

Wild Rice.

Among the indigenous grains of North America, wild rice or the *Zizania* of the Chippawa Indians, is the most important, as an article of food. It is in constant use by all the Indians of the great north-western lakes, lagoons and rivers between the Mississippi and Lake Superior.

This plant delights in mud and water five to twenty feet deep. When ripe the slightest wind shakes off the grains. After being gathered it is laid on scaffolds about four feet high, eight wide, and twenty to fifty long, covered with reeds and grass, and a slow fire is maintained beneath for thirty-six hours, so as to parch slightly the husk, that it may be removed easily. Its beard is tougher than that of rice.

To separate it from the chaff or husk, a hole is made in the ground a foot wide and one deep, and lined with skins; about a peck of rice is put in at a time; an Indian steps in, with a half jump, on one foot, then on the other, until the husk is removed. After being cleaned, the grain is stored in bags. It is darker than the Carolina rice. The hull adheres tightly, and is left on the grain, and gives the bread a dark color when cooked. The husk is easily removed, after being exposed to heat. In Dakota the men gather this grain, but all other grain the women collect. An acre of rice is nearly or quite equal to an acre of wheat in nutriment. It is very palatable when roasted and eaten dry.—*Rural Press.*

Friend Morris, of the *Practical Farmer*, perpetrates the following little joke:—"In press and will shortly appear—several times *Col. Star Cheeses*." For shame, Paschall!

CAT SHOW AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.—On Saturday the fifth annual cat show at the Crystal Palace was thrown open to the public, and from the interest manifested on Saturday by the vast and fashionable assembly at the palace it may fairly claim to be considered exceedingly popular. Of the 300 specimens of the feline race exhibited there could scarcely have been one that did not receive a visit from its owner or some members of the family. The general arrangements of the show, which were carried out by Mr. F. W. Wilson, of the Natural History Department, were excellent; whilst the judges, Mr. Harrison Weir, Mr. J. Jenner Weir, and Mr. P. H. Jones, had without doubt made a careful selection of the animals entitled to prizes. That distinguished individual, the tortoiseshell tom cat belonging to Mrs. L. Smith, who made such a sensation last year, appears again without a rival, and carries off as a matter of course the first prize in his class. His owner values him at £20. The ladies are to the fore as exhibitors throughout, and have been very successful in carrying off prizes. There are altogether fifty-three classes, nine being entirely new since last year. There are two curiosities in the collection. The one is No. 142, where "Sue," a kitten of ten weeks, acts the part of mamma to a bull-terrier pup—Nell—whom she keeps watch and ward over with the greatest vigilance, notwithstanding that terrier tops the age of her foster-mother by a week. The other is a Siamese cat of a black fawn color, with a round head somewhat like that of a pug-dog.—*N. B. Agriculturist.*

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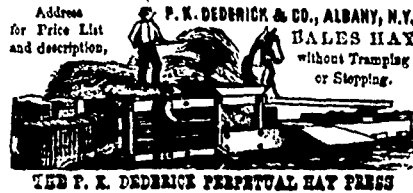
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CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER.

Table listing contents of the issue with page numbers. Includes sections like THE FIELD, AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY, ENTOMOLOGY, HORTICULTURE, THE VEGETABLE GARDEN, POULTRY YARD, EDITORIAL, THE DAIRY, AGRICULTURAL INTELLIGENCE, BREEDER AND GRAZIER, MISCELLANEOUS, and ADVERTISEMENTS.

THE CANADA FARMER is printed and published by the GLOBE PRINTING COMPANY, at 26 & 28 King Street East, TORONTO, CANADA, on the 15th and 25th of each month. Price one-dollar and fifty cents per annum, free of postage.

GEORGE BROWN, Managing Director.