

"SPUDS" AS AN ARTICLE OF FOOD

The high price of potatoes during the past few years has directed particular attention to their value as an article of food. It has also lent point to the desirability of having the best that can be grown. As far back as 1915 a system of potato inspection and certification was established in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Hence the special demand for potatoes grown in those provinces. The system has now been extended to Nova Scotia, Quebec, Northern Ontario and Manitoba. A survey restricted to the commercial growing district of Southern Ontario and to some districts of Saskatchewan and Alberta has also been made. A description of this work is given in the Agricultural Gazette of Canada for November. If a field passes satisfactory it is classified at headquarters as Grade 1 or Grade 2, the grading depending upon the percentage of diseases recorded, and a second inspection is made at or after harvest time to what extent, if any, diseases affecting the tubers, are present. If this season inspection is satisfactory, and the grower agrees to grade to his stock so that a shipment of potatoes for seed purposes contains no tubers under two ounces or above twelve ounces in weight, a sufficient number of tags to cover the number of bags or other containers necessary for the shipment of the amount of potatoes inspected, is issued by the inspector and placed by him upon the shipment at the point of loading. Tags certify to ownership and that the contents of the containers have been officially inspected. A list of standards is also given in The Gas-

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G. W. HALL.
Both these favorite remedies are sold by dealers at 50c a box, 6 for \$2.50, or sent on receipt of price by Fruit-a-lives Limited, Ottawa.
"Fruit-a-lives" is also put up in a trial size which sells for 25c.

ette. Twenty-five inspectors have been employed this year and 7,513 acres inspected, of which 2,869% have been graded as No. 1 and 1,105% as No. 2. Tabulated details of the grades are given and the statement made that indications point to a big demand for certified seed this year. Orders for 12,000 barrels have already been placed with Nova Scotia by the Bermuda Government.

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A Series of Talks On Music

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NO. IX.—THE FIRST VIOLINISTS
The perfection of the violin making was completed during the latter part of the sixteenth century and the beginning of the seventeenth century.

The development of the violin making to the unsurpassable perfection attained by the great violin makers naturally coincided with the remarkable development of the technique of violin playing.

The Italian violin makers during the course of the seventeenth century brought their skill up to the highest perfection and put into the hands of the performers the most perfect instrument for expression that human ingenuity seems capable of devising.

The central idea in the solista mind is to make effect by melody with subordinate accompaniment.

One of the first to make a god of the violin was Lullu, born at Ferrara; his musical talent was discovered by a shoemaker monk, who taught him rudiments of the guitar and by some means he got hold of a violin and between the lines of washing floors and acting as scullion in the kitchen, his spare moments were spent on violin.

Lully was overheard playing popular airs on the violin and was soon given a place in the Princess' band where he quickly excelled; but being of a mischievous disposition he was caught writing rude verses about the princess, who promptly dismissed him.

In the same period, Baltzar, a famous German violinist, won a great reputation in England, in fact, he was the first great performer on the violin heard in England, his art seemed touched with magic.

Speaking of his wonderful execution, Anthony Wood wrote:—"None in England ever saw the like." Wilson, the greatest judge of music at that time, stooped down to Baltzar's feet to see if he had cloven feet, to see if he was a devil, because he acted beyond the parts of man; Wilson also declares that he became so popular that so many delighted to drink with him and making him drunk that by drinking he was brought to the grave.

The first to arrange concerts for profit was John Banister, an English violinist of the same period, who established a series of concerts in London for money making. These were held at his own house and were continued until a short time before his death.

At this period the greatest violin makers had brought their skill up to the highest perfection in violin making.

The actual inventor of the violin is not known nor have we the correct date.

The first mention of the violin as part of the orchestra, is made by Monteverde, when he gave a performance of the opera Orfeo in 1610.

We also hear of one Baltzarini, giving performances in England in 1677.

The principal Italian makers of the seventeenth century were the Amati, the Guarneri and the Stradivari families, "all of Cremona" who so jealously guarded the peculiar secrets of their manufacture that no modern maker has so far been able to reproduce instruments of the same quality.

So valuable are these violins that the high record price for a Stradivarius is said to be \$15,000, and a Guarnerius, formerly belonging to Wieniawsky and since sold to John McCormack (the tenor singer) for \$12,000.

The violin was considered at one time the common property of man, yet many failed to obtain proper instruction and would adapt his own case in playing it, the result was "alvenynee" if he simply fiddled at playing, hence the name "fiddle" which reminds us of the boy who asked his father: "What is the difference between a violin and a fiddle?" About three hundred dollars per evening, my child, answered the father.



Extract from a letter of a Canadian soldier in France.
To Mrs. R. D. BARRON;
The Rectory, Yarmouth, N.S.
Dear Mother—
I am keeping well, have good food and well protected from the weather, but have some difficulty keeping uninvited guests from visiting me.
Have you any patriotic drug-gists that would give something for a gift certificate to me so you know something that is good for everything? I do—OH MINARD'S Liniment.
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Son.
Manufactured by the
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