GARDENING IN TOWNS

THE CULTIVATION OF VACANT LOTS AND WASTE LAND

Provides Profitable Work For the Unemployed and Helps Beautify the Town-How the Plan Has Suceceded in Philadelphia.

"The Cultivation of Vacant Lots' was the title of a lecture delivered in Washington recently by R. G. Powell, cant Lots association. Mr. Powell said that flower gardening and the growing of vegetables by children and older rsons, thus utilizing waste and va eant city land, have become one of the most hopeful movements looking to ward social betterment and uplift, says the Washington Star. He said that last year in Philadelphia 700 families, working on 186 acres of vacant lots, raised \$50,000 worth of vegetables, and that Detroit, Toledo and other cities and towns have undertaken similar schemes, conceded to be of the greatest advantage from an industrial as well as an educational point of view.

Mr. Powell's scheme is to obtain the

use of every vacant lot in the city and make farmers and gardeners out of the city's poor. A little pamphlet which he distributed recently bears the sig-nificant caption, "Self Help For Those Who Can't Work In Usual Business He believes the project a boon to old men and women who have outlived their usefulness in their respective trades or industrial callings and for invalids and cripples who but for the gardens would be dependent upon the city's charity. The scheme might be adopted by towns and villages and is a splendid way to beautify them.

"The small beginning made seven years ago in Philadelphia in the cultiion of vacant lot gardens as a means of aiding the unemployed," said Mr. Powell, "has passed beyond the fad or experimental stage. It has become quite an important factor in that great city's life, especially important to the more than 3,000 families whose members have sought and obtained employment through its good offices. The belief that it is better to show men bow and where they can find pleasant and profitable employment and if necessary properly direct their energies while engaged therein than it is to give aims, even through per-fectly conducted channels, has become so thoroughly established as to require

no argument in its favor. "The vacant lot gardening has al-ready become a most important branch of the public schools in many sections of this country. The last annual gathering of the American Park and Outdens and their importance as part of our industrial school work. Mr. D. J. Crosby, in charge of experiment sta-tions, department of agriculture, says that school gardens do for the children out of doors what the chemical lab-

oratory, the earpenter shop and the kitchen laboratory do indoors.

"The incalculable benefits of fresh air and moderate exercise to the physical health of every one are well known How immensely important it must be to shop and mill workers! How ele-vating to the moral health, which depends so much upon physical conditions, no one can tell. But sure it is that men have come to work these gardens in the spring who had become poor, partly or wholly through drink, and by the end of the season have left us sober and industrious citizens.

"What made this great change? In-stead of hanging around they have had pleasant and profitable employment wherein they were their own bosses. Parents bring little ones along to help weed and pick vegetables. Through this healthfulness of the work, which is in no sense toll, the pale, hollow bright eyed, laughing joys, filled with vigor and happiness before the season is over. 'The country week' becomes a 'summer's outing,' while the play-ground becomes also a workshop. To compare this natural relief with other ways of belping the unemployed may be rather odious to those employed in the other ways, especially to city gov-ernments that are spending millions of poor funds every year, while poverty and squalor are growing deeper and wider every day. For each dollar contributed to vacant lot cultivation in 1903 the beneficiaries for whom it was spent had, by adding to it their own labor, which otherwise would have been forever wasted, fully \$8 worth of produce. For each dollar paid in poor rates to a city the beneficiaries seldom get over 50 cents of actual aid. This is of vast importance to taxpayers and city officials charged with munici-

"Some may be rather skeptical as to the statements made, especially in regard to the large returns for the small expenditures, but you should consider that our market is next door to the gardens and that the gardener does his own marketing. His produce is fresh and of the highest quality, and he gets the highest retail price. He gets his fertilizers for next to nothing, as there are thousands of tons of good manure and street sweepings annually thrown into the city dumps which can be had merely for the asking.

"To landowners we say, 'Lend us your idle land, subject to immediate ession, and we will offer ample self help to all who can't work in usual employment.' We will make of it comething even better than a park or playground for the poor, or rather we will show them how to make not only parks and playgrounds for themselves but productive gardens as well, out of what is now only idle ground and in many cases rubbish heaps overgrown with noxious weeds and vines. We will help to make the town beautiful white making this kile land and these tdle people useful,"

When you get a catalogue from a big mail order house just look it over and and see what they will pay you for your produce; also investgate and see what they will pay you for your produce; also investgate and see what terms of credit they extend to you in case you do not have the ready cash; see how the much they will give toward keeping up the roads, streets, sidewalks and schools; just write and ask them how much they will give toward the crection of a new church; how much they will give toward the crection of a new church; how much they will give toward the crection of a new church; how much they will give toward the crection of a new church; how much they will give toward the crection of a new church; how much they will give toward the crection of a new church; how much they will give toward the crection of a new church; how much they will give toward the crection of a new church; how much they will give toward the crection of a new church; how much they will give toward the crection of a new church; how much they will give toward the crection of a new church; how much they will give toward the crection of a new church; how much they will give toward the crection of a new church; how much they will give toward the crection of a new church; how much they will give toward the crection of a new church; how much they will give toward the crection of a new church; how much they will give toward the crecition of a new church; how much they will give toward the crecition of a new church; how much they will give toward the crecition of a new church; how much they will give toward the crecition of a new church; how much they will give toward the credit as an no other country. Let the little feathered friends be undititied at Corvallis by James Withpy much can be deep time as our protected as in no other country. Let the little feathered friends be undititied at Corvallis by James Withpy much the will be and they will become tame as our of the lettle feathered friends be undititied at Corvallis by James Withpy to a v

when the ground was covered with snow, on the representation of the When the snow went off he made the bas met with reat success in Cleve-discovery that instead of being good land. Every spring the woman's aux-soil it was sandy and almost worthless thary of the Man acturers' associa-for cultivation. The funny thing was tion of that city takes to the work, and discovery that instead of being good and limost worthless for cultivation. The funny thing was that he was inclined to take the seller's word as to the quality of the soil because the man, his wife and twelve children had made a living on the farm for three years previously. Our friend wants to know what to do with this poor soil. We have before said that a sandy farm was by all odds the hardest sort of a farm proposition to handle. The wet farm can be drained, the stump and stony farm can be cleared, the suffic clay farm can be cleared, the stiff clay farm can be rendered productive by clover, manure and pasture. In Wisconsin the owners of sandy farms are meeting with some success by

THE SANDY PARM.

or possibly alfalfa, to use to get such soils into a productive shape. WILLOWS AND SWAMPS. We came across lately what we knew

thirty years ago as a muskeg swamp of four acres, an undrainable and ut-terly worthless and unproductive plot of land upon an otherwise good farm. The owner, finding he could not drain the swamp for lack of outlet, did a later. novel thing. He waded in and stuck years ago. As we saw the old swamp the other day the water stood three feet day the water stood three stood th the less valuable for all that. Thousands of farms all over the west offer the chance for experiments as above When the flowers are in bloom they

CATALPA FOR POSTS. We have two or three inquirles as it will do well it is one of the most valuable of trees for this purpose. It combines a rapid growth with great durability when used for this purpose. A tree planted fifteen years ago by a near neighbor on his lawn measures ten inches through at the butt total of at least six first class posts. North of latitude 40 there is some difficulty in getting the tree well start-

ed owing to the extreme cold of the and there are hundreds of thousands than to plant them with catalpa trees.

TRAMPS AND STARVATION. A friend is disposed to criticise our starvation remedy for the tramp nut- soil, no winter too severe. sance as un-Christian. Desperate diseases demand heroic treatment. The money changers were scourged out of the temple, not coaxed or invited; the scribes and lawyers were anathematized, not pleaded with; Ananias was struck dead for lying. The average tramp is in no sense the product of unhealthy economic conditions, but just a parasite who will live on the labor of others just so long as they will let him-just hungry because he is lazy, just lazy because he hates to work, just unclean and repulsive because, with human intelligence degraded, he lacks an animal instinct to take its place.

LIGHTNING LOSSES.

The season for lightning losses is at hand. A large share of the losses which the farmers' mutual insurance companies are called upon to pay is caused by loss of stock by lightning. This results from the almost universal use of wire fencing for the pastures and the failure to properly ground the wires, the wire on the fence being able any ordinary pasture in half a day. A piece of wire attached to the fence wire put in the ground to a depth of three feet will do the work if placed every thirty or forty rods along the

WHY WAS THIS THUST In a Minnesota town two men were

a typical son of the soil, having been themselves to give preference always raised on a farm, had no bad habits, to articles manufactured in the town was almost an ideal young man and or produced in the state and to labor was an enterprising and public spirited to bring others to their principles. The fellow, who paid out lots of money to members are working in the matter the laboring element of the community. with an astonishing vigor and have His opponent was a blacksmith, whose succeeded in booming local trade to a earnings went largely to the saloon notable extent. One feature of the cru- birds boys, or disturb their nests. They keeper, who never spent a cent for the town and paid no taxes. When the vote was counted the blacksmith had spent a cent for the town and paid no taxes. When the word was counted the blacksmith had spent a cent for the town and paid no taxes. When the word was counted the blacksmith had spent a cent for the living creatures. In Germany the sportsmen and boys killed the birds so 60 per cent of the votes. The explana.

If an of this is that the American records plied to every household in the town cult to find a bird in the country and tion of this is that the American people plied to every household in the town. in matters of this sort are quite often

natural born fools.

HELP BEAUTIFY TOWN.

A friend writes us that last winter be was persuaded to buy a small farm. The School Children of Cleveland Taught Home Gardening.

The plan of enlisting the aid of owner that it was a good piece of land, school children in beautifying a town

farms are meeting with some success by dren. The packages are sold to the growing clover, rye and potatoes. By children for a cent each, a cost at a clover rotation every fifth year suffi-

The auxiliary has perennials among its seeds this season. These will not bloom this year, but their deep, strong roots take firm hold in the soil and will blossom next summer and thereafter for years. They are of easy culture and once established thrive with almost no care. The planting of perennials, however, will be considered

Sweet peas should be the first plantcuttings of the common white willow ed. The first essential is a rich, mellow soil in a sunny place. The ground the other day the water stood three break up the clods and to allow the should be turned over and over to

> started up a support of strings or brush. Brush is often preferable. These builetins are now ready for make a beautiful screen for an old fence or a pretty background for low

to the value of the catalpa as a tree flowers for table or other decoration. to be planted for post timber. Where They bloom profusely, and they may be used lavishly every day for two or are allowed to form the vines stop blossoming at once.

by Planting a Few Seeds.

seems to be as hardy as a bur oak, earth's surface that cannot be covered

riety of seed, and you will find that there is no clay too tough, no sand too commission it appears that in 1902 the wonderful Pacific salmon fisheries hot and dry, no rocks too devoid of

If you have a swamp and are afraid of II. you can transform it into a water hily pond or a bog garden. If you own a bit of woods, you can

fill it with wild flowers. In the heart of the biggest city a ten inch hole can be made in the pavement, as they do In Boston, to cover the wall of the house with vines.

The slums have their window boxes, and houseleeks grow upon the shingles of a roof. Even the dump heap that you pass daily need not be an

An Enterprising Minister,

The beginning of a boom in a Michigan town started in the pulpit of one of the churches instead of among the business men. The minister preached of discharge. A crowbar, some short improved things 100 per cent within a pleces of wire, and a man can protect year. When a local minister has posted himself on the needs of his town, he is in as good position to bring them to public attention as the editor of a weekly paper. In some of the eastern cities part in keeping the walks clear of what careless citizens throw away.

Booming Local Trade.

try being able to boast a greater wealth

only 443½, a loss of three pounds. The hogs were not previously prepared for the test and the gain during the first period the doctor says, was due to a fillop on the apples, or the effect of pre-vious feeding. The fact that the pigs lost three pounds during the second period seems to indicate that the apples

experiments with an aggregate of 28 hogs of mixed breeding and various ages, the results show that it took 4 48 growing clover, rye and potatoes. By a clover rotation every fifth year sufficient humus and fertility are worked into the sand so that it will grow a good crop of potatoes once in five years.

We know of nothing better than clover, or possibly alfalfa, to use to get such softs that a productive shape.

Children for a cent each, a cost at which any child in the city can secure which a secure which a bundle of seeds that will beautify show that for the first half of the fattening period it required but 3.81 pounds of wheat to produce one pound gain, while in the last half it took 5 12 pounds of wheat to produce one pound gain, while in the last half it took 5 12 pounds of wheat to produce one pound of wheat to produce one pound gain; of wheat to produce one pound of wheat to p cent more wheat to produce one pound gain in live weight in the last half of gain in live weight in the last half of the teeding experiment than it did in the first half. Thus indicating that the heavily larded hog resultant from a long period of feeding is much more costly to produce than the block hog or the bacon type. In these experiments wheat seems to have given the best results as a fattening food. Results also indicate that a bushel of wheat properly fed to reasonably well bred hogs, should produce approximately 13½ pounds of live pork. There is much interesting and instructive matter contained in the bulletin and every pig raiser in the bulletin and every pig raiser in the valley should have one for reference

Value of Our Fisheries.

The United States fish commission rowing plants.

Sweet pens are exceedingly desirable salmon industry of the Pacific in 1902 reached larger proportions than ever before and became the leading branch of the United States fisheries, if the value of the product as prepared for three months, only all the blooms must market is considered. The pack of canned salmon was more than 3,500,000 cases of 48 one-pound cans, and in addition upward of 42,000,000 pounds of fresh, smoked and salted salmon were marketed. The pack of canned and will furnish two post cuts or a FLOWERS IN WASTE PLACES. salmon in Alaska was over 2,500,000 cases, an increase of half a million cases Unattractive Spots Made Beautiful over 1901. In the Puget Sound region You can grow flowers anywhere if than in the previous year, but the sas winters killing the new growth back, but after the tree gets six years old it becomes harder and from that time on America. There is no portion of the same to be a barder as a barder and for a period of same to be a barder as a barder seems to be as hardy as a bur oak. earth's surface that cannot be covered three weeks the cannories were unable It likes best a rich and moist soil, with some kind of plant growth, not a to handle the catch. At some o, the situation so desperate that it could not seine fisheries 20 tons of chinook salmor of waste acres all over the country be redeemed with the life and cheer which could not be put to a better use and color that flowers give.

You have only to select the right value in loading their boats in a night. From yielded about 280,000,000 pounds of round fish, whose first value, as placed on the market was \$18,000,000.

Beantifying the Home Farm.

Orange Judd Farmer. This is a matter which receives little onsideration on the average farm. With every possibility for making their homes the most beautiful, so far as immediate surroundings are concerned, farmers are apt to do little or nothing toward this end.

The United States department of agriculture has issued a bulletin, No. 185, devoted to the subject of beautify ing the home grounds. It is filled with Put a package of sunflower, poppy or morning glory seed in your pocket and scatter the seed over the offending spot, and of all the people who enjoy the transformation you will enjoy it most.

It is filled with timely suggestions as to the use of shrubs and flowers and also contains working plans for laying out the grounds about the home. It gives some valuable suggestions on the maintenance of the greensward. This bulletin can be obtained by writing the departnent. True it is that the average farmer has

call "fussing" with flower beds and the like. Nevertheless et would pay him to find a little time to devote to this sub-ject of pleasant home grounds. Almost a sermon on bad sidewalks, mudholes, poor sewerage and tumbledown build-flowers. Often her flower beds are the to carry a current heavy enough to ings, and the schoolteachers and scholonly recreation which the farmer's wife will stock a half mile from the point ars of the public schools took it up and ins. Too often these are hidden at the back of the house. Comparatively seldom are ornamental shrubs to be found on the farm. These things rightly combined can go far toward making the home attractive, not only to its inmates but to every one that passes. The labor involved will be comparathe school children play an important tively insignificant when the results part in keeping the walks clear of what obtained are considered. Home is, or should be, the most beautiful place on earth. Why not avail yourself of nature's joyfully given co-operation in In a Minnesota town two men were running for an important local office last fall, one a young lawyer who was a typical son of the soil, having been formed whose members pledge themselves to give preference always kept lawn, no matter how small. The front yard is not acceded for s hay crop. Plant trees, shrubs and flowers. Beau-tiful surroundings have an ethical value in influencing the home life.

> Let us say it again. Don't kill the as a consequence the insect pests be-A City of Roses.
>
> Augusta, Ga., is literally a city of ment then established the most strinroses in summer, no city of the coun-

Don't Kill the Birds.

of blossoms. A local paper proposes to make the effect still more straing by devoting all the space between the houses and streets to the cultivatior of process. been relinquished, but the birds are protected as in no other country. Let

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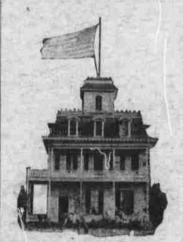
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free water, a fine buy...... 2,500 202-10 acres 31/2 miles from town, 31/2 acres in berries, 500 fruit trees, 8-room 2 story house, individual gas plant, 12 inches of spring water, a beautiful income

205-12 a. 31/2 m. from town, finely improved, all kinds of fruit, 400 fruit trees, 31/a. in berries, 4 a. meadow, good house, barn and well, a lovely home......2,500 The above are only a few samples taken from our large list. We also have the best bargains in city property; give liberal terms of payment and guarantee titles to all property we sell; attend auction sales anywhere in the state; we make quick sales on a small margin.

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