

The Home Vegetable Garden

By W. T. Munn, Dominion Horticulturist

We take pleasure in reproducing the following article by W. T. Munn, Dominion Horticulturist. Mr. Munn is a native of Belleville and a son of Prof. Macoun who spent many years as a teacher here before his removal to Ottawa to become chief botanist for the Dominion Government.

In view of the fact that Belleville Board of Education has entered upon an active campaign to interest the school children in growing vegetables and will distribute generous prizes, this splendid article will be read with all the more interest.

Vegetables fresh from the garden are much more appetizing than those which have been gathered for some time. More vegetables would be eaten if grown at home, and there would be less desire for the more expensive kinds of food, which would result in considerable saving by the end of the year.

Many persons in cities and towns who have no gardens could produce some vegetables if they would, and it is to try to induce everyone to grow vegetables who can that this little pamphlet has been prepared.

Preparation of the Soil

To get the best results the soil should be brought into good till. When beginning gardening in cities and towns it is often found that many difficulties have to be overcome before the soil is really in good condition. Old cans, stones, bricks, pieces of wood, broken toys and many other things must be removed or buried so deeply that they will not be troublesome. Then it often happens that the subsoil from the cellar of the house has been thrown over the yard in order to level the ground. This is sometimes of great depth. This subsoil is usually either a stiff clay or sand. Clay, while it will give more hard work, is usually a much better material to start with than sand. If there is much coal ashes in the yard most of them should be removed altogether or buried in one corner of the yard. A little ashes mixed with the clay will help to make it more friable or more open, but there is little plant food in coal ashes and there should be a minimum of them in good garden soil. A mixture of sand and clay makes a soil of better consistency than either one of these alone. An application of lime to clay at the rate of about two tons per acre or about 100 pounds to a garden 25 by 40 feet in size, or even half that quantity and thoroughly mixed with the clay, will help in breaking it up, but the most important thing of all is the manure, preferably rotted stable manure, if it can be obtained. This should be worked through the upper foot of ground whether it be loamy soil, clay, or sand. If the manure is strawy it should be well dug in so that the straw will not be pulled out when the soil is raked. The great aim should be to eventually get the soil into such a condition that it will neither bake nor become hard in a dry time, nor dry out readily, and both of these conditions will be brought about by the liberal use of manure which adds plant food in an easily available form and helps to form humus which is so essential to a good physical condition of the soil. Clay soils should be dug when they are very wet as this will cause them to bake badly; by waiting until they are fairly dry they can be worked more easily and without fear of doing any harm.

A spade, a hoe, a garden rake, and a digging fork are the four chief tools needed in gardening. Narrow hoes and rakes are best for small gardens, or well-made children's tools but with long handles. The surface soil should be made as level, smooth and as fine as possible. If the soil for two or three inches down is in good condition a quick germination of the seed will usually be assured.

List of Best Vegetables

Asparagus—Palmetto is proving a better variety than Conover Colossal for general planting, as it is not so subject to the disease known as Asparagus Rust. Argentella is also a good variety.

Beans—Round Pod Kidney Wax and Wardwell Kidney Wax are two of the best yellow-podded or wax beans, and both are early. Broad Bean has a large pod. Stringless Green Pod, Early Red Valentine and Early Refugee are three good, green-podded varieties. Refugee or Thousand to One is one of the best later sorts. Among lima beans, the dwarf or bush form are the most satisfactory.

Peas—Meteor, Detroit Red, Crosby Egyptian and Eclipse are some of the best.

Borecole or Kale—Dwarf Green Curled Scotch.

Brussels Sprouts—Improved Dwarf. The Dwarf varieties have been found more satisfactory than the tall-growing ones.

Cabbage—Early Jersey, Wakefield, Copenhagen Market (early), Succession (medium), Danish Ball-head, and Drumhead Savoy (late). Red Dutch (red) is a good list.

Cauliflower—Early Dwarf Erfurt and Early Snowball.

Carrots—Chantenay is one of the best, but if a good early sort is required, the Early Scarlet Horn can be planted with advantage. It is a small variety.

Celery—Golden Self-blanching (Paris Golden Yellow) (early), French Success, Noll Magnificent, Perfection Heartwell, Triumph, Winter Queen are all good late varieties. London Red is a good red one. White Plume is desirable for the earlier.

Corn—Early Malcolm, Malakoff, Peep O'Day (extra early), Early Fordhook, Early Cory (early), Golden Bantam (second early), Early Evergreen and Black Mexican (medium), Stowell Evergreen, Country Gentleman (late). In planting, the Country Gentleman should not be omitted, as it lengthens the season very considerably and is of excellent quality.

For the prairie provinces and other parts of Canada where the nights are cool, Squaw and Extra Early Adams, though not sweet varieties, develop better than the others.

Cucumbers—Peerless White Spine or White Spine, Davis Perfect, Cool and Crisp, and Giant Pera are some of the most satisfactory. Boston Pickling and Chicago Pickling are good pickling sorts.

Egg Plant—New York Improved and Long Purple succeed best.

Lettuce—Grand Rapids, Black-Seeded Simpson (early curled), Iceberg, New York, Giant Crystal Head, Crisp as Ice, and Improved Hanson (curled cabbage), Improved Salmander (uncurled cabbage). Grand Rapids is the best variety for forcing. Iceberg remains headed longest in summer, and should always be planted. Trianon and Paris are two of the best Cos varieties.

Melons, Musk—Long Island Beauty and Hackensack are two of the earliest and best of the nutmeg type. Montreal is later but of larger size and finer flavor. Emerald Gem and Paul Rose are two of the best yellow-fleshed melons.

NEWS TOPICS OF WEEK

Important Events Which Have Occurred During the Week.

The Busy World's Happenings Carefully Compiled and Put Into Handy and Attractive Shape for the Readers of Our Paper—A Solid Hour's Enjoyment.

WEDNESDAY.

Bonar Law is likely to be mediator on the Irish question. Welland County Council has decided to build no new highways this year.

The colors of the 18th Battalion were deposited in Christ Church, Chatham.

Mr. F. J. Winslow of Guelph was appointed Assistant Director of Military Hospitals.

John A. Macdonald in the Legislature charged that power at Niagara Falls is being stolen.

Berlin announced the sinking of a French battleship of the Danton class by a submarine in the Mediterranean.

Hon. E. B. Blodgett has resigned his position as Postmaster-General in order to serve in the overseas forces.

That the Government will this week export wheat to Russia was the subject of a rumor.

Charges were made that the Toronto police are not co-operating with the military authorities to keep liquor from returned soldiers.

Harbert G. Wilson, a Winnipeg lawyer, has been appointed Commissioner to administer the workmen's compensation act in Manitoba, at a salary of \$7,500.

The Dominion's revenue from all sources for the year ending March 31 is expected to be about \$230,000,000, or \$50,000,000 greater than last year's, the record to date.

Emerson St. Pierre was committed at Cornwall for trial on the charge of murdering his father, Wm. St. Pierre, near Aultsville, on Feb. 8, and Nettie Richmond was committed for trial as an accessory after the fact.

THURSDAY.

Two British mine-sweepers were destroyed by mines.

Two Teuton "movie" spies pleaded guilty in New York.

The sixth German war loan was reported to have been a failure.

A mysterious vessel pursued the Anchor liner Tuscania off the British coast.

Patrick Gorman, president of the Board of Trade at Sudbury, died suddenly of heart failure.

More than a million dollars were received by the Presbyterian Church in Canada last year for special purposes.

The C. P. R. express from Montreal left the tracks at Norwood over a broken rail. Two men were injured.

The National Trust Company and the Mackay Companies each subscribed \$1,250,000 to the Canadian Victory Loan.

The Legislature of Nova Scotia passed the second reading of a measure to grant the suffrage to women and to allow them to practice law.

Hon. E. B. Blodgett, Secretary of State, will be Acting Postmaster-General, while Hon. P. E. Blondin is recruiting a battalion for the C. E. F.

Sir Charles Ross has appealed to the Government for the release of workmen who have been thrown out of employment by the closing of his rifle factory. The men themselves have asked the Government to reopen it.

Police Chief McLennan of Vancouver and a small boy were killed in a battle with a negro dog named Bob Tait, Detective John Cameron, and Constable Johnson were wounded, the former seriously, and Tait killed himself after being wounded.

FRIDAY.

Sir German bomb plotters were placed on trial in New York city.

The Teuton Chancellor made a call for more sacrifices from his people.

Mary Manach, five years old, was drowned in a small stream near her home in Ingersoll.

Magistrate Brunton announced that 200 hogs had been destroyed in Scarborough Township.

Miss Helen Hughes, bookkeeper for a Windsor firm, was fatally injured by being struck by an automobile while waiting for a street car in Detroit.

It is officially announced that British subjects embarking for United States or Canadian ports must have passports endorsed or issued within 30 days of sailing.

Sir Robert Borden has declined to accept Hon. Mr. Blondin's resignation, asking him to remain in the Government, and commending his decision to raise a battalion for overseas service.

Thirteen locomotives which were used on the Welland Ship Canal construction work on which has been stopped till the war is over, have been secured by the Dominion Government to be sent to France.

At the meeting of the Executive of

RUSSIA'S NEW DANGER

Germans Are Planning a Large Invasion.

Drive Will Have Petrograd as Its Objective, Say the Military Experts—The Free People of Russia Await Attack on Their Northern Front in Near Future.

PETROGRAD, March 27.—From internal troubles and the problems of reconstruction the attention of Russia has suddenly been diverted to a new danger which threatens from without. There is now indisputable evidence that the Germans are massing great numbers of troops along the northern front ready for an effort against Russia's capital.

The country has been apprised of the new menace by a series of proclamations from its ministers. Minister of War Guchkov has issued a proclamation warning the people of the menace of spies seeking to uncover secrets of the national defense.

The council of war met today in the Duma, at which it was resolved unanimously to strain every effort for the defense of Russia.

War Minister Guchkov's statement that the foe is at the gate is a mere figure of speech. The slightest relaxation of vigilance and the enemy would be at Petrograd.

The effect on the troops of the "on-suspiciousness" that the army has been the arbiter of Russia's destiny has manifested itself in demands incompatible with military discipline, and already there is news from various fronts of the prevalence of "second thoughts."

But where the men respect their chief and the army is fortunate in its commanders it is unlikely that persistence in untutored claims will be allowed to prejudice the spring and summer campaigns.

Moreover, reassuring reports have been received from Generals Ruzsky and General Judenich, who commands the Caucasian army.

The retirement of Grand Duke Nicholas from his post as the commander-in-chief of the Russian armies is officially confirmed. Pending the appointment of a successor, General M. V. Alexieff, chief of the general staff, will act as commander-in-chief.

UNCLE SAM AT WAR.

May Send Small "Sentimental" Force to France.

WASHINGTON, March 27.—President Wilson's plans for the army are more far reaching and elaborate than generally realized, according to General Staff officers who are in a position to predict with some degree of accuracy. It can be stated that the general programme which the President is now considering includes the following salient features:

The immediate raising of a volunteer army of 500,000 men, bringing of the National Guard to its maximum strength, taking into the regular army without delay the second increment of army reserve, thereby raising the military strength to 1,085,000. Recruiting of navy to full authorized war strength of 37,000.

Employment of the regulars and the National Guard to take care of the situation at home.

Possibly an early despatch of a small force to France in order that the Government may, for sentimental reasons, be represented "on the field of honor."

Arrested in Windsor.

TORONTO, March 27.—Word was received by the police Saturday night that Miss Frances L. Sawyer, aged 17 years, had been arrested in Windsor on a charge of fraud perpetrated by the Toronto police. It is alleged that she passed a worthless cheque on the Robert Simpson Company for \$150, half of which she received in cash.

A despatch from Windsor stated that Miss Sawyer had been a guest at the Hotel Ponchartraine for the past ten days, having registered as Ida Polneire, and that being unable to meet her hotel bill, she had crossed the river to Windsor to obtain the necessary money from friends.

Prohibition in England.

LONDON, March 27.—Although the prohibition proposals made in Britain are greatly interesting Canada, the English press seems to attach no importance to the movement. What was considered the greatest demonstration yet held in connection with the movement was that taking place Saturday, when Queen's Hall was crowded, but the Times devotes only fifty lines to the meeting, giving the same space to the Anglo-Canadian boxing. Sir William Osler, called as a speaker, was unable to be present, but Archdeacon Lloyd represented Canada.

French Prisoners of War.

BERLIN, March 27.—Having printed in the French language the names of 800,000 French prisoners of war and the place at which they are being held, the German Government is beginning the publication of the names of French soldiers buried behind the German lines and the location of their graves.

TWO TOWNS CAPTURED.

French Make Progress Against Strong Resistance.

PARIS, March 27.—Though strongly opposed by the Germans, the French troops Monday occupied the towns of Polombay and La Feuillie, south of the Concy forest, says the official statement issued by the War Office Monday night.

Progress has also been made by the French in the region of Soissons, in the neighborhood of Vregny. The text reads:

North of the Somme there have been no essential changes. Between the Somme and the Oise still in the hands of the Germans, the resistance of the enemy our troops occupied Polombay and La Feuillie.

North of Soissons we made progress in the region of Vregny. Writing from the French front on Sunday a correspondent for the Associated Press says:

French troops had a chance to-day to show their skill in the art of open fighting and took ample advantage of it. At the southern pivot of the so-called Hindenburg line, which is supposed to be about at Nally, they came to grips on several occasions with the Germans, who attempted to make a stand on the edge of the Crouy Plateau, which is a strong outshoot of the still larger Laon Plateau. The Associated Press correspondent watched to-day's engagement from a nearby height and saw the French soldiers gradually push away the German opposition and attain the points they were seeking to occupy with a precision little known in the past.

The French had kept close on the heels of the retreating Germans since they quit Soissons, never giving them a moment's respite until the pursuers occupied the sort of triangle formed by the three points of Crouy, Missy-sur-Aisne, and Pont Rouge, on the Maubeuge road. At the last named the Germans evidently expected to cease their retreat, as was shown by their abandoning their useless work of saving down fruit trees.

It was this wanton devastation by the Germans in the country around Soissons and other places which so incensed the French infantry, composed mostly of peasants and farmers, that they could scarcely be restrained from a desperate rush forward after the retreating foe. But prudence prevailed and careful handling enabled them eventually to capture from the Germans many positions which had been prepared for stern defense, such as Vullery and Pont Rouge.

TWO NATIONAL ROADS.

Important Suggestions Made Regarding Railway Systems.

OTTAWA, March 27.—That, in connection with the Canadian Northern and Grand Trunk Railway systems, the country is faced with two alternatives: either to continue for several years more the system of subsidies and loans in regard to the past few years' operations, or to take the road—this is said to be the outstanding conclusion to be drawn from a majority report of the Commission recently appointed to make a survey of the whole railway situation of the Dominion. The report, it is understood, favors nationalization. A minority report, on the other hand, favors the retention of the roads under corporation control.

In connection with the Grand Trunk, the majority report finds that while more than \$36,000,000 has been declared in dividends to the shareholders little provision has been made for depreciation and sinking fund. The members of the Commission venture the opinion that a Board of Directors 3,000 miles away cannot be expected to effectively manage a Canadian railway.

It is stated that the life of a car is only twenty years, and that as a result of the lack of provision for depreciation the Grand Trunk is running only one car for every seven run by the Canadian Pacific.

The majority report is of the opinion that an expenditure of \$51,000,000 would be required to put the road on an economic earning basis. This would include the Grand Trunk Pacific. The amount estimated as necessary to put the Canadian Northern on a running basis is \$50,000,000.

Cost of British Army.

LONDON, March 27.—(Through Reuters' Ottawa Agency.)—The immense military effort which Great Britain is putting forth is strikingly illustrated by the army appropriation account for 1916, which shows that the total expenditure for the army was \$543,187,548.

This amount includes: Pay, \$28,157,158; supplies and clothing, \$212,940,815; quartering, transport, and remounts, \$286,878,107, of which the sea transport of troops cost \$30,687,382.

The sum of \$5,570,320 was credited to the Indian Government for ordinary expenses of the Indian Expeditionary Forces.

Jews Get Rights.

WASHINGTON, March 27.—Absolute equality of Jews in Russia with all others in own property, to reside in any place, to serve the army and navy, to participate in educational advantages and at the polls, has been proclaimed officially, say advices received at the Russian Embassy.

Therefore, it is understood there will be no further restrictions upon the issue of passports to Russian or American Jews who desire to visit persons.

George Vaux Bacon, an American newspaper man, was sentenced to prison in the United States for spying for Germany.

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