

THE ORIGIN OF THE POTATO DISEASE.

By reference to the books and papers of the date of the first outbreak of the potato murrain in Europe, it will be seen that at that particular period there was a strong and wide-spread belief amongst agriculturists that the potato disease had been introduced into Europe with the Peruvian guano, which was then being imported by thousands of tons annually from the China Islands, on the west coast of South America, close to Peru.

1. From 1841 to 1851 more than a million tons of guano were imported into this country from the China Islands. This guano came direct from the very home of the potato plant.

2. The exotic origin of the fungus which destroys our potatoes has never been doubted, and all known facts point to the neighbourhood of Peru as its home.

3. The potato fungus attacks other Peruvian and Chilean plants, as the tomato, the petunia, schizanthus grahami, &c.

4. The potato fungus not only germinates readily in water and in dung, but the last two years' experiments clearly prove that it will live through one or more years in a resting condition in dry manure or its expressed juices.

5. Thick fogs at some seasons are described as being of nightly occurrence on the Peruvian guano islands, and in the old times of guano collection these fogs converted the whole surface of the guano into a "greasy paste." This "greasy paste" would be the very material the potato fungus would most luxuriate in.

6. Known facts prove that the neighbourhood of Peru is the home of the potato and the potato fungus. That the fungus there perfects its resting-spores as it does here—viz., upon excrement and refuse, there can be no reasonable doubt. That the ordinary spores will grow in and upon guano, and in this material produce resting spores, seems highly probable, and that resting-spores and guano were at one and the same time brought to Europe would also appear quite within the bounds of probability and reason.

With these views in mind, I propose carrying out some experiments during the forthcoming autumn. In the meantime I shall be glad to make a microscopic examination of any samples of guano sent on to me, with a view towards the detection of any fungoid bodies that may possibly be present.—"Worthington G. Smith," in Gardeners' Chronicle.

SECRET SOCIETIES AND THE ROYAL FAMILY.—A meeting of the Grand Lodge of the Freemasons of England was held recently at the Freemasons' Hall, London. It was announced that the Prince of Wales, Grand Master, had appointed Earl Carnarvon Pro-Grand Master; Lord Skelmerdale, Deputy Pro-Grand Master; Duke of Connaught, Senior Grand Warden; Prince Leopold, Junior Grand Warden. A banquet afterwards took place.

WEEKLY TEST.

Table with 2 columns: Description, Amount. Rows include Number of Purchasers served during week ending May 5th, 1877 (3,872) and Same week last year (2,845).

Grand News.

The cash system is increasing faster than ever. Which means that the old credit system is dying out, and the sooner it is dead the better for Montreal. Retail men that have failed blame the credit system, and unfortunate Wholesale men blame the same system for their misfortunes.

Wrong.

Some people say that it is more difficult to succeed in business now than it was twenty thirty years ago. This is a great mistake. It is a notion peculiarly Canadian and American, and is the result of the Mercantile Agency system.

Note.

A most disgraceful failure which has lately taken place in Toronto is by an Agency subscriber, whose estate is not likely to pay more than about eight or nine cents on the dollar. The firm appears to have been insolvent for several years, yet they were kept rated up to a large capital and good credit up to the very day of failure.

No wonder people think it hard for honest people to make money in Canada with such a system amongst us. It is the duty of every American and Canadian to help and put down all bad system.

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District of MONTREAL } SUPERIOR COURT.

Dame Esther Laurent of the City and District of Montreal, wife of Joseph Brunet, of the same place, trader and duly authorized to enter en justice,

vs. The said Joseph Brunet, Plaintiff,

An action for separation of property has been instituted in the cause returnable on the 21st May next. Montreal, 7 May, 1877.

ROY & BOUTILLIER, 5ins. Attorneys for Plaintiff.

MONTREAL } Superior Court, No. 2352. Mary Eliza Laughlin of Montreal, Plaintiff;

vs. Charles Walters, gentleman, of Montreal, Defendant.

An action for separation of property was this day issued in this case. Montreal, 25th April, 1877.

A. BRUNET, Attorney for Plaintiff. 38-5ins.

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INSOLVENT ACT OF 1875

AND AMENDMENTS THERETO.

CANADA, PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, } IN THE SUPERIOR COURT

District of Montreal. In the matter of JOHN HATCHETTE, of the City of Montreal, Wholesale Grocer, there carrying on business as such, under the name, style and firm of JOHN HATCHETTE & CO.

An Insolvent. The undersigned has filed in the Office of this Court a Deed of Composition and Discharge, executed by his Creditors, and on FRIDAY, the FIRST DAY OF JUNE next, he will apply to the said Court for a confirmation of the discharge thereby effected.

JOHN HATCHETTE, By DAY & DAY, His Attorneys, ad litem.

Montreal, 26th April, 1877.

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