

# BLOOMING HAARLEM AND MARKEN, HOLLAND, DEPICTED

Flower Culture, Once a Mania, Brought Down to Science—Quaint Typically Dutch of Island Community Found to Be Most Interesting People.



The Old Wind Mill, Moerkerk, Holland.



Two of the Girls who say "Dead broke" and "Nothing doing."



Scene in Marken.



A Field of Hyacinths, Haarlem.



The Church and School House of Marken.



Milk Wagon Drawn by Dogs.

AMSTERDAM, Holland, Aug. 10.—(Special.)

Not wealth, but the ability to meet difficult conditions is the measure of a man. Every failure teaches a man something, if he will only learn. —Charles Dickens.

WHEN you hear someone remark that "the whole civilized world is interested in the beautiful flowers which the Dutch bulbs produce and that this interest increases every year," or that "Haarlem is famous for its horticulture and supplies bulbs to every country in Europe or America," have you ever questioned the history of this industry or the difficulties that have been overcome in this wonderful product?

During the months of April and May the vicinity of Haarlem and Leiden is a glorious sight to behold. Whole fields of hyacinths, tulips, crocuses, anemones, lilies, etc., grouped in every variety of color and diffusing the most delicious perfumes, are the delights of every visitor. There is nothing more exquisite, nothing that appeals more to all that is good and pure in the human heart than the flowers of the fields.

One is often asked here by visitors from abroad what the countryside looked like in olden times; how the cultivation of bulbs originated; how it grew to its present importance and no doubt the many readers of The Oregonian are equally as inquisitive.

Flower Trade Mania.

In 1836 and 1837 the flower trade of Holland assumed the form of a mania and tulips became as important a speculation as railway shares and the public funds of the present-day. Capitalists, merchants and even private individuals entirely ignorant of floriculture, traded extensively in bulbs and frequently amassed considerable fortunes. A single Dutch town is said to have gained more than 18,000,000 florins (a florin equals 40 cents) by the sale of tulip bulbs in one year.

In the latter half of the 18th century the first bulb plants were sent from Asia by way of Turkey and Vienna to Western Europe; by whom and with what object in view no one can tell. In the beginning of the 19th century Paris selected the tulip as the flower of fashion and from that time the cultivation of bulbs was seriously taken in hand.

Many difficulties arose. A regrettable passion for gambling in bulbs prevailed at this time. Fortunes were made and lost. The rarer bulbs often realized enormous prices. It is recorded that the "Semper Augustus" was sold for 13,000 florins, the "Admiral Effens" for 4000 florins and the "Viceroy" for 4200 florins. Happily this craze was a passing one, and the cultivation as well as the trade in bulbs soon progressed, though not without many incidents of a somewhat serious character.

Flood Arouses Government.

The problem of the water level, at all times a vital point for the cultivation of bulbs, became extremely urgent in the Autumn of 1872, but it was only in 1877, when the whole of the crops was destroyed by high water, that the government gave serious attention to this problem. Serious damage was caused by game of various descriptions, and the history of the struggle of the

planters against this enemy would fill a book of itself. All obstacles were, however, overcome gradually, and today the bulb trade is an industry of which The Netherlands may be justly proud.

Among the popular varieties are the Darwin, Rembrandt and Siren tulips and the Parsifal hyacinths. Real triumphs are recorded among the trumpet daffodils. As soon as sufficiently propagated, such excellent forms of the glory of Haarlem, Hope of Holland, Thackeray and others will become the general favorite, and after many years the "Mrs. Ernest H. Krelage," the best white trumpet, will take a popular position in the flower world.

The cultivation of bulbs is intensely interesting, and many questions might be answered. In the beginning of the 19th century, when the cultivation of bulbs did not occupy more than a few acres, it was confined to lands within and just outside the town of Haarlem, while only a few prominent growers conducted a small export trade to England and Germany. As the means of communication developed, the export trade increased in importance, and the cultivation of bulbs extended proportionately.

New Methods Prove Good.

At that time it was a rule that lands used for bulb culture could only bear crops once in four years, so that they lay idle for three years. It soon proved impossible to maintain this

rather wasteful system, and new methods were tried. Many growers began to work the soil down to a certain depth so that the layers to be used for planting the bulbs were partially refreshed and renewed. The result was that the lands treated in this manner proved suitable for planting every two years. Much was gained, but the ever-increasing demand for bulbs necessitated more serious measures. Thus it was that new lands were made suitable for bulb growing by plowing very deeply and mixing the soil with sand from the dunes. Even between Haarlem and Leiden the lands which satisfy all these conditions are scarce; hence the high prices paid for them and the great necessity for intensive cultivation. Is there any reason why these beautiful tulips and hyacinths can be grown in the open fields only in Holland? It might be worthy of the experiment to test the same mixtures of Oregon's rich soil and sand.

The hyacinth requires calcareous soil rather coarse grained. For potted plants the bulbs may be planted in October and the pots should be four or five-inch pots. Fill the pots with a mixture prepared in advance and consisting of four equal parts, viz: good light garden soil, leaf mould, pure old cow dung and pure sand. Put the bulb into it, leaving the top visible, and press the soil firmly around the bulb. Water the pots once freely and put them in a corner of the garden protected against frost and cover them with soil, ashes or leaves so that the pots are entirely hidden. If there is no garden, the pots may be placed in the cellar or similar frost free, cool dark room, till the roots have suf-

ficiently developed. After about five or six weeks the pots may be removed to the light by putting them in a greenhouse or general living-room. The atmosphere must not be too dry and the temperature moderate in the first days and always regular. Plenty of water may be supplied now, according to the needs of the bulbs.

Single Varieties for Glasses.

For hyacinths in glasses, the single varieties are well adapted for this purpose. The glasses are filled with pure rainwater so that the roots are immersed in it; the bulb itself must never be in contact with the water. The glasses are kept in a cool, dark case or room protected from frost till the roots have sufficiently developed. They are then removed to the light in a frost-free apartment of regular temperature and where they can have a sunny and not too dry situation. The evaporating water should be replaced by fresh water of the same temperature. A few grains of salt will keep the water clear and pure.

For the garden, the level of the water must always be such that the plants are able to draw up the water with their roots. Another requirement is that the ground absorbs the water up to a certain height in the manner of capillary vessels, whilst on the other hand all superfluous water must easily flow away into canals or rivers, the general level thus being subject to no great changes.

The culture of tulips is similar to that of hyacinths except in pots, ordinarily three bulbs of the same variety are put together in the same pot.

In glasses they are alike. In beds or borders the tulips are planted in Autumn until December, but preferably earlier. The bulbs are planted four inches deep and three inches apart. The best time for planting Narcissus is September or October. For indoor culture the species with the largest bulbs are planted three or five together (same variety) in the same pot. Five to 15 of the smaller bulbs can be put in one pot. In beds or borders Polyanthus Narcissus and the delicate Narcissus of other groups should be planted five inches deep and six inches apart. In winter they must be covered with leaves about eight inches high. The more resistant varieties four inches deep and five inches apart, and need a cover of only two inches in winter.

Care of Flower Advised.

When the bulb is dispatched it already contains the flower. With a little care the latter will flourish anywhere. In this connection the character of the soil is of small importance. It is astonishing that the bulb may be brought to flower in a tumbler filled with water. It is afterwards that the quality of the soil and its treatment becomes of supreme importance, for when the flower is dead the bulb must absorb sufficient food to form a new flower and to nourish it during its development. It is an interesting sight to see the glass-covered seed pods of the various bulb-producing plants, for by this process new varieties are produced.

One of the leading firms has nearly 100 hectares planted in bulbs. They are now in the midst of the harvest.

me until I have passed them on to someone else."

The island of Marken is located in the Zuider Zee with a lighthouse on the northeast point. But it is a spot which has not lost any of its characteristics and strengthens the foreigners who come here in the belief that the style of its inhabitants is typically Dutch. The men dress in black and dark blue jerseys or long jackets with silver buttons and enormously loose trousers, their hair cut straight across the forehead over the ears and at the back of the neck as if a barber had clapped on a bowl and trimmed round it.

The women have gorgeous costumes, stiff, white caps covered with lace, short, full skirts with richly embroidered bodices. They wear their hair with a long curl on each side of the face. The children are dressed in the same style of costume as their parents and retain their old-fashioned ways of leaving the wooden shoes outside when they enter the house.

Every courtesy is shown when a visitor enters their homes. They are happy to show you the Delft-tiled wall which pictures Bible history, the polished brass and copper utensils of centuries, the Delft china of their ancestors, a "very old clock," a wooden cabinet of the 15th century, the beds built in the walls, the sanded floors, beautifully designed and many other interesting features.

One woman invited us to drink tea from a teapot several centuries old. It was all very quaint and interesting. In olden times they say this island, now a hill surrounded by a dyke, but lost at sea, was a part of the mainland. In the latter part of the thirteenth century it was roughly separated from the mainland in a stormy night. The island then became the property of the Mariengard Convent in Friesland at the spot where, since 1845, the present church is to be found. Marken then passed from hand to hand. In 1661 there was an inundation, which destroyed almost everything. What was spared was nearly all destroyed by fire two years later.



An Amsterdam Canal.



On the Lookout, Marken.