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INVERCARGILL.**GARDEN NOTES.****THE FLOWER GARDEN.**

It is also getting late for the planting of roses, and any who are still anticipating planting these should lose no time in getting this done, as most of the roses will be found making a start into growth. When planting, see that the soil is made firm around the roots of the plants, whether they be fruit trees, shrubs, or roses, for very few things like the soil loose about the roots, as they are not only unsteady and unable to get a proper grip of the soil, but the air penetrates to the roots and injures the plants.

A great quantity of hardy plants may be simply and easily raised from seed, not many of them will bloom to any extent during the same season. To obtain blooms the same season it would be wiser to rely upon the better class of hardy annuals, and meanwhile pay attention to securing a better stock of the best perennials ready for planting in their permanent positions next autumn. The following are some of the fine family of which plants may be raised from seed with no more trouble and cost than incurred in raising stocks of annuals or tender things:—Achillea, alyssum, anemones, agnoligias, armeria, asters, aubretia, campanula, coreopsis, delphinium, dianthus, pentstemons, phlox, primrose, and scabiosa. Many others could be named, but I think these will suffice for the present. These seeds are perfectly hardy, and may be sown outside in beds if the soil is good and clean. A nice sheltered border containing a free, open soil will do for them, taking care to sow the seed thinly. The young plants then grow away unchecked. But unless the ground be good and the position favourable, I should advise sowing them in boxes and placing them in a cold frame or in a cool part of a greenhouse. Prick out when the plants are strong enough to handle.

Tender annuals, such as stocks, marigolds, phlox Drummondii, salpiglossis, and many others, should be got in now, providing this can be done under glass and the seed pans are kept in the warmth during the early appearance of the young plants. Sow in boxes or pans in any good open loam and sand, covering the seed very slightly with fine, rich, sandy material. Give them a good warm part of the green house, or, better still, a little bottom heat with some hotbed manure. A little hotbed manure often causes stale seed to germinate when otherwise it would have failed. A sheet of brown paper or a square of glass placed over each pot or box will greatly assist germination by retaining the heat and moisture in the soil, and it will bring the seeds up much quicker than if they received no covering. As soon as the seedlings are up and they have made their rough leaf, prick out singly about 1½ in apart in other boxes, and protect until they are strong enough for planting out.

**THE VEGETABLE GARDEN.**

Prepare the ground by breaking down all lumps with the fork or large hoe.

Plant cabbage and cauliflower, but before doing so dip their roots in a bucket of paste made with soot, a little soft cow manure, and garden soil made the thickness of paint. This assists the root action, and tends to check club root, wire worm, and other pests, as they do not like the soot.

Sow potatoes of the early kinds.  
Sow parsnips, turnips, carrots, beetroot, lettuce, radish, mustard and cress, and parsley.

Rhubarb roots should be planted on good, deeply-dug, and well-manured ground. Plant 3 ft apart, with single crowns, and just deep enough so that the top of the crown comes level with the surface of the ground; and on no account pull the stalks the first season.

Plant sea-kale, either for forcing or for planting in clumps to cover in the ordinary way with pans or boxes to bleach before cutting.

**THE FRUIT GARDEN.**

It is now getting time for pruning and planting to be out of hand, though it is quite possible to plant and prune yet for a few weeks; and, indeed, it will be several weeks before all fruit-tree planting in Central Otago is accomplished, for there are many thousands of fruit trees still to be got in. By the way, what a quantity of fruit New Zealand will be in a position to export when all the miles and miles of fruit trees come into bearing! Few persons have any conception of the vast number of fruit trees there are being planted. What is wanted very badly, especially in the Roxburgh district, is rapid transit for the product by direct communication with the centres by rail. This seems to be the great drawback. It is continuous hammering away at the powers that be that will have the desired

effect, for no one can deny, who knows anything about the district; that it will become a very valuable asset to the Dominion in the near future.

**THE COOL GREENHOUSE.**

This house will soon be gay with early bulbous plants, also the tuberous kinds, such as cyclamen, freesias, and the narcissus family.

Freesias will require tying to small sticks for support, or what are equally good and much less trouble are small, branching twigs inserted here and there amongst the plants. This gives support. They will also require an abundance of water and some liquid manure. As with cyclamen, this should not be given until the bloom spikes appear; then apply it to assist the blooms. They are much stronger and better when assisted in this manner.

**Pasture Notes.****COW-TESTING IN AMERICA.**

According to the annual report of the Bureau of Animal Industry, at Washington, there were in the United States in 1919, 385 cow-testing associations, representing over 10,000 herds, with 167,313 cows under test; these figures comparing with 353 associations representing 9,778 herds and 168,348 cows in 1918. It is pointed out that the work was being carried on with difficulty during the first half of the year, when practically all the official testers were on military service. During the latter half of the year the work was resumed with energy. In many of the States the cow-testing associations are also becoming co-operative associations for the procuring of feeding stuffs, and in Michigan one agent of these bodies selected foods for the herds which resulted in a saving of £600 in the cost of feeding the herds for which the food was bought. The report also states that the tabulation of records of 38,532 dairy cows from 110 cow-testing associations is nearing completion and that a number of interesting points have been brought out, showing the relations between milk production, butterfat test, butterfat-fat production, and income over cost of food. The average milk production was 5,936 lb per cow, and the average butterfat production 246 lb. For each increase of 50 lb in butter fat production there was an average increase of £3 in income over cost of food. In the case of every breed an increase in the use of the butterfat test was accompanied with an increase in butterfat production, and by a decrease in milk production. Larger cows excelled the medium and small cows in production of both milk and butterfat.

Another section deals with the need for improved live stock, a fact which has been emphasised by the results of an investigation which has shown that the consumption of meat per head in the United States is increasing—apparently as one of the results of the war. This state of things, coupled with the increase in the population points to the need of improving live stock for greater production, which is also necessary for milk and dairy products and poultry, as well as for meat. For this the value of pure-bred sires of good type has become so evident, and in all classes of live stock, "that a special campaign has been undertaken to place the facts before the public and enlist efforts to use pure-bred sires. In co-operation with the various agricultural colleges, live stock associations and similar organisations, the Bureau formulated plans for the work applicable to all parts of the country, and the campaign was inaugurated effectively in October, 1919, under the slogan, "Better sires, better stock." Briefly it provides official recognition for live stock breeders using pure-bred sires in all classes of stock; a means of recording prominent breeds and varieties in States and counties, and printed information on successful breeding methods suitable to average farm conditions. Every live stock owner is eligible to enrolment in the campaign, the purpose of which is to banish scrub and inferior sires from the United States."

**TEST THE BULL.**

A point which dairy cattle breed societies would do well to consider is the common practice of disposing of bulls before the milking powers of the heifers sired by them are known.

Many a bull that might have made a great name for himself and a fortune for his owner has been fattened for slaughter before his value as a dairy sire could be proved.

The question is referred to in the report of an agricultural association of Great Britain on "Production and Distribution of Milk," and it is suggested that

breeders should keep the bulls till the value of the progeny is known. There is now in this country a bull that has come into the possession of his third owner before his value as a sire of dairy cattle was recognised, and it was only his good looks and good breeding that saved him from the butcher.

**RIVERTON FOOTBALL CLUB.****UNVEILING WAR MEMORIAL.****A GOOD RECORD.**

The unveiling of a memorial tablet containing the names of members of the Riverton Football Club was held last Sunday in the Empire Theatre.

Mr Albert Ward, president of the club, occupied the chair. The proceedings were opened with the singing of the "Old Hundred," led by the band, Mr Ward having expressed pleasure at the attendance of so many, read apologies for the unavoidable absence of the Revs. C. A. Gray, M.A., and Featherston, both of whom had engagements in the country. He said that soon after the armistice had been signed the club had taken steps to raise funds for a memorial tablet, and he was glad to say that the response to the call had been liberal, with the result that they had been able to have the names of their gallant and heroic comrades inscribed on enduring brass. Through the courtesy of the Athenaeum committee the tablet would be temporarily hung in the Athenaeum until such time as the club had rooms of its own. They had met that day to do honour to the noble dead, and he would now call upon his Worship the Mayor (Dr Trotter) to unveil the memorial. Before doing so he paid a tribute to the men whose memory they were perpetuating. All through the war, men belonging to the club had joined the streams of khaki going to the front, and gallantly and nobly they had played their part. The Latins had a saying that "it was sweet to die for one's country." The men had died for their country, and the most glorious death was that of the patriot. So far as the present generation was concerned, memorials were not necessary to remind them of the sacrifices of the war. The memory of these were carried in their hearts. But they were required to remind those who would come after of the great sacrifices that had been made to preserve to them the freedom and liberties enjoyed. They honoured the noble men, and the brass was emblematic of the enduring fame which they had earned. He then removed the Union Jack from the tablet, and Bandmaster Sergt-Major Hunter sounded the Last post. The Rev. H. Parata followed with an appropriate and sympathetic prayer, concluding with the Lord's Prayer, after which the 7th Regimental Band played "Nearer My God to Thee." Mr J. C. Thomson said people would little note nor long remember what was said on that occasion, but they could never forget what the noble dead had done. That day they were reminded of the patriotism, devotion and self-sacrifice of those men, and the one feeling was of gratitude. One hundred and twenty-eight men men connected with the club had joined the army, and of these twenty-seven would answer the roll call no more. While the men were away the club had raised nearly £400 which was expended in buying comforts for them when they were in the trenches. The club had a fine bond of comradeship, which had shown itself in Saturday's match to raise funds for a sick member. He paid a deserved tribute to Mr Charles Cassels, the secretary, for all the good work that gentleman had done, and concluded by saying that on the football ground and in the Great War, the men had played the game. The band having played another hymn, the chairman moved a vote of thanks to Bandmaster Hunter and his band for turning out, the National Anthem concluding the proceedings.

The Tablet bears the following:—In Memory of Members of the Riverton Football Club, who fell in the Great War, 1914-1918.

E. F. Beer, R. Blackburn, J. L. Cloughley, W. Dwyer, E. J. Geary, F. Geary, W. Gray, H. Hall, J. Hare, F. W. Hunter, J. W. Hunter, W. G. Hunter, H. Hunter, J. P. Hewat, A. S. Hewat, W. R. McIvor, C. C. McIntyre, E. S. McIntyre, S. W. Mills, T. P. Milne, M. A. Pankhurst, J. C. Thomson, jun., A. E. J. Wright, B. White.

"They lie buried in many lands, that we might live in Peace."

Owing to the inability to float a loan in London the Queensland Government is unable to proceed with the scheme for settling several thousand soldiers on the land and also the establishment of State iron works.—News item. In other words to — with the returned soldier when shekels of silver are involved. No doubt some of the autocratic satellites who control the "Comrades of the Great War" movement for political purposes are among the antagonists.

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