

THE SUNFLOWER

A Future Great Industry—Its Present Development

The Helianthus or Sunflower has been grown in some portions of the world as a garden flower several centuries for ornamental purposes.

The discovery of sunflower oil, as an article of food product, was an accident. It is recorded that a Russian farmer had procured some sunflower seed, to plant in his garden, and around his farm, to prevent sickness among his family.

He put a quantity of the seeds in a mortar, and pounded them into a fine meal, which he found to be rich in oil and not in medicine. He strained the oil thus obtained through a cloth, and found it to be clear and pleasant to the taste.

Some persons contended that sunflower oil was deleterious to health, if taken into the system, and should not be recognized as a food product, and that the oil cake was not fit to be used as feed for stock—that it would poison the meat of the beef cattle and the milk from the cows.

An American chemist, living in St. Petersburg, in 1868, made a compound lard, taking sunflower oil as the base, which was pronounced superior to hog's lard, in every respect, for domestic purposes.

There are two varieties of sunflower seed, known in the markets, designated as the large, and the small seed. The small kind are raised exclusively for the production of oil, whilst the large seeds are consumed, by the poor classes, for eating, the same as our American peanut.

His experience has proven that to grow the plant profitably, it is necessary to have a rich soil, which must be compact and deep enough to sustain the long roots of the tall stalk, and the heavy flower, which needs the direct rays of the sun, as indicated by the name of the flower, which is continually turning its face to the sun, while growing.

The experience of another grower is given in these words: "Those persons who have cultivated the sunflower for thirty-five years (in Russia) find that the plant does not impoverish the soil, as most other oil producing plants, but rather improves the land. The best soil for growing the plant is mold or black land, mixed with sand. On this soil, the seeds grow flat and small, and do not yield sufficient oil to make it profitable.

The sunflower does not thrive profitably in clay soil." Experience of planters has proven that it can be cultivated in mold, formed from dried marshes, but the soil must be entirely free from acids. Level lying land plenty of moisture, near streams of flowing water, is said to be the most desirable for its growth, and where the flower reaches its greatest perfection.

Mr. Duncan, an extensive cotton planter in the Mississippi bottom, who visited Russia last year, for the purpose of gaining information in regard to the culture of the sunflower in that country, gives his observations as follows: "The Russians, who grow the plant, generally sow the seeds after a crop of wheat and rye has been harvested from the land. Some sow after oats, and buckwheat, but have found it less profitable to sow after the latter, as the buckwheat takes up such a large per cent. of potassium from the soil, the flower does not pay. It thrives and heads well after crops of rye and clover. The land intended to be planted is thoroughly plowed in the fall, and left until the next spring, at which time the seeds are sown, either in drills or broadcast. If in rows, they are planted from 11 to 24 inches apart, depending largely on the fertility of the soil. On some of the rich, black lands, they grow from four to six crops without resting the land.

Home Made Philosophy. MILYNARS AIR THE FILOSOFERS UV KON-TENT.

When you want to put to rest your mind, you want to put to rest your mind. What kongress haint dun fur the people wood fill a big book.

It is worth and the salary a man gets now to defend the reard and the Demokratik party.

What this kuntry needs az much az ennything else iz a lot uv old fashioned honesty. The fellers what iz got the offices az

stalks soon rot in the ground and leave about one ton of manure per acre in the soil, which is very fine for the next crop. The plant requires but little attention, and labor, after planting. When it is about ten or twelve inches high, the field should be thoroughly cleaned of grass and weeds. That is all that will be required until harvest. Harvest time varies according to soil, climate and the exposure of the flower to the sun. The usual time is fixed, from September first to October fifteenth. When the seeds are fully ripe, the heads of the flower are cut from the stalk, and placed in drying sheds, for the purpose of curing them, the same as curing leaf tobacco. When the flower is fully dry, the seeds are thrashed from the cobs, and screened, and run through a fan mill, and are then ready for the seed mill."

Mr. Duncan continues, "After carefully examining every feature of this new, and novel industry, as conducted by the Russians, I am induced to believe that, with our improved modes of farming, together with our climate and soil, that the cultivation of the sunflower can be made one of the best paying crops that the average American farmer can raise. When we take into consideration the great saving of labor, and expense in producing the crop ready for market, as compared with others, it is wonderful."

A distinguished botanist and chemist says, "There is no plant known to the chemist, that enters more largely into general use than the sunflower, it only rivaling being the cotton plant. The flower is grown principally for the oil, but there is no portion of it, from root to leaves, but what fills some useful purpose." The sunflower products were, like all other new articles, when first placed before the public, in competition with goods of the same class, and they met opposition, which time and energy could only overcome.

The rapid concentration of the land into few hands. The land-owners increased in number, between 1880 and 1890, in these United States, according to the government census, and 25 per cent while the "renters" increased 40 per cent.

Immense areas of valuable ground are held by wealthy foreigners, most of whom are Englishmen. A recent table, widely published, fixed the total of such alien holdings at 23,000,000 acres, distributed as follows:

Table listing land ownership by country: An English syndicate No. 3, in Texas (3,000,000), The Holland Land company, New Mexico (4,500,000), etc.

"In the face of this startling array it may well be questioned whether our British cousins did not blunder in calling attention to the few pitiful sheep farms bought up by a couple of American plutocrats in Scotland. It is far to add to the Anglo-American estates above enumerated the enormous holdings in Manhattan realty by Sir William Waldorf Astor, the rentals of which are being spent for the maintenance of English estates and decrepit Pall Mall journals."

Is that not a startling exhibit? Think of it. If that land was divided up into 40 acre tracts it would furnish homes for 575,000 families, of six persons each, or 3,450,000 people. It has been demonstrated in the state of New York that eleven acres will furnish a living for one adult person. In France many of the farms range from one to five and ten acres. And remember that the only political party in the United States that protects against this alien ownership of land, is the People's party. If they get into power they will take possession of those 23,000,000 acres, pay a reasonable price for them, and throw them open to actual settlers at cost price. No man who is not a citizen or resident of this country should be permitted to take possession of vast areas of our soil and keep the children of the country without homes. It is a villainous outrage that should be stamped out at once. It is an attempt to re-enact the history of Ireland in this free and powerful country.

The People's party and the People's party alone are making a fight against this great evil. Read the land plank of the Omaha platform. You will find nothing like it in the platforms of the two old frauds. Come in with us, brethren, and give the people through the People's party a chance to redress the people's wrong. This is the day of fate. We need you. IGNATIUS DONNELLY.

THE OWNERSHIP OF THE EARTH

There's a question now arising. Deep affecting every hearth. Speeding on with speed surprising. 'Tis the ownership of the earth; And the sage and man of letters, Gazing on the future years, Sees the falling of the letters— Sees the drying up of tears.

Men are learning now the folly Of the claim that man at birth Is a trespasser, and wholly Void of claim to mother earth. Let no tyrant bind thy knowledge In a cell so cramped and small: Seek thy lore at nature's college— This fair earth was made for all.

Think ye that the God of nature, When creation had its birth, Dreamed that there would rise a creature That would buy and sell the earth? Who should extort from his fellow-Grinding landlord's tribute high. Ere on earth the poor may pillow Aching head and drooping eye?

Panthe and ponder, friend and brother: 'Tis a law of hellish birth, That one man must from another Buy a right to dwell on earth. But the mind of man is growing: Soon the writing on the wall To the tyrant will be showing That the earth was made for all.

Nationalize the Telegraphs

The following letter was written by Hon. James M. Brown, late Postmaster of Toledo, Ohio:

LONDON, Aug. 1, 1894. An investigation into the rapid transit of mails into foreign countries, necessarily involves the use of the telegraph, because in England, France and Germany the latter is also monopolized by the Government, and used as an auxiliary to the postal service. It may be of interest to some readers to know something of the organization and usefulness of this arm of the postal service in the largest city of the world.

The central telegraph office of England is located in the Central Royal Postoffice building in St. Martin's-Le-Grand, in the heart of the great city. The staff of this central telegraph office on the 12th of August, 1894, consisted of 3,919 persons, as follows:

Table of telegraph office staff: Men (2,216), Women (992), Messengers (713), Total (3,919).

Modern Business Ethics Teaches That it is wrong to take, physically, and appropriate to your own use, that which belongs to another individual; but that it is right to take intellectually, through interest, rent and profit, and appropriate to your own use the fruits of another person's toil. It also teaches that the first method of securing wealth without earning it is stealing, or robbery, and that the recipient of such wealth should be sent to the penitentiary; that the second method of securing wealth, without earning it, is business, and that the recipient if successful in making a big haul should be admitted into the best society and as a member to the leading church in the town,—in fact, that he should be toasted and feasted by all his fellow citizens as a reward for his splendid business moral (?) qualities.

Stranger as it may seem to the uninitiated, so prevalent is the custom to do homage to the energetic business man and successful financier, that as a rule the people whom they rob through their sharp practices, bow down and worship them, and their methods by which they get something for nothing.

EVANSVILLE, Ind., Oct. 15.—President Harrison left here at 9 o'clock this morning on a special train over the Air line for Indianapolis. Stops were made at New Albany, Jeffersonville and other points where meetings had been arranged.

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THE OWNERSHIP OF THE EARTH (continued)

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Irrigation. Already several thousand miles of large and small irrigating canals have been built and several hundred thousand acres of lands made available for farming operations. Irrigation is an insurance against failure of crops, because success is a question only of the proper application of water to them. The loss of a single corn or wheat crop in Nebraska, for instance, would more than equal the cost of irrigating canals to cover the entire state, so important is the CERTAINTY of a full crop return to any agricultural state. The San Luis Valley will grow Spring wheat oats, barley, peas, hops, beans, potatoes, vegetables and all kinds of small fruits and many of the hardier varieties of apples, pears and all kinds of cherries. In the yield of all these products IT HAS NEVER BEEN SURPASSED BY ANY OTHER SECTION OF THE CONTINENT.

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