

The inside of this oven would contain numerous grates, similar to the warming chamber of a Stewart cooking stove, and being able to hold, on sheet iron trays, dinners for twenty-five or thirty families, to be delivered at stated intervals, just as a milk man delivers milk to his customers. If a family consisting of eight persons, orders six pounds of roast beef at twelve and a half cents per pound, and use only half or two-thirds of what they order, the balance can be returned to the cook house at half price, instead of being left to mould and be thrown into the scavenger's basket, as is too frequent the case where servants are kept. All surplus food can be put upon a table at the cook house, and offered to the poor at ten cents a meal. If each family leaves an average of one pound of meat, as is almost always the case, there would be one hundred pounds of meat when returned. The provisions that are daily carried out of Chicago in scavenger wagons would keep every starving person in our city comfortably if they could be collected before they are spoiled, consequently it must be evident that those organizations would do a vast deal of good, not only to the better classes but to the poor also. The laundry would undoubtedly have to be a separate affair. These could be adopted in the country where our cook houses would be impracticable.

"I believe a laundry, consisting of a large wash-room, an ironing-room, and office upon the first floor, a drying-room and five or six sleeping-rooms upon the second, could be erected at a cost of about sixteen or eighteen hundred dollars, and a worker with an engine to run it for six hundred more. After it is all completed, I think it could be run at the expense of about one hundred and fifty-five dollars per week, as follows:

Man to run engine, do lifting, etc.	\$15.00
Fuel and oil for engine	7.00
Soap, sal soda, bluing and starch	10.00
Eight women, at eight dollars	64.00
A competent woman to oversee	20.00
Clerk and bookkeeper	20.00
Teamster	15.00
Cost of keeping a horse	4.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$155.00</b>

"In one hundred families I believe the washing would average six dozen each. If we pay thirty cents per dozen, this brings an income of one hundred and eighty dollars per week, leaving a margin of twenty-five dollars. If it were found that the laundry could not be run at these figures, we could increase these prices three or five cents per dozen; for at fifty cents the expense would still be less than it costs to wash and iron in dwelling-houses; as the cost of wood alone to wash and iron six dozen will not be less than two dollars per week in our own houses, and when the soap, sal soda, starch and bluing is added, together with the wages and board of a servant, I think the other dollar is more than consumed.

It is my firm belief that when these improvements are brought about, and woman is made equal (before the law) with man, we will all have come to the conclusion that our present system of house-keeping is a failure, and that the marriage system is not a failure. Mrs. Leonard's plan provides for those families who prefer their present isolated homes, but there is a large class whose needs will be better subserved in a co-operative or associated home life.

SARA B. CHASE.

—Cleveland Herald.

#### Prize Potato Raising.

In response to numerous inquiries for data regarding the ways and means adopted by the successful competitors for the Bliss Potato Premiums, we have taken the pains to carefully extract the pith of their sworn statements as forwarded to the committee, and kindly placed at our service in advance of publication elsewhere. The yields were in all cases very remarkable, and as these have already been noted for readers of the *Tribune* there seems no occasion for repeating them. The particulars mainly sought by our correspondents are of character and condition of soil, kind and quantity of fertilizers employed, time of planting, tillage given and date of harvest, all of which will appear in the condensations subjoined, and which we endeavor to present as

near as may be in the respective writers' own words. The facts which will be seen to stand out most prominently are, (1) significant economy of seed, (2) almost uniform dependence upon barnyard manure and ashes—and the great liberality in the application of the same—and (3) the thoroughness of the cultivation.

J. I. Salter, St. Cloud, Minn., planted one pound (and that, it will be remembered was, in all cases not otherwise specified, the quantity of seed experimented with) of each of the three varieties, Extra Early Vermont, Compton's Surprise, and Brownell's Beauty, cutting the tubers into 160, 158 and 167 sets respectively, many of the eyes being divided into no less than eight pieces. Planted May 14, each set by itself in rows four feet apart and about two feet in the rows, using to each set a common handful of a mixture of three parts unleached wood ashes to one part salt. This was well mixed with the soil, and the sets placed on this prepared soil, and covered slightly with unmixed soil. The land is black, sandy loam, very rich in decayed vegetable matter, and from two to four feet deep, resting on hard pan, a mixture of clay, gravel and sand; is not underdrained, and was plowed to the depth of twelve or fourteen inches. Loosened the soil as soon as the young plants appeared, and hoed them when four or five inches high, hilling slightly, and destroying all weeds. When eight or ten inches high, covered them entirely, leaving about two inches of loose soil above each plant, and making the sides of the rows correspondingly broad. This forced out from each parent stalk a number of side shoots, each bearing from one to three good-sized tubers. After this kept clear of weeds, hoeing only slightly when necessary. Dug Oct. 14-16. But Mr. Salter remarks that this method of culture retards the ripening of part of the crop two to four weeks, but, on his ground, doubles or quadruples the yield.

A. K. Titus, Wilmington, Vt., selected a piece of land made rich with manure and leached ashes last year; soil sandy loam with clay subsoil, not drained; plowed the ground ten inches deep and made the hills four feet apart each way. Cut the tubers to single eyes, and planted May 26, putting two eyes in each hill, together with a shovelful of equal parts of leaf mould and horse manure, taken from under cover, and covered four inches deep. Had fifty-two hills of the Vermont, thirty-two of Surprise, and forty-eight of Beauty. Hoed twice, the 8d of July being the last time, making very broad high hills, and scattered a handful of hardwood ashes on each hill before hoeing. On part of the ground there was a coal pit burnt out twenty years ago, and there the potatoes were the best, yielding a peck to each hill. Dug Oct. 3.

Robert Lewis, Castleton, N. Y., cut to single eye, many of the eyes being divided into three or four pieces, and planted May 8, in drills four feet apart and two feet apart in the drills, using one piece in each hill, with a large handful of equal parts of double refined poudrette and unleached wood ashes. Soil light sandy, resting on clay subsoil, not underdrained, had been plowed the previous fall, and manured with well decomposed barnyard manure, at the rate of about thirty tons per acre, and has a gentle slope to the south-east. When the plants were up five inches applied another handful of the poudrette and ashes and hoed it under; after this they were plowed once and hoed once, which is all the cultivation they received. Dug Vermont, Aug. 20; Compton's, Sept. 8; Brownell's, Sept. 19.

C. W. Walker, Washington, Kansas, planted April 6, in bottom land, a rich black mold, with a mixture of sand, subsoil black loam and sand, not underdrained. Ground thoroughly and deeply plowed, tubers cut to single eyes, and planted one eye in a hill, three feet apart and four inches deep, with a handful of fine, well-rotted horse manure, and the same quantity of wheat-stack ashes (grain and straw, result of prairie fire) to each hill. When the plants had branched out a little, hoed them, and covered the bottoms of the branches nearly an inch with the soil, and increased the hill around in about the same proportion. When the main stem was nearly a foot high, hoed again, covering the branches nearly 2 inches more, and increasing the hill in proportion. Dug second week in September.

S. R. DeWolfe, Parrsboro, Nova Scotia, cut to single eyes and planted in hills three feet apart, one eye to a hill, May 29. Soil fine, rich, mellow loam, with a slight mixture of clay with gravelly subsoil, possessing natural drainage. Ground spaded and common barnyard manure partly rotted spread on at a rate of about five tons to the acre, and turned under. At the time of planting, a fertilizer composed of ashes, soot, lime, nitre, and sulphur was put into the hills at the rate of about one pint to each. The potato shoots were very long when planted, and being put in flat, layered, largely increasing the yield. Hoed several times, kept clear of weeds and mellow, using a spading fork between the hills July 15. Dug Oct. 6.

A. W. Titus, Wilmington, Vt., planted May 27, four feet apart each way, making forty hills to each of three varieties on an average. Soil light loam, with a gravelly clay subsoil, not drained. Plowed ten inches deep, and manured with a compost made of leaf mold taken from a maple grove, where sheep and cattle had lain, and mixed with droppings where cows were yarded previous summer—to twelve bushels of each kind of the above was added one barrel of hard wood ashes, and the compost well mixed. Put a shovelful of the compost in each hill, cut potatoes to single eyes, put two pieces in a hill and covered three inches deep. Hoed when four inches high, covering them nearly up. July 4 hoed second and last time, making very broad hills. Aug. 4, the vines covered the ground, and were of a very dark green color. Dug Oct. 13.

H. C. Pearson, Pteairn, N. Y., planted Brownell's May 16, soil light loam, with some gravel, with sand and gravel subsoil, having good natural drainage. Land new, having produced only one crop before. Applied broadcast a two-horse load of barnyard manure three years old, plowing it under seven inches deep; then went over the ground three times with a pulverizing harrow. Placed in each hill before planting, two quarts of a compost, composed of ten bushels decayed manure, two bushels of ashes, four quarts salt, and two pounds sulphur. Cut the tubers to single eyes, dividing some of the stronger into eight pieces, making in all 112 pieces, and planted them in rows three and a half feet apart and three feet apart in the rows, planting one set in each hill and covering them about three inches deep. When tops were two or three inches high, before hoeing put a handful of the compost about each hill. Ran the cultivator twice between the rows during the summer, and hoed twice, making the hills broad and flat. They grew to an enormous size, 491 selected tubers weighing 500 pounds, and thirty-seven fair sized fifteen pounds were dug from one hill. Matured about Sept. 18.

Abram Loveless, White Mills, Penn., planted May 23 the Surprise in clay soil with sandy gravel subsoil, not underdrained; the Beauty in clay soil with sandy loam subsoil, not underdrained. The ground for all was very rich and prepared with great care. Cut the tubers to single eyes, rolled the sets in plaster, and planted in drills three and a half feet apart, and eyes two feet apart in the drill, one eye to a hill, covering four inches deep. At time of planting put one pint each hen manure and wood ashes in each hill, and at first hoeing, put a handful of super-phosphate and about one spoonful of salt around each hill. After that kept them clear of weeds, watering them frequently during the dry season and putting plaster around each hill every week while growing. After last hoeing, put one good handful of wood ashes around each stalk, hoed twice and kept clear of weeds. Dug Oct. 21.

Henry Bullis, Canton, N. Y., planted May 29. Soil clay loam with hardpan subsoil, underdrained. Before planting, spread one inch of muck broadcast, working it well in, and at time of planting gave each hill a handful of wood ashes, and after each hoeing gave each hill a top dressing of a handful of wood ashes. Cut to single eyes and planted in hills 2 1/2 by 3 feet apart, one eye in a hill, four inches below the surface, covering with two inches of soil. Hoed twice, July 4 and 17, hilling up broad and flat. This is all the culture received except keeping free from weeds. Dug Oct. 14.

Chas. Whiting, Jasper, N. Y., planted May 16, soil a mixture of

clay and loam to a depth of about two feet, lying on a clay subsoil hardpan, not underdrained. Plowed eight inches deep and spread broadcast about one cord of rotten barnyard manure, two years old, and about one and a half bushels of unleached ashes, which were thoroughly mixed with the soil in the hills. Made a solution of two barrels of water and ten quarts of hen manure, and applied this to the plants when ten inches high; used same solution twice at later periods. Used twelve quarts gypsum on the plants, applying three quarts each time after hoeing. Dug Oct. 10.

P. C. Wood, Esther, Ill., planted May 13, soil deep black loam with stiff red clay subsoil, not underdrained. Manured with about one cubic foot of well rotted barnyard manure to each square foot of land, and five bushels of wood ashes to each square rod, which were well mixed with the soil by plowing twelve inches deep three times, harrowing well each time. Cut to single eyes, dividing some of them, and planted four and a half by three feet, one set to a hill, covering two and a half inches. Planted each set on a small shovelful of the following mixture: Two bushels lime slacked with water, three pecks salt, seven bushels wood ashes; on this a large scoop-shovelful of well-rotted chip manure. Kept the ground well stirred ten to twelve inches deep until potatoes began to form, hilling up slightly after July 1st. Raked over the surface after each shower, and kept clear of weeds. Dusted with plaster when two inches high, repeating it at intervals of a week or ten days until Sept. 1st, when 179 pounds of plaster was used on the two lots. Dug Oct. 19th.

D. Steck, Hughesville, Penn. (quarter acre), planted May 5. Soil light, sandy loam, overlying creek gravel, and a crop of clover had been taken from the land the previous season. Early in April spread 14 two-horse loads of cow manure over surface, then plowed about six inches deep; after this spread 15 loads of compost, made of decayed chip and barnyard manure, over surface, and then the ground was well harrowed and marked in rows two feet apart and three inches deep. Cut the potatoes to single eyes and planted the Vermont seven to eight inches apart in the rows, and the Beauty eight to ten inches apart. As soon as the plants appeared, ran a narrow cultivator once between each row, after which the loose soil was drawn toward the plants, which operation was repeated in about ten days. This was all the cultivation they received, as the growth was so dense he could not get through them. The season became so dry about this time that the crop was cut short nearly half. The tubers of both varieties grew of very uniform size, with but few overgrown ones and scarcely any small ones. Dug Sept. 10-24.

Mrs. M. A. Royce, Home, East Tenn., (quarter acre), planted May 22, soil deep, vegetable and leaf mold with mixture sand, with clay subsoil, on steep hillside. It was a piece of new ground, cleared and burned over in the Spring; tried to plow it but there were so many roots used hoes, making small hills one and a half to two feet apart. Cut to single eyes, very often dividing them still more, rolled in plaster, and put a tablespoonful of plaster and a handful of unleached ashes in each hill when planted. When about eight inches high hoed, hilling a little. Sprinkled the tops once with plaster, and this was all the attention received. Dug Sept. 22.

Alfred Rose, Penn Yan, N. Y. (quarter acre), planted May 13-16. Soil sod of twelve years standing, sandy loam, with a subsoil of sand and gravel, mixed with marl and not underdrained. Cut to single eyes and planted in rows three feet apart, and one foot in the row, one piece to a hill. Used as fertilizer the following mixture, a handful in each hill at the time of planting; a cask of lime slaked with water stirring in a bushel of fine salt and then mixed with wood ashes until dry enough to handle. Cultivated only twice with common cultivator, hoeing with a garden hoe at the same time. Thinks that with a favorable season, would have yielded at the rate of one thousand bushels per acre, but the season was very hot and dry. Dug Sept. 17.—*New York Tribune*, Jan. 13.

A New Haven elder preached a watch-night sermon arrayed as Father Time.

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