

Transplanting in the Garden

An important part of the garden work is that of transplanting tomatoes, cabbage, and such like. In this country the practice is to grow these plants from the seed. Very often they are not grown by the farmer but by a gardener or person who has a hothouse and proper facilities for doing so. Many farmers, however, grow these from the seed and it can be done quite readily if a warm and suitable room can be secured in the very early spring for the purpose. But whether the farmer grows these plants himself or purchases from someone great care must be exercised in transplanting them to the garden.

The future value of a plant will depend much upon the way in which it is handled when set out. "Stocky" plants are desirable when they can be had, but slender cabbage and tomato plants will do well if set so that the stems are covered to the second leaf, or farther if the plants are very long. Roots will start out along the stem and the plant will quickly recover from the shock of removal. But in no case should the roots be too far below the surface. Because a plant has a long stem is no reason why the roots should be down where they can do no good and can only exhaust the plant. It is much better to lay the stem in a little trench nearly horizontal with the surface, bending enough to bring the plant above ground. The plant will grow upward if left alone in this position.

A good way to do this transplanting is with a spade and two persons. One thrusts the spade into the ground at an angle, then shoves the handle over to an upright position. The other person places the plant in the opening made by the spade. When the spade is withdrawn the soil falls back around the plant. This is a rapid and easy plan, but the ground should be in good condition, otherwise the plan will not succeed very well. The spade cannot be used to much advantage among clods or coarse manures or in dry sand.

Growing Melons

Nothing is more delicious, and for that matter more wholesome, than melons. They should be grown on every farm if for no other purpose than to make the boy's heart glad and his teeth water, when their lusciousness and juicy sweetness are brought into view when September arrives. Of course there is the temptation to your neighbour's boys (and not small boys either) to plan a marauding expedition to the melon patch some dark night and carry off the watery fruit. But still the thing is worth trying, and we would advise every boy on the farm to set out a good sized melon patch within the next few days. They can be grown with very little trouble, and with reasonable care a good crop can be secured.

A writer in one of our exchanges has this to say in regard to growing melons:

"Some time in May or early in June prepare a piece of rich, sandy ground, well exposed to the sun, manure it and give it a good digging; then mark it out into squares of six feet every way; at the angle of every square dig a hole twelve inches deep, and eighteen over, into which put seven inches of very rotten manure with the addition of a carbo. ated alkali, as the melon draws heavily of this ingredient from the soil; throw on this about four inches of earth and mix the dung and earth well with the spade, after which draw the remainder of the earth over the mixture, so as to form a round hill about a foot broad on top.

When the hills are prepared as above, plant in each, toward the centre, eight or nine grains of good melon seed, distant two inches from one another, and cover them about half an inch deep. When the plants are up, and in a state of forwardness producing their rough leaves, they must be thinned to two or three in each hill; draw earth from time to time round the hills and as high about the plants as the seed leaves; when fit stop them. This oper-

ation should be performed when the plants have two rough leaves, and when the second is about an inch broad, having the first runner-bud rising at its base; the sooner this is detached, the sooner the plants acquire strength, and put out fruitful runners."

Sore Shoulders on Horses

As a rule, this trouble lies in the "breaking in" of the horses' shoulders. When the breaking in is once successfully accomplished, with careful watching the shoulders will stand the hard work well. The young and tender shoulder needs plenty of air, and even when standing the collar with a pad does not permit the air to cool the heated parts. Very often in the spring horses are put to work that have not had a collar on for months. Many of these will have sore shoulders that will remain with them throughout the busy season.

It is not easy to obviate the effect of sudden and hard work on tender shoulders, as the horses cannot be laid off when once the busy season begins. A writer in the *National Harness Review* has the following to say in regard to this matter. "Many will become sore under hard collars, many under sweat pads, then holes will be cut in the parts over the sore places, the hard collars on same will be removed, and larger ones with pads and holes substituted; some will receive applications of axle grease and continue their work with shoulders becoming worse; some collars will be cleaned each night, more will not; a few fortunate ones will have their collars removed at noon and cleaned, and instead of softening axle grease, will have their shoulders (whether sore or not) washed with an astringent, such as a solution of one ounce tannic acid dissolved in a quart of water; this will be repeated at night for a short time and will require from five to ten minutes per team per day. The shoulders so treated will not become sore, or, if already sore, will quickly heal, and they will be able to pull with comfort much heavier loads than can the horse whose shoulders are as raw as his willingness and patience are great."

A Post-office on Wheels

A "post-office on wheels" is an accomplished fact in Maryland. The service was inaugurated on April 3rd, 1899, and consists of a mail wagon drawn by two horses, fitted up with all the conveniences of a modern post-office. It is similar to the mail car on the railway, and the covered wagon is fitted up with pigeon holes for the distribution of the mail *en route*. The clerk in charge has with him a supply of stamps, etc., so that parties along the route desiring to send letters may do so.

The route for this wagon is thirty miles, and it takes eight hours for it to cover the ground. There are 358 families on this route, of whom over 200 receive mail daily. The wagon leaves Westminster (Md.) every morning (Sundays and legal holidays excepted) at 7 o'clock. About 400 pieces of mail are handled daily by this wagon, and it is expected that the number will increase.

The service is entirely free. Matter posted in the Government boxes along the route must be stamped the same as when put into a regular post-office. Congress has appropriated \$500,000 for the extension of free rural mail delivery during the year beginning July 1st next. This will enable the experiment to be tested in many States and districts, and will give this "boon" to a large number of farmers. So far it has given the best of satisfaction. Such a service would make the small cross-roads post-office unnecessary, and if these were done away with a large amount might be saved that would go a long way towards paying the cost of a "post-office on wheels." This is something for our Postmaster-General to consider, and we would like to see rural mail delivery tried in Canada.