

THE HOMELY PEPPER

Sale of the Hot Peppers Has Enormously Increased in New York in Recent Years

"New York uses now," said a produce commission merchant, according to the New York Sun, "20 times as many peppers as it did 20 years ago. The city's consumption of peppers now amounts to thousands of barrels annually. Then we get green peppers now from a much wider range of territory than formerly, and we have them practically the year around. We get peppers in winter from Cuba, and we get a few from Porto Rico. We naturally think of the pepper as a homely sort of a domestic garden product, but those early peppers that we get from Cuba come in small crates, as carefully packed as peaches would be, and they bring a high price. They go principally to hotels and restaurants."

"We get early peppers from Florida, too, and later some from Virginia, around Norfolk, and then as the season advances we begin to get peppers from New Jersey, which is really the great source of our pepper supply. There are sections of Jersey in which produce farmers make a specialty of peppers, plant them by the acre and raise great crops of them."

"The enormous increased local consumption of peppers in recent years is due in considerable measure to increased demand from packers. Peppers are now more extensively used than ever before in the preparation of condiments and sauces and there are New York packers of pickles and preserves who would think nothing of buying peppers in hundred barrel lots. But the great increase in the demand comes in still greater measure from the vastly increased foreign population of the city, and from the Italians especially, who, great consumers of all fruits and vegetables, take, with the rest of the green things they buy, quantities of peppers, eating more or less of the sweet peppers as they would fruit."

"So the homely pepper, once familiar to us in its stuffed and pickled form, and known to us as a thing of regular but of limited sale, has come to cut quite a figure as an item in the city's wholesale produce trade."

DRILLING A ROCK.

Rhythmic and unerring surety of motion exhibited by the Man Who Drills.

For rhythmic and unerring surety of motion, commend me to three sturdy fellows boring a hole in a piece of rock. Maybe you have never watched lodgment drilling rock, so that you cannot exactly realize the physical skill necessary to do this thing, the long practice of hand and eye required for it," says the Lowell Citizen.

"One man sits upon the rock which is being drilled, and holds with his hands, between his knees, the drill which is to pierce the rock. Two companions stand above him and relentlessly raise and fall their heavy hammers upon the drill's head, at a hairy breadth from his fingers."

A deviation of a fraction of an inch would mean a broken wrist or a maimed hand to this man. He does not seem to think of it, or of the ponderous hammers crashing through the air over his very head. Before each stroke of the hammer descends he has to turn the drill in the hole, so that the stroke will not bore twice in the same place, for the hole must be bored round in order to insert the dynamite stick. The perfect accord, the perfect rhythm of the motions of the three, has a fascination."

Were they machines, these men could not keep steady time in this unending turning of the drill under the ceaseless falling blows. It is music, rude and primitive if you will, but music to an ear alive to musical tempo and rhythm. Who knows but it was this harmony of successive blows, of measured, repeated blows upon resounding stone, which first awoke primitive man to the musical value of sounds reiterated at stated and fixed intervals? I thought these things as I listened to the flawless tempo and rhythm achieved by my three lodgment men, and rhythm seldom attained by modern "recitantes," too recklessly fond of the tempo rubato. I thought these things and there was no prehistoric gentleman around to rudely contradict my surmises on the awakening of music in the primal soul."

Would Dressers Love Market?

Mr. Dodd's sermon on the subject of the New Year's resolutions and the market, was a success. He had a suggestion to make to the merchants. "I do not intend to give my suggestions to architects, engineers, Mr. Clemens argued."

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NOVEL REMEDY FOR ANTS.

The Insects, Want Grease and Should Be Supplied with Plants

When our pantry began to creep and crawl with red ants of microscopic proportions, writes a correspondent of Youth's Companion, we fled for advice to our resourceful neighbor, Mrs. Smith, and said, "What do you do for tiny red ants?"

"Feed them," was the astonishing reply. "Feed them?" we exclaimed indignantly. "They are simply eating us out of house and home as it is."

"Yes," she said, "they are hunting for grease, which is their favorite food, and if you will supply their need, they will quit wandering over your domain at once. Discover, if you can, the place in your pantry where they enter, and put a bacon rind nearby and watch the result."

"Well, we did little else but watch the result for weeks. The pantry became the center of interest for the whole family. I have known at least one member to get up in the middle of the night to creep down, candle in hand, to watch the interesting little workers. From the bacon rind to the crack in the corner, a foot and a half away, there were two steadily moving columns of ants, one coming and one going, night and day, till the rind was nothing but white dust."

"I think I never saw a more remarkable illustration of the value of method and organization. Here were thousands of tiny laborers in constant motion, yet without the possibility of confusion. No ant ever crossed another's path or delayed him for an instant in his appointed work."

"The newspaper on the shelf made it possible to observe the accurate order of the two columns. The line of march moved in a wavering line from the crack through which it entered to a point six or seven inches from the bacon, where it turned sharply at a right angle and approached the body. Perhaps the line was marked out by the first explorer, who followed some guiding sense in making his discovery. But when it had once been established, every ant followed it without variation."

"My observations covered several weeks, and during all that time, night and day, every ant passed exactly over certain lines in the newspaper, the 'A' in 'king,' the second 'e' in 'despised,' and turned a sharp corner at the letter 'o' in 'palace.'"

"It was interesting, too, to note the unflinching courtesy with which they greeted each other. No ant ever failed to salute those whom he met by touching antennae with them. If by any chance he missed one, he would go back and apparently apologize for his mistake. And this beautiful little courtesy was so perfect a part of their industrial life that it caused no serious delay in their work."

"For weeks these two columns of courteous little toilers passed along their way to and from the bacon rind, furnishing us no end of amusement, and incidentally ridding the rest of the house from what had been a distressing nuisance."

AN EMBARRASSING ORDEAL.

The Man with a squeaky Shoe in the Church Aisle While the Sermon Was On.

It was difficult Mr. Dodd's one opportunity to hear a famous preacher in an equally famous church, so although he knew that he should be obliged to leave the place shortly after 12 o'clock in order to catch his train, he decided to hear as much as possible of the service, relates Leslie's Monthly. The usher ignored the visitor's whispered plea for an inconspicuous seat, and proceeded to escort him up the broad center aisle—which turned Mr. Dodd remembered ever afterwards as being about four miles long—to a seat only three rows from the front."

Long before time for the sermon poor Mr. Dodd began to nerve himself for the long trip down the aisle."

"It was 12 o'clock and the sermon was well under way before the troubled listener finally managed to summon sufficient courage to make a start. Rising cautiously to his feet, he faced the congregation and began to tip toe down the aisle. Before he had taken three steps he discovered to his horror that his left shoe was creaking with an ominous creak that increased in volume with every step, to the visible amusement of the congregation."

"His countenance became suffused with blushes. It was not a warm day, but by the time Mr. Dodd had reached the door perspiration stood in beads on his forehead and his collar showed signs of wilting. As the door closed behind him he gave a long sigh of relief and unburdened himself to a tailor in the vestibule."

"By the Lord Harry!" he exclaimed, as he mopped his crimson brow, "I wouldn't do that again for a thousand dollars!"

"But he had to do it for less than that. The very next moment his color returned from his countenance and he turned pale green."

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GET DRUNK ON COLOGNE.

The Indians of Northwestern Canada Are Fond of Piling Up on Toilet Preparations.

Eau de cologne and other toilet preparations are doing a great deal of harm among the Indians of Peace river district in northwestern Canada, according to a member of the Canadian geological survey, who lately returned from a visit to that region, says the New York Sun.

The harm comes from the fact that the Indians drink them.

Cologne and various other concoctions known as Florida water, essence of ginger and essence of peppermint, are prepared especially for internal use by traders, who are not permitted to sell whisky to the Indians. The stuff is in really nine-tenths pure alcohol. J. M. Macoun, of the Canadian survey, says that the traffic in alcohol thus disguised has become such a serious matter that the missionaries have become discouraged and the business of the Hudson Bay company promises to be embarrassed.

The Indians have learned that the sweet-smelling things are to drink, and are not to be wasted as exterior ointments. If one were to consult the Dominion records of importations, one would suppose that the Indian half-breeds of the northwest had suddenly developed a remarkable fondness for cleanliness, for the customs reports show an unusual increase in the quantity of toilet waters imported. Most of these preparations come from the United States.

According to Mr. Macoun, the effects of drinking these preparations are very serious. The cologne is especially injurious, as it has shown a tendency to affect the eyesight of Indians drinking it continuously.

An Indian who has drunk a pint bottle of cologne contracts a jaak which would put a continuous round of ten Manhattan cocktails to shame. The prevailing tint of everything, according to a few intelligent half-breeds who had used cologne, was a beautiful green, of varying shades.

Mr. Macoun also asserts that he took one drink of cologne just to see what sort of stuff the Indians were drinking, and found it so sweet and nauseating, and at the same time so burning hot, that he was glad to end his experiments. The

in moderate quantities, and the effect of singer, he thought, might be beneficial to persons exposed to the rigors of northern climates, but it would be far better to secure unadulterated essences prepared at a chemist's, rather than drink the stuff prepared for the Indians and half-breeds.

MARTIAL POWER OF JAPAN.

Island Empire Has 650,000 Good Fighters in Standing Army and Powerful Navy.

Japan is not a small country, and the Japanese are not a weak people. There are some 42,000,000 Japanese. The empire contains about 150,000 square miles, one-quarter more than England, Scotland and Wales. In other words, the Japanese empire is considerably larger than Great Britain, and contains about 19,000,000 more people, writes the author of "Little Japan," in Gunton's Magazine. It is fortunate in being an island realm from the sea. This in view of its powerful navy probably superior to that of Russia, gives it a tremendous advantage in war with the northern empire. Again, it is so close to the Asiatic continent that it could land troops in Corea or Siberia much more rapidly than Russia could march them over land or transport them on the Siberian railway. Again, the 42,000,000 Japanese are more closely knit by national ties, by loyalty and patriotism and zeal than any equal number of people on the face of the globe. In this respect they resemble ancient Sparta, the Dutch in Europe, and the magnificently heroic Bers.

As to their military qualities, it is well known that the Japanese army is not only of considerable size, but that its discipline and equipment are fully equal to that of the French or German forces. The present standing army of Japan is something like 650,000 troops, or equal in size to the army of either France or Germany, and in military efficiency it is undoubtedly the superior of either.

Plant Worth Watching.

"A plant that is its own gardener is, you would think, an impossibility," said a peanut dealer. "In the peanut, though, we have just such a plant—a plant, as it were, with a spade. The peanut grows in the air and sun, but when the flowers fall off and the pods appear it is necessary for these pods to mature under ground, and, therefore, the plant buries them. It buries them with a movement of the stalk, a downward bend that pushes the pod beneath the soil. This is a strange thing to see, it makes a peanut patch well worth a visit. Go to one of these patches at the season when the flowers are falling, and if you are patient you may have the luck to catch a plant in the very act of burying its pods."—Philadelphia Record.

Great Grape Greenhouse.

Near Franfort-on-the-Main there is a greenhouse about 250 feet long, 20 feet wide and 15 feet high, in which 120 different varieties of grapes—Spanish, German, French, Italian, etc.—are cultivated. The vines are only two years old, but owing to the electric treatment, they look like five-year-old vines, and some of the bunches of grapes weigh up to three pounds.

Egg Metropolis.

The city of Kasan is known in Russia as the "egg metropolis." In 1903, 1,250 car loads of eggs (185,000,000 eggs), valued at 2,500,000 rubles, were exported from this place to various European and Asiatic cities.

TABLE MANNERS.

Little Bits of Information as to the Correct Thing in Etiquette.

If the function—luncheon or dinner—is one of ceremony, and gloves are worn at the table, they should be removed as soon as one is seated, and laid in the lap, says the American Queen. The napkin is unfolded to half its amplitude, and also laid across the lap. Gentlemen do not tuck their napkins in their waistcoats, no matter how convenient they may find such an arrangement.

The napkins which at dinner are placed upon the plates hold the dinner rolls or the slices of bread. Remove the bread as soon as seated, and place it at the left of the plate. The napkin, at the end of the meal, is left unfolded at the left side.

Bread is always broken in small pieces, never cut and never crumpled into soup or sauce.

Soup is taken from the side of the spoon, which is filled by drawing it up from the opposite edge of the soup plate. Soup, of course, must be taken noiselessly. No one takes a second helping, or tips the plate to secure the last mouthful.

Fish, in days past, was taken with a fork, supplemented by a bit of bread; nowadays, a silver knife is allowable, and forks and knives for fish being made of a special pattern. All vegetables are eaten with a fork; apparatus with a knife and fork, although it may be eaten with the fingers if one prefers to do so. A very safe rule, however, is never to touch any bit of food with the fingers if possible. Peas and pears are peeled, cut in half, and then broken by the fork and thus eaten. An orange may be cut in half, and then eaten with an orange spoon, or it may be peeled entirely, then divided into sections and eaten with a fork.

All pies are eaten with a fork only, and most puddings, except cakes, which require a spoon. Soft cakes are eaten with a fork, while jellies, no matter how hard, are eaten with a spoon.

There are dozens of people who would be mortally offended by the suggestion that they eat with a knife. But they must be careful how they thrust a knife into a dish of sweets, or of any sauce, and convey a portion of these to pieces of bread or cake. This

is done in the most proper manner. In using the knife and fork a movement of the wrist and not of the elbow, is the proper thing; one occasionally sees people using their elbows viciously. The handle of the knife should rest in the center of the hand, and no part of the hand should touch the knife above the handle. In using the fork, only the half of the handle is covered by the hand.

COLORS THAT WILL RULE.

Some Dress Hints for Feminine Followers of the Latest in Vogue.

"What will be the four most popular colors of the winter?" asked a woman of her milliner, according to the Brooklyn Eagle.

"Heather brown, hunter's green, old tree bark brown and ecru," replied the milliner unhesitatingly, "with dashes of red and blue and green trimmings."

"And what will be the most fashionable materials?"

"The touch of silk, until it is time to wear furs, then the smooth satiny cloth to better suit the fur, it will be an expensive winter for the well dressed portion of femininity, for a woman must wear the heavy cloth now and the rough surfaces, while, later she must make an entire change to broadcloths and satin faxes. That is, if she would be in the mode."

And, indeed, it seems as if woman must be perpetually making changes in her wardrobe, for no sooner does she get settled in style and fitted out in gowns, than something new comes along which absolutely demands attention and a change.

The Bounce which was trying to go out of style is now trying to get back in. And it is succeeding, for every other gown has a bounce set upon the skirt. But it is done in a new way. The bounce, instead of being added to the skirt, is so arranged that it seems to be a part of the skirt, lengthening it, instead of merely acting as the trimming.

When the very rough goods are worn the Bounce is sometimes out of a different way of the goods, and, so, it looks quite another material and very pretty. It is with its contrast of color and grain. The woman's hair goods and the heavier surface sometimes have a bias Bounce. And one gown, a stately, sensible colored ghelone had a flounce of deep, dark blue colored velvet.

Cranberry Sweet Pudding.

To one cupful of finely chopped sweet add one cupful of cooked cranberries (the berries must be very sweet), one cupful of molasses, three cupfuls of flour, two tea-spoonfuls of baking powder, salt and spice, butter a baking powder can will, pour the batter in it, cover tightly and boil in hot water three hours, turn out the pudding when done by inverting the can with a fork, serve with a hard sauce of butter and sugar. Good Literature.

Delectable Oysters.

Drain clean and chop 25 oysters, add half a cupful of cream, one tablespoonful of melted butter, two tablespoonfuls of Worcestershire sauce, salt and pepper to taste, butter clean oyster shells or fancy basing dishes and fill with the delectable oysters; bake 20 minutes, or until nicely browned.—People's Home Journal.

Apple Jelly.

Allow three fourths of a pound of sugar to every pint of apple juice, and boil for 15 minutes. Flavor with either orange or lemon. Home Farmer.

CURIOUS VIOLET RAY EFFECTS.

Restore Wilted Poppies and Prevent Them from Withering Again Even in Sunlight.

While studying the effect of the violet and ultra-violet rays on plants, I discovered that these rays exerted a very unique and well-marked effect on the blossoms and foliage of the common field as well as the rarer perennial (Holland) poppy, says a writer in Scientific American.

One morning I cut some poppies for decorative purposes. An hour or so after they had been placed in a vase I noticed that they had withered. I was in the act of removing them when my mother stopped me, saying, "Don't throw them out, they will come to life during the night and will be all right to-morrow morning."

I at once began a course of observations and experiments in order to discover, if possible, the cause for this seeming death and resurrection.

It was noticed that the withering process began the very moment the flower was separated from the parent plant; the petals losing stiffness and resilience and drooping toward the stem. This withering continued until, finally, at the end of half or three-quarters of an hour, the blossom presented every appearance of being moribund.

The immediate withering indicated that, whatever the cause for it, that cause was instantaneous in action and had to do with the vital principle of the plant itself; there was instant interference with the life-producing and life-sustaining functions.

It was soon determined that the hour of cutting (during daylight) had nothing to do with the production of the phenomena, for the flowers were gathered at daylight, sunrise, 10 a. m., 12 m., three p. m. and seven p. m., and it made no difference; the withering process took place. Nor had temperature anything to do with it.

But flowers cut at night would not begin to wither until they were exposed to light. This indicated that light had something to do with causing this quasi-death, and if this hypothesis were true, the cause was primarily chemical in nature and occasioned in all probability by certain particular rays.

I had discovered in former experiments that the orange, red and yellow rays were not lethal to plant life, but the violet rays had a very marked effect on them.

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TUNNELING THE HUDSON.

Several Attempts Have Been Made, Dating Back to the First Century.

The most noteworthy phenomena to be observed in the effects of the violet and ultra-violet rays of the poppy are their immunizing properties. A poppy which has been subjected to the light and which has withered and then resprayed will remain unharmed when placed even in the direct rays of the sun.

CRIMINALS' DEFENSES.

Offenders Against the Law Seldom Offer New Pleas in Their Own Behalf.

"The world" said one of the most brilliant criminal lawyers at the Chicago bar, has moved in everything except defenses. My meaning is, not that I mean to say that during the last hundred years, or perhaps three or four hundred years, the only class of men who have progressed on the road of the world is the criminal class."

"They have improved their appliances. I know. But what has been accomplished now that they need to be? It is not their trade, but their means of the police and they are as helpless as ever. I would have been had they been arrested during the nineteenth or even the eighteenth century."

"The only three defenses that are used to any extent are these: Shopworn ones, the alibi, mistaken identity and insanity. Still in any of the court rooms in the criminal court building on the North side and listen to the defenses that are made."

"Examine these cases where the prisoner is guilty. How does he defend himself? He tries to prove that he was not at the place where the crime was committed, or he tries to prove that the witnesses against him should not believe their own eyes and that they took somebody else for him."

"Judges on the bench have had up, they would be started out of their composure if a professional criminal was to try any other defense."

"The alibi is the favorite. It is a lying in one part of town that a good alibi can be bought for \$250. Perhaps it is its cheapness that recommends it, for its lawyers are surprised that no new defenses are ever conceived."

Geographical Mosaic.

An Italian mobman has lately had a yard of marble plates laid upon his grave, one of which has been inscribed with a different kind of European. A six African, America and Europe have all supplied materials for this curious mosaic, which is inscribed with 500 pieces, each engraved with the name of the colony from which it came.

German Southwest Africa.

German Southwest Africa is being recommended by German physicians as a permanent home for all employees and young men with tendencies in that direction. The sun-rays are like those in southern California, the air pure and dry, the sky always blue, and the temperature moderate and inviting to the outdoors.

Through Cured by Death.

A Canadian young woman has just been cured of the chronic cough by an operation. The trouble was with her eyes, a severe case of asthma was