

Farmer's Department



Culture of the Chinese Sugar-Cane

We annex, from an article which we find in the New York Evening Post, from O'Connor & Van, proprietors of the West Chester Farm School, Mt. Vernon, New York, their method of cultivating and harvesting the Chinese Sugar-Cane, which may be of advantage to some of our agricultural readers who desire to experiment with the new plant.

NATURE OF THE SOIL

To produce sugar, or indeed to develop its saccharine qualities at all, it requires a moderately fertile soil, a warm exposure, and a tolerably dry climate. In France, the experiment has been tried by those who thought to greatly improve the soil at various times during the season at growth. The result has been to weaken the proportion of sugar in the sap, although the desired increase in quantity was obtained. On our own farm, we noticed that the greatest vigor of growth was attendant upon the warmest weather.

QUANTITY OF SEED

From one half of a pound to one and a half pounds should be used by different persons. By careful planting, we think a half pound should be sufficient for an acre. The seeds are small, and of course correspondingly numerous. Put eight or ten seeds to the hill—thin out to four plants. Make hills three and one-half feet apart each way.

HARVESTING

If used for fodder, the seed should be sown in drills as thickly as ordinary corn-fodder, and about the first of July or early and fed green to stock; or it may be cured and stacked away. If desired for sugar making, the canes should be allowed to stand until the seed passes fairly out of the milk state, for at this particular time the greatest quantity of saccharine matter is developed.

CLEANING SEED

We have stripped our seed with a comb, wooden comb as is used for broom corn, and it should be run once or twice through a fanning mill. Alluding to the properties of the cane for feeding purposes, the writers say:—Our horses, cows and oxen eat the seeds as readily as grain; and we have kept our horses in good condition for more than a month on the chopped stalks of the Sorgho and a little English hay.

For feeding milch cows it has been observed to lessen the quantity of milk; but in the case of Mr. Whitney, on the railroad near Washington, D.C., he found that if the morning's milk was put in a bottle and laid in the refrigerator, it became by night time so very rich in cream, as to be with difficulty extracted from the bottle.

FOREIGN WHEATS.—Fourteen different kinds of wheat, received from abroad, have been distributed by the United States Patent Office, among American farmers. The Turkish flint wheat has proved itself both hardy and prolific in the Middle States, and well deserving of more extended culture. The Algerian flint wheat has a remarkably large berry, and weighs seventy pounds to a bushel; the Spanish Spring wheat is said to be a beautiful variety, of a beautiful white color, and likely to succeed well in a winter wheat of the South; and a spring variety at the North; the Sauer Spring wheat, and the early Noe wheat, are both having the property of ripening some days before the common sort; a very desirable quality, in this country.

Miscellaneous

A MOTHER'S EXPERIENCE. While engaged in conducting a recitation in my school-room, one morning, some years ago, my attention was attracted by a knock at the door. On approaching the hall, I discovered a lady accompanied by a lady, who was evidently of high social position, who wished to place under my instruction. During my conversation with the lady, I was struck by her manifestation of deep regard for the science, expressed affection for him. Perhaps I should, long ago, have forgotten this circumstance, had it not been for the subsequent history of the lad, and the lesson it conveys.

He had been under my care, but about a time before I discovered that he was very indolent, and that it was necessary to subject him to frequent discipline. I called upon his mother to inform her of these facts. "I am sorry to hear that of my son," she replied. "I think I can induce him to do better; but I intend you to do the matter to his father; he is quite strict with the child; and I, I am fearful, may be too severe with Henry." This, to me, was a novel circumstance. I doubted its wisdom. "Let us see the result," Henry continued at school for some length of time, without any marked improvement. One day while despatching him after school, he was so violent, that I felt it my duty to inflict upon him, for some misdemeanor, corporal punishment, when, watching a favorable opportunity, he seized his hat, and made his escape from the school-room. I put forth no effort to secure his return, and after a few days, sent his books home.

Several years passed away before I again saw the lad, when, for the second time, I was visited upon by his mother. He had grown considerably, and was now a young man, and he was now in a position to return to the city, and again place himself under my instruction. After some reflection, I concluded to receive him. Accordingly, the next day he presented himself at my school-room. He had grown quite handsome, and well educated. He entered upon his duties very quietly and good-humoredly. I noticed, he was backward in his studies, and that he was obliged to take his place in the lower classes. He excused himself, and claimed the schools in the country for his want of progress.

If some weeks he conducted himself with the greatest propriety. At length, I began to notice that he was occasionally absent, and that one or two days at a time, he was absent on the same days with Henry. This led me to make inquiries, which resulted in my discovering that he was guilty of playing the truant.

I called upon his mother. She was sorry, but rather evaded the subject. She thought his conduct did not proceed from a spirit of willful disobedience, but from his playful disposition. I said to her, "I learned that he was absent on the same days with Henry, and I do not doubt he would hereafter be regular in his attendance. Her husband entering at this moment, she abruptly changed the subject of conversation, and in a short time I bid them good evening. Mistakenly, however, I proceeded to attend to my duties, and on the next morning, I found that he was absent. I felt that he was playing the truant, and I decided to proceed to his residence, and see if he was there. I found that he was, and he was very sorry to see me. He said that he was absent because he was playing the truant, and he was very sorry to see me.

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Business Cards

GEORGE E. B. JUSTICE OF THE PEACE. Office opposite the West end of the Court House, No. 142, Second Street, Philadelphia. April 22, 1856.

WILLIAM C. RHEEM, Attorney at Law. Office in Main Street, Philadelphia, No. 15. Business attention to him will be promptly attended to. April 22, 1856.

O. P. HUMPHREY, Attorney at Law. Office in North Second Street, Philadelphia, No. 12. Business attention to him will be promptly attended to. April 22, 1856.

A. N. GREEN, Attorney at Law. Office in East Second Street, Philadelphia, No. 1. Business attention to him will be promptly attended to. April 22, 1856.

DR. S. B. KIEFFER, Office in North Second Street, Philadelphia, No. 12. Business attention to him will be promptly attended to. April 22, 1856.

DOCTOR S. P. ZIEGLER, Office in Market Street, Philadelphia, No. 1. Business attention to him will be promptly attended to. April 22, 1856.

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