

THE SAGE OF POSSUM FORK

GIVES PRACTICAL HINTS ON CANNING TOMATOES.

The Tomato a Dainty and Wholesome Edible—A Word about Nature's Canning.

Editor County Record:—

At the head of every thing raised in gardens, I think tomatoes wear the crown as an appetizing and health giving diet, whether eaten raw, in soups, or in sauces. Nothing can take the place of the common tomato sauce and all know how to cook it. We should eat less meat and more tomatoes. Don't forget to can them for winter use. I have known them kept in tin cans cemented with a wax string. Glass jars are familiar to all. Some people fail to make them keep, say they have had bad luck; but there need be no luck about it.

The man who transplants his fruit trees in the spring and has to water them and beg them to live; but the man who transplants in the fall and puts a bunch of straw around can just order them to live.

Air seems to contain all the germs of destruction producing fermentation. Wood cannot rot if kept from the air; living things thrive on air, animal or vegetable—they cannot live without it;—dead things ferment and decay in it.

Canned fruit must be heated sufficiently to sterilize whatever air may be in it or about it; and it is not enough to put it boiling hot in the jars and then put on a cold screw cover containing cold air in every crevice; for the germs of fermentation thus enclosed will do their work and not be long about it. Have the jar covers in boiling water and also dip the rubbers in too. Screw down quickly and keep in a cool place. And don't forget to tighten again while cooling, for the contents will shrink in cooling, and cold air will find its way through the least crevice, for all know the air is pressed into every opening with a constant pressure of 2000 pounds on every foot of surface.

I have helped to put up grape juice fresh from the press, "un-fermented wine". Just cork the bottles, setting in boiling water after filling with hot grape juice, and keep in a cool place. We also let some of the grape juice start to ferment so as to give it a sharper taste, and heated and bottled it in that state find that it will keep just as it is put up, unchanged until opened, when it will set up fermentation.

Now Mr. Editor, all this is old and stale to some, but young folks are coming on and old things should be repeated. But the tomato diet is not so old. I can remember when they were not so common. Some called them love apples. But with the generations come new dietaries. You know a few generations ago there were no "pearl grists", or "corn bread", or potatoes, and no tobacco to chew or to smoke, only among the Indians. So now if the beef trusts succeed in making our diet more vegetarian, it may prove conducive to long life.

Now, a word about nature's canning. Many of your readers have seen the rush-like plant that has developed in the ditches that carry the water from many of the flowing wells in our county. Some call them cat tails, not that it is a new plant, for there are acres of them in the marshes on

the coast. But it is new to see them growing in the up land ditches. They are seen now in the ditch from the well at Prospect, and the McDaniel well, and the Jarvo Prosser well in Lake township; also at Hinson and at J. C. Lynch's well ditches, as well as at other artesian wells. A small stem runs up about 5 feet, on the top of which is a seed head somewhat like a brown corn cob; each tiny seed has several little silk-like filaments attached and when dried will almost float in the air. But while green the head is hard and very compact. The blades are some 8 feet long, 4 inch wide, and doubled with air cells between. None of them are in the swamps around here except a few in Muddy creek near Ards X Roads.

Now, Mr. Editor, where did the seed come from that grow in these upland ditches? Did they come up 300 feet from below with the sand and other things? How did they get down there? Did pre-historic earthquakes swallow down portions of the forest and swamps and perfectly can up these seeds before Father Adam's time? no air could penetrate the impervious strata from above, and if it is true as claimed by rice planters, that rice will lie in the mud at the bottom of a canal for 10 years and grow when thrown out in cleaning the canal, then how much more perfectly canned up would be these little seeds 300 feet below. I have seen it stated that grains of wheat lay 1000 years in Egyptian mummies and sprouted when planted, but always thought that a yankee tale.

But, one other species of canning should claim our attention since cattle raising is coming to the front, to wit; The Silo, where green feed is cut and pressed into a tall, tight building, and weighted down to exclude the air. Not that all air is pressed out either, but the mass is compressed sufficiently to prevent any circulation of air through it; and, as it always undergoes a heat that sterilizes the imprisoned air, it will keep all through winter, with the exception of a little on the outside where fresh air gets to it. Sorry to say no Silos, artesian wells and cat-tails obtain in POSSUM FORK.

The budget of new stories, good to tell after dinner, which Lipincott's Magazine appropriately calls "Walnuts and Wine," is never allowed to flag in interest or quality. Month by month they grow better, and in the September number there is uncommon abundance.

Lots of girls get married merely to gratify their curiosity.

Final Discharge.

Notice is hereby given that on Monday, September 15, 1902, I will apply to Judge of Probate of Williamsburg county for a final discharge as administratrix of the estate of G. R. Grimsley, deceased.

MRS. LOU H. GRIMSLEY, Administratrix.

Registration Notice.

The office of the Supervisors of Registration will be opened on the first Monday in every month for the purpose of the registering of any person who is qualified as follows:

Who shall have been a resident of the State for two years, and of the county one year, and of the polling precinct in which the elector offers to vote four months before the day of election, and shall have paid, six months before, any poll tax then due and payable, and who can both read and write any section of the constitution of 1895 submitted to him by the Supervisors of Registration, or who can show that he owns, and has paid all taxes collectable on, during the present year, property in this State assessed at three hundred dollars or more.

J. J. EADDY, Clerk of Board.

Lots of men would make money but for the trouble they might bump up against in trying to pass it.

Final Discharge.

Notice is hereby given that on Monday, September 1, 1902, we will apply to the Judge of Probate of Williamsburg county for a final discharge as executors of the estate of W. W. King, deceased.

T. E. KING, W. B. KING, Executors.

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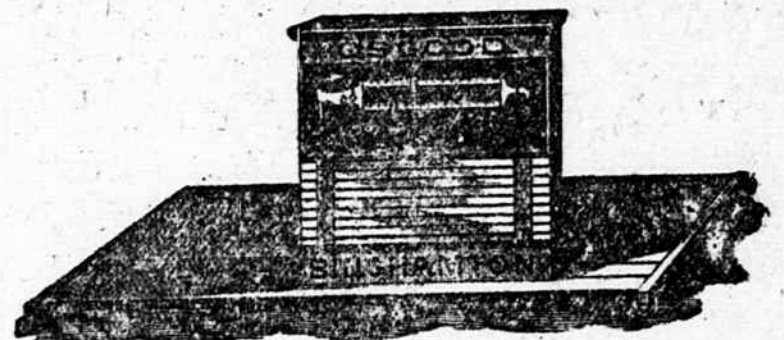
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