

FARM AND GARDEN

MARKETS FOR FRUITS.

Bring Good Prices and the Demand Is Increasing.

All kinds of good fruits have brought good prices during the past few years, and the demand is increasing with the population. Tropical countries excel in the varieties of fruits, but with its delicacy of flavor, the pineapple is inferior in point of quality and tenderness of flesh to the peach of the temperate zone, and the familiar apple of our climate has no equal in the tropics for combination of desirable qualities. We import large quantities of fruit partly because we desire some kinds that we cannot profitably grow, and also because we do not supply the demand for our own native fruit.

In no year within the past quarter of a century have we been supplied with a sufficiency of apples. During certain periods of the year they bring larger prices than oranges, and the bulk of the peach crop is now often sold when the trees are in bloom. The demand for pears has been very much increased of late years, owing to the great improvement that has been made with this fruit and the great difficulty in combating the blight. When the buyers find a good article of fruit they care but little for prices, and thus the Bartlett and some other varieties hold their own, with no limit to the demand, and the supply is always short.

The curculio has almost obliterated the plum in some localities, but of late the pest has been fought successfully, and with a steady improvement being made with the fruit it will no doubt in a few years resume its place by the side of our most favorite delicacies. The best fruits are those which combine quality, flavor and hardness, and the Middle States can compare favorably with other sections in the production of high-grade fruit. Farmers who have large orchards, especially of apples, find a ready market for all that can be grown.

Hemp Plant Along Gulf Coast.

The valuable nature of the work now being carried on in Texas by the United States Agricultural Department is again shown by the discovery that the "abaco" or hemp plant can be successfully grown in the Southwest Gulf Coast country. Experiments have been carried on and the horticulturists are convinced that this valuable addition can be made to the list of Texas crops.

It has long been the theory that the hemp plant would not grow successfully in any section of the world except the Philippine Islands. Efforts have been made to transplant it to Africa, India and South America, but with little success. Heretofore Manila has had a monopoly of the hemp trade and the finest ropes and cordages come from that city.

The hemp plant is a variety of banana and has exactly the same appearance as the broad leaved plants found growing in many San Antonio yards. It was quite by accident that the discovery was made that the hemp plant could be successfully grown in Texas.—San Antonio Express.

Pasturing Spring Wheat.

A subscriber wants to know whether it will injure spring wheat to pasture it off with cattle or sheep. It depends upon the condition of the soil and the season. If the grain crop has come on early and shows a very rank growth, pasturing it moderately will no doubt do it good. This will naturally induce shorter straw, and the crop will not be so apt to lodge. When wheat or any spring grain for that matter are sown on very rich ground and the early growing season is favorable the grain is apt to grow too rank, hence the straw breaks and much of the crop is lost. We would not pasture these spring grain fields with sheep, for they are apt to bite down too close. Of course the sheep would graze over the field more evenly than cattle. Another thing, don't allow stock on the fields when the ground is soft.—Indiana Farmer.

Scab in Potatoes.

Even with the greatest care it is not always possible to grow potatoes free from scab, but it surely pays to take all the precautions possible. It is decidedly an uphill job to attempt to grow potatoes on soil infested with scab germs and the only way to avoid this is to put the ground into some other crop for two or even three years. If possible obtain seed tubers free from scab but under any circumstances they should be treated before planting. The process is very simple and is easily accomplished by soaking the seed tubers for two hours in a solution composed of one pound formalin to each thirty gallons of water. This practically insures a crop free from scab if the soil is not infested.—Field and Farm.

Plant White Clover.

I would add two or three pounds of white clover seed per acre for permanent mowings, as it makes a thick, rich bottom, writes W. A. Ford of the Massachusetts Agricultural College.

Of Interest to Women

Simple Tastes of Princess Victoria of England—Shrinks from Pomp and Display and Prefers the Simple Life of an Ordinary Woman—Princess is an Accomplished Musician.

When Princess Victoria of England, daughter of Queen Alexandra, was a girl of fourteen it became her duty one day to act as hostess at a juvenile entertainment at Marlborough House. In the middle of it she suddenly disappeared. A messenger was dispatched to Buckingham Palace to see if the truant had run away to "grandma," but she wasn't there. At last a letter from her to the Princess of Wales was discovered in the schoolroom, begging "mother" not to be angry; she did "hate parties" so, and she had gone to stay with the Duchess of Teck till this one was over.

Not liking parties has been a characteristic of this princess ever since, though, having a strong sense of duty, which developed as she grew older, she doesn't run away from them any more. But those who know her know that if she could choose her life it would be on far from court, a life free from demands of etiquette, and spent among the friends she loves. Whenever she can escape from the formalities that surround her she does so. Stories are told of her planning visits incognito with her sisters or other members of the court to some tea room or shop, where for a little while she can do just as other women do. She likes to drop anonymous surprises on the children she encounters, as once when she was shopping in Penrith, and saw three small boys looking longingly at the toys in a window. The princess immediately took the part of Santa Claus, and for once in their lives those small and ragged boys had all the toys they wanted.

Princess Victoria has a good deal of tact, says "The Gentlewoman," and while she cares little about court life her influence has brought about several needed changes there. The Queen's ladies-in-waiting have special reason to be grateful to her. Up to the time of King Edward's accession the breakfast hour for the ladies-in-waiting was 7 o'clock in the summer and 7.30 in the winter. They didn't like it, of course, but in so great a household changes are not easily made. Princess Victoria, however, got the hour changed to 8 o'clock for all the year round. It was she, too, who secured a much more comfortable breakfast room for them than the one at their disposal during Queen Victoria's reign.

The princess's own boudoir at Buckingham Palace was arranged entirely by herself, and is said to be a delightful room. The walls are lined with rare pictures, most of them gifts to her, and there are hosts of photographs which she has taken in rambles around Balmoral, Windsor and Sandringham. In this boudoir she likes to spend much time, reading and writing. She knows several languages and is a very good musician.

True to her nature, she has always refused to have a lady-in-waiting. When she goes to any public function she is accompanied by one of the Queen's, as etiquette forbids her appearing alone. She has, by the way, several faithful attendants, who always like going about with her when they can. These are her nephews and nieces, with whom she has been a great favorite ever since they were little things.

Head of W. C. T. U.

The most important event on the programme of the 26th annual convention of the National Women's Christian Temperance Union was the election of officers and the report of



the resolutions committee. The six general officers were re-elected as follows:

Mrs. Lillian M. N. Stevens, of Maine, president.
Miss Anna A. Gordon, of Illinois, vice-president-at-large.
Mrs. Francis E. Parkes, of Illinois, corresponding secretary.
Mrs. Sara H. Hoge, of Virginia, as assistant recording secretary.
Mrs. Elizabeth P. Hutchinson, of Illinois, treasurer.
Mrs. Elizabeth Preston Anderson, of North Dakota, recording secretary.

Collapsible Tub.

The thing most desired by young mothers these days is a bathtub for the baby made of sheet rubber that is attached to a camp stool foundation. It can be folded up and put out of the way when not in use, and it telescopes into a small bundle when one wants to travel.

FRENCH THRIFT.

A recent article from a careful French writer estimates the wealth of the people of France at \$46,000,000,000, or more than \$1,100 for each man, woman and child. In the last fifteen years the French have loaned about \$521,400,000, and yet the gold imports of the country have amounted to \$785,800,000. In the year just closed the gold held by the Bank of France increased \$200,000,000, making the total \$700,000,000, the largest in the bank's history. The other banks of France hold \$833,880,000. Each year the French receive about \$360,000,000 from their foreign holdings, which are chiefly Government bonds. This form of wealth has doubled since 1894. The population of France is about half that of the United States, and its area is 50,000 square miles less than Texas. These figures of French wealth rest on the universal French habit of saving money. As soon as a French child begins to have an income of its own it lays aside something for the future. The French have firmly reached the sound proposition that if nothing is saved in productive years the individual is running behind and is certain to be overtaken at last by want. Yet the French get as much enjoyment out of life as any people, both in ordinary material affairs and in those of an artistic nature.

THE CRAZE FOR LUXURY.

The ruthless extravagance of the rich would be bad enough if its influence stopped with the cities, but it does not. The desire for luxury which it fosters puts its stamp in more or less pronounced fashion on the life of the whole country. The cities become disease centers from which the germs of riotous living are scattered throughout the land. The smaller community naturally patterns after the latter; the country merchant, after viewing life as it is lived in New York returns often dissatisfied with the simple manners of his own town and endeavors to introduce in their stead the customs of his city friends. The habit of living beyond one's income thus becomes a more or less national vice. One need not be pessimistic about it, or conclude that the country is going to the dogs. But there surely is an epidemic of extravagance which seems to grow more, rather than less, serious. The blame for it traces back to the cities, and back of them to the worthless rich who flaunt their wicked waste before the eyes of the world.

REFORESTATION OF FLORIDA.

The Florida forest has an area of 201,480 acres, of which about one-fourth has been taken up under various land laws. It covers a plateau between the St. John's and Ochlawaha rivers, and at no point is an elevation exceeding 50 feet above sea level obtained.

Fire has played an important part in bringing about the present poorly forested condition of the Ocala, as year after year large fires have burned uninterruptedly over this tract, killing all vegetation and consuming the humus of the soil. Naturally protected portions which have not been subject to the flames prove positively, however, that the soil will rapidly respond to a little caretaking and that the prevention of fires would eventually mean the reforestation of practically the entire area.

A DANGEROUS NAME.

The woman who created a fire panic by shouting "Meyer" at the Star Theatre, in New York, was not the first person to have that experience. Some years ago a man banged furiously against a locked door in one of the upper corridors of a hotel at Sharon Springs, and shouted "Meyer! Meyer!" It was a warm Sunday afternoon and most of the guests were in their rooms, many of them napping. Immediately there was a great commotion in the house and panic-stricken, scantily dressed people rushed through the halls and down the stairways. When the cause of the alarm was ascertained the proprietor told the man who had shouted that if he wished to remain in the hotel he would have to call his small boy John while his visit lasted, and "John" the boy remained to the season's end.

THE MULE'S WAIST.

It is a rather extraordinary thing that the exact height and chest measurement of a mule can be a matter of any particular importance to any one. Yet a British officer is now busy in America buying mules of fifteen hands high, with a so-called "empire waist" of sixty-three inches. The point is that it is very important for harness to fit exactly, and the harness for the battery mules that are used in India has been ordered for these precise dimensions. Women will most certainly be interested to learn that the empire waist is fashionable in mule society as well as in the beau monde.

A German scientist has discovered a means of making men tall by manipulating the legs and ankles. If there's anything to that, we may expect to see pretty tall statesmen in a decade or two.

They construct dwellings out of blocks of building glass in Silesia, but they seem solid enough so people who live in them can throw all the stones they wish.

Lumber is becoming so high priced that the man who discusses politics in the corner grocery store cannot afford to whittle while he talks.

TIT FOR TAT.

Colloquy in a Railway Station Ending in a Draw.

An Irishman was sitting in a depot smoking when a woman came, and, sitting down beside him, remarked: "Sir, if you were a gentleman you would not smoke here."

"Mum," he said, "if ye was a lady ye'd sit farther away."

Pretty soon the woman burst out again:

"If you were my husband I'd give you poison."

"Well, mum," returned the Irishman, as he puffed away at his pipe, "if you wuz me wife I'd take it."

Justice and Lucre.

Judge Giles Baker, of a Pennsylvania county, was likewise cashier of his home bank. A man presented a check one day for payment. He was a stranger. His evidence of identification was not satisfactory to the cashier.

"Why, Judge," said the man, "I've known you to sentence men to be hanged on no better evidence than this!"

"Very likely," replied the Judge. "But when it comes to letting go of cold cash we have to be mighty careful."

Some Thoughts on Sheep and Goats.

Sheep live higher, but more is expected of them. Goats have to do without some things, but they're less on their minds.

It's a great distinction to be a sheep, but it wouldn't be, only for the goats.

None except sheep get into society. None except goats know what a parcel of foolishness society is.

There are sheep who wonder if it's worth all it costs. Goats would be fairly contented if it wasn't for their wives all the time dying to be sheep.

No Assistance Needed.

Lucinda stood in the presence of two famous surgeons who had just assured her that her present condition demanded an operation and that unless it was performed within a short time she would in all probability die.

Lucinda listened respectfully. "I'm jes as much obliged to you gen'mans as I can be," she assured them, "but ef de deah Lord has done made up his min' to lard me home, I thinks he kin translate me widout no assistance."

A Work of Supererogation.

Henry dislikes being bathed and argues with his mother over every square inch of his four-year-old anatomy.

One night, when his patience was especially tried by what he considered wholly unnecessary work, he exclaimed:

"Oh, mamma, couldn't you skip my stomach? Nobody ever sees my stomach!"

CARELESS ON FACE OF IT.



"That new girl breaks everything!"

"Yes; she even cracked a smile this morning and then broke into a laugh."

His Standard.

Mr. Purist—I tell you our modern literature is deteriorating very rapidly.

Uncle Hiram—Well, I guess. You can't read the patent-medicine advertisements nowadays without having them all broken up by these blamed continued stories in between.

The Thief of Time.

Teacher—Johnny, what is the meaning of the word "procrastinate?"

Pupil—To put off.

Teacher—Right. Use it in an original sentence.

Pupil—"The brakeman procrastinated the tramp from the tramp."

No Idolater.

Miss Simper—Do you know, I simply worship D'Auber's landscapes!

Mr. Crimper—Well, there's no commandment against it. They certainly bear no likeness to anything in the heaven above, or the earth beneath, or the water under the earth.

Getting Even.

Miss Passay—What a lovely gown you have on! But haven't I seen it before?

Miss Treligh—No, I think not. You see I've only worn it at a few very smart affairs this season.

One Theory.

"Why was Sisyphus," asked the professor in mythology, "compelled to roll a stone up a hill?"

"I s'pose he had made a freak election bet," answered the student with the bulging brow.

Judson—Baxter's wife looks like a very determined kind of woman.

Madsen—She is determined; Baxter is the fifth man she has led to the altar.

Paderewski Works Hard.

Paderewski frequently sits at his instruments until well into the small hours of the morning, says Tit-Bits. Hence he seldom rises until 9 or 10 a. m., and immediately he is dressed he gets to work, generally practicing on the piano, but often composing. He keeps to his task until 1 o'clock, and not a minute earlier does he break his fast.

Output of Tokay Wine.

This year's output of the famous Tokay wine has been entirely lost in consequence of an unexpected outbreak of phylloxera. Tokay is made from grapes grown in the vineyards belonging to the Emperor Francis Joseph at Hegyalja, Hungary, and it is now used chiefly for presents to other heads.

"Mary Said Nothing."

Justice Brewer of the United States Supreme Court is said to be the author of this story: A witness testified in a certain case that a person named Mary was present when a particular conversation took place, and the question was asked, "What did Mary say?" This was objected to, and after some discussion the Judge ruled out the question. An exception to this decision was immediately taken, and on appeal the higher court reversed the verdict and ordered a new trial on the ground that the question should have been answered. At the second trial the same inquiry was propounded and elicited the information that "Mary said nothing."

Worse Than Noah.

Mamma (to Willie, who has been playing with Noah's Ark).—Don't be rude, Willie. I'm sure that Noah wasn't whining and complaining when he put the animals into his ark.

Willie.—No; but I'll bet Noah didn't have any baby brother to lick the paint off his animals.

Roll of HONOR

Attention is called to the STRENGTH of the

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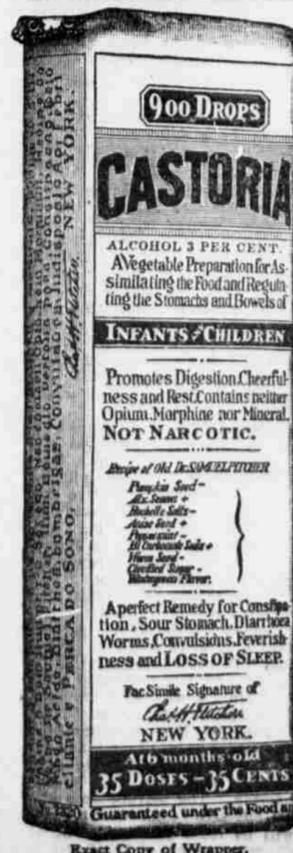
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