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A STANDARD HOUSEHOLD JOURNAL.

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Established June 15, 1890.

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CAPONS.

When a Capon is at the West—some of the
Tastes who have children in March
and April will soon have a lot of roasters
of sufficient size to capons, and in
regard to these, George Q. Dow, recog-
nized authority, tells in the New York
World that the season they are per-
formed upon after reaching the size of
15 pounds the longer time they will
have to make their growth for the winter
and spring markets. Mr. Dow also ex-
presses himself as follows upon the sub-
ject of capons:

A capon to be at its best should really
be allowed to live for a year or fourteen
months. The first eight months of their
lives are devoted to building up a large
frame of body, which they will finish off
and decorate in the shape with delicate
meat if for the following four months
they are permitted to live. I disposed
of all my capons early the past season
(in February) simply because I needed
the room for something and another way
that my customers demanded them, and
still another reason was, I needed the
money which they brought. However,
I should not have done so had I not been
forced to a very high price, and I should
have been foolish to decline. Had I no
particular market for them it would
have been much better for me to have
kept them until April, for I notice that
the market price for capons is going
upward, and they were offered at twenty-
four to twenty-six cents a pound in
April and early May, while chickens
could be bought for fifteen cents and in
some cases less. Besides the profit there
is in it there are several other great
advantages. You will get rid of a lot
of cockroaches that are running around
biting the hens and other birds and fight-
ing with each other from morning till
night, causing them to lose their appetite
faster than you can put it on and eating
far more than any capon.

After being caponized they become
very docile and quiet—lose all their
fighting propensities, pay attention to
the hens and produce the perfect ex-
actment. As they do not care to run
all over creation and lose all their
companionship of the other sex they be-
gin to grow very rapidly, and one will
notice this remarkable change in them
in a week after performing the opera-
tion. Everything they eat and drink
goes to forming their frame and flesh.
These are not the only advantages of
the subject, but simply the experi-
ences of one who has been at it for a num-
ber of years and knows what he is writ-
ing about—not theory, but plain North
American facts. Try it, my friends,
and see for yourselves, and if every
capon you raise doesn't bring you more
than double what you get for a cockerel
there must be something wrong with
you, certainly not with the capon.

Experiments with Potatoes.

In an experiment at the Utah station,
in which whole tubers, halves, quarters
and one eye and two eye cuttings were
planted, the yield increased with the
amount of seed used, but it is reported
doubtful whether pieces larger than
three-quarters "will yield enough more
to pay for the extra amount of seed re-
quired." Plots cut from the stem end
of potatoes gave larger yields than those
cut from the seed end. Experiments
with large and small potatoes for seed
during two years have given inconclu-
sive results. Flat culture of potatoes
gave much better results than ridge cul-
ture. The newer varieties most promi-
nent are Hoffman, Governor Hook and
Rural New Yorker No. 2.

At the Maryland station varieties used
in an experiment in which large and
small whole potatoes, two or three eye
pieces and one eye pieces were planted,
were Early Rose, New Queen, Dakota
Red and Early Harbinger. The results
of this and of two previous experiments
indicated that the yield increases with
the amount of seed, but that when large
whole potatoes are used for seed there
are very many small potatoes in the
crop. The most profitable results were
obtained when small whole potatoes were
planted.

The Drainage.

The laying of drainage is now one
feature or foundation of success in farm-
ing. The increase in the production of
the soil is great. A correspondent in
The New England Homestead reminds
farmers that there are good and bad tiles,
as there is land of the best and inferior
qualities. The best tile run from ten
twelve and fourteen dollars per 1,000
and upward, according to the size. The
small tile are considered the best and
largely used, although the square bot-
tom tile are sometimes laid. The 8-inch
tile is the most used in the East-
land, and also larger. All tile should be
laid in angles across the land. The
larger size tile are more frequently used
at the end, the smaller size along the
sides of the field. The conditions of
each portion of the land must be under-
stood to intelligently lay the tile.

Good Late Keeping Celery.

Many gardeners do not know that the
dwarf celery, that sells best in the fall,
is one of the best keepers until late in
the spring, says The American Cultiva-
tor. Cold and absolute darkness are the
conditions for late keeping. Comply
with these conditions, and the celery can
be kept until March in just as good con-
dition as it will be in December. If no
rot starts among it. If the rot gets in
to any great extent, the sooner it is sold
the better for the grower. Nine times
out of ten the rot is the effect of too much
water a change from cold to warm
weather either out of doors or in the
cellary house, and the other time, if the
celery is free from rot when put in, it is
the result of careless handling when put
in the pit or boxes.

SELECTING SEED POTATOES.

American Cultivator's Advice in This Im-
portant Matter.
Selecting good seed potatoes from this
season's crop is the surest way to have a
profitable yield next season. The more
we plant potatoes the more we are im-
pressed with the great value of having
good seed. So much depends upon this
that it is risky to depend upon others
for seed. It is a matter of experiment,
and then it takes several experiments
with good crops before we are certain
where to get good potatoes. To get
large, fine looking potatoes, that will
sell readily in the market for the high
price, it is quite essential that the

seed should come from the very largest
tubers that we dig from our fields.
The value of selecting seed potatoes
for home use has been made apparent
on Long Island. Potatoes from that
part of the island have been sold for
more than those from any other state in
locality. The market gardeners there
have selected their seed carefully for
many years. The result is that a type
of potatoes has been formed which are
of special value. They are large,
fair and more gleaming in shape than
potatoes from any other section. The
market gardeners there believe in the
theory that this potato can be adapted
to the particular soil in which it is
grown by a number of years trial. In
the course of time, if the seed from the
crops is selected, a new type of potato
is raised, and seed from these tubers
planted on other soil would not do so
well.

To readers who have not already se-
lected their seed potatoes it is advised
that as far as possible potatoes for seed
should be of average sized tubers, and
this way you will get about the same
sized potatoes from the field. They not
only average well in size, but also in
shape. This is quite an important point
in selecting potatoes. They can all be put
in the first assortment, and their simi-
larity of shape makes them attractive.
Extremely large, crooked potatoes are
not so desirable, as a rule, as the smaller,
fair, regular and thin skinned. In se-
lecting the seed, this point should be
remembered. Of course it is an ad-
vantage to select the largest, but they
should all be of about the same type and
shape.

Winter Protection for Plants.

The opinion sometimes expressed that
hardy plants need no protection during
winter is not shared in by persons who
find increased crop where protection is
given. It is argued by some that the
strawberry, for instance, is naturally so
hardy as many other plants which re-
quire and receive no protection what-
ever, and so with the other cultivated
plants, such as the grape, raspberry, etc.
This is true to a certain extent, and if
nothing further were looked for than
the mere existence of a plant it would
not greatly matter whether it received
protection or not. But it is found in
practice, says Mr. William Saunders,
superintendent of gardens and grounds
at Washington, that a proper degree of
covering actually increases the crop of
fruit, and it is in the protection of the
plant that the best varieties of our fruit
bearing plants have been far removed from
the natural conditions of their ancestors
and have acquired artificial qual-
ities, as it were, and hence the cultivation
which can be maintained by con-
stant attention to their needs. If neg-
lected they will show the ordinary
result of negligence, and it is only by
giving all the judicious attention and
care which the best experience suggests
that they can develop their greatest
profit and usefulness. But it is also a
common observation that a good pro-
tection may be rendered nugatory by in-
judicious application.

Asparagus Growing.

Having a special fondness for aspara-
gus, and having given the subject of its
growth in a small way considerable at-
tention, a correspondent of the New York
World has reached the following among
other conclusions: One is that many as-
paragus beds, especially in cold and
heavy soils, die out from rotting of the
crown roots. We have a certain extent
asparagus like moisture, this is easily
overdone when the growth is at a stand-
still. Asparagus in a state of nature
grows in a sandy, well drained alluvial
deposit. Now the point I wish to get at
is that heavy rotting on a cold, heavy
soil, in my opinion, only renders the soil
more cold and sodden and the roots more
liable to decay. Allowing the tops to re-
main throughout the winter is a slowly
and surely method, and besides it pre-
vents the frost and air from having free access
to sweeten the surface soil. I make a
practice of cutting the tops off close with
the scythe and clearing them away as
soon as the leaves are ripened. I have
good success in ripening with decum-
posed manure and decayed garden refuse
in equal parts.

Crop Reports.

The wheat crop in Europe is reported
as better than in 1891 and worse than in
1890.
The cotton crop is light, with short
staple and generally fair quality.
The agricultural department makes
the average corn yield 22.4 bushels per
acre, or an aggregate production of a
little more than 1,000,000,000 bushels.
The national statistician indicates the
total wheat production to be about 300,
000,000 bushels.
The average yield of tobacco is less
than last year.

The average yield of hay is reported to be 1.15 tons per acre.

This year Idaho and Montana lead in
wheat with crops of 22.4 and 22.2 bushels
per acre, respectively. Colorado follows
with 19.1 and Washington with 18.4
bushels. The great wheat fields of the
northwest—the two Dakotas—drop to
12.5 bushels. Kansas is twelfth with 12
bushels, Illinois and Michigan at 11.2,
Pennsylvania at 11.4, New York at 11.8,
Indiana at 11.4, Ohio at 11.2, California at
11.8, Missouri at 11.1 and Iowa at 11.4.

A New Trick.

Old Fogey Proprietor—Why did you
trust that shabby dressed woman as
cook?
Miss Trip—You noticed I sold to
her, didn't you?
"Yes."
"And the article didn't really suit
her?"
"I noticed that."
"This bought it because she thought I
thought she couldn't afford it."—New
York Weekly.

To make a good cup of stimulate let the

milk come to a full boil. The very two cups
with a heating temperature of 160 degrees
boils with enough milk to form
paste. Pour this into the milk which has
come to a full boil. Let it boil three minutes.
Here with a vigorous strain.

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THEY'LL HAVE TO PRINT
SOME MORE
FOR THE LATEST FAD
IS NOT A RICH DAD.
AS IT WAS, IN DAYS OF YORE,
BUT A MAIDEN FAIR, IS A
TREASURE RARE
NONE CAN HER CHARMS
OUTSHINE
AS SHE COOKS WITH SKILL
ON THE
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