

Petunias.

All who have cultivated Petunias have seen flowers with a margin of green, more or less wide. The seeds are offered in all catalogues under the name of *P. marginata*.

Several years ago we experimented with Petunias for the purpose of ascertaining how far they could be improved by crossing and selection, an account of some of the results of which was given in this paper at the time. For the second year we obtained monstrous flowers, both as regards size and markings. The most striking of these were marked and the seeds (where perfected) saved. But the third season, instead of coming at all true, or of being improvements in any way upon their parents, they were all inferior to those of the second season, and, concluding that little was to be gained by further experiments, we gave up Petunia culture for that of other plants with which we had less to do.

Among them, however, was a plant that we watched with a good deal of interest. In early summer it bore flowers that, when spread out, measured seven inches across the throat of a lilac, veined with purple, and the edges banded with green of varying widths. During early fall the green margin increased in width, until by late September the flowers were wholly green. Those blooming still later were half corolla, half leaf, until at last a rosette of green leaves alone indicated where the flowers ought to have developed. In several instances, imperfect stamens and pistils were formed, surrounded by crumpled or ill-shaped leaves that were neither leaves nor petals. In others the stamens and pistils grew together, forming a stem which continued to grow out of the corolla the same as if there had been a flower.

It is worthy of note that these green-flowered Petunias were wonders of vigor, the leaves and stems being twice, perhaps thrice, the size of the self-colored, blotched and striped varieties, and the flowers comparatively very few.

What seem unusual phenomena in plant growth are by no means so rare as we suppose. Make a specialty of what plant soever you will, and watch it closely through the season, we will be very likely to observe peculiarities that would escape ordinary observations.—*Rural New Yorker*.

Care of Harness.

Few farmers realize the care needed in the proper preservation of leather, and the lack of knowledge of its requirements causes the loss of many dollars to the owners of horses. The practice of washing harness in warm water is very damaging, unless a coat of oil is applied immediately after washing. No harness is ever so soiled that a damp sponge will not remove the dirt, yet, even when the sponge is applied, it is important to apply a slight coat of oil by the use of a second sponge. All varnishes and blacking that contain the properties of varnish should be avoided. When a harness loses its lustre and turns brown, as almost any leather will do after long exposure to the air, the harness should be given a new coat of grain black; first washing the grain surface thoroughly with potash water, to kill the grease, and after the grain black, applying oil and tallow to the surface. This will fasten the color and make the leather flexible.

Neat's foot oil only should be used on harnesses, and no more should be applied to the leather than it will absorb, as many harnesses are injured by applying too much oil. A superabundance so applied works out to the surface in hot weather, absorbing dust and dirt and soon looking very slovenly.

An excellent harness polish may be made by breaking in small pieces four ounces of glue, pouring over it in a basin about a pint of vinegar, and letting it stand until it becomes soft. Take two ounces of gum in another vessel and pour in half a pint of black ink, letting it stand until it is perfectly dissolved. Melt two drachms of isinglass in a cup, with as much water as will cover it. To mix the whole, turn the softened glue into a saucepan over a gentle fire, adding another half-pint of vinegar, stirring until perfectly dissolved, being careful not to let it burn at the bottom nor reach the boiling point. Next add the gum, and, after arriving at about the same heat, add the isinglass; then pour it out for use. Apply a thin coat, sufficiently heated to be fluid, with a piece of dry sponge, and if the article is dried quickly, either in the sun or by the fire, it will have a better polish. This answers equally well for boots and shoes.—*Coleman's Rural World*.

**RAISING CUCUMBERS.**—To make cucumber vines grow and set freely with fruit, the hill should be well watered every evening except in a wet time. The cucumber plant needs a great deal of moisture, and only when it is plentifully supplied will it yield a fair percentage of fruit in healthy condition. By observation I found this plant to yield most abundantly in wet seasons, and taking such fact for a cue, resolved to test the practice of watering the vines freely to insure a full crop, and find such practice resulting in all one could wish to establish its efficacy.

A Marylander tells me it is the custom at the South to plant vines along the banks of a ravine or water course, so that an abundance of water can be obtained at all times to water the plants. In no other way do they expect a full crop.

In Switzerland, the law compels every newly-married couple to plant six trees immediately after the marriage ceremony, and two on the birth of each child.

Make It Two Dollars.

Col. Orzo J. Dodds, late member of Congress from the fourth district of Ohio, tells a good story about a call he recently received at his office from a man who claimed to be an editor from Arkansas. He was a very seedy-looking chap, and appeared as though he had but recently come off a six weeks' spree. Bowing profoundly, then striking an attitude, with one hand on his heart and the other extending a badly-used plug hat, he exclaimed with a dramatic air:

"Have I the honor of addressing the Honorable Orzo J. Dodds?"

"My name is Dodds; but I am no longer an honorable," said the colonel. "Not an honorable? Dodds not an honorable? Now, by St. Paul, when I see that honorable face on whom the gods seem to have set their seal ('Green Seal' murmured Dodds to himself), I read nothing dishonorable."

"That's right!" said Dodds; "never read anything dishonorable. But to business!"

"Yes, as you say, to business. I am a printer—I might say an editor. I am from the State of Arkansas; the only State, by the way, able and willing to support two Governors at the same time. But I have been unfortunate! Much have I been tossed about by the ire of cruel Juno, and"—

"Juno know how it is yourself!" broke in the colonel.

"Buffeted by the world's rude storms, you see me here a stranded wreck. Scarce three moons past I left my office in charge of my worthy foreman and sought the peaceful vales and calm rests of the Muskingum Valley, where my childhood sported. Returning, I stopped at Cincinnati. I fell into evil company, and—but why dwell on details? Enough that I am—that I am—disheartened, ruined, broke! A mark for scorn to point her slow, unerring finger at! As I was about giving up in despair, having given up everything else that I had, I thought of you. Sir, I am here. You did not send for me, but I have come. Your name is known and honored from one end of this great republic to the other. It."

Glow on the stars,  
Refreshes the breeze,  
Warm in the sun,  
And blossoms on the trees.

When the National Treasury was threatened by a body of greedy Congressmen, you stood like a wall of adamant between the people and those infamous salary-grabbers. *Lend me a dollar!*

"My dear sir," the colonel hastened to explain, "you mistake the case entirely! I was one of the grabbers."

"You were!" grasping the colonel's hand warmly. "So much the better. Let me congratulate you that a parsimonious public could not frighten you out of what was but a fair remuneration for your invaluable services. I am glad that your pecuniary circumstances are so much better than I supposed. *Make it two!*"

And the colonel did. It was the only clear thing for him to do.

The Mennonites in Manitoba.

The Mennonite reservation east of the Red River, and about twenty-five miles southeast of Winnipeg, is now as well populated as any district of the Province of Manitoba, and the most recent immigration has been directed to a reservation of seventeen townships adjoining the frontier, and extending west of Red River to Pembina Mountain. The settlement on the reservation first mentioned, called Rat River, consists of 650 families, and on the second reservation, called Dufferin, 450 families have been planted. In addition thirty-three families have been settled near Scratching River, and the recent arrival of thirty-five families will go to Dufferin.

Estimating five to a family, the Mennonite settlements of Manitoba contain a population of 5,865, which will doubtless increase steadily, but by no means with the volume of the past three years. The Mennonites who still remain in Southern Russia, though inclined to emigrate, in consequence of the termination of the stipulation exempting them from military services, are not prepared to sacrifice their possessions. When they can sell without disadvantage they emigrate. The exodus is therefore likely to be gradual, especially as the Russian Government, while insisting on the right of conscription, assents readily to special assignments of service in deference to the Mennonite conscience—such as transportation, forestry, and hospital service—very much as the Quakers of the United States, during the late civil war, were subjected to military service, but relieved from bearing arms.

The emigrating class of Lutheran Quakers, known as Mennonites, are neither the rich nor the poor, but are an intermediate body, who are, however, by no means destitute. Mr. Hespeler estimates that the sum brought into the province by the Mennonite immigration is \$500,000, and the recent arrival of thirty-five families have not less than \$10,000.

There are Mennonite settlements in the Western States, but the land system there enforced does not admit of special reservations, and Manitoba has thus been enabled to present greater inducements for this class of settlers. Here the community can organize itself fully according to its traditions, including the rural village life of the dorf—or dorp, as we believe the word is anglicized—a custom which has great merit socially and industrially, and will warrant some fullness of detail.

A group of families—usually sixteen in number—take their homesteads separately, but proceed to throw them together, selecting the most desirable situation for a village or dorf, through which a

street two chains wide is laid, and the plot divided into half acre lots, with assignments for church, school, or other public use. A tract most suitable for tillage is then selected in a block, which is inclosed, and within which each head of a family cultivates that portion of his allotment—for there is no communism—that he finds convenient. A hay meadow, held also in severalty, is chosen, and the remainder of the consolidated homesteads is used as a range for cattle and other animals, which are invariably attended by a herdsman who is paid by the dorf. The village lots and other subdivisions are distributed by lot.

The houses—only found in the dorf—are comfortable, heated by central brick ovens, warming three or four rooms. The same roof usually extends over separate lodgings for cattle, although in this respect there is a growing tendency to have different tenements. Each family has a yoke of oxen, two cows and indefinite poultry. The pig is not wanting, and there are 500 sheep and 150 horses on the Rat River reservation.

The municipal government is a simple democracy. The heads of families annually select a Mayor or Reeve, who is the chief executive officer, constantly conferring with his constituents. Over the whole community is a President or Elder, elected for five years, and who, associated with the Mayor of the dorfs, form a court for the final adjustment of all disputes and the enactment of all necessary ordinances. The President may act in all matters relating to a separate village in concurrence with the Mayor thereof.

The church organization is quite distinct from the civil administration. The people elect a clergyman in each dorf, and a Bishop to preside over the whole community for periods of five years. They receive no stipends. The teachers of the schools—one held in each village—are chosen by the people, but are paid a moderate compensation. Marriages are free—no allotment as formerly among the Moravians—and usually contracted early, the parties often remaining with the most prosperous of the parents for a year or two.

The Mayor of a dorf, with two assistants, constitutes an Orphan Court for the distribution of estates, and the custody of the funds of orphans, for which the property of every villager is liable; deducting from the said orphan fund whatever contributions for the relief of the few destitute orphans may be found necessary.

For most of these interesting particulars we are indebted to Mr. William Hespeler, Immigration Agent of the Dominion of Canada, who ascertained in 1871, during a trip to Germany, that a Mennonite emigration to this continent was probable, and who visited Southern Russia in 1872. Upon his representations, and under his auspices, a delegation came to Manitoba in 1873, and selected the reservation near Rat River; and three years of activity and well directed effort have resulted in the colonization which is the subject of the present compilation.

The average destruction of life in Great Britain from drowning, now reaches over 4,300 per annum.

There is Danger Ahead

When those usually active little organs, the kidneys, are neglected of their duties and grow sluggish. Fatty degeneration, Bright's disease, diabetes, and other dangerous maladies, are the result of neglect to remedy this inactivity by medicinal means. When the all important functions of the kidneys are imperfectly discharged, those organs need stimulating, and the best possible agent for that purpose—since it performs its office without exciting them—is Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, which, in combination with its tonic and cathartic properties, possesses valuable qualities as a diuretic. Both kidneys and bladder are strengthened by it, and the vigor which it imparts to them, and the gentle but effectual impulse which it gives to their operations, is the best possible guaranty against their becoming diseased. The Bitters are invaluable in other respects as well as the above, since they remedy general debility, uterine troubles, chills and fever, dyspepsia, constipation, gout, rheumatism, and other ailments.

Physicians of high standing unhesitatingly give their indorsement to the use of the Graefenberg-Marshall's Catholicon for all female complaints. The weak and debilitated find wonderful relief from a constant use of this valuable remedy. Sold by all druggists. \$1.50 per bottle.

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Bi-Carbonate of Soda.

ITS MANUFACTURE IN SAN FRANCISCO—AN IMPORTANT HOME INDUSTRY—ITS NUMEROUS USES—DEMAND FOR SUPPLY—FUTURE PROSPECTS.—THE PACIFIC SODA CO.—THEIR OFFICE AND FACTORY—THE EXCELLENT QUALITY OF THE PRODUCT—THE SUPPLY AMPLIFIED FOR THE MARKET.

From S. F. Journal of Commerce, Aug. 29.

Carbonate of soda has been found for ages in the soda lakes of Egypt and Hungary, and in other mineral waters. In the desert of Thaur, west of the Delta, in Egypt, is a pit twelve miles long and three-fourths of a mile in width, which is filled in winter with a violet colored water five or six feet in depth. When this evaporates in summer it leaves an incrustation of soda half an inch thick, which is gathered and utilized by the natives. Carbonate of soda is used in glass blowing, soap making and bleaching. It is produced in large quantities in Nevada. Nevertheless there was imported into the United States during the past year over 3,000,000 pounds. Soda salt is an impure carbonate of soda. A carbonate is a salt mixed with a base, and forms a carbonate of soda. Saleratus is a carbonate of potash, and contains a large quantity of carbonic acid. It is used extensively for cooking cakes, etc.

BI-CARBONATE

Of soda contains two equivalents of carbonic acid to one base—a super-carbonate—and is obtained by passing carbonic acid into a strong aqueous solution of the neutral carbonate of soda. Bi-carbonate is used largely among farmers, and at households, for cooking purposes, with yeast powder, etc. Formerly this soda was imported almost exclusively from England, whence it still comes to our coast in large quantities. But until recently the soda producing regions of the Pacific coast have been comparatively neglected, and hence our dependence on a foreign supply. At length, however, capitalists and manufacturers are awake to the importance of meeting our demands nearer home, and saving duties, freight and handling expenses. Within a few weeks, after numerous experiments and a heavy outlay in fitting up manufacturing works,

THE PACIFIC SODA CO.

Have come into possession of the secret of producing bi-carbonate of soda equal to the most superior imported and at much less expense. And because of the excellent quality of their production, and their ability to put it on the market much lower than the ruling rate for foreign imports, this company are fully determined that no outside supply shall be able to compete with their own. It is now being produced from this market, supplanted by our own home manufacture. This will be a great gain to consumers among our own people, and the foreign production will turn elsewhere for a market. The Pacific Soda Co. is

A STOCK COMPANY.

And has 2500 shares at a par value of \$100, or \$250,000. Aaron D. Reid, who has been in business in this city the past 24 years, is the President, and Wm. R. Clendine is Secretary. Mr. J. S. Doe is the Treasurer and principal owner of the stock and property, and is well known to the business community by his connection with the cash and door business, in which he has been engaged in this city on a large scale for more than a quarter of a century. The company have their office and samples at 109 California street, and their factory on Berry street, between Fourth and Fifth. It is now three years since they started this business, but only recently that they have perfected arrangements for the production of a pure bi-carbonate of soda. The factory is in a building in Churchill county, Nevada, 30 miles from Wadsword. On this land 17 flat of 14 acres in basin-like form, surrounded by high cliffs. In the center of the flat are two or three acres of

WARM SPRINGS.

From which the soda is obtained. Natural vats, or trenches, are dug and filled with water, which the warm winds of the summer season heat to 100 degrees, cause to evaporate, leaving the crystallized soda, which is pulverized by stirring, put into sacks and brought to our city, where it is sold by the Nevada Company. All of our soda property now belongs to Mr. J. S. Doe—to the Pacific Soda Co., in which he is also the principal stockholder. The sacks then go to the factory on Berry street, where they are stored for reduction. Mr. Doe recently sent a large quantity of the crude soda to England to be tested, and it was so pure the manufacturers would not believe it genuine.

THE FACTORY.

Is 40x120 feet and two stories. It contains an engine, 34 vats and a gas chamber in which the bi-carbonate is produced from the crystallized by the injection of carbonic acid. The company have facilities for turning out 30 tons of bi-carbonate monthly, exclusive of other productions of carbonate of soda, etc., and they are prepared to make their operations according to the demand. At present they employ about \$15,000 capital in the manufacture. Up stairs the first room is devoted to the packing of the bi-carbonate in packages and boxes for the market. Here also are the labels, stencils, etc. Back of this is the testing room, and in the rear the drying room. Outside the factory are numerous hoppers filled with soda. Near by are piles of limestone and coke, used for heating purposes. The process of

CRYSTALLIZATION.

Of the soda is very interesting to observe. The pieces are often of very fantastic formation in the vats, and the edges are smooth, pointed and fretted. At present from 25 to 30 tons of bi-carbonate of soda are used monthly in San Francisco, and it is not difficult to perceive what a saving there must be to the consumers when this is obtained at a much less cost than the foreign article and just as good. Of course a line in carbonate manufacturers have greatly injured the trade in the local production by the use of adulterations, which have reduced the percentage to about 75 per cent. The company have determined to produce pure bi-carbonate of soda at a less cost than the foreign or domestic adulterations. The company manufacture

SAL SODA.

Soda ash, yeast powder, washing powder, saleratus, carbonate of soda, bi-carbonate of soda, etc., and promptly fill all orders. Some dealers have been limited about patronizing a home industry like this soda production lest it should prove a failure by the time it was fully introduced. But the Pacific Soda Co. is a permanent, and has ample capital and business capacity to back and sustain it. Therefore merchants need have no hesitations about sending their orders to this firm. And those doing so express themselves highly gratified and satisfied with the quality of the production.

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