

The Monitor's Agricultural Department For the Use and Benefit of Farmers.

Correspondence, Suggestions and Inquiries welcomed to these columns.

Canned and Evaporated Goods Trade.

ARTICLE II.

Mr. A. W. Grindley, agent of the Department of Agriculture in Great Britain, gives the following information in regard to the trade in canned and evaporated goods during 1903, in addition to the extracts from his annual report published last week.

FRUIT PULPS.

There is a good demand for the following fruit pulps which can be put up in Canada: Strawberry, raspberry, gooseberry, black currant, peaches, pears, apricots.

The above fruits are largely used in jam factories in Great Britain. Canadian packers of fruit pulps should observe the following points: 1. Use a heavy grade of charcoal tin plates for making the cans.

2. Do not use rosins for soldering the inside seams, as the least portion imparts a bad flavor to the contents. 3. Use gallon tins as preferable to cans holding five gallons, chiefly because there is less loss in case of puncture or other cause of damage.

4. For colored pulps an internally lacquered tin is very much preferred. 5. No coloring matter or preservative of any kind should be added. 6. Have cases holding cans made strongly and with tight covers, not slats.

TINNED MEATS.

There is a good demand in Great Britain for tinned meats, but complaints are made that Canadian tinned meats, etc., are often colored next to the tin by some acid action. This may be caused by using light grade tin plates for making the cans.

7. Do not confine your planning to one variety. This principle is true of every fruit, but especially true of strawberries. There should be at least three or four varieties best adapted to your locality and to your market.

8. The planting should be from one-third to one-half of the staminate varieties. We prefer to mix all varieties in the row. This makes all the rows uniform and, what is even more desirable, gives a good, strong pollination, and this is important.

9. Our method is to mark the ground both ways and plant in solid rows crosswise, alternating varieties in such a way as to bring in every case a pistillate plant next to a staminate in the row lengthwise of the field. This planting both ways enables you to cultivate more cheaply and more thoroughly.

10. After the plants get well started and established, let more of the cultivation be crosswise until the majority of the plants begin to send out runners freely. 11. Hoe at this time, distributing all runners lengthwise of the row. Continue the cultivation the long way.

12. The row must be allowed to widen very rapidly, so as to avoid getting the plants too thick. 13. There must be a good deal of crowding the row too much with the cultivation. Keep the row as level as possible till a good set of plants is established, then pull in a good coat of very fine earth.

14. This earth is full of plant food and is fine for the plants. 15. Fox Farming. How the Work is Carried on by a Maine Breeder.

One of the most interesting farms in New England is that which is devoted to fox farming in Piscataquis county, Maine, where large numbers of foxes are bred for various purposes, largely for their pelts, but also for hunting clubs, menageries and zoos in various parts of the country.

The idea of breeding foxes occurred to the Maine farmer about three years ago. He owned a noisy, unproductive farm, and had concluded to abandon it and seek the west, when he was asked by a stray gunner from the city if he ever caught foxes to sell to hunting clubs. The question opened up to him a new possibility, and he set to work to capture foxes, which were fairly numerous in that part of the country.

His farm covers three acres, and this he had thoroughly fenced with heavy wire netting, seven feet high, and buried three feet in the earth, that Master Reynard may not burrow out of his corner. Scattered about the farm are a number of small buildings not much larger than dog houses, and in these the foxes may seek shelter if they do not care for their burrows.

There are about 100 foxes on the farm at a time. Those which have the finest pelts are killed off each winter at the time fur is at the least, and, as the foxes are very well fed, those pelts bring the highest market prices. These range from five to eight dollars each, truly surprising rates when one considers that a good fox pelt, eight years ago, brought but \$2. The foxes that are not so good are sold at varying prices to hunt clubs, menageries, zoos, etc. There is a steady demand for both the skins and the live foxes, so that business on the Maine farm is always good.

When the farm was started only the native red Maine fox was reared, but since the venture has proven such a vast success the farmer has obtained by exchange, numerous other varieties of foxes, including the silver gray fox and the Alaska blue fox, whose pelts bring the highest prices, being made into hats and muffs. To get of the silver fox brings less than \$100, and that of the Alaska fox not less than \$200. Some of the common red fox pelts are dyed brown or black, and thus bring a handsome price.

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How Chopin Wrote His Funeral March.

(By Felix Ziem.)

As a young man I travelled a great deal. It was on one of my art-pilgrimages, and after I had been staying for some time at the Russian court, that I met Chopin first in a place much nearer to his own country than to Paris. The common friend who introduced us to each other was Count Xavier de Maistre. Afterward Chopin and I became intimate, enough for him to take an interest in my painting and for me to become enthusiastic about his music. Even at that date—I was only about twenty-five and he twenty-seven—I quite recognized his genius. I can see him now—not at all like the portraits shown me, but still a fine looking man—often silent, reserved and melancholy when we were together. Chopin was a nature apart, very different from other celebrated musicians I knew—Liszt, Rossini, Paganini, the last of whom taught me what little I was ever able to play on the violin. Yes, Chopin was a great master of music. I am no critic, but I know what good music is.

It was not in my present study that his wonderful "Funeral March" was composed. I was then (about 1838), in an inn established in another more Bohemian work-shop, if possible, than this one, situated in the Rue de Breda, No. 31. As I used it for the three-fold purpose of painting, eating and sleeping in, I had divided it into three compartments by means of temporary hangings descending from roof to floor. The middle compartment was more properly my studio. In it were all my art paraphernalia, including a human skeleton, which I used for draping in various attitudes. Of the furniture there were two articles that helped to constitute the scene I am about to relate—the one a large divan, standing against the tapestry of my sleeping compartment, the other a piano, which I had bought cheap from a second-hand dealer and from which I had sawn out the panels in order to paint pictures on them. One of these is still in the possession of a friend of mine, Marcotte.

It happened that on the day which has since become historic, I had invited a friend or two to dine with me. After the meal some other friends had joined us in the studio. I may mention Chevalier de Valdrome, Ludre, de Polignac, the musician; Chopin, and Escard, who had painted my portrait. We were a gay party and prolonged our "causerie" into the small hours of the morning. It must have been about two o'clock, I think, when, being for a moment alone with Escard in the middle compartment—the others were in the sleeping room beyond the divan—I seized the skeleton on the suggestion of some mad fancy passing through my head, and, shrouding it in the shawl cover, which Escard brought me, I whisked off for me, I raised the tapestry and made it jig before our friends on the further side.

At first they saw only the comic of the situation. They perceived my merriment grew louder and reached its maximum when de Polignac stalked forward, took the skeleton from me, insinuated himself beneath the shawl, and, sitting down at the piano, made the long fingers of the puppet play the waltz of the "Funeral March." It was a weird spectacle. All of us were fascinated by the grim humor of this skeleton man performing on what, with some truth, might be called a skeleton instrument. His naked hands looked like so many teeth, and he lay within a skull. We began to affect to feel a sort of fright, for which rhythmic taps on the divan, recited administered by one of the company, were partly responsible. There were a repeat of Oh! one, at least, more repeated than the rest, proceeding from Chopin. We looked at him. Moved by a sudden inspiration, he advanced toward the piano, seized the skeleton in his turns, and displaying the performer, himself sat down on the stool. The first chords that he struck were with the skeleton on his knees, but, warning to his theme, he let it clatter to the ground. A deep silence fell on us. It was the "Funeral March" he was playing. There is no need for me to enlarge on the applause and the great Chopin at its conclusion. We knew and he knew that he had composed a masterpiece. Before going to bed he spent four hours in putting out paper his new creation. It is possible he may have added to his provision some chords, some few bars here and there, but more complete. But he changed none of its essential features. The music we heard on that memorable night was substantially what is contained in the written notes of to-day.

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Winter Fruit Tree Pruning. While the early Spring pruning and the summer pinching back of the small shrubs covers the main pruning of the fruit trees, much good work may be done during the open days of Winter, which will, at least, save time in the Spring. Broken limbs may be removed and many of the inside limbs which are overlapping the fruiting twigs can be cut out during the Winter as well as in the Spring. The work of pruning should always be done with a saw on the outside in pruning, and with a sharp knife in the limb first, finishing from the top. This will result in a clean cut and there will be no splintering as would be the case if a heavy limb was cut with a saw. In the Winter pruning of orchards keep your eyes open and note the condition of the tree so that at the proper time you may have any trouble found may be applied.

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In the Cold Winter of 1861.

From the Lewiston "Journal."

The Winter of 1861 was noted for being one of the coldest, and, in fact, it was the coldest, one in the century. The coldest day of the winter was Friday, Feb. 29, and is known as cold Friday. There had been a heavy snow storm of light, fine snow. It cleared off cold and the wind blew a perfect gale, thus making the cold more fearful. The air was filled with snow so thick one could see only in a foot or two in any direction. Men who were obliged to be on the road perished and were found frozen as hard as marble statues. A very few travellers survived the ordeal. But few had thermometers in those days to tell how cold it really was, but what few there were registered 40 to 50 below zero in Androscoggin, and in Aroostook county it was even lower. Penobscot Bay was frozen over so solid that North Bannell, of Vinalhaven, took a horse and sleigh and, together with the Hon. Marzin Kiff, who was the representative to the Legislature for Vinalhaven, crossed from Vinalhaven to North Bannell, and thence across country to Augusta, where he left Kiff and returned to Vinalhaven, safely. Portland Harbor was frozen so solid that the steamer "Harvard" took a horse and sleigh and, together with the Hon. Marzin Kiff, who was the representative to the Legislature for Vinalhaven, crossed from Vinalhaven to North Bannell, and thence across country to Augusta, where he left Kiff and returned to Vinalhaven, safely. Portland Harbor was frozen so solid that the steamer "Harvard" took a horse and sleigh and, together with the Hon. Marzin Kiff, who was the representative to the Legislature for Vinalhaven, crossed from Vinalhaven to North Bannell, and thence across country to Augusta, where he left Kiff and returned to Vinalhaven, safely.

Read It Through. 'Twould Spoil This Story to Tell It in the Headlines.

To use an eighteenth century phrase this is an "over true tale." Having happened in a small Virginia town in the winter of 1902, it is a story very much of the present. It was told me by John F. Harmon, of Mella Station, Va., had no personal knowledge of the rare curative properties of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. "Last January," she says, "my baby took a dreadful cold which she had from the nurse. I had given her my baby's own cough medicine, but one of my neighbors told me how they had cured her little boy, and I began giving it to my baby at once, and it soon cured her. I heartily thank the nurse who had given me Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. "Last January," she says, "my baby took a dreadful cold which she had from the nurse. I had given her my baby's own cough medicine, but one of my neighbors told me how they had cured her little boy, and I began giving it to my baby at once, and it soon cured her. I heartily thank the nurse who had given me Chamberlain's Cough Remedy.

Return of Jews to Palestine. The fulfillment of prophecy is at hand. Because of persecution—the others want of their adoption many Jews are taking their flight toward Jerusalem. It will be an immense Jewish colony to be sent to Jerusalem to its former beauty, grandeur and utility. Perhaps the greatest benefit of the Jews is that they have a supply of the city with pure water. It was brought many miles through a mountainous country, and it is now in the hands of the Jews. It is an oblong quadrangular tract, 240 feet in length and 120 feet in width. It is a solid rock cistern. It is an oblong quadrangular tract, 240 feet in length and 120 feet in width. It is a solid rock cistern. It is an oblong quadrangular tract, 240 feet in length and 120 feet in width. It is a solid rock cistern.

Sick at Your Stomach. Perhaps feeling as if the bottom had dropped out from under you, you are sick at your stomach. Nothing restores quiet and order to the stomach so quickly, and all symptoms disappear, as you come away the minute you take Nerville and an extra dose or two is always sufficient. This dish is good enough to bear frequent repetition.

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How Chopin Wrote His Funeral March.

(By Felix Ziem.)

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Winter Fruit Tree Pruning. While the early Spring pruning and the summer pinching back of the small shrubs covers the main pruning of the fruit trees, much good work may be done during the open days of Winter, which will, at least, save time in the Spring. Broken limbs may be removed and many of the inside limbs which are overlapping the fruiting twigs can be cut out during the Winter as well as in the Spring. The work of pruning should always be done with a saw on the outside in pruning, and with a sharp knife in the limb first, finishing from the top. This will result in a clean cut and there will be no splintering as would be the case if a heavy limb was cut with a saw. In the Winter pruning of orchards keep your eyes open and note the condition of the tree so that at the proper time you may have any trouble found may be applied.

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