

THE STAYTON MAIL

By E. D. ALEXANDER.

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Ladies and Gent's
Fancy Purses.
Wrist Bags
and Chatteians.

A complete line of Popular
Novels; also Poets' Editions
rangins in price from 25c to
\$2.00.

We are also showing a new and popular line of Ebony Dressing Cases. Very acceptable Xmas presents, consisting of 3 to 15 piece sets, from \$1.25 to \$25.00.

Kodaks, Cameras, and Photographic Supplies.
A full line of these popular pleasure makers.

Kindly call and look over the line of Holiday Goods we are now showing.

Brewer Drug Co., Stayton.

Happy New Year

To all our customers and
to prospective ones.

We expect in this coming year to give careful, pains-taking attention to our repairing department. Such as will win your confidence if you leave your repairing with us. We want you to be satisfied first, last and all the time.

E. ROY, JEWELER AND OPTICIAN,
Stayton, Ore.

POTATO CULTIVATION.

The Methods by Which Germany Has Obtained Pre-eminence.

From the report of United States Consul General Mason of Berlin come some interesting facts in regard to scientific potato culture in that country. Among other things he says:

Potato cultivation, like all farming on a large scale in Germany, is based on an exact knowledge of the soil. This includes not only the elements which it contains, but its underlying strata, exposure, elevation and surroundings, whether shaded by adjacent woodlands or buildings, and especially its susceptibility to natural efficient drainage. There is no careless, hit or miss guess-work as to what the soil may lack or what it contains. The agricultural and technical schools of Germany have trained an army of practical chemists, expert in the analysis of soils and familiar with the elemental requirements of every plant known to German husbandry. The effective value of every kind of fertilizer, its influence on crops planted in sand, clay or loam and the efficiency of clover, lucern and other growths when plowed in to enrich soils in nitrogen are accurately known.

Although the potato will grow in every arable field in Germany, from the upper hill slopes to the moorlands of the valleys and seacoast, there is a wide variation, both as to quantity and quality, in the product of the different localities. Poor, light, gravelly soils yield small and few potatoes, and in dry seasons fail altogether. Heavy, tough, cold clays are likewise unfavorable. The ideal potato land is warm, permeable, loamy sand or a light moraine, well drained, clean and rich from the vegetable decay of past ages. Soils containing large proportions of sand produce potatoes of the best flavor and with highest percentage of starch. So marked are these characteristic effects that in every potato market of Germany the potatoes of certain communes are known and rated at the head of the list because the soils of those districts have demonstrated their superior fitness for potato culture. A potato field should be open, fully exposed to sun and wind, not shaded or obstructed by trees and, above all, free from clay substrata which hold water and make a wet subsoil. Crops grown on land with these defects may in some seasons be large, but they rot easily and are always deficient in starch and of inferior flavor. In Germany the red and so called "blue skinned" potatoes are found to do better than the white in damp locations or where the land is excluded from free action of sun and wind.

In the preparation of land for potato planting the first requisite is deep, thorough plowing. In view of the many centuries during which the fields of Germany have been cultivated and the generally high standard of intelligence among farmers here an American is surprised to note that in many wheat, rye and oat fields the plow does not cut more than six or seven inches in

depth. But for potatoes this superficial scratching of the earth will not suffice. Every additional inch of depth broken adds a tangible percentage to the yield, and on the best farms subsoil plowing attains a depth of twelve to fifteen inches. Small tracts are worked with the spade, and instances are given where the potato crop has been doubled by working the soil two spade lengths in depth. This deep, careful preparation of the land is always completed in autumn and the upturned earth left exposed to the action of frost and thawing during the winter.

Careful experiment has shown that a given piece of land prepared in autumn yields one-third more potatoes than if treated in precisely the same manner in spring immediately before planting time. Having been deeply plowed and thoroughly harrowed in autumn, the frost penetrates readily, the action of the air upon the various elements of the soil is enhanced, it dries out quickly in spring and with the first warm days is ready for planting. It is then plowed again, usually to a depth of five or six inches, with a broad, shallow plow drawn by one horse, and in every third furrow the potatoes are dropped and are covered by the furrow slice next turned in. This quick, easy method of planting with the plow is practicable only in light, loose soils that have been thoroughly prepared. In heavy clay soils holes five or six inches deep are made in rows with the hoe or spade, the potatoes dropped therein and covered with the hoe.

Safety With the Lantern.

It is not safe to hang a lantern on a common nail, as many people do. An American Agriculturist correspondent suggests having some hooks made and putting them up in the barn and stable to hang the lantern on. Then it will not get knocked off. The lantern will not unhook by being hit with anything. Three-eighths inch round iron, sharpened on one end and bent as shown in the illustration, answers the purpose.



A LANTERN HOOK.

One Thing and Another.

The market is calling for smooth, fleshy cattle these days, and the big boned, old fashioned kind are not wanted, even if they have been made fat, says National Stockman.

Director Smith of the Michigan experiment station recommends the use of the roller on sandy soils.

For winter forage sorghum, corn and millets are recommended for the South Dakota farmer and stockman.

Alfalfa, which is a soil replenisher, should take the place of timothy, which is relatively a soil robber.

JANUARY CLEARANCE SALE!

It has been our custom to have a January sale.

We propose that this sale shall be a record-breaker.

Our customers will bear witness that our large store is full from floor to ceiling. To make room for spring goods that will begin to arrive soon, we place on sale as a beginner

Ladies' Shoes

\$3.50 ladies turned laced
pat. tip shoes, 3-7, \$2.78
4.00 ladies patent colt
lace welt shoe, 3-7, 2.93
3.50, 3.00, 2.50 and 2.00
ladies lace and button
shoes, 2-4, 1.00

To facilitate this clearance sale we have made a shoe dump of \$1.50, 1.00, 25c—a bargain.

We call 50c, 75c to \$1 shoes for 25c, a bargain.

We call \$1.25, 1.50, to 1.75 shoes for \$1.00, a bargain.

We call \$2, 2.25 to 2.50 shoes for \$1.50, a bargain.

Mens Overcoats

\$16.00 Men's Melton Overcoats,
late winter pattern, \$11.88
10.00 Men's Oxford Grey Over-
coats, late winter pattern, 7.27
7.50 Men's Oxford Grey Over-
coats, late winter pattern, 5.45
5.00 Men's heavy fleece lined
ulster overcoat, storm collar,
wind and water proof, 3.78
4.2 Men's heavy fleece lined
ulster overcoat, with corduroy
storm collar, 3.28

Slickers

\$3.00 Mens black long Fish brand
Slickers for, \$2.25
2.25 men's black medium long
Fish brand slickers, 1.65
2.40 men's black long Shield
brand slickers, 1.90
2.00 men's black medium long
Shield brand slicker, 1.60

Clearance Sale on

Boys Overcoats

Men's Boots

\$4.75 men's fine kip bench work
boots, large sizes, \$3.25
\$2.35 men's I kip pegged boots,
6-9, \$1.75
\$3.25 men's Milwaukee oil grain
boots, 6-7, \$2.25
\$2.35 men's heavy, oil grain, peg-
ged boots, 6-7, \$1.75
\$3.00 men's hood or 1st quality
snag proof, long legged, rolled
edged gum boots, \$4.00
\$5.00 men's 1st quality snag proof
long legged plain edge soles
gum boots, \$4.00
\$3.20 men's 3/4 length hip gum
boots, second quality, \$2.85
\$3.50 men's knee snag proof gum
boots, hoods or first quality
with rolled edge, \$2.93
\$3.50 men's hood or snag proof
knee gum boots, plain edge, \$2.93
\$1.65 women's gum boots, pebble
tops, \$1.30

Bring this list of prices with you.

G. D. TROTTER, Stayton, Ore.

A BENEFIT TO ALL.

Every One Profits In Some Way by Betterment of Roads.

There is no class of citizenship but what is benefited directly or indirectly by good roads. The farmer, that he may come to a ready market to sell and barter; the manufacturer in the town remote from seaboard or railroad, who in turn can haul his coal and raw material at an appreciably lessened cost and carry his finished product for transportation, will be helped. It will make him independent of small rail-road branches which are obliged by reason of short distances to charge an excessive freight.

The toiler in the many shops and offices is to be helped by lower rents within his means, because suburban living is made possible by good roads. And all who prefer the open living to the huddled city life will appreciate the benefit. Every citizen is to profit in some way. Country and suburban districts will be more easy of access. Grocery and market men will be enabled to send their goods by free delivery at no enhanced cost to the buyer.

Good roads not only cheapen the cost of living, as we have already noticed in the matter of rents, but also reduce the price of supplies by reason of a ready market. Such a proposition as we are discussing opens up the country. The territory becomes inhabitable simply because easy of access. A demand for land in considerable quantity, either for residential or business purposes, increases its value. It has been demonstrated again and again that the betterment of roads means a rise in the value of real estate, and the rise will come, the demand be enhanced, because of facilitated transportation.

The First Glass Cups.

The first glass cups were made at Alexandria. Some were colored like Bohemian glass and decorated with glass pastes, imitating precious stones and cameos. Some were opaline, others clear as crystal and still others formed of opaque layers welded together like the famous Portland vase, in which the white upper layer had been cut away like that of a cameo, leaving a blue ground around the figures.

Anticipated Him.

"I ran across a remarkable Jou d'esprit the other day," said the casual acquaintance who is ambitious to be entertaining.

"I'm sorry," said Mr. Cumrox, "but my wife has just returned from Europe with a whole lot of art treasures, and I shouldn't have any place to hang it even if I bought it."—Washington Star.

There is a canny gleam of humor in the statement of Mr. Carnegie that he prefers making steel to securities.

Marriage in the Orient.

In the east—in India, China and Japan—girls are married very young. With us they would still be considered children and would be in bills and pinafores. But over there girls of twelve are considered of full marriageable age, and it is not at all uncommon to find wives of six or eight or ten years. When a proposal of marriage is made the father of the young girl is applied to, and the following style of answer is considered stylish and elegant:

"I have received with respect the marks of your goodness. The choice that you deign to make of my daughter to become the wife of your son shows that you esteem my poor daughter more than she deserves. My daughter is coarse and stupid, and I have not had the talent to bring her up well. Yet I shall nevertheless glory in obeying you on this occasion."

This is the proper and accepted mode of reply. But, fortunately for the girl wives of the east, individuals are often kinder than the law itself, so that a family is often bound together by happy and cordial relations, such as could not exist if a man really felt his wife to be coarse and stupid.

Weather Wisdom.

A very curious method of making weather predictions has been discovered by an old French farmer.

"On Christmas eve," he says, "when the bells begin to ring for midnight mass, take twelve onions and place them in a row on a table. The first onion will represent January, the second February, and so on. Next make a large slit in each onion and pour some salt into it. If at the end of an hour you find that the salt in the March onion has melted you will know that there will be much rain in March, and, on the other hand, if the salt in the April onion is not melted you may be certain that April will be a dry month. Moreover, if the salt in any onion is melted at the top, but not at the bottom, the first fortnight of the month will be wet and the second fortnight dry."

Smokeless briquettes, made in Germany from Dakota lignite, are to be exhibited at the St. Louis exposition. Any kind of fuel that is good and does not emit smoke will be welcomed by mankind, provided it is cheap enough for general use.

It is all right enough for the South American republics to have a little Monroe doctrine of their own, but they will find that there is none genuine without Uncle Sam's name blown in the bottle.

It is gratifying to note that civilization is advancing in the great west. Formerly bandits held up the stagecoach; now they hold up the trolley car.

A Wonder of Fecundity.

Christian Heinecker was born at Lubbeck on the 6th of February, 1721. When only ten months old he could repeat every word spoken to him. At twelve months of age he had memorized all the principal events in the Pentateuch. Before he had finished his second year of existence he had learned all the historical parts of both the Old and the New Testament. At the age of three he could reply correctly to all questions put to him regarding universal history and geography, and in the same year he learned to speak both Latin and French.

In his fourth year he employed his time in studying religions, especially the history of the Christian church. He was not only able to glibly repeat all that he had read, but was also able to reason with considerable of judgment and to give his own opinion of things in general. The king of Denmark wished to see this wonderful child, so he was taken to Copenhagen. After his return to Lubbeck he learned to write and was beginning on the study of music and mathematics; but, his constitution being very weak, he took down and died on June 27, 1725, aged four years, four months and twenty-one days. What a wonderful record for such a short life!

Buttered Locks.

In Abyssinia one method of doing the hair that is adopted by warriors is to stroll into the market place, buy a pound of butter and, putting it upon the top of the hair, stand still while the sun arranges things. When the hair is thus dressed with melted butter the Abyssinian knows that fate cannot or will not touch him. He is a picture of well dressed elegance done in oils. Another style is to tress the hair, and every tress means something. A young warrior with a head of hair untressed is of no account. He has not yet killed a man. When, however, he has done so all his hair is shaved off except enough to make one tress, which is of the same signification as a notch on a pistol stock. After that every man he kills entitles him to add another tress until as a conquering hero of 100 tresses he is a formidable man to try conclusions with.

Why Harry Wasn't Proud.

Little Harry's oldest sister has just presented her husband with a new baby.

"Well, Harry," said his father, "do you feel proud of being an uncle?"

"No," replied the urchin.

"Why not?" asked his father.

"Cause I ain't no uncle; I'm an aunt."

The new baby's a girl!—New York Press.

His Assumption.

"Scribbler's such a queer fellow."

"Is he?"

"Yes. He sent the manuscript of his new book by express and labeled it 'Valuable.'"