefonte, 2:15 p. m., arrive at Lewisburg, 4:45 p. m., at Harrisburg, 6:50 p. m., Philadelphia, 10:30 p. m.

VIA LEWISBURG. Leave Bellefonte, at 6:00 a. m., arrive at Lewisburg, at 8:06 a. m., Montandon, 9:15, Harrisburg, 12:15 p. m., Philadelphia, 3:17 p. m.

Leave Bellefonte, 2:15 p. m., arrive at Lewisburg, 4:45 p. m., at Harrisburg, 6:50 p. m., Philadelphia, 10:30 p. m.