

The Athens Reporter

ISSUED WEEKLY

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C. G. Young, Editor and Proprietor

Gardening In
Canada
for Amateurs

The amount of planting which may be done—and profitable done, at that—during the fall is realized by far too few amateur gardeners. Naturally, fall planting in this climate is confined to the perennials and biennials in the flower garden and to trees and shrubs for lawn and garden decoration. In the vegetable garden the only thing that is worth while to plant in the fall is spinach for use in the spring and clover or other green manure crop to be spaded under. Even though clover planted this late in the growing season makes comparatively small growth, such growth is that much humus gained at small expense of either money or labor. The sowing of rye for spring plowing or spading under may be done any time in September but is best done early if the soil is of a well drained nature which permits early drying out and working in the spring. Rye has a tendency to make too heavy a growth on garden soil unless it is turned down very early in the spring.

The hardy flowers are the things which will best repay attention at this time of year. It is not necessary to wait until the bloom is all gone from them before moving them to new location, and it is better to sacrifice some of the bloom than to wait until too late for the roots to become well established in the new place.

All plants of this class finish their blooming season in a more or less exhausted condition, but if given favorable treatment in their old locations or in new quarters they will at once set about rebuilding their systems. This action puts them in condition to withstand the winter and to make a vigorous start early the following spring.

When one is lifting long established plants for the purpose of making divisions the opportunity is given for a thorough renovation of the root. Almost invariably a considerable amount of dead material will be found. This should be removed and if it is a good idea to sprinkle the root lightly with flowers of sulphur before it is replanted. Sulphur is a simple preventative of root-rot and similar fungus diseases.

Care must be exercised in taking out old roots. Large roots of phlox, delphinium, peony, rudbeckia, helenium, and so forth require a lot of digging, and it is unwise to start the spade closer than 10 inches from the crown of the root. In dealing with old peonies a distance of from 15 to 18 inches is required. When the root has been lifted from its old bed the division may be made by backing the root on the ground to form where it is willing to split with the least violence to the existing system. A big chisel chump will readily disintegrate into several separate growths. A peony root is more easily handled if washed so one may see the later-yearlings of the roots. Care, patience and sometimes a lot of mud strength are needed to divide up an old peony successfully.

Time to Move Evergreens

Seedling perennials may be moved from seed beds and put in permanent position during the early part of October. No special directions are needed for this work except that it is well to transfer the roots with as much earth clinging to them as possible. After the plants are in place the tops should be cut back a few inches and the earth softly tramped down around the roots. When the first real freeze-up has come and there is small danger of the earth thawing out again, a three inch mulch of straw or dead leaves should be put on the bed. If straw manure is available it will make an excellent mulch, since the straw can be raked off in the spring and the residue spaded right into the soil. This is the best time of year to

transplant evergreens and all deciduous shrubs which start growth very early in the spring. The secret of moving coniferous trees and bushes successfully lies in getting them while the sap is active, and in keeping the roots from drying during any transporting that may be necessary. When evergreens are bought from a nurseryman it is well to make sure that they are to be shipped with a ball of earth rolled in burlap around the roots. Inspect the balls carefully when the stock arrives. If the balls have dried out either refuse to accept the shipment or notify the shipper by return mail. By such notice you protect yourself and if dealing with a first-class concern you may secure replacement free or at half price for specimens that fail to live.

Forsythia Fortunei, lilacs (Syringa) and all the varieties of currants may serve as examples of the types of bushes whose sap begins to run so early in spring that it is impossible to transplant them at that season without checking the year's growth. All bushes of this class may be moved in the early part of October with small fear of injury. Even if the leaves are dropped as a result of the move there is little cause for worry. When this happens the bushes will come on the following spring as if nothing had happened to them. If, however, they start to put out a new set of buds the fall they are moved, they are likely to suffer very severely or die during the winter. Privet and all climbing roses are best transplanted during the fall, but both have a tendency to respond very quickly to renewed warm weather and if a very warm Indian Summer comes along it is wise to give the earth around them a heavy shade so as to prevent its warming up during the heat of the day. Such shade will not materially interfere with the development of root system which is taking place.

Prepare For Sweet Peas

It should not be forgotten that this is the time to clear up all weed growth that has found its way into the garden plots. The surface of the soil should be made clean and the portions which are clear of this year's crop should be spaded over. The amateur is apt to neglect this fall spading and pay the price the following year by having a lot more weeds to fight. Soil that is to be used very early next spring is the better of a spading now and another before the hard frosts come.

This is the opportune time to find out whether your soil needs lime. If it does, fall is the best time to make the application since the frosts and snow will do a great deal toward incorporating the lime if a heavy dressing is needed. Lime improves the texture of the soil, makes inert plant foods available and corrects acidity. To learn if a soil is too strongly acid get some blue litmus paper from a drug store and insert an end of a piece in a handful of soil that has been mixed with water to the consistency of porridge. The paper should be allowed to stand for an hour or so. If, when it has been rinsed in clear water, it shows a bright red color the soil needs lime badly. If it is only slightly pink a very light application will do or there is little danger in letting things alone for another year. A heavy dressing of lime should be plowed or dug in. A light dressing may be spread in the spring and harrowed or raked in after the ground is all ready for the sowing of the crop.

If you are going to have prize-taker sweet peas next year this is the time to begin the preparation of the row. Spade the ground over well some time during early October. Before October 10 the actual trenching and row building should be completed. Dig a trench three feet deep, throwing the top soil to the right and the subsoil to the left. Cover each ridge of soil thrown out with three inches of rooted manure and spade it over so that the manure and earth are well mixed. Replace the subsoil and if the land is naturally light tramp it in firmly. If the land is heavy and has a tendency to hold water do not tramp it down. Unless the top soil is unusually rich strew ground bone over it at the rate of 5 pounds to every 25 feet of row. Replace the top soil. Leave the top rough for winter weathering. The row will stand a foot or more above the surrounding garden, but will have settled and drained out so that planting may be done very early next spring.

NORTH AUGUSTA

North Augusta, Oct. 17.—The Methodist parsonage has received a fresh coat of paint.

Charles Baldwin has moved from the bakery and a Mr. Robinson, from South Mountain has moved in and expects to run the bread business.

Mrs. Roy Alexander and family have moved to Main street, opposite the bank of Nova Scotia.

A public meeting is advertised for Tuesday night, October 21, to be held in the Masonic hall. Several speakers will address the meeting on the plebiscite. It is expected that music will be furnished by radio. The meeting will open at 8 o'clock.

Mrs. John Scott, of Montreal, addressed a meeting here last Tuesday afternoon in the Womens Institute rooms. The address was a review of conditions in Quebec and Montreal under Government Control.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Bowman returned home on Thursday from a visit to friends at Charleston.

Church street has been graded and gravelled.

WATER IN FARM HOUSES

Hints About Installing In the Rural Household

The Compression System—What You May Enjoy With This Method—The Agricultural College Will Help You—Raising Ducks.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

There are two main sources of farm water supply, namely, well and spring (both hard water) and rain water (soft). Anyone thinking of installing a modern water system and plumbing in his home should make sure that his water supply is both plentiful and safely protected from all possible sources of contamination. Much more water will be used daily under modern than under old conditions of service, about 30 gallons per person per day.

The College Will Help You.

Ask the O. A. College to assist you in solving the following problems in this matter of water supply:—

1. How to increase the well and spring supplies of water.
2. How to safeguard these supplies from surface contamination.
3. How to make more use of the rain water supply.
4. How to get that fine spring water running through your house and stables by installing the hydraulic ram near the spring.

Pumping and carrying water by hand is too expensive at modern rates of wages, is very inconvenient, and is wasteful of time and energy. No one likes the job. It is rapidly going out of date wherever people are getting acquainted with the more modern pumping and supply systems.

The Compression System.

The Compression System is the most popular one to-day. The idea is this: The hard or soft water, as the case may be, is pumped into a large strong air-tight metal tank to about two-thirds full. The water compresses the original air in the tank and thereby produces sufficient pressure to force the water out of the tank through a pipe line that connects to the sinks, closet, bathtub, etc., in the house. The pump may be driven by hand, gasoline engine, windmill or electric motor or any available power. The last named means is the preferable one because the pumping is carried on automatically, is quiet in operation, economical of space, and a fresh water line that supplies water direct from the well for drinking purposes may be installed. The style and size of the pump required depends on whether the well is shallow or deep. The size of the tank depends on the amount of water required about the place. An outfit large enough for the ordinary-sized family or household costs about \$175.00, piping, connecting system to well and to the various fixtures in the house being extra.

What You May Enjoy With This System.

1. Have complete plumbing system in your home. That means hard and soft water on tap in the kitchen, bath (tub or shower or both), and an indoor sanitary water closet which will dispense with the outside privy. These conveniences stand for comfort, convenience, saving of labor and time, better health and greater efficiency or fitness for work and enjoyment.
2. Lawn and garden water service to keep home surroundings attractive.
3. Water under pressure is very useful and convenient for washing the automobile, washing outside of windows, cleaning floors in cellar or stables, putting out fires if reached in time.
4. No longer any need to pump and carry water. Another burden is rolled away.

Different makes of this system are on exhibition in the Physics Building, O. A. College, Guelph. They are properly set up and in good working order. Drop in and see them work and get more information about them.—R. R. Graham, Physics Dept., O. A. College, Guelph.

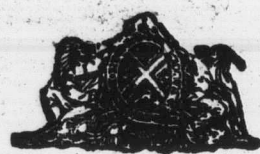
Raising Ducks.

After hatching, in about one day's time, place before them bread and milk mixed together, and a pan of sand and water. Be sure your ducklings get sand and water at starting. Ducks will thrive if water is before them all the time. It is their nature to want water. After a few days on bread and milk add bran or fine corn meal or fine cracked corn to the bread and milk. Always use milk to mix duck feed.

As the ducks grow older feed cracked corn and wheat. At younger age corn bread and milk is good for a change in feed. Let the ducks have green feed also. If you do not want them out of pens gather green feed yourself for them. Do not keep ducks shut up except at night. Let them in the creek and watch them to keep crows away! Be careful of turtles in creeks also.

When ducks are nearly feathered out feed whole corn mixed with some cracked corn. Then at last whole corn and wheat altogether. They will not want to eat it at first, but do not feed them too much and they'll eat it. Feed ducks three times a day, like ourselves.

Keep their drinking water as clean as possible. They want water right beside them when they eat. Ducks can swim in a few weeks if you stay and watch them, allowing them to be in water only a few minutes. Do not let ducks sleep in a muddy or

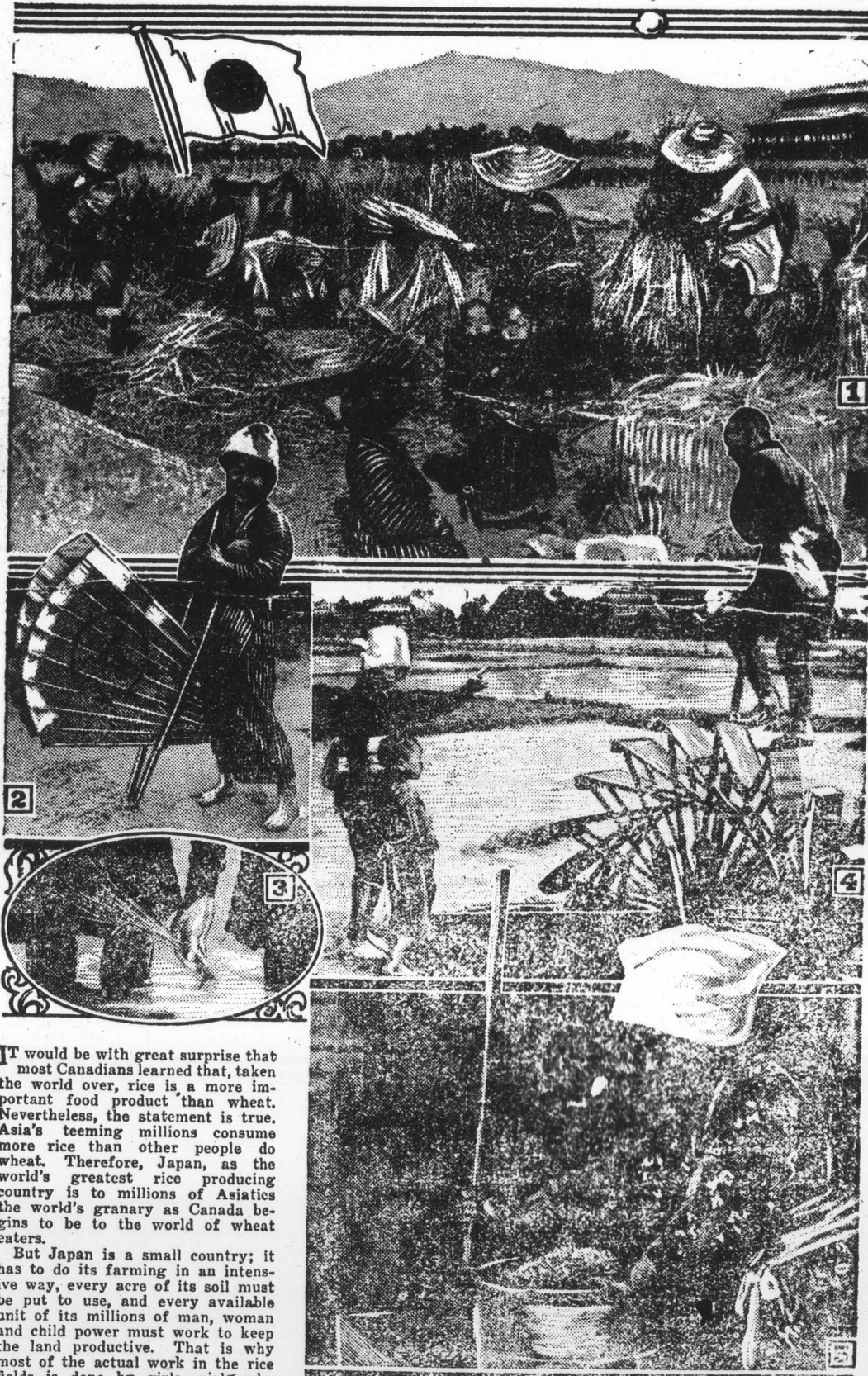
DOMINION OF CANADA
VICTORY LOAN BONDS

MATURING 1st NOVEMBER, 1924

THE BANK OF MONTREAL, under authority of the Minister of Finance, is prepared to redeem the above bonds in full at maturity, without charge, at any of its Branches in Canada.

For the convenience of owners of the bonds, the Bank of Montreal will accept the bonds at any time prior to November 1st, and will make payment in each case on November 1st, either by issuing a cheque or by placing the amount to the owner's credit in the books of the Bank, as the owner may desire.

Rice Fields of Japan



It would be with great surprise that most Canadians learned that, taken the world over, rice is a more important food product than wheat. Nevertheless, the statement is true. Asia's teeming millions consume more rice than other people do wheat. Therefore, Japan, as the world's greatest rice producing country is to millions of Asiatics the world's granary as Canada begins to be to the world of wheat eaters.

But Japan is a small country; it has to do its farming in an intensive way, every acre of its soil must be put to use, and every available unit of its millions of man, woman and child power must work to keep the land productive. That is why most of the actual work in the rice fields is done by girls, girls who smile and chatter as though everlastingly wading in the glorified mud puddles of rice fields were a jollification rather than a labor. But the smile is characteristic of the Japanese, working or playing. It is a national trait. During most of the year Japan is a smiling land, and no doubt the people come by their propensities honestly enough.

Rice is grown in water-covered fields. If the water isn't there in the first place it has to be pumped up by curious little water tread wheels of one-man power. These are always worked by men because it is one of the easiest jobs on the rice farm. After the fields are covered by about a foot of dirty water they are ploughed. This also is a man's job, and a man usually does it, probably because the ox that draws the plow needs that kind of talking to. Then the girls step in

- (1) The harvest time when the whole family goes in the fields to help gather in the crop. The water has been allowed to run off the fields and the straw is cut close to the ground.
- (2) They clean the grain with bays and a bright smile.
- (3) The young rice shoots are planted by hand by girls who wade in the warm, muddy water that covers the field.
- (4) The water wheel that floods the rice fields.
- (5) The primitive rice mill.

—half way to their knees they go into the mud and water and by hand they plant the thousands of little rice plants that go to make up a field and through the succeeding months of the year they cultivate the water covered fields with hoes that seem too big for the little hands that hold them. The grain ripens to harvest, and the fields are drained off, and after the men have cut it down with scythes the girls and children again take up their labors. Threshing is a primitive operation. Large metal combs stand in wooden frames and the straw is first pulled through these, the ears of grain being torn from the straw in the process. The threshing is done by flails and the straw is cleaned by large fans in the hands of girls. It is then ground to flour by hammering with heavy wooden mallets or in primitive hand mills, and finds its way to the table in countless curious and delectable forms, such as only Japanese cooks know. Japan is always lovely and interesting to the Western visitor, but never more so than when the rice harvest is under way.