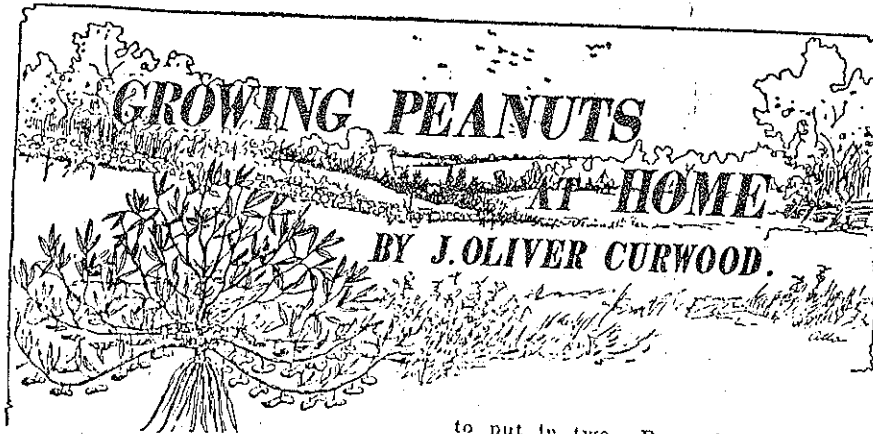


1904



**T**HAT boys may raise their own peanuts just as easily as many of them raise their winter's supply of popcorn is a fact that is not generally known, and which, if fully understood, would work much to the disadvantage of retail peanut venders all over the country.

Somehow people generally have got the idea that peanuts are a semi-tropical product, but as a matter of fact in whatever climate corn will grow, peanuts will also flourish. Michigan or Illinois boys may plant and grow a crop of peanuts as well as the boys of Virginia or Tennessee, though, of course, their crops will not be as big ones. But the peanuts, though smaller, will be just as palatable. The farmer boy or girl who perhaps gets a bag of peanuts two or three times a year, and who looks upon them as the greatest of luxuries, can just as well have them all the year round, and at almost no expense. Even the boys and girls who live in large cities can cultivate enough peanuts in a corner of their back yards to give them a pretty good winter's supply.

When the farmer boy comes to town he buys a sack of peanuts for five cents, and if he counts the peanuts in that package he will find that at the most there will not be more than seventy five nuts in it. Yet it often happens that one peanut plant will produce twice as many. So it would not take many plants, in a good soil, to supply him with a bag of nuts for every day in the year.

The choice of a "good soil"

to put in two. Remember these "kernels" do not mean the nuts with the pods on. Every kernel must be carefully taken out of the shuck, and without breaking or cracking it. These kernels should be planted at a depth of one inch, and a foot apart in the row.

In about two weeks the plants will begin to show through the ground, and from then on the two essential points in the cultivation of the nuts are to prevent grass and weeds from growing, and to keep the soil about the plants loose and mellow. As the cultivation proceeds, and the plants increase in size, the soil should be thrown more and more to the plants, leaving them in the course of six or eight weeks, on a broad flat ridge, with a furrow between the rows. After the first day of August not another weed should be pulled, for then the peanuts are forming. By this time the plants should be running all over the ground, lapping over the edges of the furrows, and perhaps hiding every bit of ground. At every inch or so along these creeping vines is what is known as a "peduncle." This is a little finger, which burrows down into the soft soil, and at the end of that finger forms the nut.

For six or eight weeks the crop remains untouched. During those days the peanuts are growing bigger and heavier, just like potatoes. The time for gathering comes sometime in October, or perhaps not until early in November. Just so long as the vines continue green the nuts are growing, but when they begin to assume a yellowish color they are approaching maturity. After a number of frosts, or one good one, it is time to



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for every day in the year. The choice of a "good soil" means much to the boy peanut grower. The very best is a warm, sandy loam, which at all seasons is free from excessive moisture. If the soil is too heavy and damp, the nuts will be smaller, and mottled or even black. Nearly every boy can get hold of some old plaster. Now after the ground is thoroughly spaded and raked, crush a number of pounds of plaster and scatter about one and a half pounds on every square rod of ground, then rake it in well.

The planting time of the peanut is during the month of May in Virginia and similar latitudes, but in northern states the time comes later. In the latitude of Michigan, and northern Indiana, Illinois and Ohio, the planting may be done anywhere from June first to the tenth, according to the warmth and earliness of the season.

Boys who may try the experiment this year must be sure and not plant the kind of peanuts they eat, that is, baked ones. If dealers in small towns do not have raw peanuts, ten cents sent to any wholesale or retail merchant in a city will bring back enough raw nuts to raise a couple of bushels with. The rows in which the nuts are planted are laid out about two and a half feet apart, and each row is rounded up into a little ridge, flattened on top. In the south only one kernel is planted to a hill, but in more northern states it is a good plan

approaching maturity. After a number of frosts, or one good one, it is time to harvest. A vine should first be gently pulled out by the hand, and to the roots that come with it will be found attached dozens of nuts. Then the ground where the vine grew should be carefully dug up with a hoe in a hunt for the loose nuts left in the earth. After all have been dug comes the "curing," one of the most important processes in the raising of peanuts.

The chief thing to remember now is that if the nuts are exposed to the air they will turn a dingy, stained color. Under some sort of a shelter where plenty of air is circulating the nuts still attached to the vines should be "shocked" so that all of the nuts are in the center of the pile and the vines outside, thus protecting them from both light and wind. The loose nuts can be scattered on boards or a table, and covered with hay. In nice bright weather the nuts will cure in from two to three weeks, and then they are ready for picking. This, of course, is easy work, and a boy can pick a bushel of them in about three hours if he hurries.

Now the nuts should be placed in a good dry place to await use. A peanut is not good after it has been baked a day or two, so they should be baked as wanted. They may be placed in an oven, and about every three or four minutes should be stirred with a stick, and the process should be continued until the nuts are "done" to the required point.

## "Jones He Pays The Freight"

There lives at Binghamton, N. Y., an interesting character in the personage of General Edward F. Jones, better known as "Jones, he pays the freight," that being the motto of his big business—that of manufacturing and selling safes. General Jones was in command of the famous old Sixth Massachusetts Infantry, which made that historic and exciting march through Baltimore at the breaking out of the Civil War. To a correspondent of the Boston Globe he tells something of his boyhood, which was spent in Boston:

"I must have been fourteen or fifteen years old when I came to Boston," he says. "I can remember it just as if it were yesterday. I can picture my brother and I as we stepped off the train in the station on Beach street, opposite the United States hotel—two green country boys the first time we had ventured away from home alone in a big city. We went back to the baggage car and got our little baggage trunk and carrying it between us we started to look for a boarding house. I had had a place picked out for me before leaving home. It wasn't much of a place, fifty dollars for the first year. We tramped along the streets until we reached Pavilion street. Two little chaps whom we met on Boylston street seized us up and were candid-



JONES OF BINGHAMTON

erably amused at our homemade appearance. As we passed them I heard one of them say: 'Boy wanted, one from the country preferred.' As we passed along Boylston street we saw a sign in the window, which read:

**BOY WANTED**  
One From the Country  
Preferred.

"It was not until we saw that sign that we realized that the two city chaps were making fun of us. It riled us somewhat, especially my brother, who dropped his end of our trunk and started on the run after the two city chaps. As soon as they saw my brother in pursuit they took to their heels and ran.

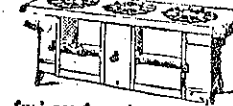
"We walked through the Common, by the Frog pond and ascended the steps in front of the state house. There we rested and gazed in awe and wonderment at the state house. I little thought that in a little less than eighteen years later I would be standing in the same spot as colonel of the Sixth regiment, receiving from the hands of the Governor of the state the regimental flags, bound for the nation's capital.

"We finally secured a boarding house on Dorne street. The next morning I reported for duty at my employers—Colby & Lyman, 47 Milk street, dry goods merchants."

Every school boy in the land knows by heart the story of the march of the Massachusetts Sixth through Baltimore. Shortly after the recent Baltimore fire General Jones sent his check to the Mayor of Baltimore, saying: "With a vivid recollection of the warm reception given to me on the 19th of April, 1861, by the people of Baltimore, I take pleasure in enclosing my check for one hundred dollars, which please place in your relief fund."

General Jones' regiment was the first in receipt of the national capital at the breaking out of the war. On his arrival President Lincoln made special mention of him, for had you not arrived tonight you should have been in the hands of the rebels before morning." The regiment established the headquarters in the United States senate chamber, and on the first night General Jones slept in the chair of the Vice President.

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