CROP THAT PAYS WELL.

When Properly Cultivated a Few Acres of Onions Will Give Excellent Money Returns.

When a good yield and quantity can be secured, there are few crops that give a better return than onions. One advantage with them is that they can be marketed as soon as matured, or they can be stored and kept to be marketed whenever desired.

In growing onions successfully, it is essential to have good seed, to sow early, to have a rich soil, prepared in a fine tilth and to give thorough cultivation in good season. A failure in any one of these will often so affect the yield or quality of the crop as to determine the question of profit or loss.

It is an exceptional case to find a soil that is naturally rich enough to make a good crop of onions without the addition of some manure or fertilizer; on the other hand, it is an exception to find a soil too rich. The onion is a gross feeder. A very heavy dressing of coarse, fresh manure could be given and incorporated with the soil with profit, were it not that in most cases this kind of fertilizer contains so many weed seeds as greatly to increase the labor of clean cultivation. On this account, so far as is possible, well-rotted manure should be used, taking care to thoroughly incorporate it with the soil on the surface. Wood ashes are one of the best fertilizers for this crop, and if there is not enough of well-rotted stable manure available, commercial fertilizers can often be used to a good advantage.

Onions grow so near the surface that the manure should be applied and worked in the surface, and for that reason top dressing after plowing will generally be the best plan.

One advantage with onions is that they may be grown on the same land for several years without change if liberal manuring is done, and if clean cultivation is given the first year this will be found quite an item.

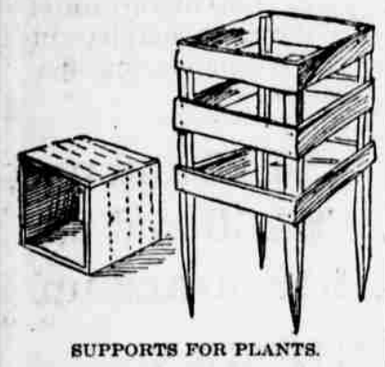
The very first favorable opportunity in the spring should be taken advantage of to prepare the ground and sow the seed as earliness is an important item. The soil should be prepared in a fine tilth.

A better germination of the seed and a more vigorous start to grow will be secured while the cultivation can be commenced earlier and clean cultivation be given with less labor if care is taken to have the soil thoroughly prepared in a good tilth before the seed is sown. Mark out the rows ten or twelve inches apart. If the drill is used it will mark them out, sow the seed and cover all at once. One advantage in using the drill is that the seed will be distributed in the drill rows more evenly and be covered at a more uniform depth. It is best to use plenty of seed so as to secure a good stand of plants. It is better to thin out than to replant. Give clean cultivation from the start, keeping the soil in good tilth until the crop is matured.—St. Louis Republic.

SUPPORTS FOR PLANTS.

Although Very Easily Made, Nothing Better Has Yet Been Discovered for Tomatoes.

These should be made in winter, that they may be ready when needed. Knock out the bottom from grocery



SUPPORTS FOR PLANTS.

boxes, and saw them through again and again, as suggested in the dotted lines. All that remains is to nail in the corners the pointed stakes that hold up the rails. Nothing better can be devised for tomatoes than supports made in this way. The same kind of supports are also exceedingly useful for putting about rose bushes or small shrubs that one may be starting upon the lawn. Such small growths need this protection until they are big enough to look out for themselves.—N. Y. Tribune.

Mixing Kerosene Emulsion.

Many speak of the emulsion as troublesome to make. I find it very easy by the following method: A bar of common washing soap is dissolved in a quart of water and allowed to boil, then two quarts of kerosene are added to the boiling soap. This is churned, while hot, with a revolving egg beater; a force pump would be better, but I do not own one, and a beater answers very well. When the emulsion is properly made it will come like butter, so thick that the beater will not work. A pint of the thick emulsion is diluted with eight quarts of water, making a liquid resembling skim milk in color but closely related to kerosene in odor.—Vick's Magazine.

Value of Orchard Grass.

Unquestionably it is a good grass, and if it can have plenty of water it is a luxuriant grower. But it will bunch "in spite of fate." At least that is my experience. Thick sowing will prevent that to some degree, but it is sometimes recommended in a mixture for a permanent pasture. In that case it could not be sown thickly enough to prevent it from bunching, and I had about as soon sow ten-pin balls and let them remain on the land. Stock would not eat them as readily as it would orchard grass, it must be admitted, but in time they would not be more unsightly or more inconvenient in the care of the pasture.—Richard Preston, in Agricultural Epitomist.

Though 1900 is divisible by four it is no leap year. The ladies of the present generation may feel aggrieved over the fact that they are deprived of the precious privileges of leap year for an interval of eight years. The fortunate persons born on February 29 may be glad or sorry, according as they happen to desire birthdays or not. All may be comforted, however, by the assurance that this state of affairs shall not be allowed to happen again for two centuries. It has occurred only twice before since Pope Gregory XIII. instituted the new style calendar in 1582. The necessity for dropping three leap years in every four centuries led to the decree that all years ending with 00 except those divisible by 400 should be common years. Thus 1600 was a leap year, while 1700, 1800 and 1900 were made common years. The year 2000 will again be a leap year. The ambitious maidens who feel aggrieved because this year had no February 29 should look at the matter philosophically. While the fact may deprive them of a year in which to make matrimonial proposals, comfortingly observes the Chicago Tribune, they should also remember that it may save them from the chance of being rejected, which fate any young man of experience can tell them is most painful. It also makes the present year one day shorter than a leap year, leaving one less day to meet misfortune or to die in and bringing so much nearer the beginning of the new century, in which woman is confidently expected to complete her supremacy over the tyrant man. By the year 2000 it will not matter whether there are any leap years or not—unless the meek and down-trodden man of those future days be allowed the leap year privilege as a remnant of his former glories.

Consolation for the Ladies.

An Ohio soldier, Private Krider, of light battery K, Third United States artillery, now serving in the Philippines, holds the record for being wounded more times at once than any other man who lived through it. In an engagement in which Krider's battery took part a shrapnel shell exploded near the gun he was working, and 25 leaden bullets from it were lodged in his body. In the same engagement a bullet from a mauser rifle struck him, making a total of 26 wounds inflicted upon him in this one action. Many a soldier has been killed with one bullet, but this man with 26 recovered sufficiently to return to his home in Ohio; and he even wanted to go back to the Philippines and fight again. But he was declared disabled, and is now pensioned for life.

Society is rather put to it to find novelties in the way of entertainment occasionally. Perhaps the latest venture in that line was an after-the-opera luncheon given the other night in one of the lunch wagons that stands near Herald Square. The hostess was a lively young woman, who had seen the lunch wagons near the Yale campus when she was at New Haven for the junior promenade a week or two ago. All the men of this young ladies' party were Yale men. There was a supper for them at the lunch wagon, with frankfurters, sauerkraut, schmierkase, pretzels, rye bread, and such other rather unusual opera-supper delicacies as the menu afforded, winding up with a revel in pie and doughnuts.

A few years ago a landowner made his neighbor tear down and rebuild a four-story block because it overreached six inches into the next lot. A still more selfish contention concerns the proprietorship of five inches of space 300 feet above the sidewalk. The bringer of the suit declares that a neighboring cornice projects five inches over his own modest roof, and he claims large damages therefor. For once Dr. Hale's "look up and not down" seems at fault. Thackeray's irony is more apt: "If your neighbor's foot obstructs you, stamp on it; and do you suppose he won't take it away?"

This queer little twist comes from the west: Call a girl a chick and she smiles; call a woman a hen and she howls. Call a young woman a witch and she is pleased; call an old woman a witch and she is indignant. Call a young girl a kitten and she rather likes it; call a woman a cat and she'll hate you. Women are queer.

A New Jersey paper reports that a terrifying snake-like monster with a scaly body and four claws has been seen in the woods near Perryville, that state. Ever since the discovery of applejack such things have been occasionally seen by Jerseyites.

During the solar eclipse on May 28 next, Harvard astronomers will conduct observations at a station in Alabama, and make a special effort to find the planet supposed to be nearest the sun, and named Vulcan, though its existence is in doubt.

A bill before the New York legislature makes a woman's hatpin over three inches long a dangerous weapon, and the carrying of one a disdemeanor. This is taking away woman's only means of self protection.

A jackrabbit sausage factory is to be started in Kansas, in order to utilize the heavy and yearly increasing crop of this creature.

Everyone who carries stamps knows what a nuisance it is to do so. The stamps will stick together. Special cases to hold them and oiled paper to keep them apart, with other devices, may be tried, but they are inconvenient and unsatisfactory. The Washington Star says that the third assistant postmaster general is considering a plan to save the annoyance of stuck-together stamps. The plan is to bind the stamps in little books, with alternating leaves of stamps and paraffin paper, the books resembling somewhat the telegraph frank books that are so common in Washington and which may have suggested the idea. The books will be of pocket size and will contain stamps to the value of 24 cents, 48 cents and 96 cents. The government will pay two dollars a thousand for making these books, and will charge an advance of one cent each, which will yield a handsome profit on the enormous sales. The book containing 12 two-cent stamps and costing 25 cents would probably be the most popular. The idea is a sensible one, and it is strange that it had not been thought of before. The discouraging thing about carrying one of these books, though, is that the man who carries stamps is always the victim of the man who doesn't have any but wants to borrow.

Convenient Postage Stamps.

Investigation of the causes, effects and means of prevention of forest fires in the west, will be carried on by the government division of forestry next summer in Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, South Dakota. Besides field study, designed chiefly to discover means of preventing the evil, the division is making a historic record of all important fires which have occurred in the United States since 1754. Although yet incomplete, says the official bulletin, this indicates that the annual recorded loss by forest burnings in the United States is, at the very lowest, $20,000,000. It will probably run far above this sum, as the Pacific coast states have been only partially examined. Accounts of over 5,500 disastrous fires have been obtained in the 17 states already examined. Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin have suffered the most severely. These records are taken chiefly from newspapers, and where it has been possible to compare them with the figures of practical lumbermen, it has been found that the tendency of the press is to underestimate the damage.

Government Forestry Work.

To-day we have common workmen who approach the wise men of 200 years ago. Our public schools have created an enthusiasm for education that is pathetic, writes Newell Dwight Hillis, in Woman's Home Companion. Recently a foreigner exclaimed: "It is too late for me to learn! But my children, they shall not be ignorant!" Our working people understand that so long as they remain ignorant the ecclesiastical despot will oppress them, the political despot will spoil them of their treasures, the industrial despot will tyrannize over them. To escape oppression the toiler becomes informed. Education is making the poor man's muscle so powerful that despots connot afford iron enough to reach around his wrist. To-day for the first time in history knowledge is becoming universal. Agitators are being succeeded by educators. People see that intellect and ability are the real creators of wealth. Education is the modern Moses leading the people out of the wilderness into the promised land of happiness and plenty.

Education the Modern Moses.

At Lakewood, N. J., there is a golf club that plays at all seasons. One day, says an eastern exchange, there came to Lakewood from New York two dignified politicians, who knew nothing about golf. That afternoon they were walking across a field when they came suddenly upon a small red flag stuck in the ground. It was a golf flag, but before they could investigate, some small boys cried out: "Blast! blast! Look out for the blast!" The two statesmen dropped their dignity and took to their heels, and never stopped running until they reached the other side of a stone wall. When they returned to their hotel the story had preceded them, and they left for home next day.

An ingenious Philadelphian is making an income out of a very novel source. He is the agent for a number of foreign steamship lines and in a position to get hold of any number of different kinds of labels, such as are attached to trunks and other baggage of passengers going abroad or coming from foreign tours. These he sells to individuals who wish to create the impression when they carry their dress-suit cases in public that they have been abroad. Numbers of young men who have never been out of the country are said to be posing in this way as foreign travelers of considerable experience.

That Omaha burglar who was identified by the mark of his broken tooth, left in a piece of cheese that he stopped to eat while blowing open a safe after midnight, has reason to forswear late lunches as unhealthful.