

THE FREE DISTRIBUTION OF GARDEN SEED.

The Democratic Congressmen will go a long way towards securing the confidence of the American people if they will, at as early a date as possible, put a stop to the free distribution of garden seeds. We have not much hope that they will do it; for we presume that human nature in a Democratic Congressman does not differ a great deal from that in the Bull Moose of Republican Congressman.

This practice of distributing seeds came in long years ago when the country was new, with the distinct object of distributing new or rare and valuable seeds. It has degenerated into a grave abuse, costing, we presume, in seeds and packing and franked postage, somewhere around half a million dollars a year.

This is not done for the benefit of the farmer. The seeds thus sent out in recent years are just the ordinary garden seeds. Some of them will grow and some will not. The quality; we understand, is getting better, through the efforts of the Department of Agriculture. But no matter whether they grow or not, they are the same seeds that the farmer grows in his garden, or borrows from his neighbor, or buys from the seed store at a small price. They are none the better because of the fact that some seedsman grew them under contract with the Government, and the Government paid freight on them to Washington and postage out again.

It is simply Congressional graft, not in money, but in the method of winning the favor of the people. A Congressman is selected not because of his judgment of seeds, but because of his ability and his integrity. The majority of the farmers really don't want these seeds. The State of Ohio is endeavoring to ascertain the wishes of farmers on many subjects, and among others whether or not they want these seeds. Recent reports given to the Secretary of State show that out of 1,000 farmers, 301 wanted the seeds and 709 did not, more than two to one. The farmers who want the seeds can easily buy them or get them from a neighbor as a gift.

Farmers have protested against this graft, for such it is, for the last quarter of a century. Yet it still keeps on, because the Congressman is not willing to deny himself the privilege of mailing a package of seeds to some farmer or farmer's wife as a proof of his thoughtful care and interest in their welfare. The fact is, the Congressman perhaps never heard of them before. He gets a list of names, gives them to his clerk, and the clerk mails them or has them mailed, and the Government pays the expense.

It is time they should either repeal this law altogether, or else go back to its original intent and purpose. The Government can secure rare and valuable seeds; and these might be distributed to the Experiment Stations for experimental purposes. If they prove valuable for that particular locality or State, they can easily be distributed. Seedsmen will get onto it and multiply them to any extent for which there may be a market. This will be doing the country a service; but to send beans to a farmer who has been eating beans all winter, and does not need any beans, or to send beans to a Louisiana farmer that might be satisfactory in Iowa, or vice-versa, is simply a piece of nonsense, which would not be continued unless there was some graft in it, or, in other words, unless the Congressmen felt that by sending out these seeds they were making themselves solid with the good, innocent people living out in the country, who look upon them as evidence that

the Congressman at Washington is lying awake at night, thinking about the garden stuff.

Reform it altogether. Cut it out. Now if a Democratic Congressman will do this, even a Bull Moose or a Republican farmer, progressive or standpat, will give him credit. They will all say: Well, here's a man that strips himself of seeming advantages, whether it is graft or not, and he's worthy of confidence.

If Congressmen could only realize that they would make more votes by not sending out garden seeds, the farmer would cease to be bothered by a lot of truck that he gets in his mail early in the spring, which he feeds to his hogs or chickens, or perhaps in disgust throws them out on the roadside. The farmer is not a fool. If the money that was spent for this form of petty graft was apportioned to the different Experimental Stations, the farmer would think more of Congress, and in the end would receive the benefit.—Wallace's Farmer.

"What's the matter with your wife? She's all broken up lately."
 "She got a terrible jar."
 "What has happened?"
 "Why, she was assisting at a rummage sale, took off her new hat, and somebody sold it for thirty-five cents."

 The traveling agent had four minutes in which to catch his train.
 "Can't you go faster than this?" he asked the street-car conductor.
 "Yes," the bell-ringer answered, "but I have to stay with my car."

 Little Ella's father was an eminent author, and one day while he was at luncheon the little girl occupied a chair in his study. Shortly a caller was ushered in, and with a pleasant smile, inquired:
 "I suppose you assist your father in entertaining bores?"
 "Yes, sir," replied Ella, gravely; "please be seated."

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Pride of Elysian, Highest Quality Patent Flour, -	\$4.80 bbl.	Burt Seed Oats, - - - - -	\$.65 per bu.
SELECT, Good Patent Flour, - - - - -	4.60 bbl.	Red Rust Proof Seed Oats, - - - - -	.52 per bu.
Full Cream Cheese, - - - - -	.19 per lb.	Appler Seed Oats, - - - - -	.70 per bu.
Fresh Roasted Coffee, Special Bargain, - - - - -	.19 per lb.	Mixed Feeding Oats, - - - - -	.42 per bu.
Choice Green Coffee, - - - - -	.18 1-2 per lb.	Ship Stuff, - - - - -	24.50 per ton
Delicious Lake White Fish, Equal to Mackerel, - - - - -	.03 1-2 per lb.	Red Dog Hog Feed, - - - - -	30.00 per ton
Granulated Sugar, - - - - -	.05 1-4 per lb.	Bran, - - - - -	25.00 per ton
Fine Table Salt, - - - - -	1-2 c. per lb.	Ground Corn and Oat Feed, - - - - -	27.00 per ton

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