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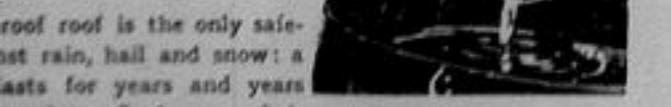
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GARDENING

Lettuce For Spring

Wares are detected by most of the human race, but it is a well-known fact that without them there would be very slow progress in the many fields of human activity. They create scarcities, and necessarily being the mother of invention, many a new thing is tried that would never be thought of if it weren't for war.

Cold being scarce during the last was, drove the housewife to search for foods that need not be cooked, and the cold salad has become very popular.

One of the most important ingredients in cold salad is lettuce, and on every sunny day throughout the year, especially in spring and early summer, there is a growing demand for this green food.

Was necessitated it, but the taste once acquired, a longing comes frequently over the human frame for sunshine and salad.

And now they tell us that lettuce has a very high calorific value, to say nothing of all the vitamins it contains. We are, however, that instinct had taught us ordinary humans all this long before the scientists gave us facts and figures.

Some people may eat lettuce because they are told it is good for them, but most people, I eat it because they like it. Whatever the cause, it has become very popular during the last six or seven years, in fact I remember in time not so long ago when it would not be a very economic venture to grow lettuce for the Limerick market.

Some seven or eight years ago very few people in Ireland knew that a good crop of good quality lettuce could be grown outdoor during winter to heat up in the early spring. In fact there are still a few who do not know that there are several varieties of lettuce that are as hardy as to stand the severest frosts that have ever come to Ireland recently.

Twenty years or so ago there were very few good quality hardy lettuce varieties and "McHattie's Giant" was always mentioned and is still offered in some catalogues. Although it is a very hardy lettuce, it is rather coarse and May King, or May Queen, Passion-White or Trocadero are just as hardy but superior in quality.

OUTDOOR CROP.

Below are the essential points to watch for the production of good quality lettuce outdoor in April and May. Sow the right varieties between the first and third week in September. Transplant the seedlings into a nursery bed as soon as they are fit to handle. Make the final transplanting during the first week of October into rich land in a sheltered situation and keep the ground clean of weeds and stones.

PREPARATION FOR PLANTING.

Ground after a manured crop of potatoes is ideal without further manuring now. Some fertilisers should, however, be forked into the surface soil after the plot has been carefully dug. A good dusting of hydrated lime should then be hoed or raked into the surface and the soil firmed with a roller or by treading.

The surface should then be raked fairly fine, as a rough and lumpy surface is conducive to damping off and other diseases. For fertilisers, a mixture of bone-flour, when I can get it. At present there are few fertilisers on the market, but some of the slow-acting high grade superphosphate types of phosphatic fertilisers have come again recently on the market, and about 4 ozs. per square yard, together with a dusting of dry wood ash, would make a suitable fertiliser mixture for lettuce.

Quick-acting nitrogenous fertilisers are not required for leafy crops at this time of year, but they may be applied in March or April when growth has commenced. They would only stimulate soft, leafy growth now, which would be cut back by the first frost, and it might take the plants a long time to recover the set back.

PLANTING OUT.

Put down a line at one side of the prepared plot and lay the plants along it at 10 inches apart. Plant them with a dibber and it is most important to see that they are not planted too high or too low in the ground. The plants should sit flat on the ground and see that the bottom of the root is well in close contact with the soil. It is bad planting to have the soil tightly packed around the root just underneath the crown of the plant with an air-lock left below at the top of the root. A well-planted lettuce or cabbage will not come up easily if pulled gently, but firmly, by one leaf.

Plant the lines one foot apart. Use any of the varieties I have mentioned and give frequent dustings of Meta mixed with bran or some other such distributor to kill slugs. I have used successfully powdered Meta by itself or mixed with pollard or sawdust. Hoe between the plants on every possible occasion to aerate the soil and prevent weeds from growing. See that the soil underneath the leaves and right up to the stems of the plants is not mashed by the hoe. Cut-worms sometimes destroy a good number of plants. They generally cut the head clean off the root at soil level. When this is noticed, the surface soil around the plant should be examined, the worm "grub" of the Yellow Underwing Moth mostly caught and destroyed. Otherwise it will continue to destroy other plants.

INDOOR LETTUCE.

A Christmas crop of hearted lettuce can be obtained in heated glasshouses by planting a variety called Cheshunt Early Giant now. Clean the glasshouse with a sulphur candle or spray the inside of the house and the surface soil with a solution of Formaldehyde to clear it of tomato mildew. Fork over the surface soil, adding some bone-flour or fine bone meal as the work proceeds. Dust surface with lime, make firm and rake off, making a fine level surface, and plant the lettuce at 10" apart each way. By the way, planting may be done 24 hours after the sulphur treatment, but not for three weeks after the formaldehyde.

Both Mr. and Mrs. O'Loughlin were the recipients of many congratulatory messages on their wed-

ODDS AND ENDS

Harvest Help

(BY AN MANGAIRE SUGACH).

Well, my gentle reader, how have you served the nation in the battle for the harvest? Have you laboured in the corn field, bending your aching back to the unaccustomed toil, or have you even stood at the headland offering useful and valuable advice to those who reaped, took out and bound the sheaves? You may have done any task to save the precious golden grain in this critical year you are not the person I thought you were.

How wonderful it would be if the spirit of co-operation that sent people in hundreds into the fields to aid their neighbours could survive, and be in evidence in the good years as well as the bad. Next door neighbours always "carried" us, but why shouldn't whole country-sides "care" in the mutual interest of sunshine and salt.

THE GLEANERS.

There is no doubt that one often sees in country places it is called "The Gleaners." Usually its companion piece, "The Angelus," Tauchstein made his fervent appeal to save every stray ear of corn many people must have thought of "The Gleaners," the three women who carefully gleaned what the harvesters had left behind in their hurry. Every stray stalk counts.

Besides, as we all know, the spirit of "Promoter,"

which is the name of the book in which are given details of the pilgrimage from all over Ireland,

and an exhaustive list of the favours received through the intercession of Our Lady of Knock.

In the hope of stimulating devotion to Our Lady under her Irish title, I give hereunder Mrs. Fitzgerald's record of her pilgrimage in her own words:

"On September 3rd an unexpected pleasure came 'My Way' in the form of a letter from Mr. G. Sullivan, Newtownards, and his wife, the Cathleen, inviting me to a seat in their car the following Wednesday for our annual trip to Our Lady's Shrine at Knock, near Claremorris, in Co. Mayo. They arranged to pick me up at Charleville, and fortunately a party of guests who were going to Mick Casey's wedding squeezed me into their car and took my feet and bicycle off the worst bit of road to be found in the whole of Limerick."

"We were soon in Limerick, visited the Franciscan Church, and once again found ourselves on the new familiar road to Knock. Fourth in the car was Mr. Matt Ryan, from Newtown, on her maiden trip to the Shrine. We lunched at the Queen's Hotel, Ennis, and had tea at Conroy's Hotel, Claremorris. The proprietress, Mrs. Conroy, was formerly Miss Coleman, of Coleman's Hotel, Charleville, and we felt very much at home. Our next stop was at Knock, where we had supper in the hostel conducted by nuns. We remained overnight in the hostel and before the Blessed Sacrament in the hostel chapel all the guests joined in saying the Rosary in honour of Our Lady of Knock."

"We paid three rounds on Wednesday night and prayed until darkness enveloped the earth. We slept soundly in the house where God watched and were called for 8 o'clock Mass. After another round we had good-bye to the kindly nuns and once more faced the South. At Gort we called on Miss Kelly, who was once a teacher at Newtownards School, and lunched and rested in her dream-like home.

"Having left Ennis and at the evening was still young, we visited Rinnaneen and for the first time had a close-up view of a big air liner.

"We completed our devotional exercises by getting into position in Limerick in preparation for the First Friday. Dan drove me to my own door and instead of a 'tip' I promised him a remembrance in the Good Shepherd Convent, Waterford; Rev. Mother Giovanna, Loreto Convent; Kilkenny; Sister Francis Sales, do.; Sister Dolores Poor Clare Convent, Cork; Miss J. Purcell, Mrs. Cotter, Madam Bencosse, Mrs. P. Meagher, Mrs. P. Cashman, Misses E. Carroll, J. Collins, H. and M. Crowley (nieces); Rev. M. Crowley, Rev. T. Crowley, C.S.S.R.; Rev. J. Connolly, Messrs. T. Cooke, J. Collins, Dr. M. Canty, Messrs. J. P. and W. Canty, P. and L. Connery, Thomas, James and John Carroll, J. M. D. and F. Crowley (niephews). Relatives—Miss Lal O'Regan, Mothers Patricia and Regis O'Regan, Miss Leah O'Regan, Mrs. Leahy, Mr. J. O'Regan, Mrs. Dr. Canty, Mrs. T. Cooke, Mrs. P. Connery, Mrs. J. Canty, Mrs. P. Canty, Messrs. P. Meagher, M. Cotter, P. Cashman and P. Purcell.

Innumerable Mass cards, telegrams and letters of sympathy were received.

RECENT MARRIAGE

WEDDING OF IRISH RUGBY INTERNATIONAL

Mr. David B. O'Loughlin, the well-known Irish rugby international forward, was married on the 24th instant at the Collegiate Chapel of St. Finbar, University College, Cork, to Miss Geraldine M. Moloney, of Tralee, Munster Gardens, Blackrock, Cork, second daughter of the late Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Moloney, Tralee. Co. Kerry. Mr. O'Loughlin graduated with an M.Sc. (Dairying) Degree from U.C.C. in 1938. He joined the Irish Volunteers in August, 1914 and was a member of the 1st Battalion, 1st Company, Dublin. The ceremony, with Nuptial Mass, was performed by Rev. Andrew Molyneux, C.C., Abberdon (cousin of the bride), assisted by Ven. 1916. During the five years which followed he was one of the most active volunteer officers in the Galway area and took part in many notable engagements against the Crown Forces during the war of independence.

Mr. Horace McClement, B.Comm., 1922, and was promoted no less than eight times in twenty years, having served in all grades of non-commissioned rank, and missioned rank, in addition to that of captain, which he has served 24 years with the Defence Forces, and who has been appointed Supervisor of Stores at Baldonnel Aerodrome, Co. Dublin. Captain Quirke has a long and varied career in the service of his country. He joined the Irish Volunteers in August, 1914 and was a member of the 1st Battalion, 1st Company, Dublin. The ceremony, with Nuptial Mass, was performed by Rev. Andrew Molyneux, C.C., Abberdon (cousin of the bride), assisted by Ven. 1916. During the five years which followed he was one of the most active volunteer officers in the Galway area and took part in many notable engagements against the Crown Forces during the war of independence.

After the wedding, a reception was given at the Hydro Hotel, Blarney, where there were over sixty guests, including—Mrs. S. Hegarty (matron of honour), Mrs. D. O'Brien, Mr. and Mrs. Brian O'Brien, Mr. Con Murphy, Dublin; Mrs. F. G. Moran, Dublin; Mrs. McSweeney, Tralee; Mrs. Doyle, Dublin; Mr. J. J. Russell, Cork; Mrs. T. Ronayne, Cork; Miss M. R. Connor, Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Connor; Miss Mary O'Loughlin, Tralee; Patrick T. Liston, son; Mr. Maurice M. Power, son; Mr. E. Walsh, Mr. Con Prior, Mr. J. Buckley, Mr. Baileys, Mr. McSweeney, Tralee; Mrs. T. Cleary, Mr. and Mrs. Collins, Limehouse, Mr. J. Brown, Mr. W. Miller, Mr. W. Kelly, Mr. D. O'Brien, Misses G. O'Kane, R. Bhathigan, J. Quilligan, Kathleen O'Connor, Pat Shanahan and Sheila Hegarty.

The bridegroom is a member of the Dolphin Rugby Club, Cork, and takes an active interest in the safety of cyclists, motorists and, occasionally, to pedestrians.

Quite recently I have observed cyclists undergoing the tantalising experience of trying, with considerable ingenuity, to keep a straight line and also to avoid having their trouser leg hit by a black and white cat, keeping within a foot of the intended victim. The problem is a knotty one, for to try and find the owners of these "canine desperadoes" is easier said than done. In the country the situation is just as serious and I write to you, Mr. Editor, in the hope that something will be done to counteract this nuisance. Hundreds of people must have plenty of incidents to relate, and it would be very interesting to hear of those cases, and present for the public to judge, the real truth about this latest menace. Thank you, Mr. Editor, yours faithfully,

ALFRED D. WATTERS, Beechawn, O'Briensbridge, County Clare.

"COLOUR" RIOT IN U.S.A.

Rioting between whites and negroes in North Philadelphia on Saturday night resulted in the death of a white man and the holding of a negro on a homicide charge.

MORE PARAFFIN

The domestic ration of paraffin oil has been increased from one to two gallons a month for this and subsequent months. This ration, it is anticipated, will continue throughout the winter.

APPLE PICKING.

Most varieties left on the trees are now ready or almost ready to pick.

Bramley Seedling, Newtown Wonder, and some of the late russets will be the last, and they will perhaps hang on for another week or so. Apples will keep badly if picked before they are fit. A good guide is to lift the apple gently in the opposite way to that in which it is hanging, and if it comes away freely from the branch, with its stalk adhering to the apple, it is a fairly sure sign that the fruit is fit to pick. Most late keeping apples store well in a p't made as for potatoes, but covered with

rasp instead of straw.

RECIPES FOR HORserADISH SAUCE.

These recipes are unavoidably held over until next week.

J. O'CARROLL, R.B.C.

STRAY SCRAPS

A Trip To Knock

(By "RAMBLING THADY").

The older we get the more vivid do we recall many little incidents of our long-lost youth, though a cloud seems to obscure the still more important happenings of middle life.

Well over a half century ago I remember buying a little cross at a mission stand. It was carved out of bog oak and had a tiny hole fitted with glass in the centre. By closing one eye and putting the other to the glass a fairly large sized picture could be seen representing the Apparition at Knock in the year 1879. I cannot remember the date of the cross; neither can I recall having seen a similar one since then.

These early recollections occurred to me as the result of an account given to me of a pilgrimage to Knock undertaken by Mrs. A. Fitzgerald, ex-N.T., Elfin, a few weeks ago.

This is the fifth successive year she has done a similar pilgrimage and has earned for herself the title of "Promoter."

Besides, as we all know, I have a copy of the "Knock Shrine Manual" in which are given details of the pilgrimage from all over Ireland, and an exhaustive list of the favours received through the intercession of Our Lady of Knock.

The following is a list of the

places where the pilgrims

have been received.

Rev. J. F. Fitzgerald, P.P., V.G., Tipperary;

Rev. J. J. Ryan, P.P., V.F., Fermoy;

Very Rev. F. Davis, Adm., Solohead;

Very Rev. Father O'Connell, P.P.,

Knock;

Very Rev. J. Hennessy, C.C., Knock;

Very Rev. S. O'Dea, P.P.,

Dromoland;

Very Rev. J. Connelly, C.C., Tipperary;

Very Rev. J. F. Fitzgerald, P.P.,

Knock;

Very Rev. J. Hennessy, C.C.,

Dromoland;

Very Rev. J. F. Fitzgerald, P.P.,

Knock;

Very Rev. J. Hennessy, C.C.,

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