

TOMATO CULTURE.

Valuable Information Given by Government Experts.

To get an early crop it is necessary to start the plants during the winter. The best method is to sow the seed in a hot bed in rows two or three inches apart, and when the plants have developed their first true leaves transplant them to stand about two inches apart each way. This transplanting should be done in boxes filled with good rich soil or direct to another part of the bed. For the general crop, grown for canning purposes, this transplanting is all that is necessary until ready to plant in the field. For extra early tomatoes it is advisable to again transplant the plants when they reach the height of four or five inches. This time plant in three or four inch flower pots, strawberry boxes or tin cans which have had the tops and bottoms melted off. When grown in this way the plants can be left in the bed or cold frame until the blossoms begin to open.

Making a Hot Bed.

The hot bed may be made as follows: Select a well drained location, where the bed will be sheltered perfectly on the south side of a building or fence. Make an excavation eighteen inches deep the size your bed is to be. Throw in fresh horse manure and pack by tramping. The manure heap should be about even with the surface of the ground or eighteen inches deep. The manure furnishes the heat to start the plants. Put on top the manure four or five inches of good garden loam, which has not grown and diseased plants, and cover the bed with glass hot bed sash. If glass cannot be secured canvass may be substituted for the glass. The temperature will run high for a few days, but no seeds should be planted until the temperature falls to about 80 degrees F, which will require three or four days.

A bed made about five feet nine inches wide and about six feet long will be plenty large enough to grow plants for a tenth acre garden. This size bed will take two hot bed sashes which measure three feet by six feet. The frame to support the sash should be about fifteen to eighteen inches high at the back and six inches lower in front in order to get the bed warm before slope should be towards the south.

During bright days the bed will heat very quickly and it will be necessary to ventilate by raising sash on the opposite side from the wind. Toward evening close the sash in order to get the bed warm before night. Water the bed in the morning on bright days as watering in the evening or on cloudy days will have a tendency to injure the plants and increase the danger of freezing and damping off. Ventilate the bed after watering in order to dry off the plants.

Before the plants are set out they should be hardened off and this can be done by transferring to a cold frame or by removing the hot bed sash during the days in mild weather. As the plants become hardened the sash can be left off at nights when there is no danger of frost. This hardening off process must be done gradually to prevent any serious check to growth.

If it is impossible to make a hot bed the plants can be started in shallow boxes in the house. Get shallow boxes from a store and fill with good rich soil and sow the seed as described for the hot bed. Bore two or three holes in the bottom of the box for drainage. Keep the box as near a window as possible and at living room temperature. Close attention should be given to watering as the air of a living room is usually dry and will soon dry out of the soil. The plants must be developed in the light or they will be weak and spindling. They should be transplanted to other boxes or to a cold frame, which is made in the same way as the hot bed except that the manure is left out and canvass may be substituted for the glass sash. In the far South it will not be necessary to have a hot bed; the cold frame will be sufficient.

Popular Poverty.

Katie, aged seven, was the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Jones. One day, when the new minister called, Katie upon her own invitation, went into the parlor to entertain him until her mother came down stairs. As she approached the parlor door, Mrs. Jones heard the minister ask Katie how many children her mother had, and was very much surprised to hear her little daughter reply "six."

Her mother wisely made no comment upon the startling reply of the child, but sent her out to play; and when the minister's visit was over she asked Katie why she had told him that her mother had six children, and was more dumfounded than ever when Katie said: "Because, I did not want the strange gentleman to know that you were so poor that you didn't have but one child."—National Monthly.

JACKSON'S WIDOW DEAD.

Mrs. Mary Anna Jackson Jasses Away at Her Home in Charlotte.

Charlotte, N. C., March 24.—Mrs. Mary Anna Jackson, widow of Thomas Jonathan (Stonewall) Jackson, the famous Confederate general, died at her home here early today. She had been ill for many months. An attack of pneumonia three days ago hastened her death. Her granddaughter, Mrs. Randolph Preston, and other relatives were at Mrs. Jackson's bedside when she died. Public buildings, schools and business houses will be closed tomorrow, the day of the funeral. The body will be buried at Lexington, Va., beside that of "Stonewall" Jackson.

Mrs. Jackson was born near this city July 27, 1821, the daughter of the Rev. Robert Hall Morrison, a Presbyterian minister and founder of Davidson college. She attended Salem, N. C., academy and college, finishing in 1849.

Her marriage took place in July, 1837. Jackson then was a major, serving as instructor in the Virginia Military institute, at Lexington. She became a close student of military tactics and always took an aggressive interest in the fortunes of the Confederate armies. After her husband died of wounds in 1863 she wrote a volume of memoirs of his career.

Gen. and Mrs. Jackson had two children, both daughters. One died in infancy and the other married William E. Christian. At her death in 1889 she left a daughter, who became the wife of E. R. Preston, a Charlotte attorney, and a son, Thomas Jackson Christian, now a lieutenant in the United States cavalry, stationed in the Philippines.

Mrs. Jackson's last days were spent at the old Jackson homestead in this city. She had been ill for many months and suffered a relapse yesterday.

Weapons of the Nations.

The possession of America and the carriage of immense wealth along the sea-ways compelled Spain to maintain a navy. The presence of the galleons with their cargoes of gems and gold and silver tempted English statesmen and sailors as well as buccaneers and a navy became recognized as a weapon of attack as it had not been since Pompey cleared the sea in Roman times and Carausius defended his island with his ships. The loss of her ships forced Spain to build the Armada for the conquest of England but both governments expected the decisive battles to be fought on land; Howard and Drake and Hawkins must disobey instructions before they could force the fighting on the sea. It was not before Cromwell that England accepted the doctrine that the sea was the foundation of her strength.

Confined to the land Russia has always coveted harbors and seashores—since Peter the Great she has marched toward the warm waters because these only could supply the necessities of her national life. England saw in her an enemy because of this desire and it was only because England persisted in denying this wish that she joined herself to France with whom she had nothing in common except antagonism to Germany and the interchange of financial needs. Now Russia will attack England's Asiatic possessions unless England will divide the commerce and the waters.

The Germany of today is not only different from that of the Hapsburgs but cherishes antagonistic ideals; Frederick the Great and Maria Theresa were natural enemies—to her he was the pagan and the sensualist; to him she was that most foolish of all creatures the sovereign with a heart and a conscience. He wrote down the principles that have since controlled the policies of the Hohenzollerns and one of these rules teaches, "Maintain vigorously the maxim that stripping your neighbors is to take from them the power of doing you a mischief."

Of late years France has lost the ambitions that animated her under the Bourbons as under Napoleon and of necessity has been content to economize that she might live on the interest of the money loaned her neighbors; she is the capitalist nation. Leave her alone and she will be content to count her money and enjoy herself—the pity is that she is surrounded by neighbors who will not be still and can never be content.

These peoples have become dominated by the ideal each has cherished for so many generations; for what is Russia fighting in Poland but to open her road to Constantinople or to the Persian gulf? England can give these—if she will not, then why should Siberian peasants entertain the soldiers of Germany and Austria? England knows that her empire is lost should she allow another to exercise even equal power in her channel waters—to keep these she broke the strength of Holland and sent money to oppose Alva as she now defends Belgium.

Frederick, the founder of the Ho-

TROUBLE AHEAD.

This Country Slowly and Surely Drifting Toward War.

In these United States there is no such a thing as neutrality. Officially and privately we assure ourselves that we must remain neutral, but officially and privately we have very one-sided opinions, and hesitate not at all to express them in words or actions.

There are thousands of German-Americans who pray that the Fatherland may come off victorious. In the case of these the motive is racial pride and loyalty, and therefore obvious.

There are other thousands, of Irish, Scotch, French or other blood, who, while having no great love for Germany, are pulling for the Teutons merely because they want to see 17 kinds of tar knocked out of England.

But opposed to these are millions who are for England from sunrise to breakfast. The reasons for this partizanship are many and varied. The newspapers caused most of it, perhaps, but at bottom these millions take their stand because of a wholesome respect for England's great navy and a vague dread of Germany's giant army. They smirk before England because they are afraid of England's fleet and they pray that England may whip Germany now and thus prevent a future German invasion of America.

The result of this none too commendable feeling has been, both officially and privately a "neutrality" that gains the contempt of England and the bitter resentment of Germany.—Fountain Inn Tribune.

A Little Mixed.

The pathfinder relates that the chairman of the committee was addressing a meeting at a teachers' institute:

"My friends, the school work is the bulhouse of civilization, I mean—ah—"

The chairman had stage fright. "The bulhouse is the school work of civ—"

A smile began to be felt. "The workhouse is the bulschool of—"

He was evidently twisted. "The schoolhouse is the house-work—"

An audible snicker spread over the audience.

"The bulschool—"

He was getting wild. So were his hearers. He mopped perspiration, gritted his teeth and made a fresh effort.

"The schoolhouse, my friends—"

A sigh of relief went up. He has his feet under him again.

He gazed snavely around. The light of triumphant self-confidence was enthroned upon his brow.

"—is the woolbark—"

He gasped an sat down.

Risked Reputation.

Mistress (indignantly)—Jane, whatever did you mean by wearing my low-necked evening dress at the bus drivers' ball last night? Really, you ought to have been ashamed of yourself!

Jane (meekly)—I was mum. You never heered such remarks as they made.

henzollern power, took provinces from Austria and Poland; his victories brought on him a combination of his neighbors and he defended himself against the combined armies of France and Russia. In pursuance of his policies Bismarck first beat Austria and then France; in going further Germany has annexed Belgium and seek a line of seacoast from France to Holland that she may be free of the English hand at her throat. All that has been done for the past two years was to have been expected and the arguments are mere words which all despise save as they may conceal the plans woven into the hearts and brains of the peoples. A dominant English navy taxes Germany; a dominant German army arouses the fear of her neighbors—Russia desires to march forward, Germany trembles to expand as naturally as a bud in spring, but France would remain quiet and England has enough.

What will peace bring? The victor will expect to reap the fruits and be inclined to take them; the vanquished will collect his strength for another war. Pending another trial of the armaments, the strength to maintain these must be found in trade and all these lands that have been finished long ago demand raw materials and a market for their goods. These two desires bring America into play—the raw materials must come from the United States and the market must be found in South America. What have our statesmen to say and to do when confronted by these two facts of the supply of raw materials and the market? Is it not merely a return to barbarism if we must fight to solve the problems? They are old but why not find new solutions?—Florida Times-Union.

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