

To get good crops of potatoes we must : 1. Avoid planting them too often on the same piece of land.

2. Select the heaviest tubers for planting. For that purpose, the tubers should be tested by putting them into salt water, containing about 10 % of common salt ; those that float should be rejected, and those that sink to the bottom should be used for seed. We must remember that even the best kinds are certain to degenerate, unless their cultivation is carefully attended to, and the selection of sets studiously watched. The creation of a first-rate variety takes many years, its superiority may vanish in a few.

Let us finish M. Girard's account of Richter's Emperor, published in the *Cosmos*, Paris.

Distance.—The best distance for planting this kind is 24 x 20 inches. (Our advice is that the germs be out out, provided they have germinated in free air and in the light, and planted 5 or 6 inches deep, and 10 or 12 inches apart, in thoroughly worked and manured soil. E. A. B.)

Cultivation.—Plenty of hoeings ; high earthing up. (1) (We prefer planting deep and earthing up very slightly—provided the land be perfectly drained. E. A. B.)

Disease.—The potato disease, the rot, &c., are effectively conquered by a *prophylactic* treatment with sulphate of copper, which can be had at the chemists for—cents a pound. This should be used about the 20th June, and is thus prepared :

Water.....	1,000 parts.
Sulphate of copper.....	30 "
Lime	30 "

With this the haulm should be liberally sprinkled through a distributor at the rate of about 170 gallons an acre. (2)

HARVESTING.—This should be as late as possible : (3) as a rule, in the month of October for "Richter's Emperor," which is a medium-late sort.

"The best time for harvesting this crop, adds M. Girard, is when all the leaves, even those that form the terminal shoot are dead. As long as the terminal shoot is alive, however small it may be, the tubers are still gaining, but as soon as it is completely dead, the gain is ended, and the harvesting should begin." (Unless the cellar be perfect, we prefer putting the potatoes into a heap covered with earth, and ventilated by means of a few holes stopped with straw. The tubers get dry in the heap, and, after sorting, are put into the cellar in the best possible condition for keeping. E. A. B.)

H. NAGANT.

Cultivation of the Potato.

We have just read an interesting account of the experiments conducted for 15 years in the cultivation of the potato, and entitled *The New Potato Culture*, by E. S. Carman, editor of the *Rural New Yorker*. (4) In this work are to be found the principles contained in the summary that our assistant, M. Nagant, has made on the cultivation of the potato. It is a book that should be read. The chapter of the production of new kinds is alone worth the cost of the pamphlet. In

(1) I need hardly say that I entirely disagree with M. Girard as to earthing up. A. R. J. F.

(2) Of course the time of sprinkling depends entirely on the forwardness of the crop. A. R. J. F.

(3) But the harvesting must not be deferred too long, as in the Eastern part of the province the potato-land requires to be cleared before the frosts prevent the plough from giving that important autumn-furrow. A. R. J. F.

(4) Price, stitched, 40 cents. bound, 75 cents. The *Rural New Yorker*, Times Building, New-York.

it it is proved that every intelligent farmer can produce new varieties some of which may turn out to be of the greatest benefit to the whole country. We give here a résumé of the principles which, according to Mr. Carman and all the best practical Europeans, lie at the foundation of success in growing this crop.

1. Deep and thorough drainage—natural or artificial ;
2. Selection of productive seed, possessing the best qualities either for the table, for starch-making, or for cattle feeding.
3. The germination of the sets in dry, well lighted places, so that the eyes may produce firm, healthy buds.
- (4) Deep cultivation of the soil—not less than 12 inches, so that the potatoes may multiply and swell at their ease.
5. Plenty of manure, to enable the soil to yield the largest crop in its power. This point is fully treated in M. Nagant's article.
6. The planting should be neither too close nor too far apart ; the sets strong, sound, and of the best kinds, so that no space be lost from failures in plants. In this way a very abundant crop of large, merchantable tubers will be grown, and the small ones will be few in number. We prefer one eye in a set to more, provided the sets are perfect, but we know that, on this point, opinions are divided. (1)
7. Complete eradication of weeds, and stirrings enough to keep the ground light, all the season if possible. (2)
8. Harvesting and preservation in very dark but cool and well ventilated cellars.

We are convinced that if all these rules were thoroughly observed, the growing of potatoes would be possible in every sort of land that is like those mentioned above, and instead of our crop being, as it is now, rarely more than 75 or 100 bushels, 200 or even 400 bushels would be grown in most places. This last crop may seem exorbitant, but try to grow it with all the precautions mentioned, and report thereon to us in the fall, please. We know a curé in the North who in his garden on ordinary soil, grew at the rate of 900 bushels to the arpent. (3) Come, then my good readers, study the preceding, do the very best you possibly can, and do not fail to give us the results of your work in the fall.

ED. A. BARNARD.

Imperators, grown on the warp soils of Yorkshire, Eng., are worth, in the London market, the same price as *Magnum bonum* from the same district, i. e. 145 shillings a ton (2240 lbs). But whereas the *Lincolnshire* *Magnums* are worth 140 shillings a ton, the *Imperators* from that county only command 130 shillings.

A. R. J. F.

The Lord Mayor's Champion Cup Milk Cart.

It would be difficult to excel in elegance the form and decoration of this milk cart, and Messrs, Vipan and Headly have many others patterns and sizes, from the smallest cans on wheels and milk perambulators to the largest carts for wholesale use. Another speciality in which Messrs. Vipan and Headly have been very successful is that of railway milk

- (1) I confess that I would rather not risk it. A. R. J. F.
- (2) But if the hand-hoe is not to be used, the space between the sets will not be 'kept light' after the harrowing is done. The fact is the *edge-hoeing* as practised in England, &c., is much more efficacious than all the harrowing, and not costly, as any man can get over his acre a day. A. R. J. F.
- (3) Nine hundred bushels to the arpent=1083 to the acre=28 gross tons. !!! Dr. Bain, of the Alberta district of the N. W. says he grew 900 bushels on an acre of specially prepared land. A. R. J. F.