

History of the Cabbage Seed—One of the Commission Kind.

Family! Why? I have none. I am a mongrel. I will explain. I was born in a vegetable garden located on the outskirts of a town in western New York. When first I was able to observe, I saw about me many plants of cabbage of different varieties, all were bearing seed, and I suppose I was then hybridized with them all, and in this way I became a mongrel. We are all first cousins, a motley crew in seed. After a time I was with the rest harvested and sold by the gardener to a commission seed merchant. From that day my history has been an eventful one. I have travelled like a Gipsy.

The commission seed merchant mixed me up in a lot of old seeds of cabbage, taken from paper packets which he opened, and then filled us up into new flat paper bags, the paper of which was stiff as sheet tin; thus I found afterward was to deceive the public, to give an appearance of quantity within.

I soon made the acquaintance of my companions and we frequently exchanged views. Poor things, I became quite attached to them, and shed many a tear over their sad lot, never expecting I would have a like appearance. Many of the old "residents," as they called themselves, were poor, consumptive seeds, and upon comparing notes, not a baker's dozen were from the same style of cabbage; they were a collated lot, the commission man was a collator of seeds. He bought them as he would buy railroad ties; he assembled them, to use his own phrase.

Well! we were sealed up, I say, and with other papers put into what is called a commission seed box, a flat wooden case to lay on a store counter.

Into a box with us cabbage were put a very large number of seed packets of other varieties of vegetable seeds, and as I was afterwards informed by them, of all ages up to eight or nine years. Some claimed to be old enough to vote. Some bore many internal marks and fly specks. Like old soldiers they carried the scars of their numerous campaigns.

Well, we were shipped on and exposed for sale on the counter of a store in a town in Southern Alabama. Five hundred packets were in the box, and the country people who came to buy general store goods mauled and fingered us over and over throughout the spring and summer. The purchase from our box amounted to about 100 packets, 20 per cent. of the entire number of papers.

During the hot, damp weather we perspired fearfully, and no wonder, as great beads of condensed moisture hung on the brick walls of the store; this is the case always in the Cotton belt, during the months of November, December and January.

My more delicate companions sank one after another under this exposure, till one half were not alive. Their germs swelled from the moisture and they died prematurely.

In September the commission agent came along and paid the merchant his percentage on the one-fifth part sold and ordered the four-fifths back north to the commission house.

Here the old box was emptied and put through a process which turned it out like new; it was soaked and washed, and scraped, also varnished and relabeled. Oh! what a transformation was made in that box. All of us packets, which were not torn, were put back into our old apartments. The torn and much soiled packets were ripped up, the contents to be used as bulk seed. The 40 per cent. deficiency from sales, supplied out of other boxes, then off we were sent the second year to a town on the Carolina coast. This merchant sold about the usual proportion, 20 per cent. of our number. I often wished I would be sold and planted, any fate being better than dragging along in this way. The heat and dampness here was as bad as in Alabama, and my companions less able to withstand it now with weakened constitutions.

In consultation with my fellow seeds in the packet, I was pained to find how many had passed away after the second season, not one-third of our original number were able to answer roll call, but we must not forget some were really dead when I joined them.

wer roll call, but we must not forget some were really dead when I joined them.

Again we were sent north to be rejuvenated, which was done most thoroughly, as only commission seedsmen know how (undoubtedly they are the greatest rejuvenators extant), and again shipped off for a third season in an apparently nice, new, fresh box, this time to Iowa. I was really ashamed to be thus travelling about under false colors. I said to myself, surely this my third year will be the final one.

Another season of expectation and blasted hopes, and at last came the agent and sent us home. I so often wondered why I should always be a member of the 80 per cent. left unsold, left to waste my vigor in travelling over the country.

The fourth year we were sent to Texas, we brought up at Galveston. This made 10,000 miles I have travelled since I became a commission seed. We were displayed in our freshly prepared box with new show labels for the fourth campaign, the community little thinking we were old stagers, but we laid low for black ducks. Of those who picked out seeds in the spring none happened to light on me. Oh! how we did sweat through the summer. In the autumn I was fortunately one of the 20 per cent sold and planted. Of all the seeds out of my packet and a few more, perhaps one-tenth of the original number, were the only ones that sprouted. I have often wondered how many years it took to complete the sales of those papers which constituted the original assortment in the box when I entered it four years before I was planted.

I think I can safely say I believe some of them hung on quite four years more. Indeed I have been told that commission seed packages have been known to visit every State in the Union before being sold.

I could not possibly have given a kick if kept another year, and as it was I sprouted so slowly and so weakly as nearly to be hoed up, and after being recognized as some kind of a cabbage, or Colio repollo, as they say here, I was so puny from my weakened constitution as not to be able to resist any extremes of heat, rainfall or cold. I just struggled on, eking out a miserable existence, and producing—well, some of the Mexicans gardeners say I am a Variedad de col, some a Verde breton, some a Nabilcol, I don't know myself, how can I when I consider the circumstances of my birth, for I am a wanderer and a mongrel?—[San Luis Potosi Times.

Mr. A. McD. Allan, an experienced fruit grower, of Goderich, Ont., recommends the farmers of his section to set an apple orchard, composed of the following varieties, and in about the proportions named:—Duchess of Oldenburg, 10; Early Harvest, 2; Fall Pippin, 2; St. Lawrence, 3; and the balance in the leading winter sorts, say, Baldwin, Greening, Northern Spy, Ribston Pippin, American Golden Russet, Wagner, and King of Tomkins County. He regards Ontario as the best apple country in the world, but deplors the state of our plum orchards, observing that the curculio and black knot have proved fatal to many of them. He hopes, however, that these enemies will soon vanish. He recommends the following varieties:—Coe's Golden Drop, Yellow Egg, Lombard, Smith's Orleans, Braishaw, and Washington. The fruit growers of Huron county bear the reputation of being able to name all the varieties correctly in their shipments. This valuable knowledge has the tendency to stimulate our fruit growing industry.

I consider the ADVOCATE the best agricultural journal in the Dominion, and it should be read by all tillers of the soil.

ROBERT SCOTT, JR., Prospect, Ont.

Veterinary.

Lameness in Horses.

This affection is an evidence of weakness or disease in the limbs. The first step to be taken is to find out the lame limb, which is not always easy to do, especially in the hind legs. Lameness in the hind leg may often be mistaken for that in the fore, and *vice versa*, the high hind being frequently confounded with the off fore. This is called cross lameness. In order to detect such cases have the horse trotted towards and from you. When the animal is lame on both fore feet the affected limb is often difficult to detect; the horse will be no nodding or dropping in this case, but the animal will step short and stiltly, like a cat on hot bricks, each foot being suddenly planted on the ground and carefully elevated again, while at the same time a rolling motion of the body will be observed. When the lameness is in both hind legs, the steps will also be short, and will be best noticed when you stand at the side of the horse as he is trotting past you. This symptom must not be confounded with stiffness, old age, or fatigue. Lameness is shown both during repose and during movement. In some instances it is more readily observed when the animal is standing still, in which case the horse will point or elevate the foot which is suffering pain; if both feet are affected, he will do so alternately. If he is forced to move, the degree of lameness does not seem equivalent to the amount of pain expressed. In other instances the patient will stand perfectly firm, although in the majority of cases the position of the lame limb is more upright than that of the sound one, as if he feared to put as much weight on it—this is called knuckling—but when he is made to move, he will instantly show lameness. In still other cases he will come sound out of the stable, but when set to work, the lameness becomes manifest. There are other instances in which he leaves the stable lame, and on exercise the lameness partially or wholly disappears. Some show lameness only when suddenly turned around in the space covered by their own length. If the lameness is in the hind leg he may stand with it either flexed, or with the foot off the ground altogether.

When the lame limb comes to the ground during progression, the animal suddenly elevates that side of the body and drops the other side. If the lameness is in the fore limb, the head as well as the fore part of the trunk is raised from the lame and dropped on the sound side. This is called nodding. If the lameness is in a hind limb, the quarter of the same side will be elevated and that of the sound side thrown downwards and forwards in a jerking motion, the head being moderately steady if the pain is not great, but jerked if acute.

There are positive and negative signs which will be a guide to you; for example, if there is heat, pain, or swelling in any part of the limb, the evidence is positive that the cause is in such a part; but if, on the other hand, there are none of these symptoms, we must conclude that the cause is deep seated in the foot or in a part thickly clothed in healthy tissue. This is negative evidence.

Lameness may be caused by a strain of a ligament, of muscular tissue, or of a tendon, by