

The Farm.

Why Burn Humus?

Weeds and coarse grass make good humus. Burning them renders them valueless for this purpose. In the years that are past our virgin soil contained the humus formed from many years accumulation, and we thought but little of its value, but constant cultivation and long rotations, combined with the practice of selling everything possible, have reduced the supply till our soils have become lighter colored, compact, "dead" and unproductive, in many cases unprofitable from this lack. "The Rural New-Yorker" boomed crimson clover, cow peas and other plants for the increased amount of nitrogen obtained, but in many cases a greater benefit is obtained from the mechanical effect derived from the turned under foliage. In my search for humus I have sowed this season Canada field peas in the cornfield, and am more than pleased with the growth obtained. I have mixed them in with the winter wheat sown in September. I sowed on cornfield thickly with flat turnips, and when ploughed November it was a mass of green leaves. I should consider myself insane, after taking all the trouble to obtain vegetation, if I should burn it. Sometimes too great a mass of green vegetation seems to "sour" the land, and a mass of dry forms a stratum between the upper and lower soils, so that the moisture supply is effected; this only occurs with shallow, late spring ploughing in either case, and I should avoid trouble by rather deep ploughing. I buy, not burn, material which will make humus.

I do not rake up and burn or draw away strawberry mulching and clippings, but cultivate and plough them in and under. As to the weed seeds, did you ever know of a field that did not have weeds in it? It was poor, if you did. One of my men was hoeing very carefully, and remarked, "I will bet there will not be a weed here again this summer." I told him that the Lord made weeds to compel us to keep at work, and there would be another crop come up in two weeks. He hung up his hoe with an oath, and marched off, saying, "I've got through trying to beat him." Weeds, like the poor, ye have always with you, and are not to be subdued by one fire. You pay a big price for the few which are killed, but never missed. If the field is ploughed deep and carefully, and not torn too deep when fitted next spring, the turned under seeds will not germinate next season anyway. I have been told that very few of the smaller seeds will come up if planted three or more inches deep. If I had this field I would think myself fortunate in having a good supply of humus furnished, and should plough it six or more inches deep, as soon as possible this fall, just as it is.—(C. E. Chapman, in Rural New-Yorker.)

Growing Violets.

BY MRS. SARA M. C. ALDRICH.

Violets are easily grown in the window garden if intelligently cared for. First, deal with a reliable florist, and select a plant that is "well-topped;" see that the foliage is thickly set, and that the leaves are perfectly healthy, and of a dark, rich green shade. If forced to purchase from a distant firm, and they arrive packed in moss, place them at once, moss and all, in a pan of lukewarm water for twenty-four hours before potting. Keep for this period in a dark cool place; later take carefully from the moss and pot in a rich loam, with one-third as much sand as loam, all well mixed. From this point the treatment is the same, if the plants are purchased already potted.

Place the pots in the north window for two weeks; keep the foliage free from dust and the earth just moist enough to foster them, but not to force the growth. Three weeks' nursing should accustom them to the change of atmosphere, so different from their home with the florist. Then choose a west window for their permanent home as having just sun enough and not too much for violets, as in the case with a southern exposure. Violets

pine and grow "pindling" in the full glare of the midday sun. Do not permit them ever to become chilled, neither let them become overheated. Those who lack sunny windows may turn from the usual run of window plants to the culture of ferns and violets for comfort, with every hope of success.

But it must be borne in mind that one day's scorching in a too strong sunlight or a neglect to give the plants their regular "drinks," and thus permitting the earth to become as dry as dust, means loss of vigor to all ferns, and even possible loss of life to the violets. Having purchased one's first violets, the wise woman has her capital for future seasons; they multiply rapidly, sending out "runners" that root themselves, and as soon as the baby plant begins to grow—when it is perhaps an inch and a half tall—cut the runner that connects it with the parent plant and set it by itself in a small pot. In time, from a small start, one may have not only violets in winter, but a "cool frame" full outside ready to furnish some Easter cash. But that is a story by itself.—New York Observer.

The twenty-second annual meeting of the National Liberal Federation opened at Nottingham Tuesday, 1,200 delegates being in attendance. Dr. Spence Watson, the chairman, remarked that there were great differences in the party regarding the war. He advised urging upon the government the necessity of allowing the two republics of South Africa the greatest possible independence compatible with the present trouble. Prof. Massie presented a resolution declaring the government's policy in regard to South Africa was wanting in knowledge, foresight and justice, and calling for a settlement on the lines of the government of Canada and forbidding the Boers to again arm themselves. The resolution of Prof. Massie was adopted with few dissenters. Dr. Spence Watson was re-elected president.

A despatch from Odessa says: There can no longer be any doubt as to the object of the warlike preparations now being completed in South Russia. Nearly 250,000 troops have already been mobilized for active service. The Black Sea squadron with transports in instant readiness. The tension in the relations between St. Petersburg and the Sublime Porte becomes every day more acute. If the Ottoman government, supported by Germany, should prove stubbornly intractable with regard to Russia's concessionary demands in Asia Minor, serious complications must inevitably ensue. The Russian garrisons in the Caucasus and along the Armenian frontier have been increased fourfold and equipped for active service.

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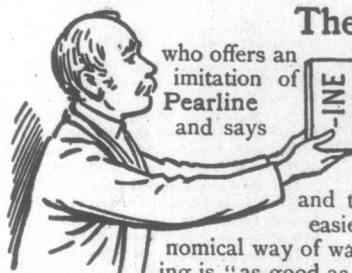
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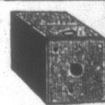
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