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THE DISPATCH OFFICE

Methods Suggested For Utilizing Vacant Ground For Garden

Experimental Farms Note.

From the experience gained in several Canadian cities and towns during the past few years in utilizing vacant lots for garden purposes, the following methods are suggested for those who have not yet undertaken this work.

1. An organization should be formed, on the executive committee of which are, at least, two men or women, who are enthusiastic and will be willing to devote some time to looking after the preparation of the land and the laying out of the plots.

2. Owners of vacant land should be invited to offer such property for garden making.

3. Assuming that a fairly large number of lots have been offered by their owners, it should be widely advertised that one of these is available to any citizen who will be willing to work it, experience having shown that all classes in the community are interested in this work.

4. It has been learned by experience that it is important for the organization to, at least, plough and harrow the land for the plot holders the first year. Few persons who have not done any gardening before can be induced to prepare land for seed sowing on their own initiative.

5. There are four methods by which funds may be raised to prepare the land.

(a) By an appeal to wealthy citizens for contributions.

(b) By a grant from the city or town council, if necessary, on the understanding that the money will be returned by the plot holders when they have harvested their first crop.

(c) The city or town council might appoint a committee to carry out such work, the city to aid in every possible way. In order that a movement of this kind may have at least the greater sympathy of the civic officials, it would seem desirable for the organization to have a room in the city or town hall for its meetings.

(d) By charging each plot holder a small amount, for preparing the plot for him.

The last method is the one which is likely to be the most satisfactory for most cities and towns and is the one recommended here.

For information in regard to rules or by-laws the reader is referred to the accounts of the work of the several organizations in Canada referred to in a bulletin being printed by the Dominion Government, as in it there will, no doubt, be found sufficient suggestions to enable by-laws to be drawn up for particular needs.

BOY SCOUTS CAN HELP

Boy scouts can be made very useful in encouraging garden making and the use of vacant lots. In Ottawa they were employed in 1915 by the Public Health Committee of the Local Council of Women in delivering vegetable seeds which had been donated for the purpose of encouraging the poorer people to make gardens. Seed can be obtained in bulk at a cheaper rate than in packages and can be put up in packages by the Scouts. The Scouts also delivered

pamphlets on Vegetable Gardening. This personal touch did much, it is believed, to decide those to make gardens who had been in doubt before, as many people would accept pamphlets if brought to them, who would not take the trouble to get them themselves.

German Dream Is Shattered

London, March 12.—The fall of Bagdad, in the opinion of the London press, is of even greater significance for the effect it is expected to have on German aims than for its value in restoring British prestige in the eyes of the Mohammedan world and the East generally. While it is recognized that the British misfortunes in Mesopotamia have had a serious influence on the prestige of the ruling power in India and Egypt, and while it is claimed that the capture of Bagdad will restore the balance, the chief gratification expressed is that the success of General Maude's expedition "has shattered the dream that Germans have indulged in for more than twenty years." As one typical comment puts it: "The Germans' proud vision of an eastern empire is dissipated before their eyes, the German route to the east is blocked and the existing terminus of the Berlin to Bagdad railway has passed into British hands. To Orientals it will seem to sound the knell of German aspirations."

Paris, March 12.—The morning papers comment at length upon the fall of Bagdad and dwell upon the political importance of the British success.

The Figaro says: "In respect to the European war as a whole, perhaps it does not matter much that the Turkish army has undertaken a serious check in far away territory, nevertheless the political effect of the event will be deeply felt in Germany. The Hamburg-Bagdad line, the last of the dreams cherished by German Megalomania, must remain a dream in the eyes of the realities. It is certain that hopes of its fulfilment were fostered by the government and contributed largely to keeping up the spirits of the public."

The Petit Parisien says: "The Turks were thrown into the war forcibly by the Committee of Union and Progress, which only maintained itself in power by terrorism. Will its prestige survive the Mesopotamian disaster?"

London, March 12.—Enver Pasha, who has just returned from Asia Minor, to Constantinople, has informed the Turkish Parliament that the military situation is better than at any time since Turkey's entrance into the war, according to a Reuter despatch from Constantinople by way of Amsterdam. Enver Pasha is quoted as saying: "We and our allies await with calm confidence any offensive which the enemy may launch in the coming spring. The chamber will pardon me if I preserve silence regarding the action which we on our part propose to take."

"The safety of the Turkish coast and the Dardanelles is better assured than ever before. Even on the Sinai front the situation is unchanged. On the Mesopotamian front we retired northward for military reasons. For similar reasons we have drawn in toward Kermanshah on the Persian front. The situation on the Caucasus front is unchanged. To sum the whole outlook up justifies confidence in the future. Thanks to the Almighty we shall obtain the final victory."

London, March 12.—After announcing the fall of Bagdad in the House of Commons today, Andrew Bonar Law, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said there was every reason to believe that two thirds

of the Turks' artillery had fallen into the hands of the British or had been thrown into the Tigris.

Mosaic Disease of Tomatoes

(Experimental Farm Note)

The Mosaic disease is seen in tomato leaves when the plants are about a foot high or later. It is not a leaf spot or blight, but consists of a general unhealthy condition of the leaves, indicated by light or yellowish-green areas with dark green, normal areas between. Since the lighter parts are not so vigorous, the normal healthy areas often grow faster, thus producing an irregular or blistered effect. Diseased plants are weaker than healthy plants and set less fruit.

This is not a serious disease generally, but it is prevalent enough in a number of cases each year, and sometimes causes considerable damage. In the Niagara district the general field crop has been examined in 1915 and 1916, and the percentage of diseased plants ascertained. The results are given below:—

	1915	1916
No. of fields examined	26	27
No. of fields diseased	10	7
No. of plants examined	8583	9360
No. of plants diseased	128	277
Percentage of disease	3.43	3.4
Largest percentage of disease found	55.55	47.00

It is apparent from the above table that while the total amount of disease is small, it may be quite large in individual cases.

During 1915 the Director of the Vice Land Horticultural Experiment Station kindly undertook to ascertain the number and weight of the fruits from equal numbers of healthy and diseased plants. His figures are appended:—

	59 healthy plants	59 diseased plants
No. of fruits	7135	4740
Wt. of fruits	819 1-2 lb.	599 lb.

Increase of healthy over mosaic plants in no. of fruits 36.8 per cent
Increase of healthy over mosaic plants in wt. of fruits 40.5 per cent

It will readily be seen that these figures indicate a pronounced decrease in crop due to the disease, since, in the field in question, only a slight difference could be observed by us, before the actual counting and weighing was done, it is highly probable that growers are apt to suffer a great deal more than they suspect by the presence of this disease.

The disease appears to pass the winter in two ways; (1), in the field, in the soil or in the old plant remains; (2), in the seed bed. The first does not seem to be of serious importance; but it is not advisable to grow tomatoes on land where the mosaic disease has been bad during the previous year. Seed bed infection, on the other hand, seems to be responsible for all the bad cases of the disease yet seen. The common practice of adding new soil to that of the old tomato seed bed is what causes the trouble, since the disease germs still linger in the old soil. Danger from this cause can readily be avoided by completely changing the seed bed soil as soon as the disease appears in the field. This discarded soil is apparently harmless for other plants.

A more extended account of this disease has been given in the Central Experimental Farm Reports of 1915 and 1916.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

REQUESTS

THE PEOPLE OF CANADA TO

BEGIN NOW

TO SAVE MONEY FOR THE

NEXT WAR LOAN.

JAN. 9, 1917

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
OTTAWA