

UNDINE.

Peaceful Little Town is Now the Scene of Bitter Fighting.

"Undine, smallest of cities with one of the largest and most determined campaigns of the world-war based upon it, the centre from which the whole Italian attack in the east is directed, against Trieste, Gorizia and Villach, lies in a stretch of country noted even in Italy for its natural beauties, its vivid colorings, and luxurious climate," begins a war geography sketch just prepared by the National Geographic society at Washington. "The city is situated in a fertile, highly cultivated plain on the Roja canal, between the head of the Alps, 84 miles by rail northeast of Venice, and within less than 40 miles of the Italian battle line.

"The railroad which supplies the Italian side of the whole front runs into Undine, whence it leaves in four branches, north, south, northeast, and southeast. The southeastern branch joins the Austrian system between Gorizia and Gradisca, the first of which towns has given its name to one of the most bitterly contested and longest drawn out battles of all times. Thus the quiet little city, a commission centre for the rich agricultural country around, a quaint, old-fashioned place, has become headquarters for one of the great modern armies, a vast supply depot, and a confused, hustling metropolis for war-business. Before the war, it numbered some 25,000 inhabitants.

"Silk-spinning, from cocoons in the district and in neighboring Austrian Friuli, was the leading industry of Undine, that and the care of tourists stopping enroute to the Tyrol health resorts and to the wild ways of the Dolomites. It also had some manufacture of linen, cotton, hats, and paper. Industry in Undine, however, was of minor importance. Principally, it was an agreeable, picturesque station on the road from Venice to Klagenfurt, Austria, and thence to Vienna. Now, the little city ranks with Boulogne and Strasbourg as a great war camp."

Canning Garden Products.

Our garden was such a surprise to our neighbors last year that it may help others in planning and working a garden to know how it was managed.

The garden is 107x62 feet, and is comparatively new ground, only having been worked three years, is sandy soil on somewhat of a hillside, and only had one hundred pounds of cotton seed meal to fertilize during the entire year. February 1 I planted two rows—62 feet—of mustard and two rows of turnips, in beds. I use the flat rows except for early planting, and think best to use beds. From this we gathered salad every day for a month—gave quite a lot to the neighbors and sold 35 cents worth. I also planted two rows of turnips, two double rows of Alaska peas, one row beets, one row radish, and set out four rows with Bermuda onion plants and one row of lettuce plants at same time. From the peas we gathered one-half gallon every day for ten days, had beets also every day during the summer, and plenty of turnips, onions, etc., and canned some beets.

I have a home canner and can more vegetables than we can use. When the English peas were gathered I planted brown Crowder peas, and wish I had kept an account of just what was gathered from them—it was more than I ever saw from so small a place. They were planted flat and earth drawn to them as they grew, making them stand the drouth well.

When the Crowder peas finished bearing (August 14) I had the place spaded real close and deep and made shallow trenches and planted Irish potatoes, covered lightly, then covered with pine straw about one foot deep, and we had fine potatoes all fall, and are still getting potatoes from this bed.

The seed Irish potatoes were saved from the spring planting. February 14 I planted nine rows—46 feet long—of Triumph Irish potatoes and used no fertilizer at all. I had the ground plowed very deep and left flat, then took the hoe and laid off rows and planted potatoes and covered with the hoe. I do not approve of using a plow to cover potatoes. I never let the grass grow in them at all. They were never plowed, but dirt drawn to them often with the hoe and spaded between rows once.

When the potatoes were about through making I planted prolific corn between the rows, and when it was about six inches high gathered the potatoes—with the hoe—and pulled dirt to corn. By the time the corn had the second working I had the place level, which put the corn very deep and helped it to stand the dry, hot weather. We gathered one-half gallon Irish potatoes almost every day from May 18 until July.

From the corn we had roasting ears every day as long as it was tender, canned ten cans corn, and had corn to put in twenty-four cans of

vegetable soup that I made and canned. I put up in all thirty-eight three-pound cans of vegetable soup. I make soup with corn, okra, cabbage, onions, Irish potatoes, beans and butter beans; boil with piece of bacon or soup bone two hours, then seal in three-pound cans and boil two hours longer. This is delicious, and is ready for the table, having only to be heated to make a nice fresh vegetable soup.

I planted two rows of corn every two weeks during the summer and was never without roasting ears during the entire summer.

The secret of gardening is to keep planting. Even before one thing is removed I plant something by the side of it, and in taking up old plant work dirt to young plant.

Our tomatoes were the wonder of the entire neighborhood, and many came to see for themselves, as they could not believe the seemingly unreasonable reports that they heard from our tomatoes. I planted improved Ponderosa and Brimmer.

There is no question about the Brimmer being the finest table tomato to grow. I planted seed in February in boxes and kept in kitchen by window, and when they were quite small transplanted to three-pound cans. I melted the ends out of cans, then with a wire cutter cut cans open and tied together with string, placed on boards, filled cans with good rich soil and set plant in each can. As soon as danger of frost was over I removed string, pulled can from ball of earth and placed in ground.

The plant was then ready to grow off rapidly. When the plants were about one foot high I removed earth from plant and sprinkled one handful of cotton seed meal and tablespoonful of lime; then placed a five-foot stake by each plant and kept all trimmed to one stalk, tying about every six inches.

From six rows I canned seventy-five cans of tomatoes, seventy-five three-pound cans of okra and tomatoes, put in vegetable soup above mentioned, put up twelve bottles of ripe tomato catsup, six bottles green tomato catsup, besides six three-pound cans of mixed pickle that had green tomatoes in it and six cans of green tomato pickle, and ate tomatoes three times a day from May until frost, November 1. Many of the plants died during the drouth, as they were not watered at all, but a few near the house that were shaded, kept growing.

I lengthened the sticks, making them five feet higher, and the plants grew to the top of them—ten feet high and bearing to the top. The tomatoes measured 1 1/2 inches and borne in clusters of from four to eight of that size. I planted them between rows that had turnips, and pulled the earth to them until by midsummer they looked as though they were planted on beds.

My garden was only plowed one time, and that before a seed was planted, but I had the ground spaded deep between the rows.

I planted two hundred early cabbage plants February 1, and as soon as the plants began to grow put two tablespoonsful of cotton seed meal by each plant, and the cabbage were extra fine and lasted until late in summer.

At the last working of cabbage I set out collards between cabbage rows, and when cabbage had about all been cut, planted Keckley's sweet watermelon seed where cabbage was cut, and only flat weeded after that, and we had as many nice melons as we could use.

The last of September I spaded between the collard rows and sprinkled cotton seed meal by each plant, and we are now eating nice headed collards as white as cabbage.

I spaded nine hills very deep, put in handful of cotton seed meal, let stand two weeks; then planted Chicago pickling cucumbers, and from this I canned thirty-six two-pound cans of cucumber pickles, besides using them in mixed pickle.

You will notice I speak of "cans of pickle." Possibly some of your readers have not tried putting pickle in tin cans; if not, try it this year. Just put in cans fresh, pour in vinegar (slightly diluted) and season, seal and cook five minutes. The pickle will be crisp and fine. You must remove from the can as soon as opened.

In July I planted celery seed, and the last of August set plants in deep trenches, which had been previously fertilized and spaded deep. As plants grew I drew dirt to them, and we had nice blanched celery for Christmas. I also planted lettuce in fall and transplanted, and had nice headed lettuce for Christmas.

Lettuce will not head unless it is transplanted. I planted John L. English peas, cucumbers, carrots, salsify, turnips, and mustard and white Bermuda onion seed in the fall.

My vegetables won first prize at two county fairs for best collection of fresh vegetables last fall. I also won first prize at two county fairs for best collection of vegetables canned in glass.

I have sold three dozen two-pound

cans of tomatoes, four dozen three-pound cans okra and tomatoes, and two dozen three-pound cans of beans, besides have a quantity of canned vegetables on hand to last the family until summer. I exchanged some canned vegetables with my grocer for canned meats, which, I think, is a good plan to furnish the pantry with a variety, and is easier and cheaper than trying to can meats at home. I sell enough canned goods to pay for all the cans I use. In this way what we use costs us practically nothing.

I do not try to sell fresh vegetables, as I consider it better management to put it up and turn around in such a way as to furnish the family the year around with different things. We cook a variety of vegetables every day.

Over the garden walk I made an arbor and planted Kentucky wonder beans by it, and from this arbor we gathered beans almost all summer, and as the first planting began to fail I planted more by the side of them, and as the old vines died the new ones took hold, and we were not without beans all summer, and canned four dozen three-pound cans. I only had two rows of white velvet okra, but we had more than we could use, and canned one dozen cans, besides using it in soup above described, and okra and tomatoes.

I planted Chinese giant pepper, and from it canned "pimento," also two bottles of green pepper catsup, and three bottles of ripe pepper catsup. From one dozen stalks of red chili pepper I put up six quarts of pepper sauce. In this garden there was a storm pit, and I had very deep holes spaded on each side of pit and filled with new earth and one handful of cotton seed meal and let stand two weeks, then planted cushaw seed, and from the four hills we gathered twenty-four nice cushaws. I laid a plank over the pit and trained vines to cover it, and made a beautiful as well as useful spot. I planted butter beans around the gallery and fence, and had all we could use and some to can.

I would go to the garden very early every morning and spend from one to two hours working it, and in this way I could keep up with the work myself, and with the exception of spading and one plowing never hired any work done, and found quite a lot of pleasure in it. I believe in good seed—do not try to economize on seed. I order all seed from a reliable dealer, and buy the best they list. I plant the year around, and never let the grass grow. Select a small piece of ground, fertilize well, spade and hoe continually. Never stop planting and working and you will be repaid a thousand fold.—Miss Everette Bozeman, in Home and Farm.

Four Rules for Right Reading.

A hint to readers that will, perhaps, prove far more helpful than five foot bookshelves and pigskin libraries, is contributed by Laura Spencer Porter to the February Woman's Home Companion.

"Let us take Gibbon's practice," she says, "as a valuable first rule, measuring our own ideas, our experience, our knowledge, or, it may be, our ignorance of the subject of any given great book.

"And as a second rule, let us find out from some good reference book or biography the main facts about the life of the author we are reading and something about the times in which he lived.

"As a third rule, let us make notes on all that we read seriously, notes, I mean, as we go, for it is but poor flattery to let a friend do all the talking and to make no comment on what he says. This practice of making notes is, I do believe, very essential to a right use of books. I know there are those who think it a bad thing to mark a book; but to have too nice an eye in this matter is to value paper more than friendship. Let us mark especially the places that give us fresh thought, stimulus, pleasure; let us mark those with which we agree and those with which we disagree, stating our own views clearly.

"As a fourth rule: Just as soon as we feel that we know even two or three great books let us compare them with each other. Very much as fine people agree on fundamentals so we shall find these great authors agreeing, as a rule, in essentials, yet all expressing themselves how differently. Moreover, it is just in these differences of expression that the main distinctions of style lie, and it is noting them carefully that we shall better appreciate the personality of a writer. Read Stevenson's discourse, for instance, on 'Crabbed Age and Youth,' and compare it with Bacon's essay, 'Of Youth and Age.' How in the very wording and manner of speaking the two men seem almost to appear before one."

Obedied Instructions.

"Willie, you haven't said whether you thanked Mr. Carter for taking you out for a ride."

"Yes, mother, I thanked him, but I didn't tell you, because he said, 'don't mention it.'"

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ASSESSMENT NOTICE.

The Auditor or his deputy will be at the following places on the days and date below for the purpose of receiving returns of personal property and notice of real estate bought or sold since last return. The Auditor will appreciate it very much if every taxpayer will make a list of his personal property and the price at which he wishes to list it with the Auditor. This will save time for all concerned and avoid the forgetting of any item of personal property:

- Farrell's—January 6, from 10 to 1 o'clock.
- Midway—January 7, from 9 to 10:30 o'clock.
- Ehrhardt—January 13.
- St. John's—January 14, from 9 to 11 o'clock.
- Kearse—January 14, from 12 to 2 o'clock.
- Govan—January 20.
- Olar—January 21.
- Denmark—January 27.
- Lee's—January 28, from 10 to 1 o'clock.

All male persons between the ages of 21 and 60 (except Confederate soldiers) are liable to \$1 poll tax. All able-bodied male persons between the ages of 21 and 55 are liable to \$2 road tax. Dogs 50 cents.

Automobiles will be returned separately from other articles. Household goods will be returned separately from other goods. Taxpayers are urged to find out the name and number of the school district in which they reside, and be prepared to give this information to the Auditor when they make their returns.

Please get your age in your mind. I will be at the court house on all days not mentioned above until the 20th of February. After the 20th of February a penalty of 50 per cent. will be added to all personal property not returned, so make yours before the 20th.

R. W. D. ROWELL, County Auditor.

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