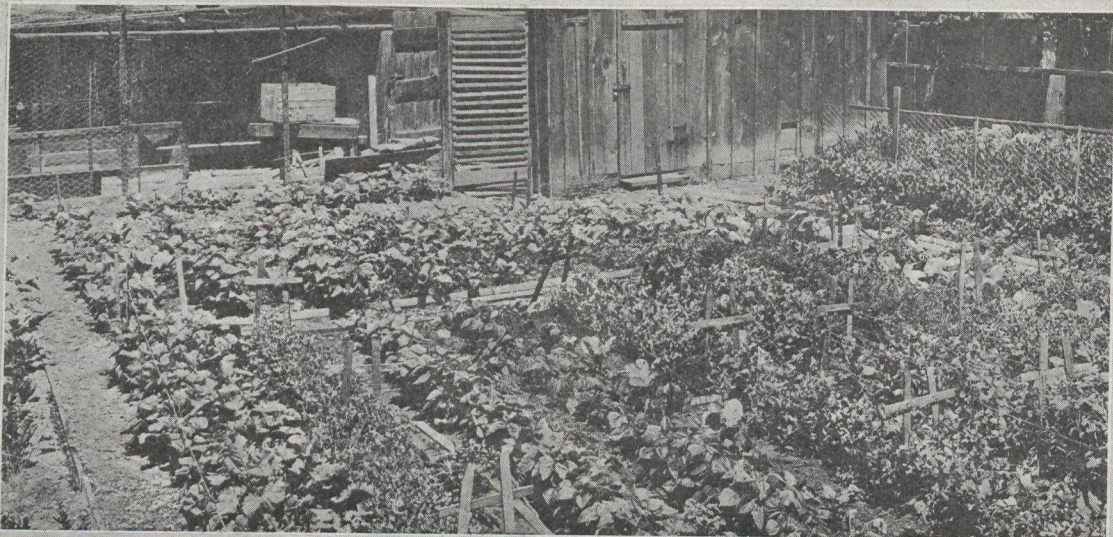




A Vegetable Garden Plot in the Heart of a Canadian City From a Dollar's Worth of Seed.

Horticulture at the Exhibition

Vegetables, the Food of Many, not Given Right Place

By E. T. COOK

THE grumbler or groucher, call him what you will, who sees no good in anything, should have no place in this world of serious thoughts and undertakings. It seems, therefore, unrighteous in the case of a great exhibition, the finest annual event of its kind in the world, such as the Canadian National, to complain. But it is not generally grasped that horticulture, the handmaiden of agriculture, is progressing swiftly and surely towards great ends.

A comparison may be made without reflecting one jot on the great exhibition of 1913. I want to make that perfectly clear. Throughout the British Isles, in America, Germany, France, in Japan even, horticulture may be regarded as a science, in the best and hardest sense of the word, and at the world-famous international horticultural show, held in London, last year, there were exhibits from many quarters of the globe. His Majesty, accompanied by the Queen, opened the exhibition, and the great horticulturist, Harry Veitch, received the honour of knighthood, a dignity well deserved and too long delayed.

The Dominion in a very short time, and if things move rapidly, may have the same beautiful flower and vegetable shows as now take place in Europe, but there must be direct encouragement from those in power, and a complaint in a daily paper recently that the exhibition of vegetables received scant consideration is justified. The authorities may well

say "we cannot do everything at once," but if complaints are made it is fine evidence that there is more than passing interest in the undertaking criticized. Nothing is so absolutely deplorable as indifference, and so fatal to all endeavours. A meed of praise is a splendid tonic to some natures, however cold and apparently unsympathetic.

The horticultural section of the Canadian Exhibition should be, and will be, undoubtedly, one of the most beautiful in the world. Horticulture asks for a good showing. It seems to want the propelling force of a Lockie Wilson at the National, and horticulture, which embraces vegetable culture and the art of growing flowers, plants, trees and shrubs of all kinds is a national pastime or profession. It is, as I have said, the handmaiden of agriculture, and inbred in our very natures. The Exhibition is *superb*, but horticulture is in the shade.

Let justice be handed out to it and thereby millions of toilers learn the great lesson that a humble plot may be changed into a garden of good things, whether those things are flowers, vegetables, or both. It is just as important for our health to eat vegetables as to eat beef, and we want the best of both.

Thorough Tilling of the Soil Alone Makes for Success

NOTHING is more disheartening, more dismal than absolute failure when one is conscious that failure comes from indifference to or ignorance of details, and the failure is the more regrettable when it means perhaps months of wasted time. "Be thorough" is the watchword that should guide every good enterprise through life and the soil will certainly not give of its best unless it is brought into a condition to promote full maturity.

The ways of the first settlers in the land, who in reality committed plant and seed to virgin soil, must not be our ways, at least in the case of acres that have been long under cultivation, and scamped work will not do, this applying with no unhesitating force to the garden. The farmer, with his want of labour, willing to possess but unable to obtain, may be excused for shortcomings that he is conscious of, but unable to avoid. He is compelled to shut his eyes, so to say, to things unavoidable, and for his mind's sake regard such matters with in-equanimity, but he who tills a small plot or can dig, must do so to bring out the best that the soil can give.

Two illustrations have been selected to accentuate these notes. In one, the maker of a humble plot in the heart of the busy city of Toronto, is seen preparing the way by thorough digging of the soil, or "deep cultivation," as it is more eloquently described for the vegetables shown in another photograph, that are to follow. The owner works from early morn to eve at his daily task, and only a few spare evenings during the week can be given to the growing of luscious vegetables and, in his case, a wise choice that the ordinary restaurant is innocent of. The seeds represent Carter's, of King Street, Toronto, tested seeds, but faultless material is practically unavailing unless there is thoroughness from start to finish. Whenever possible the

soil should be dug, as shown, with a spade, and dug well, "trenched," as it is technically called, and then the roots of the seedlings have a comforting medium in which to spread. Ninety-nine per cent. of the failures in gardening, and the term is used in its broadest sense, may be attributed to a foundation that is badly laid. This question of the right and the wrong ways, both in farming and gardening, is not to be lightly passed over. The most forlorn set of young fruit trees it has been my misfortune to see was in the great fruit belt of Niagara. Other acres thrive, presumably for the reason a former farmer was also a good farmer. This, in the heart of a district that should be regarded as a "model," and yet it often remains for some humble worker to teach the lesson of thoroughness. It is as true of the soil as of a building, the beginnings must be sound, and that is the reason why this amateur gardener can get vegetables in plenty for his family from a paltry bit of ground, and a dollar's worth of good seed. There is no place on the land or anywhere else for the idler or the careless, and this truth cannot be too strongly brought home to those who wish to make gardening a recreation or a hobby, call it what you will, and nothing brings richer health, keener enjoyment, and profit.

The fall is approaching, when the soil must be ploughed and dug, in the case of the garden, for the spring, and bear in remembrance that soil well dug as the year wanes is exposed to snow and rain, two sweetening influences that bring it into good condition for the crops that have to be maintained.

The writer watched some public and private planting last spring and felt that failure was written over much of it, an opinion that has been amply justified. Groups of shrubs and perennial plants have succumbed. Why? Because the soil was not well dug and the planting was done anyhow. A municipality apparently is little concerned about failures of this kind, but to the private individual it means that a beautiful and health-giving recreation is regarded as something too scientific to be acquired by the ordinary man. Nothing of the kind. All that is needed is thoroughness.

Garden Wealth Through Draining of the Soil

By A. H. SCOTT, M.A.

President Ontario Horticultural Association

THE foundation of all gardening is the soil. But all soils are not alike in their composition. Some soils in their natural state, as ordinary parlance goes, produce abundantly as soon as turned over. Other soils refuse to produce anything well at the start. Soils, like some of our best friends, invite us to test them, to understand them, to devote head and heart to them. Then when we discover what they are, and proceed to treat them properly, they bless us with many blessings.

If a person has a garden plot that is nearly level, if its top soil is clay, and the sub-soil clay likewise,



An Amateur Gardener Laying a Good Foundation. Deep Digging is Half the Battle.



The Night-blooming Cereus and Its Grower, Mr. Jas. Chapman, of Chilliwack, B. C.