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Utilize the Back Yard

Lots of Hoeing is Indispensable to Successful Gardening

By HUGH S. EAYRS

THE seeds which were sown some two weeks ago should by this time be producing some results. As has been said before, some green-stuffs, such as lettuce and radishes are quick growers. So, for succession, put in some more, and keep it up right through the season at intervals of about two weeks. Indeed, until the end of June, intervals of ten days are long enough for radishes and lettuce. Succession in planting, as we said last week, is the best, because the most economical way of making the most out of the garden. By planting a succession of seeds, good seeds, right through the producing season, it is possible at a minimum expense to keep the table well supplied with salads and greenstuffs, the most acceptable sort of food in the dog days.

Gardening embraces the art of taking out as well as the art of putting in. It is very important to keep on thinning your plants. Plants that are showing should not be allowed to crowd each other. Destroy them ruthlessly, so that those that are left may have the best chance to come to maturity. Otherwise, not even the fittest will survive. Plants of all kinds must have room to feed and drink and breathe. Elimination, in the garden, is a noteworthy part of cultivation.

The next thing to do is to buy a hoe. After that, spend your time trying to wear it out, and strengthen your muscles in so doing. There are all sorts of hoes. Their variety needn't scare you, for many of them are duplicates in so far as their usefulness is concerned. The hoe is the sheet anchor of successful gardening. You can't get on without it. The hoe to use is the Dutch or push hoe, which, unlike many implements, is used with a pushing rather than a drawing or pulling motion. Little hand hoes are useful, too, as weedeers. They do finer or closer work. Hoeing is better for the soil than watering. It destroys capillary attraction, for it stops evaporation, and enables the soil to give the moisture to the plants planted therein, rather than losing it by wasting it on the air. Hoeing is the reverse of firming. Its subsidiary use is that it stamps out weeds, and so, without competition from the weed—which, like the poor, will be always with us, more or less—the vegetables have no counter influence

to combat. Too much stress cannot be laid upon the constant requisitioning of the hoe. Keep it busy.

So far, vine vegetables have not been planted in the ground. Such as are growing are growing under frames or in boxes. They may now be planted out, with advantage. Such a vegetable as the tomato is rather tender, and should be protected at night from the weather, which is still a little cool. Inverted boxes or plant pots over the vegetables after they are transplanted to the back yard, will be a safeguard. Shingle, too may be used. Stick it in the ground on the weather side of the vegetable.

Before purchased plants or box-grown plants are transplanted, the ground should be in a fine condition. The holes made should be large enough for the roots to be arranged. If possible, bring a ball of the original soil with the plant. Many people lift their vegetable or flower out of the plant pot or box, and deliberately shake the old soil off the roots. This is not the right way. Some of the old soil should be kept, and the new soil will intermix with it. Tomatoes should be the easier to transplant, because the soil is shaped to the pot in which the plant is. A shake is all that is necessary, and then the mould can be put, just as it is, into the new ground. After planting, firm the surrounding soil well, and then the watering can can be brought into operation. The ground should be properly soaked. For three or four days protection from the sun is necessary. Sprinkling of the leaves, morning and evening, will help the transplanted plants to stand the shock of change of surroundings.

There is another vegetable which might have been added to the list given last week. Runner beans are useful for their decorative effect. Some "unspeakable English" use them for culinary purposes, too, and don't seem to be any the worse for it. Up to now, it has been too cold to seed runner beans. But they may safely be planted now. Put them two inches deep, and about six or eight inches apart.

Lastly, and to revert for a minute, what I say unto one, I say unto all—HOE.

The Land of Valleys and History

(Continued from page 11.)

And when you steam out of Halifax—remembering how you got to it up the famous Annapolis Valley and the Land of Evangeline, remembering the cherry trees and the apple blossoms—you have a feeling that here on the edge of things begun and still beginning in this country, you are leaving behind much that you never can see in any other part of Canada.

You came to Halifax by the Dominion Atlantic. You leave it by the Intercolonial, which is your most picturesque way of getting into it from the west. For half a day the route leads on towards Moncton, the headquarters of our only national railway; on through a country of varied local colours and never-ending charm of home-making scenery. It is a route that never tires. There is always more than enough on either side of the train to make the timetable a vain thing. You have no impatience when the train hangs up a few minutes longer than scheduled at some station. You rather wish sometimes that it would switch off for a couple of hours to give more time for the study of the town that has for so long been contriving that tantalizing picture.

But shortly after lunch time you are in Moncton, which is as different from Halifax as Halifax is from Quebec. Moncton is a city of natural phenomena, of which before natural gas at 18 cents per M. entered the field,

the Tidal Bore was the chief. For as many hundred years as the mind of man is able to conceive, the Tidal Bore on the Petitcodiac has been a daily miracle of second importance only to the Flood. For a good while during the recent historical era it was imagined by some legend-loving people that this remarkable influx of the tide under influence of the moon, meeting the current of the impetuous Petitcodiac and so driven into a mad upheaval of water, had some time in its mania given birth to Moncton. This is a mistake. Moncton really discovered the Bore, which didn't know what itself was till Moncton came on the scene. But having for generations proclaimed itself as the home of the Great Bore, Moncton now wishes it to be understood that the Bore is but one of the sideshows to the main circus.

NOBODY ever hitched the Bore up for a purpose. It never created industries or boosted the cost of real estate. With all its colossal picturesqueness—and Monctonians differ even about that—it is nothing but a turgid spectacle that the old inhabitants used to consider a great wonder and the newer Monctonians regard as a magnificent "has-been" which probably always will be. So as no man can do anything with the phenomenon, except gawk at it or write poems about it, or paint pictures of it,

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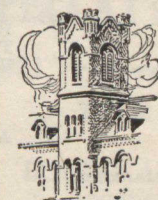
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