

**Use Best Seed for Gardening**

A. V. Main, Almonte, Ont.

Do you want to have a good garden this summer, a better one than last year? If so, in the first place, procure good, reliable seed from a reliable source. Where can such seeds be purchased? I have sown seed from all the noted firms in Great Britain where they specialize and have extensive trial grounds. Yet, I have had failures with seed not germinating.

You can't condemn a seed firm if some packet has given a poor percentage. Much depends on the treatment, temperature moisture and depth of sowing for success with seeds. The individual or grower is largely in control of the seed proving good or bad. Because your neighbor has a better tomato crop than you have, the blame is laid on the seed, although it may be the same seed.

A firm that wilfully sells useless seed can never survive long. One fault is that too many dabble with seeds. In small towns, you find seeds displayed in almost every store. It is surprising that reputable seed houses that supply these off-shoots, as it were, do not have a better system. One agent in small towns and villages is surely representative enough for one firm.

I have found Canadian seed firms to furnish seed equal in quality and high percentage of germination to any house of fame in Great Britain. A large quantity doubtless comes from there and other countries. However, the seedsmen in the Dominion have the right article in stock and it is adaptable to the climate. I have experimented with several vegetable strains from the Old Land, but find them entirely secondary to Canadian sorts.

In Canada we should have great trial

grounds and produce more of our own seed. There is no gainsaying the fact but that seed matured, harvested and carefully selected in this country would naturally be better acclimated than the foreign product. Nevertheless, we are more or less dependent on our neighbors for supplying our wants in this particular line as well as in many others. Farmers and gardeners that read THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST should send direct to those seedsmen that use the columns of this paper as their advertising medium. It is just as economical and more profitable than local purchases.

Leading seed firms test all their seeds before sending them to their customers. A sample of each sort is sown in pots or boxes in their glass houses. If it fails to give a satisfactory germination, it is not put on the market; thus, the customer cannot find fault with the purity of the seed. We should give our support to the Dominion seedsmen, and they should be encouraged to give more attention to the extending of trial grounds, hybridizing and the selection of adaptable varieties suitable for the different parts of the land.

Gardeners themselves ought to experiment more and find the strains that give the best results in their own locality. The garden is too often subjected to random treatment; likewise, many orchards and farms. It is being felt more keenly every year that a random, haphazard, careless management of crops is ruinous and detrimental and cannot stand the rivalry of up-to-date methods.

"The Man With The Hoe," is the name of an interesting little booklet prepared by the Bateman Mfg. Co., makers of the Iron Age Tools. Free copies may be had by writing to the above company at Box 516-G Grenloch, N.J., and mentioning this paper.

**Horticulture in Labrador**

Last year an attempt was made to grow vegetable and flower seeds in the Canadian Labrador and success attended the effort. In a letter to a lady in London, Ont., a year ago last spring, Miss Edith Mayou, Superintendent of the Harrington Hospital in the Canadian Labrador, stated that the dietary of the fisherfolk might be improved by growing vegetables for food. The suggestion was referred to Mr. Emery B. Hamilton, London, Ont., an expert in regard to seeds, etc., and was taken up enthusiastically by him. Previous efforts to grow satisfactory vegetables had failed in the Canadian Labrador, but his selection of the hardiest early varieties which were sent by the last boat last year, brought forth most satisfactory returns. Only some \$30 contributed by sympathizers who were willing to expend the amount on an experiment that did not seem to be promising, were at the disposal of those in charge. The entire amount was used for seeds, leaving no surplus for tools. Only crudest tools were used by the inhabitants of the barren coast who made rakes by driving long nails through a bar of wood and manufactured watering-cans by punching holes in tomato cans. Those who had the ambition to make the effort were well rewarded.

Last fall a horticultural exhibition was held and tools necessary for gardening distributed for prizes. The exhibition was a success. The work will be extended. As it is supported entirely by subscription and being in connection with the great mission of which Dr. Wilfred T. Grenfell is the head, contributions will be gratefully received. Address, Mr. Emery B. Hamilton, chairman, Canadian Labrador Horticultural Mission, 546 Wellington St., London.

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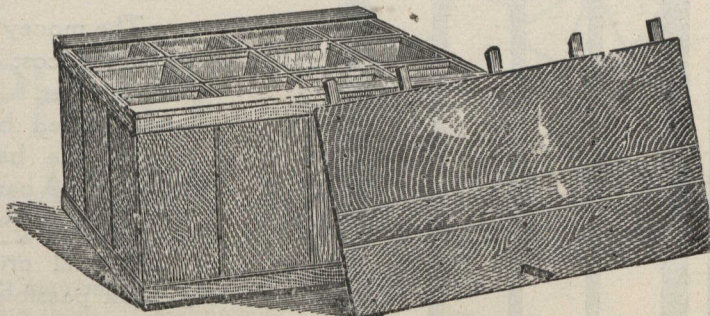
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