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RED ROSE ORANGE PEKOE

Bargains in Beauty

BY FRANK A. AUST.

There, now, that's done! When I go to town I'll get a few packages of seeds and we'll see if we can't dress up this yard a bit. Wife'll like that, too.

The man in overalls straightened up from the gravel walk he had been smoothing with his hoe. He leaned on the handle and frowned a little as he continued: "Have to do some sowing, I guess, to get much of a flower garden this year. But—we'll see."

The low cottage among the cutovers shone in the spring sunshine with new white paint. The fall before the stumps had been cleared away for a few acres on all sides leaving only a scattering of trees to furnish shade for the dooryard. Otherwise the place was as bare of decoration as a newly laid egg—and quite as clean.

On this pioneer farm for several years to come, there would be but little money to spend for luxuries but both he and Mrs. Smith agreed that some flowers they must have.

"Well see what this dollar bill will buy," were David's parting words to his wife as he waved the greenback at her and started for town the next day.

"Try to get yellow and white as much as you can," Mrs. Smith called after him.

When David Smith returned, he had the seeds. For bordering the gravel walk there were two packages of sweet alyssum. These seeds were planted quite thickly for a short distance along the walk. When the plants were large enough to take up, some of them were transplanted so that they would extend along both sides of the entire walk. For two reasons this was found to be a better plan than to sow the seeds the whole length at first. Any seeds offer some protection for each other when planted close together; and they could, in this case, be more easily covered and sheltered from hungry hens.

Sweet alyssum furnished a wealth of white blossoms for the color scheme. And since gold and yellow were the other shades preferred, Mr. Smith had bought two packages of marigolds, one of French and one of African. These were planted as a border close to the house and were interspersed with a number of white aster plants and a few purple ones which, when they bloomed, relieved the intense orange of the marigolds. Low-growing nasturtiums edged the marigolds in front and continued the color combination.

Something to give greater height than the flowers could furnish was needed at the corners of the house. To provide this accent, David made rude trellises of three poles each, placing the poles together as though to make toy wigwams, and over these were trained the scarlet runner bean. The effect was strikingly like shrub plantings which the Smiths had felt they could not afford the first year.

Many an expensive garden has not given as much pleasure to a family as this touch of yellow-and-white beauty gave to the Smiths. And the dollar greenback had covered the cost. The two packages of sweet alyssum had been purchased for twenty cents; one package of French marigold seed and one of African had cost ten cents each; one packet of nasturtiums was sufficient at ten cents; and the remaining forty cents bought aster plants.

Against the house foundation, they planted cosmos. In front of these were larkspurs in blue and white with phlox drummondii to border them. One packet each of these was enough for a twenty-foot row, so the cost for these flowers was only thirty cents. Two peony plants, therefore, of the pink variety were selected at thirty-five cents each—one for either side of the steps. These perennials are not expensive considering the fact that they bloom year after year while many other flowering plants have to be replaced each year. The peonies were a wise choice as a part of the dollar bargain.

The second year, the David Smiths did not have to limit their plantings to a dollar. Times had been good and a five-dollar bill was to purchase the beauty for the home grounds. Two dollars of this they spent for permanent shrubs; two dollars went for per-

ennials; and one dollar for more annuals.

At the corners of the house, the ends of the scarlet runner bean on its wig-wam trellis, were placed spires to bring graceful sprays of white flowers in early summer. These were the two clematis vines for the corners of the porch. With the clematis were planted native bittersweet vines from the woods. The bittersweets had a most attractive addition and had cost nothing except a little time and labor.

This year instead of a color scheme of yellow and white, the plan was to have a border of mixed colors. Eight perennials were selected to be grown between the vines and the spires. Of perennial phlox which blooms in a variety of colors, two kinds were used on either side of the porch. The earliest of these was white, Festiva Maxima, and the other kind was delicate rose-white, called Sea-shell.

By buying these as his first perennials David Smith felt that he was getting value received for his money, for they flowered profusely both the first and the second years from June until late September.

Four bellanosa larkspurs cost twenty cents apiece, were also purchased at the nursery. These are also reliable perennials and their deep blue shades are effective with the more delicate phlox.

The annuals, lower-growing than the perennials, were set in front of the others to complete the bed. There were annual phlox drummondii in various colors; verbena in pink and white; and petunias. Sweet alyssum was used this second year also, to edge the border bed and the gravel walk. Nothing else was found to produce such admirable results for so little money.

In making this border flower garden, seeds should always be planted far enough away from the house so that when water drips from the roof they will not be washed out. The soil should be carefully spaded and prepared as it would be for a vegetable garden. The flower seeds may then be sown and raked in lightly, the raking being done lengthwise of a narrow border bed. Brush will protect the seeds from the chickens and the too warm sun until the plants appear.

Then when the plants are grown large enough, they can be transplanted to the spaces where the seeds did not come up thickly. Seed packets of annuals usually contain enough for a twenty-foot row, and enough for double that amount of space if the seeds are planted thickly and later transplanted.

All plants, annuals and perennials, should be weeded and cultivated until they are large enough to shade the ground. One seldom needs to bother watering them.

Seeds of perennials can often be used with great success when one does not feel like spending the money for the plants. Seeds are naturally much cheaper than plants, and perennials which would cost from fifteen to twenty-five dollars at the nursery can be grown from seed in the dooryard for from fifteen to twenty-five cents.

Larkspurs, for instance, when sown in the spring will often blossom over too early for that, they will hold over well and flower the next spring. The morning glory (scabiosa), galleria and Iceland poppy, are other beautiful flowering perennials which may be raised in this way if one is willing to wait for the blossoms a little longer than when the plants themselves are purchased.

"Where there is a will," there will be a garden and beauty! Nature works with us, seeds are cheap, work is ours to give and neighbors are always generous with roots and cuttings.

Export of Live Stock and Products

The number of cattle shipped to Britain from Canada in January was 3,887 compared with 2,165 in the corresponding month last year, and to the United States 6,820 compared with 4,740. The beef shipped to Britain was 418,500 lbs. compared with 563,100 lbs., the bacon 9,922,100 lbs., compared with 10,324,900 lbs., and the pork 334,400 lbs. compared with 523,100 lbs. To the United States went in the same month 922 calves compared with 443; 22 sheep compared with 31; 589,900 lbs. of beef compared with 320,000 lbs.; 21,600 lbs. of bacon compared with 16,100 lbs.; 65,700 lbs. of pork compared with 47,700 lbs. and 900 lbs. of mutton compared with 700.

"Well begun is half done," can be applied to the growing of crops to advantage. A good start is necessary to get a good crop.

EFFICIENT FARMING

MY EXPERIENCES WITH SEEDS.

The testing of seeds on the farm is very essential if one expects to have uniform success in growing good crops. We cannot always judge the vitality of the seed by looks or color. Each year before ordering new garden seeds we get out all the old seeds that were left over from the previous year, as well as all seeds that had been saved from the garden, put ten to twenty or more seeds on a rag doll tester and let them germinate in our corn-testing outfit for six to ten days, and then read the results of the test.

Some surprising things are often shown. Samples of two different lots of the same kind of seed will show marked differences in vitality, one will germinate quicker than another, or the roots of one may be considerably longer and healthier than another. Some may show up completely dead. It is a good idea when buying package seeds to put the date of purchase on the package. I have found seeds two and three years old that gave fine germination; others were almost dead. After the test place the date and per cent. of germination on the package at once so that there will be no mistake.

Temperature, moisture and maturity all influence the vigor of seeds. Seeds should not be dried out too quickly by high temperatures, nor is it well to keep them in a room where there is an excess of either heat or moisture. To show how these conditions influence seeds, we had occasion one year to purchase some new seed oats and I went to three neighbors who said they had some excellent seed, but before buying from any of them I took half-pint samples from each of their bins and tested each one separately. I found two lots that it would not pay to sow, one of which tested sixty per cent. and the other about seventy per cent., and yet each of these farmers sowed the grain from those bins, putting it on a little heavier than usual in order to insure a good stand. However, those tests also showed that the germination of many seeds was slower than others, somewhat dark in color on the roots, and generally showing evidence of immaturity. We bought the seed that gave a high germination test, and threshing machine measures showed a difference of about five bushels per acre in favor of the good seed which was sown at a lower rate per acre. The price of the different seeds was the same, making the cost of heavier seeding of the poor seed larger.

In testing various kinds of seed we use our rag doll testers that we test seed corn for root rot, finding them convenient for testing any kind of seed. This is made by laying out on a table a length of pearl water finish paper, such as is used in butcher shops for tying up meat. This is twelve inches wide. On this is laid a length of muslin the same width and about fifty inches long. The different samples of seeds are counted out and spread in groups on the muslin, being carefully labeled. The muslin is dampened, rolled up and kept in the germinator and examined from time to time for about six or ten days. The temperature ought to be kept above sixty degrees and the muslin moistened freely if one has no germinating outfit. This is splendid work for bad days and pays dividends for those who follow it.—J. L. Justice.

BETTER EQUIPMENT FOR OUR CHICK CROP.

The growing problem in the management of our farm poultry is the renewal of the farm laying flock. It is common knowledge that a pullet will lay more eggs than a yearling or two-year-old hen. We also know, that as a money-maker the pullet is producing eggs during the period of high prices while the older hens are at a low ebb in production, due to moulting. The returns from the farm flock come very largely from egg sales and the more we can put on the market during the months of November, December, January and February, the greater our receipts are going to be. Knowing these factors to exist we must endeavor to have a relatively large proportion of our laying flock consisting of pullets. These must be hatched in time and so raised and brought into maturity that they will get into production some time during September or October. This presents the factors of time of hatching, rate of maturity, and rearing methods.

Early hatched chicks are essential for early production. The heavy breeds usually come into production when six months of age, the lighter breeds a little earlier. We must plan our hatches with this fact in mind. It is possible to rush pullets into production by heavy protein feeding but it tends to bring them into laying before they have attained their full growth, resulting in small eggs and a greater danger of winter moult.

The broody hen has become a back number for economical production of chicks. Careful culling is rapidly eliminating the broody character from our farm flocks. Hens which insist on going repeatedly broody are generally poor layers due to their frequent vacations. Culling for produc-

tion is rapidly reducing the number of hens available for setting. The uncertainty of having enough hens broody at one time to have the chicks of the same age results in the growing flock. The labor in caring for several different small broods is also found greater than where the chicks are all one age. We then begin to look for a way out and the following solutions present themselves:

- (a) The use of an incubator.
- (b) The purchase of baby chicks.
- (c) The purchase of ten-week-old pullets.

The farmer who is breeding and developing his own flock will have to have some means of incubation which leaves him with a choice of operating his own machine or getting space in a community hatchery. The smaller incubators have now reached a state of perfection where they can be relied on and operated very successfully by an amateur. It pays to buy a good reliable, well-tried machine even if the initial cost is a little greater.

In the purchase of baby chicks one relies entirely on the other fellow's ability as a breeder. Where chicks of good quality can be procured it eliminates the difficulties of hatching, reduces the labor of raising the chicks since they can be handled in broods of from 300 to 400 instead of fifteen to twenty with old hens. The growing interest in the baby chick business is far-reaching and one now finds many farmers buying chicks by parcel post in preference to attempting to breed and incubate their own. One must not, however, buy indiscriminately, knowing nothing of the source or origin of the stock. There are on the market thousands of cheap chicks which are hatched from inferior stock and sold at a greatly reduced price. This price is made possible by the fact that the flocks from which these eggs are taken are not developed and culled to a point where a better price can be demanded. Thousands of this grade go out to our farms every year and result in no improvement in the fecundity of our flocks.

The third method of renewing the farm flock is the purchase of pullets. Several of the larger farms are now making a specialty of growing chicks until they are eight or ten weeks of age, marketing the broilers and selling the pullets out for laying stock. This offers the line of least resistance. The pullets arrive after they are through the brooding process and old enough to put out on range with little care. The cash output is, of necessity, larger with this method but offers the busy farmer's wife a very convenient method of renewing her laying flock.

Change Your Address When You Move.

I serve a rural mail route from a small fourth-class post office. Each day after mail trains I help sort and distribute the mail, and thereby see all that comes in.

When a farmer moves away it is very seldom that he leaves his new address, or has the address of his magazines changed. His letters, his magazines—even his daily—come in time after time, even for months, to our bother and his decided loss.

By no means are all patrons so at fault. This I wish to emphasize, for there are fine, virile, wide-awake people on farms in this country of ours, people who own or who are going to own their places, who are not so careless—never. But so many, many patrons fail to point out their new location when they move.

For more than six years I have given consideration to this fault and sought for the reason. Now a farmer, when he moves, finds himself topsyturvy, both within his cranium and without. He says, "Let Ma do it." And Ma says, "Sis, you sit down and tell our correspondents where we're goin'." Sis does not have the addresses of the publishers, because all the papers and magazines were used in packing the dishes and fruit jars.

The patron should make a list of his papers and magazines and all correspondents. He should prepare it weeks before he moves and buy of his carrier the needed post cards. He should fill them out some leisurely quarter-hour, possibly when it is raining and he is watching hungrily for the carrier to splash along with his daily mail. Then he should mail them not later than the day before he pulls up his mailbox; if he would mail them several days before, it would be better still. His publishers will not be in the least embarrassed, and he can rest assured that the carrier and post-master will be thankful that he did this little chore. Then when he gets settled in his new quarters, his papers and other mail will drop right in on him like the steadfast, helpful friends they are.—R. W. Hart.

It must be hard, indeed, to sell products that one would not eat himself. It is everybody's business to see that all good laws are enforced.

This is the time when the human as well as other kinds of batteries are tested. The farmer in particular should take pains now to store up energy for future use.

72 Years Old, But Actively On Job

Railroad Man Attributes Good Health and Strength to Tanlac.

Seventy-two years of age, but still in possession of the priceless boon of good health and activity on the job with the Central Vermont Railroad, where he has worked for 49 years, is the remarkable record of H. H. Moore, 24 Messenger St., Albans, Vt., who attributes his present health and strength to the use of TANLAC.

"I have never in my life seen the equal of TANLAC," said Mr. Moore recently. "After spending a lot of

money on things that proved worthless for stomach trouble of the most obstinate kind, TANLAC made me feel like an entirely different man. For nearly two years I had been gradually getting weaker, and my strength and vitality had got so low it was hard for me to attend to my duties. Indigestion, constipation, and nervousness made life miserable before I found TANLAC. But now my health is normal and I feel happy as I work. I shall always be grateful to TANLAC." TANLAC is for sale by all good druggists. Accept no substitute. Over 60 million bottles sold.

Take Tanlac Vegetable Pills.

The Sunday School Lesson

MARCH 16

The Reign of David, 1 Sam. Ch. 16 to 2 Sam. Ch. 24. Golden Text—I delight to do thy will, O my God.—Ps. 40: 8.

CONTINUATION OF THE STORY—Saul's tragic and stormy life ended in defeat by his Philistine enemies. In Mount Gilboa "the battle went sore against Saul." Wounded and helpless on the battlefield, he died by his own sword.

David, who had been chosen and anointed by Samuel at his father's home in Bethlehem, who had served Saul faithfully as captain of his armed men, who had been driven into long exile by false and cruel suspicions, who had preserved, nevertheless, his earlier grace and sweetness of spirit, succeeded to the throne, first of Judah only, and after seven years, of all Israel. His reign appears to have extended over about forty years, from about B.C. 1010 to 970. From the beginning he faced great difficulties. A large section of the people of Israel adhered to the house of Saul, and made his son king in Mahanaim east of Jordan. Much of the land was still overrun by the Philistines. There was bitter and growing antagonism between Judah and the other tribes, and no strong, well-organized system of government. But David had a small band of tried and faithful friends who had shared his banishment and now became the staunch supporters of his kingdom. After his defeat of Abner at Gibeon (2 Sam., ch. 2), and the final overthrow of the house of Saul, he was able to win over by his gentleness and fair dealing, the tribes which at first had opposed him, and to strengthen his army with the trained and experienced soldiers who had fought under Saul.

Thenceforward the growth of David's power was rapid. He subdued the Philistines in two great battles. He drove the Jebusites out of their stronghold in Jerusalem, extended its fortifications, and made it his capital city. There, for the first time, he established the ancient sanctuary of the nation, the tent-temple of the wilderness, which had rested successively at Gilgal, at Bethel, and at Shiloh, and restored the priesthood which had been destroyed or scattered by the insane violence of Saul. He extended his power by a friendly alliance with Tyre, the great Phoenician seafaring nation, and by conquest of Moab and Edom and Syria as far as Hamath on the river Orontes. The little kingdom of Saul, under his strong hand, grew into a great empire, but it is to his credit that he ascribed all his greatness to the grace and favor of his God (Ps. 18: 31-50) and held God's prophets in honor and reverence.

Ch. 17: 18. Before the Lord. The king went into the tent sanctuary which was now set up in Jerusalem, and in which was the sacred ark, the symbol to the devout Israelites of the presence of God. The question, "Who am I?" is an expression of genuine humility. He cannot forget that he was raised by the hand of God from a very humble place, to the high seat of power.

Vs. 19. A small thing. It is as though Jehovah regarded this elevation to the kingdom as a small thing, and had now promised a greater thing, even that his servant David's house should continue "for a great while to come." This promise became not only the basis of the loyalty of prophets and people in Judah to the successors of David in later years, but after the decline and fall of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah, stimulated the hope of a revival of David's house and of a new era of still greater power and glory. "Is this the manner of man?" he asks. "Is this the sort of thing that weak humanity has reason to expect? By the question he shows his sense of the greatness of the honor done to him by this promise of God. But compare 1 Chron. 17: 17.

Vs. 20-22. For thy word's sake. It is, he believes, to fulfil God's word to him spoken by the prophet Samuel when he anointed him to be king in succession to Saul. He goes on to confess the goodness and the greatness of God.

Vs. 25-26. What one nation? A similar question is asked in Deut. 4: 7, 8. There is a conviction in the mind of the prophet that Israel's relation to God is unique, and that God had bestowed upon Israel extraordinary marks of favor. He has chosen Israel to be his people. He prays that God will establish his word of promise and will do as he has said.

Ch. 8: 14, 15. The Lord preserved David. The prophets who wrote much of this history, held David in high honor. As he honored them and received their word to him as a very word of God, so they spoke well of him and regarded him as a true theocratic king, a king who recognized Israel's God to be his sovereign Lord. They declared his rule to have been just and beneficent, obedient to Jehovah's

laws. Compare Ps. 18: 20-24; 33: 5; 89: 14.

APPLICATION. The essence of Saul's failure and David's success is in Saul's rejection for wilful pride, and in David's acceptance for his humility. Nathan's prediction of the permanence of his house is not made the occasion of personal vanity. To feel great unworthiness in the face of high honor, marked success, and grave responsibility is indication of innate greatness. High places are dizzy. Pride goeth before a fall. David was no saint, but he does appear as a king, a hero, and a man. And neither his great personal charm, his loyalty to his friends, his deep human affections, nor his simple, pious faith are more admirable than in the incident under review, where he exhibits the rare and beautiful spirit of heart searching in the hour of signal honor. David had great human faults, but he measures up well under the searchlight of the golden text of the Old Testament, "to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God." The humble, grateful heart was that of which the Master spoke when he made little children typical of the kingdom. "If it please God to exalt us, to invest us with authority and influence, to give us favor in the sight of the people, to establish our house, let us pray for God's grace that we may use everything for his glory."

2. More than human. In a career thus far of the shepherd, outlaw, poet, warrior, and king, there are such elements of surpassing romance that there grows upon this great ruler the conviction of guidance and destiny. He sees clearly and truly that it is not the man, but the incident which spoken also of thy servant's house for a great while to come."

Few lives have been more eventful. But in all his varied difficulties and in his many great emergencies, David is never without resource. He has been able to secure his country against invasion. He united divided groups into one nation. He "executed judgment and justice unto all his people." It has been a far cry from the shepherd tent to the Jerusalem palace. And the ark of the Lord is still in tent. But whether in tent or in the lordly temple, fitting and worthy of power that has guided, "the Lord of hosts is God over Israel." And from the hour of the vital message of Nathan, and the beautiful prayer of our lesson following, the relation that the "house" of the Lord is to be a living line of descendants, Israel knew she had a mission in the world. Hereafter this conviction never died.

These results could never have been, but for "the practice of the presence of God." It has always been the recognition of the power of the supernatural that has led ordinary men to extraordinary things. And to this hour the supernaturalists are right. We should never have heard of David, but for David's God.

3. Patriotism. David loved his country. He was glad to live for it. He labored for the whole nation. His patriotism became the ideal for later times. His name became the symbol of the Messiah, the ideal ruler. The great prophets looked forward to a time when again a righteous king should sit on the throne. Some of the factors in a personal influence so far reaching were, patience, energy, courage, tact and loyalty. When any leader or any citizen brings any or all of these kindred gifts under the sway of a high moral purpose, his life cannot fail. Not all good men are called to be public men, but all good men are called to be public spirited.

It lies within the province of every man to make friends by the simple means of just being friendly.

You Can't Break This Hame Strap



The "Hame Strap" is made of the finest material and is guaranteed to last for years. It is the only strap that will not break. It is sold in all good hardware stores.

60 Water St. Stratford, Ont.

Seeds for Sale

First Choice is noted for its high quality seeds. First Best Beans, Manzanita. One is located in the very centre of this district. It has large quantities of German, Fast-growing and Special A.P.'s, Red Clover, Alsike, Sweet Clover, Timothy, etc., which are sold direct to farmers, and part in one day lots. Write at once for prices.

Stratford, Ont. SEED HOUSE.