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Bill Nye's Letter.

Last night I was awakened by the cry of fire. It was a loud, hoarse cry, such as a large, adult man might emit from his window on the night air. The town was not large, and the fire department, I have been told, was not so effective as it should have been.

For that reason I arose and carefully dressed myself in order to assist, if possible. I carefully lowered myself from my room by means of a staircase which I found concealed in a dark and mysterious corner of the passage.

On the street all was confusion. The hoarse cry of fire had been taken up by others, passed around from one to another, till it had swollen into a dull roar. The cry of fire in a small town is always a grand sight.

All along the street in front of Mr. Pendergast's roller rink the blanched faces of the people could be seen. Men were hurrying to and fro, knocking the bystanders over in their frantic attempts to get somewhere else.

With great forethought Mr. Pendergast, who had that day finished painting his roller rink a dull roan color, removed from the building the large card which bore the legend:

so that those who were so disposed might feel perfectly free to lean up against the rink and watch the progress of the flames. Anon the bright glare of the devouring elements might have been seen bursting through the casement of Mr. Cicero Williams's residence, facing on the alley west of Mr. Pendergast's rink.

The flames spread rapidly, until they threatened the Palace rink of our esteemed fellow-townsmen, Mr. Pendergast, whose genial and urban manner has endeared him to all.

With a degree of forethought worthy of a better cause Mr. Leroy W. Butts suggested the propriety of setting out the rink and ladder company by the side of which every one seemed to be justly proud. Some delay ensued in trying to find the janitor of Palace Rink and Ladder company No. 1's building, but at last he was secured, and after he had some home for the key Mr. Butts ran swiftly down the street to wake the foreman, but after he had dressed himself and inquired anxiously about the fire he saw he was not foreman of the company since April 2.

The flames spread rapidly, until they threatened the Palace rink of our esteemed fellow-townsmen, Mr. Pendergast, whose genial and urban manner has endeared him to all.

It was a thrilling sight as James McDonald, a brother of Thomas McDonald, Trombone, Ind., rapidly ascended one of the ladders in the full glare of the devouring element and fell off again.

Then a wild cheer arose to a height of about nine feet, and all again became confused.

with blackened ruins. Mr. Pendergast is overcome by grief over the loss of his rink, but assures us that if he is successful in getting the full amount of his insurance he will take the money and build two rinks, either one of which will be far more imposing than the one destroyed last evening.

A movement is on foot to give a library and musical entertainment at Burney's hall to raise funds for the purchase of new uniforms for the fire ladders, at which Mrs. Butts has consented to sing When the Robins Nest Again, and Miss Meris Stout will recite Ode to a Selection which never fails to offend the best people everywhere. Twenty-five cents for each offense.

Are you troubled with Salt Rheum, Rough Skin, Pimples or Canker Sores; if so, go at once to Geo. Rhynes Drug Store and get a package of McGregor & Parke's Carbolic Cerate. Price 25 cents. It was never known to fail.

The Potato Rot - Its Cause and Remedies

By J. Hays Faxon, M.A., Professor of Natural History at the Ontario Agricultural College.

The use of the microscope in the fields of scientific research has revealed much that is of importance to man. Many forms of disease, about whose origin little was known, have had much light shed upon them since this instrument was employed in their study, both among animals and plants.

During the past summer and fall a striking example of this occurred in the prevalence of the so-called "potato rot," which has proved a great loss throughout the Province and in many parts of the United States. In the bulletin issued in November from the Bureau of Industries, we learn that the "rot" prevailed through the whole southern belt of the Province. In many cases one-half to three-fourths of the crop was destroyed, and in some it was not worth digging.

With such a disaster around us, the questions are naturally suggested, What is the cause of the "rot"? and What remedies can be adopted?

This disease has received a great deal of attention from botanists since the days when it became noticeable in Ireland and other parts of the British Isles, and it is now conceded to be the result of a minute fungus called Phytophthora infestans. This attacks all parts of the plant - leaf, stem and tubers.

By those ignorant of the life history of this tiny parasitic plant little attention is paid to its appearance on the tops, and so a large experience until the potatoes are affected. But being very contagious, its presence on the leaves should become a serious matter, especially when we remember that it spreads with great rapidity.

It is usually indicated by the tops presenting a blotched, brownish, spotted dead appearance. A close examination of the potatoes showing this will discover innumerable slender stems growing up out of the surface of the leaves and stems of the affected plants. These branch and swell out at the ends into pear-shaped minute bodies (spores), which are produced by millions. When ripe they separate from the stem and being exceedingly light pass into the atmosphere, where they are wafted about, many of them finally reaching the ground or settling upon plants. Under favourable conditions of moisture and heat the contents of a microscopic spore may push out a long minute tube, which can penetrate into any part of the potato plant and give rise to the fungus; or may separate into several distinct portions (swarm spores) which burst through the spore wall and become the source of the parasitic plant.

produced rapidly so as to hasten the spread of the fungus under favorable conditions. This minute microscopic plant is certainly a low form of vegetable life, incapable of manufacturing food from the mineral kingdom, but fastening upon other plants and feeding upon their juices. A wet season supplies conditions well adapted for its development, and hence we have the "rot" associated with such weather. There is no doubt that many spores are always more or less present, but they are prevented from being a source of trouble because the weather is not suited for their growth.

Remedies.—The "rot" usually appears about the first two weeks in August, and if the weather is favorable its spread is very rapid, for as soon as the thread-like structure which arises from the spore is developed it immediately becomes spore-bearing. Hence the importance of examining the plants for the appearance of the brownish spots that indicate the presence of the fungus.

1. As soon as discovered, dig the potatoes. Delay will allow it to spread to the stems, and thence to the tubers. If it reaches these and damp weather comes, "rot" will certainly appear.

2. After digging, the potatoes should be put in a cool dry place, thus surrounding them with conditions unfavorable for the growth of the fungus, if any happens to be upon them.

3. Growing early varieties is worthy of consideration, so that they may mature before the season arrives when this parasite is likely to affect the crop.

4. All potato stalks in affected lands should be gathered and burned, so as to destroy the millions of spores which may be upon them.

5. Use none but good seed. If at all affected, reject them; and plant in well-drained land. If the potatoes to be used for seed have been taken from cellars where affected ones were kept, they are likely to have the microscopic spores on them and escape notice. It would be best to get seed from unaffected districts.

6. It is scarcely necessary to remark that it would be injudicious to plant potatoes in the same field the following year after a visitation of the "rot," inasmuch as the ground may retain the germs of the disease.

PORK ALMOST GONE!

Don't Miss the Last Chance to Buy a Little of that Cheap Meat Before it all Goes.

NOTE THE LOW PRICES! SUGAR CURED HAMS, 11c per lb. SHOULDERS, 8c. SHORT CLEAR SIDE MEAT, 8c. A reduction will be made in the above prices by the cwt. Estate of GEO. GRANT. Goderich, April 28, 1886.

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W. H. RIDLEY, The People's Store, Goderich. Mar. 11, 1886.

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God. Feb. 11th 1886.

Travelling Guide.

Table with columns: Station, Express, Mixed, Mixed. Rows: Goderich [L], Stratford [A], Goderich [L], Goderich [A].

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