

## Do You Know?

*Alcohol and aluminum* may be on the crucial list throughout 1945.

*Agar* is also known as Japanese, Chinese, Bengal or Ceylon isinglass.

*Pyrethrum* for insecticides, grown principally in Japan in prewar days, is now being experimentally raised in Ceylon with promising results.

*Penicillin* is being produced on a commercial scale by 21 plants in the United States and Canada, as well as by many others in foreign countries.

*Naphthalene* flakes placed under the drainage hole of a flower pot will release vapor that will rise inside the pot and kill tiny worms.

*Tomatoes* were the outstanding favorite vegetables grown by Victory gardeners during the past war years; onions and cabbage were high in favor.

*Glass-lined* containers in the chemical industry have grown greatly in favor and use because they withstand the corrosive action of all acids except hydrofluoric, and of many other chemicals.

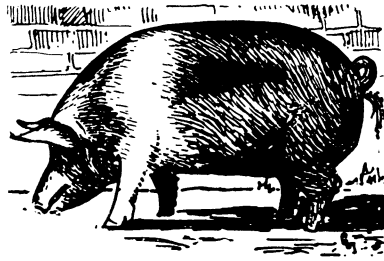
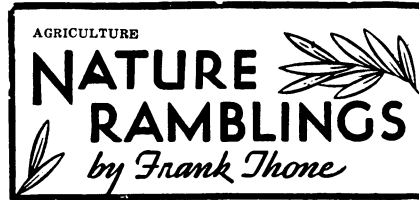
*Brewer's yeast*, a by-product of beer-making once largely wasted, is a first-class protein food for poultry and farm animals, as it is rich in all the important vitamins of the B-group.

*Waxy corn*, to replace supplies of tapioca obtained from the East Indies before Pearl Harbor, was grown last year on nearly 16,000 acres in Iowa alone, yielding an average of 55 bushels an acre.

Over 10,000 tons of *animal bones* were imported annually in prewar years from France, Africa, South America and India by Swiss factories that produced industrial fats, glue and fertilizers.

*Infra-red* rays are used to photograph valuable old paintings to aid research into the techniques of the old masters; they penetrate through the upper layers of paint and reveal the subsurface modeling.

Bituminous *coal output* per miner per day in America averages over five tons, while in England it is only slightly over one ton; the wide use of mining and loading machinery in this country is partly responsible.



**Pigs and Potatoes**

► IRELAND owes much to the pig, more to the potato. A small country of small farms, having moreover to endure the drain of foreign exploitation through much of its history, Ireland simply had to be able to offer its people cheap, easily produced food if they were to survive, let alone increase to the emigration point as they have notably done. Pigs and potatoes, both prolific even in limited space, are par excellence the poor man's meat and bread. It is not through mere whim that the image on the Saorstat's halfpenny piece is not the face of a sovereign or a national hero but the figure of a fat sow and her squealing brood: Ireland owes much more to her pigs than to her politicians, any day.

Yet the pig is not native Irish. Apparently all the domestic pigs in the world came originally from somewhere in Asia, perhaps China. However, Ireland had pigs before she even had a history—and Irish history is long. And if anything were needed to naturalize the pig, making him Irish forever, it would be the fact that St. Patrick himself served as a swineherd, when as a youth he was kidnaped into serfdom under a pagan master.

The potato, being a gift of the New World, came to Ireland much later, and well within the frame of written history. Coming from high-altitude country in the southern hemisphere, this root crop adapted itself readily enough to the cool, moist climate of Ireland's northern high latitude, where corn, the other great bulk-feed plant from America, would not thrive.

Legend says that the potato was introduced into Irish cultivation by a philanthropic Englishman, Sir Walter Raleigh. There is an interesting old woodcut

showing the elegant Sir Walter standing in a potato field, supervising the digging of the first crop of tubers. Incidentally, Sir Walter is shown smoking a clay pipe—an obvious ancestor of the "dudeen" of a thousand comedy-Irish caricatures. If he really did bring to Ireland the comfort of tobacco as well as the solid sustenance of the potato, Sir Walter would almost seem to rate an advance in title to St. Walter, and a place not too far back of St. Patrick in the parade on the Seventeenth of March.

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*Corn cribs* constructed by early American Indians were built of cane.

*Phosphate drinks*, given cattle in sections where the soil is deficient in phosphorus, result in more productive breeding and better gains by calves; disodium phosphate and defluorinated triple superphosphate are used.

## Facts ABOUT



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