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75TH YEAR.

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THE SUGAR SUPPLY PROBLEM.

A note in *The Times Weekly Edition*, May 31, 1920, points out that the problem of securing a supply of fertilizers for Central Europe is under serious consideration by the Allied Governments.

The diminished stock of sugar in the world's markets is a serious problem in the general economical situation. With a view to increasing the supply of sugar, it is stated that definite arrangements have been made, on a limited scale, to assist Poland to buy fertilizers in return for an undertaking to supply the United Kingdom with a certain quantity of beet sugar next winter, which otherwise would be unobtainable. It is also suggested in some quarters that, if Germany could obtain supplies of fertilizers, she would be able to add considerably to the world's sugar supplies as the result of the coming beet crop.—*The Agricultural News*, July 10th.

A French authority states that seaweed or sea-wrack possesses the desired properties for the production of a good paper pulp, and that it offers the following economical advantages. Besides furnishing a crop that is very abundant this sea-weed can be left to dry on the spot, and, before collection, cleansed by a rudimentary shaking process. For transportation it can be put up in bales.—*Ibid.*

It is reported that a patent has been issued to an American inventor for a pipe mixture composed of a combination of beet pulp and leaf tobacco. Under this process, it is asserted, the pulp is

dried; roasted and so prepared that it cannot be distinguished from tobacco in appearance, while the mixture has a most agreeable flavour. It is not stated whether or not the inventor uses his own improved brand.—*Ibid.*

The *Nassau Guardian*, May 5, 1920, states that a grant of £800 has been recommended by the Committee of the whole House of Assembly of the Bahamas for the purpose of undertaking sponge planting in the Bight of Acklins. The experiments in sponge culture by the Marine Produce Board have been sufficiently successful to warrant further planting on a large scale, and the Bight of Acklins, which is a valuable sponge field, has been selected as the most suitable area for continuing the experiments.—*Ibid.*

American honey is becoming increasingly popular in Great Britain the preference being given to Californian honeys, according to Reports issued by the United States Department of Agriculture. In 1914 the total importations of honey by the United Kingdom were approximately 2,600,000 lb. By 1918 this had increased to 36,500,000 lb. of which the United States contributed more than any other country, its share being 16,000,000 lb. valued at \$5,500,000.—*Ibid.*

On the authority of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, it is stated in the *Australian Sugar Journal*, April 9, 1920, that recent experiments disclose the fact that the water hyacinth contains a remarkably high percentage of potash, which can be extracted on a commercial basis. A manufacturing plant has recently been established on the Clarence River, where potash from water hyacinth is being produced for fertilizer purposes. It has been computed that the area of water hyacinth in Swam Bay on the Richmond alone, represented an amount of potash worth more than £15,000 at present day cost.—*Ibid.*

TROUBLE ARITHMETIC.

Ten seconds stolen from work make one distraction.

Ten distractions make one mix-up.

Ten mix-ups make one agitation.

Ten agitations make one nervous habit.

Ten nervous habits make one nervous wreck.

One nervous wreck, divided by wife

and children make one unhappy family.—*American Paper.*

WATERMELON NEWBURGH.

Sabina came over only a month ago on the Baltic, from the Ould Sod. Her sister, here some months and already profiteering, had a place ready for her with a family in Washington Heights. Sabina was delightfully green. Her mistress had ordered watermelon for desert, and when the time came, asked Sabina to serve it.

"Oh, it isn't cooked yet," said Sabina.

After the shock subsided, the watermelon was found boiling briskly on the gas range, in a large pot.

"Sure" said Sabina, "I thought they had to be red, like lobsters, before ye ate 'em. I never saw them things before, anyway."—*N. Y. Evening Post.*



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