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THE INTERNATIONAL.

The twelfth International Live Stock Exposition held at the Union Stock Yards, Chicago, this week was an even greater success from every standpoint than those which have preceded it. Exhibits compared favorably in numbers with those of previous years, while the average quality of the exhibits all along the line was far superior to the high standard set in previous years. As usual, the interest during the early days of the show centered in the judging of the single fat classes, and the selection of the grand champion steer of the show from the winners in the different classes.

This coveted honor, for the fourth time in the history of the show, was awarded to the Iowa State College on the grand grade Angus steer Victor, shown in the accompanying illustration. This grand individual weighed into the ring at 1,670 pounds. He was two years, 10 months and 15 days old, and was one of the few animals that have been carried over from previous years in such fine show condition, which feat, together with the fact that this is the fourth time that animals from the Iowa college have won the grand championship at this premier show, is an appropriate testimonial to the importance of skill and judgment in feeding for best results.

This steer was bred by W. J. Millar, of Iowa, from whom Prof. Kennedy, of the Iowa college, purchased him at the American Royal Show at Kansas City in the fall of 1910. He won the grand championship at the Fort Worth Show in March, 1910, and was exhibited at last year's International, being awarded the grade championship but was defeated for the reserve championship by the yearling Shorthorn steer, exhibited by James Leaske, of Canada.

During the past year his ration has been a mixture of corn and oats with bran and alfalfa, with a run at grass during the summer. The wonderful quality of the animal is reflected in the price which he brought in the sale ring. After spirited bidding by competitors he was sold in the ring at 90 cents per pound, the high-

est price paid for an International Grand Champion since 1900, when Advance, the first grand champion of the International, sold at \$1.50 per pound. The next highest price was paid for Shamrock 2nd, the 1910 champion, which sold for 60 cents per pound.

His closest competitors for the honors were Prince of Viewpoint 2nd, a pure-bred Angus steer shown by the University of Nebraska which won the Angus

in competition after the weeding out process by a committee of expert cattle buyers appointed for the purpose. This committee stated that the task of elimination was much more difficult at this show than at previous Internationals, owing to the fact that feeders have learned the important lesson that it is useless to bring animals that are not of show quality and finish.

The popularity of baby beef, when pos-

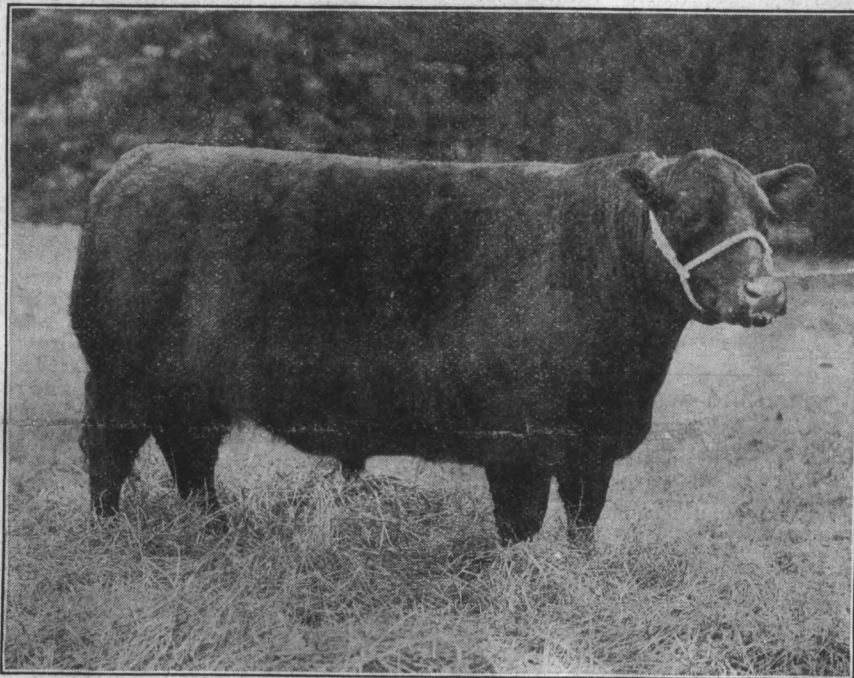
in this class were all of the Angus breed, the two-year-old championship having been won by the same firm that exhibited the grand championship load, while the three-year-old championship was won by G. R. Wessener, of Tipton, Mo. Many of the visitors, as well as the competitors themselves, had picked the two-year-old steers exhibited by Escher & Ryan as the winners of this premier honor, but the two judges who had placed the awards in the different classes agreed on the championship without calling in a referee. In 1902 the Escher exhibit won the grand championship at Chicago, and 1904 the first prize yearlings were Escher cattle.

The largest percentage of the championship steers were pure-bred and all of them showed the best of Angus type. They had been groomed from calves for this purpose, being fed a light ration of oats before they were weaned, and after weaning, a grain ration of corn and oats. After being placed upon full feed the ration was varied from time to time with a variety of feeds, including corn, cottonseed meal, oil meal, molasses feed and roots, while this fall, as soon as the corn had reached the roasting stage, they were given plenty of green corn. The steers were fed in the open and had the run of a blue grass pasture during the summer. They sold in the auction ring at \$15.75 per cwt., the highest price paid for any previous championship exhibit since 1906, when the championship carlot sold at \$17 per cwt.

The exhibits in all other classes were of uniformly good quality and totaled little higher in number than at last year's show. In the carlot classes for feeding cattle there were 33 carlots entered, two more than last year, while the quality was considered even better, and was attested by the fact that only two loads were rejected in the eliminating process by the "weeding committee."

In the carlot hogs exhibited, there were 17 entries against 14 last year. In the sheep department there were 18 loads exhibited, three of which were from Michigan. Of the latter the native lambs

(Continued on page 528).

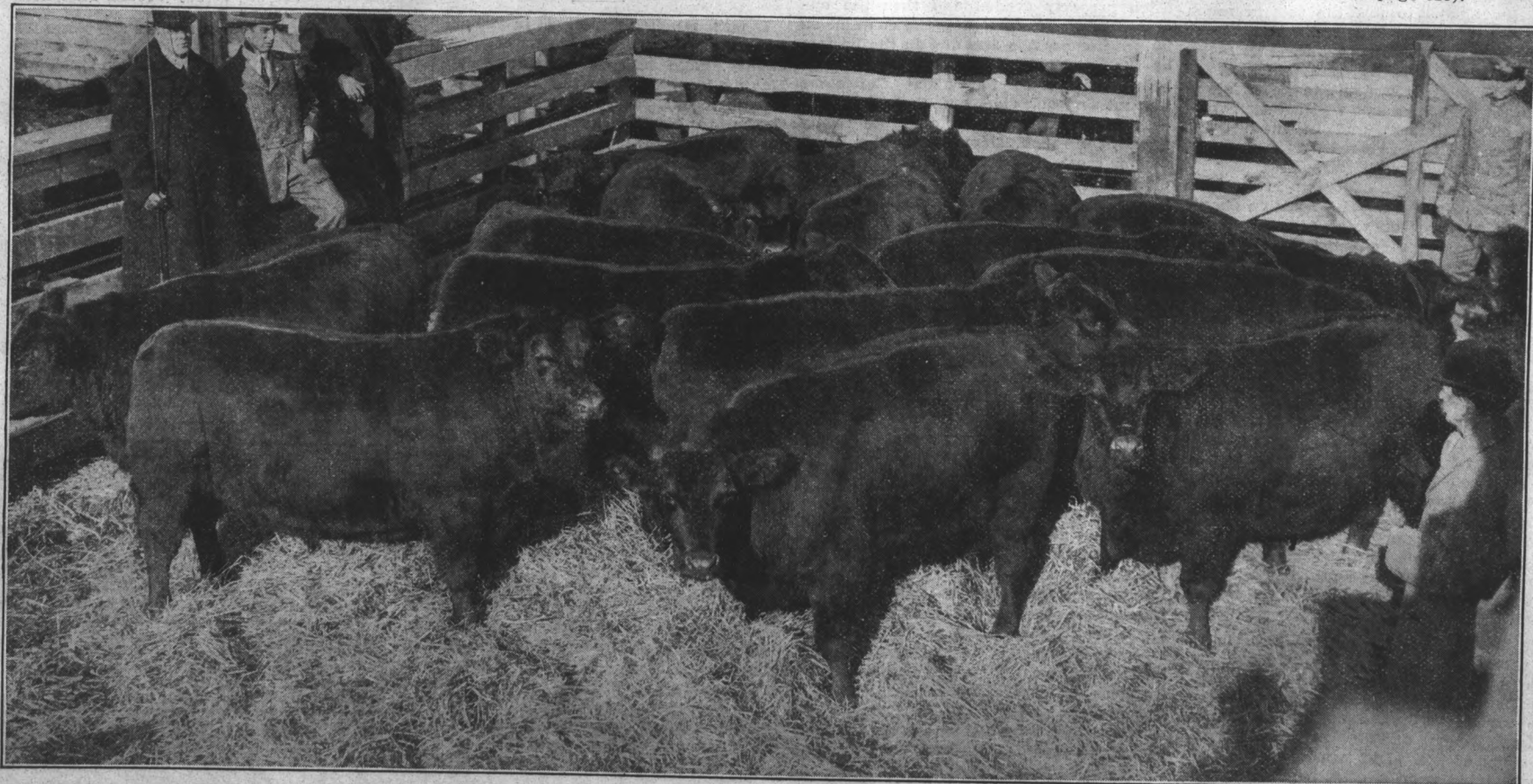


Victor, Grand Champion Fat Steer at the Twelfth International.

championship in 1910, and a Hereford calf shown by the University of Missouri. The Nebraska steer was awarded the Reserve Championship, while the Missouri calf stood third.

The interest in the car lot contest was even keener than usual. There were 86 loads of steers entered in the fat carlot classes, only 59 loads of which remained

possessed of the proper finish, was again attested by the awarding of the grand championship in the carlot classes to the grand load of grade Angus yearlings exhibited by Escher & Ryan, of Irwin, Ia. Something of the quality and uniformity of this load of cattle can be seen from the accompanying illustration. The competitors for grand championship honors



Grand Champion Load of Fat Steers at the 1911 International. A Grand Lot of Angus Yearlings and a Living Argument for the Superiority of Baby Beef.

THE PROBLEM OF THE SANDY FARM.

I approach the discussion of this subject with considerable hesitation for, after traveling Michigan over and over, I have seen the problem calling for solution in almost every locality. It has been mine to contend with it personally to some extent for years, with varying success.

The thoughts expressed in this article may not be in accord with the mind of the reader. They may not be correct but should they provoke thought, investigation and some degree of resolution, this effort will be amply justified.

The greatest necessity of our sandy soils is the power to conserve moisture. The grains of the sandy soil are so large that the water escapes very rapidly. In seasons when rain is plenty, sandy land yields abundantly and the owner takes courage. But in dry years the crop is small and a disappointment and financial losses are the lot of many who have tilled the sandy farm.

The first and most important question, therefore, is the conservation of moisture. What is to be done to enable the sandy field to pass through a period of drought without injury to the crop? Can any of the evil effects of the dry weather be avoided by proper management? As we have stated, one of the causes of sand drying out so quickly is the size of the soil particles.

This we cannot help. But fortunately there are other causes also that are measurably within our control. Sandy soils are very generally lacking in vegetable matter. Humus, present in the soil, in sufficient quantity, enables it to retain moisture in a large degree. But the sand is so porous and the effect of the sun upon it is so marked that the humus is rapidly destroyed. If a good clover sod can be plowed under, the sandy field, when properly tilled, will grow a good crop and carry it through a long period of drought with little injury. It does this, in part, because of the presence of a large quantity of vegetable matter.

The first thing to do with the unprofitable sandy farm is to get the vegetable matter back into the soil in some way. Dreams of commercial fertilizer and of new and wonderful plants are vain. We must get back to the plants that we know will thrive on Michigan farms and grow them and replenish the humus in the soil.

But some man will say, "I cannot get a catch of clover. I have tried again and again and failed;" and this may be entirely true. But there is usually a way out if we but look for it.

Rye is a crop that seldom fails. When sown early, it will get a good growth in the fall and if plowed under in the spring will add greatly to the content of humus. With more vegetable matter in the soil, the chance to get a catch of clover is improved. True, rye adds no nitrogen, phosphoric acid or potash to the soil that it has not previously taken from it. But it pays its debt to the ground and, in addition, returns a large quantity of carbon that helps to put the soil in much better condition. We want the clover just as soon as we can get it. But many sandy farms are so sadly lacking in humus that it is difficult to get a stand of clover at all, except under very favorable circumstances, and in these cases rye can profitably be used as a stepping stone to something better.

A short rotation of crops is best on this kind of a farm. The rotation should contain a clover crop, of course. Stable manure adds greatly to the humus in the soil. It should be saved carefully and applied in the right manner and at the right time but on the ordinary farm there is not enough of it to keep up the supply of humus and, in consequence, quantities of vegetable matter from other sources must be plowed under.

The farmer has read that from 60 to 90 per cent of the value of the crops fed to stock, is returned in the form of stable manure and so he carelessly reasons that he may sell his wheat, part of his corn and oats, a load of hay now and then and, if he has enough left to feed his team, two or three cows and as many young cattle, and hauls out the manure after the spring rains have washed it and puts it on two or three acres of corn ground, he is doing pretty well by his farm.

It is true that from 60 to 90 per cent of the nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash in the food is returned to the feeder. But from three-fourths to five-sixths of the carbon is burned up in keeping the animal warm and in maintaining the mystery of life. Did you ever go into a large stable upon a cold, blustering win-

ter's day and note how comfortable it is? A friend and I were riding one day through a dairy section in the central part of the state when we became very cold and so we stopped at a dairy barn, not only to see a splendid herd of Holstein cattle but to get warm, and we were not disappointed. It would have taken a great many cords of wood or a great many tons of coal to have kept that large stable comfortable throughout the winter months, but the cattle were doing it, and, instead of burning wood or coal, they were burning ensilage, splendid hay, and a variety of grains. They gave back a liberal percentage of some of the food nutrients, but three-quarters of the possible humus contained in their feed was burned up for their comfort and went off in their breath.

It is, therefore, very important to make the most of fertilizing materials produced upon the farm, in which case it is much easier to get a good stand of clover. But the tendency of sand to blow is often hard to contend with. Here, again, we suffer from the same lack of humus. The sand rich in vegetable matter does not blow so easily, and if we would prevent the evil effects of the winds, we must put the humus back into the soil. If we had been wise enough in the past to leave the timber we wished to reserve upon these sandy farms in the form of wind breaks, the wind would have been far less troublesome. I have spent months in the upper peninsula where much of the land is covered, as yet, with a tangle of spruce, balsam and tamarack. They have little trouble with the winds in those places. If, when they clear this land, they might be wiser than we have been and leave wind breaks in proper places, the future would prove their wisdom without a doubt.

But this article is too long, already, and I have hardly touched the subject. Let me just say, once more in closing, to the man with an unprofitable sandy farm: "Get the vegetable matter back into the soil."

Oceana Co.

W. F. TAYLOR.

DRAINING SWAMP LAND.

Please advise me as to whether swamp land can be tile drained successfully. The muck varies in depth from six inches to three feet. Underlying soil is sand with some spots of quicksand and also some spots of marl. Would the tile be apt to clog in the quicksand? Could lay tile from two to three feet deep. This ground has been under cultivation for several years and is drained by open ditches but does not dry off fast enough in the spring to start crops in proper time. Therefore before going to the expense of tiling I would be pleased to have the experience of others. I might add that there is good fall and direct outlet into creek for most of the drains.

Allegan Co.

J. H. V.

Any kind of land can be drained. There is no trouble in laying tile in quicksand if one understands. After the ditch is dug and graded then the tile should be laid by the operator backing up, that is, he must not step on the tile after they are laid, if he does he will get them out of shape, but if he has the bottom of the ditch properly graded and then the operator backs up in laying the tile and as he progresses, fills fine dirt in the bottom of the ditch on either side of the tile, being careful to put about the same amount on each side, and then some over the top so as to get this tile firmly fixed in its bed, then by putting on a foot or more of dirt there will be no difficulty about walking over the ditch or filling it in any way you please. The great trouble is experienced in not allowing the tile to settle where they are placed. If the depth of the outlet is sufficient I think it would be proper to lay these tile just about at the bottom of the muck where it is deepest, and then where it is only several inches deep the tile would go lower, but if you get the tile just below the muck then they will work best and drain the land thoroughly.

COLON C. LILLIE.

THE FARMER'S VACATION.

Shall the farmer have a vacation? This question occasionally comes up for discussion in the farm papers, and is generally answered in the affirmative, but the advice is generally followed negatively. The reason is that no one can be found to take the farmer's place while he takes his vacation, which is in a measure true, yet this difficulty is not insurmountable. City people leave their business to others for a few weeks in the summer and get out into some quiet country place where they can forget their cares and rest their nerves and exercise their bodies in a different way from the

daily routine of exercise, and they declare that they come back much refreshed and ready to resume their work with renewed energy. True, the work may not have gone on just as they would have wished but it is the slack time for them anyway, and the business has gone on somehow. Possibly it has been the means of bringing out the latent ability of some employee, and proved him capable of bearing more responsibility which the employer would be glad to shift. This alone may be worth all its cost.

True, the farm conditions are quite different, still the comparison can be made between them. The farmer may not be able to take his vacation in the summer months, and if not he should plan to get some kind of respite from the daily routine during the winter. It may not be quiet that he needs, in fact, it may be just the opposite. A week or two in the city may be more of a change than a country trip. This can generally be taken at little expense as most of us have relatives in some town or city.

But the hardest question to solve is how to leave our work. We have come to think that no one else can attend to the work that we have looked after so long. We are prone to think that everything will stop if we leave, but it won't. The world will go on just the same after we drop off, and possibly our successors will carry on our work better than we can, so why not give them a chance to try it for a few weeks, at least once in a while. Perhaps we will be more appreciated when we return, or perhaps we will better appreciate those who carry on the work while we are away.

So, if we have the help to look after the chores and other necessary work for a while during the winter, let us explain to them as well as we can what is wanted and get them broken in while we are with them, then turn the reins over to them and when we leave forget that there is such a place as home. It will do us good to throw all care and thoughts of home work from our minds for a time, and enter into the attractions of the new surroundings with a zest.

If we can not secure suitable help to look after our affairs at home we may be able to secure the services of some neighbor in exchange for a similar service. This would benefit both of us and be a very desirable method of co-operation.

And while we are considering a vacation we should include the housewife, if not the entire family. She is probably more in need of a change than are we, for she is more closely confined to her duties at the house, while we have the whole farm, a chat with the neighbors often, and an occasional trip to town. Even if we can not go we should insist on the good wife having at least a short respite from home duties.

Calhoun Co.

S. B. HARTMAN.

THE AGRICULTURAL ADVANTAGES OF MICHIGAN.

I was much interested in what Mr. Lillie and Mr. Washburn, of Jackson county, have said on the above subject. Having traveled from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast, and from San Antonio, Texas, to North Dakota, and on these travels having stopped and visited in a number of different states, I have yet to find any place with better markets, better transportation facilities, a greater variety of soils, where a greater variety of products can be grown, than can be found in many parts of Michigan, and as the above writers have said, it is also a great puzzle to me why improved farms in the fruit belt and other sections of the state are offered for sale so cheap. For real profit, I would sooner have a good apple or peach orchard in Ottawa county than any orange grove of the same size in southern California. It costs so much to irrigate, cultivate and spray an orange grove, that there is but little profit in growing this fruit. While visiting in southern California a few years ago it was a great surprise to me to see bushels of lemons rotting on the ground, and being told the reason for this, was because it did not pay to pick and prepare them for market. My advice to any one who owns a farm in Michigan, and are in fairly prosperous circumstances, and enjoying good health, is not to be in a hurry to sell out cheap for the purpose of going to the Pacific coast, to Texas, or some other state, expecting to better their condition, because nine times out of ten they will be disappointed.

Ottawa Co.

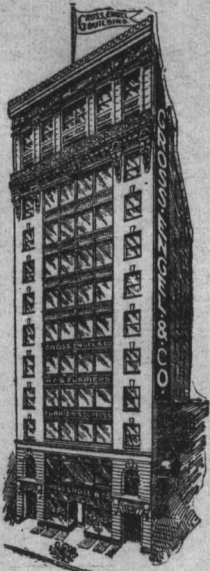
JOHN JACKSON.

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A DRAINED MARSH PROBLEM.

I own a farm of 280 acres in Calhoun county, three-fifths of which is marsh. A few years ago we put through the Nottawa ditch, which drained the marsh dry. Since that time, however, I have been unable to hire the marsh broken up or to get a tenant who would touch it except for a fancy price. There is a tough sod, and, of course, it is a mean, hard job. My object in writing is to ask if you can make any suggestions as to some use to which the marsh can be put, labor being scarce, and other circumstances as they are. I, for one, am beginning to feel "buncoed" when I consider what the ditch cost. Some claim, too, that draining a marsh also drains the hard land to an injurious extent, and I would like to ask what you think about that. If it were true it would be about time to stop the talk about "reclaiming marshes," "best land you've got," etc. Please answer through the Michigan Farmer or address me directly.

Washington, D. C.

P. D. H.

I have not had an extensive experience with marshes, but have observed enough to know that they vary much. Some will grow good truck crops, such as onions or celery and some will not, at least in their present conditions. I have seen more failures in breaking up true marshes and trying to get tame grasses started than I have seen successes. If the marshes are not too low, and drained as stated, you might be able to get them broken up, and by using oats or buckwheat to get started with a seeding of timothy with some red top and alsike clover, it might yield you a good crop for several years. Buckwheat is one of the best crops I know to subdue low ground or hard spots. If the land will grow hoed crops these will assist in subduing the wild grasses. We have a semi-marsh which gave good returns for hay or pasture for several years in succession and if the season is right we can get a fair crop of oats, corn, or even wheat. This is not true marsh land, however. Have seen good potatoes grown on marshes, also good corn, and again they would fail, but in most cases the drainage was insufficient.

Most of the marsh land near here is of use only for pasture, and but a small amount of this is secured from them. We cut hay on some of them for mulching strawberries. It also makes good bedding and packing, and stock will eat some of it if it is nice and green. There is quite a demand for marsh hay for packing and bedding in the cities, where there is a large quantity in a place buyers will give a fair price for the stacked hay for baling and shipping, or if the marsh is near enough to a large town it can be hauled loose. I think one can secure from five to eight or ten dollars per ton for baled marsh hay, depending upon the scarcity of hay, rye straw, and such material for feeding, bedding, and packing purposes.

If the marsh in question is suitable for mowing with a machine, this might be the best method of handling it, especially as the owner is farming at "long distance" and, as a rule, the kind of farming that requires little labor pays best in such instances. If the grass is not now of good quality, containing weeds and possibly some fine brush, but is not too rough to mow it will improve each year from the cutting of the weeds and brush, giving the grass a chance to get ahead.

Possibly the marsh would have been better for this purpose without the drainage, and possibly it is not suitable to mow, or may be more valuable for other crops, but I am suggesting the marsh hay crop as being easy to handle at a distance, and require little outlay for labor or tools. If there is not a suitable market in Battle Creek, Marshall, or Albion, you can bale and ship to a larger market or take the matter up with a hay buyer.

As for the drain injuring the high land adjoining the marsh, it may lower the water table beneath the soil somewhat, and possibly affect the moisture content during dry spells, but by proper cultivation I believe enough moisture can be saved from the rains for the growth of crops and that the injury to the high land will not be at all serious.

Calhoun Co.

S. B. HARTMAN.

KEEPING UP FERTILITY OF 80-ACRE FARM.

In keeping up the fertility of a farm of 80 acres by means of stable manure how many cows would be required? Would it pay to use rock phosphate, and how much per acre? Can we keep up fertility simply by use of commercial fertilizers?

Montcalm Co.

O. C. M.

Keeping cows or live stock and simply feeding them what is grown on the farm without buying anything from the outside, will not and cannot maintain the

fertility of the land. This system of farming will husband the fertility, but not maintain it. Every crop, every animal, and every dairy product that is sold from the farm removes fertility from the farm because from the plants which grow in the soil some fertility is taken to produce these products and when sold from the farm this fertility is removed. Consequently, in time if nothing is added the soil would be depleted in fertility. Now when we keep dairy cows or practice live stock husbandry, instead of selling the plants off from the farm we sell the animals or animal products. By first feeding the plant to the animal we husband the fertility of the soil because, when the animal consumes the plant it does not use all of the nitrogen, phosphoric acid, and potash, the three essential elements of fertility, which the plant takes from the soil. Part of this cannot be used by the animal economy and is returned to the land, but nothing is added by feeding these plants to an animal. No fertility is added to the farm and some of it is removed. If a man begins farming on good fertile land and begins at once a system of live stock husbandry he can husband the fertility of his soil and keep it up in crop producing power for a great many years. There is no doubt about that, but in the final analysis his soil will be depleted. Now, however, if he keeps animals enough on the farm to consume all of the roughage that he grows, and go outside of the farm to purchase some grain to help balance up the roughage ration then he adds fertility in the purchased grain and if he carefully preserves the manure and puts it back onto the soil with good management he will not only keep the fertility of the soil but he can actually increase it. Of course, this system of live stock husbandry is not practical to be universally followed. If it was there would be no extra grain to buy.

Whether it is profitable to use raw phosphate rock or not is a question that I am unable to decide. It is a question that has been discussed pro and con in the agricultural press for the last few years. I have faith that it would pay to use this rock. I purchased a car load of it two years ago; part of it I used with stable manure and part of it I applied direct to the land. I am frank to say that so far I haven't been able to see where I put this rock, and yet I have faith that I will get my money out of it and perhaps have got a portion of it already, but the action of this raw rock is so slow that it is not discernible to the eye and consequently is not very satisfactory. One scientist claims that it is profitable and others claim that it is not, but admitting that it would be profitable I believe that it is still more profitable to use the acidulated rock than it is to use the raw rock. Here we get available phosphoric acid which gives immediate results.

You can keep up the fertility of the soil by the use of commercial fertilizer. If you use enough fertilizer you can keep up the fertility of the soil and increase it. You can make your land just as rich as you want to. Commercial fertilizers contain three essential elements of fertility. Now, if you buy enough of these and put them into the soil you can increase the crop producing power of your farms to the maximum.

COLON C. LILLIE.

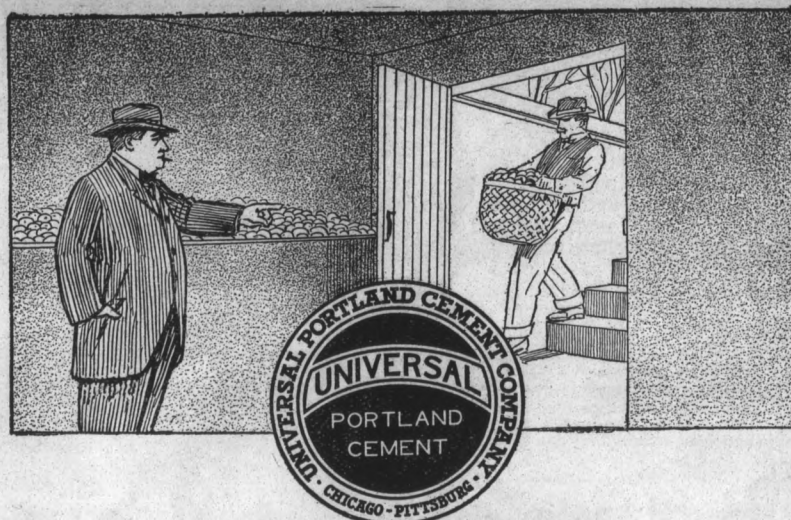
SIDING AND LATH FOR SILO.

What is the best siding for a silo, economically considering, and what second best? What kind of timber and size should the lath be? I want to buy the lumber soon.

Midland Co.

J. H. B.

Where common clapboards, with one edge thinner than the other, do not fit nicely around a round silo I think it is better to take common six-inch pine and have it cut or split into half-inch pieces and then do not lap them but have them jointed so the edges come close together. This will keep out all moisture and will work just as well as clapboards. I think the best lath is the plaster board lath where six-inch stuff is grooved to hold the plaster; but you can make lath out of any kind of material that you choose, even common house lath will do, if it is properly supported by using one or two wraps of common fence wire between each door. The doors should be about three feet apart which gives space to properly reinforce with wire. With this reinforcement 2x4 studding are just as good as 2x6 or heavier and there will be no question about the silo being strong enough to withstand the pressure of the ensilage.



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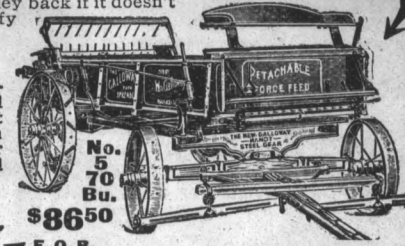
I want to place 10 Manure Spreaders or more in every township in the country in the next few months. And that means that I have to cut my prices to the bone to do it! So the first ten men or more who answer this from each township will receive a startling offer on the best Spreader in the world—Galloway's New No. 5, with Mandt's New Gear. A gift of as good as \$50 to these men—one of them! Why hand over \$50 extra to a dealer or agent when you can buy direct from Galloway? Keep the money in your pocket and get a better machine. My 45-55 bushel Spreader, \$39.50—complete with trucks, \$64.75—sent on 30 to 60 days' free trial—money back if it doesn't satisfy you.

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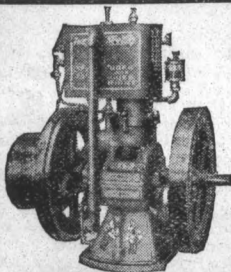
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Built like a high grade watch. Wheels in perfect balance. Working parts inclosed to keep out dirt. Piston always perfectly clean, can't scratch cylinder. Nothing to freeze. The open crank case engine fills up with dirt and chaff—always makes trouble—loses power—eats up fuel like sixty. Buy the engine that is fool proof.

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Cattle or Horse hide, Calf, Dog, Deer, or any kind of skin with hair or fur on. We make them soft, light, odorless, wind, moth and water proof, and make them into coats (for men or women), robes, rugs or gloves when so ordered.

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prepare roots quicker and in better form for feeding to all kinds of live stock than they can be prepared in any other way. Takes a half-round chip out of the root. No slicing, (slicing or grinding). Nothing can be done on the "ban-ner root chips." Seven sizes for hand or power. Prices within easy reach of any man owning any stock of any kind. Write for book of facts.

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The Pioneer Percheron Breeders of Michigan offer for sale a choice lot of black

Percheron Stallions and Mares

All registered and young. Fifty head to select from.

FOR SALE—Just what your boy wants for Christmas. 2 Shetland pony horse colts, 1 black & white and 1 black. Price \$60 each. J. A. Mitter, Stockbridge, Mich.

LIVE STOCK

THE INTERNATIONAL.

(Continued from first page.)
shown by Ben Conley, of Marshall, Mich., were first in their class, as were the yearling range wethers shown by E. G. Reed, of Richland, Mich.

The exhibits in the individual fat classes and breeding classes were a little larger than the aggregate last year and consisted of 136 horses, 1,150 cattle, 1,064 sheep, and 991 swine, a total of 4,385. Owing to the large number of exhibits it will be impossible for us to give a complete list of the awards. We can do little more than to give the championship awards, which are as follows:

Carlot Grand Championships.

Cattle.—Escher & Ryan, of Irwin, Ia., on Angus yearlings.
Sheep.—J. Orton Finley, of Oneida, Ill., on aged range wethers.
Hogs.—Geo. Parnston, Spring Grove, Minn., on 246-lb. Poland-Chinas, 7½ mos. old.

Fat Cattle Championships.

Aberdeen-Angus.—University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Neb., on Prince of Viewpoint 2nd, also Angus championship in 1910.

Shorthorn.—Iowa State College, Ames, Ia., on John Bell.

Hereford.—J. P. Cudahy, Kansas City, Mo., on Clifton 1st.

Polled Durham.—Iowa State College on Buttonwood Dick.

Galloway.—Kansas Agricultural College, Manhattan, Kas., on Harry of Maples.

Red Polled.—A. P. Arp, Eldridge, Ia., on King.

Grade and Cross-bred.—Iowa State College, on Victor, also awarded the grand championship of the show and the grade and cross-bred championship at the 1910 International.

Fat Hog Championships.

Chester White Pen.—F. E. Bone, Ava, Ill.

Chester White Barrow.—J. W. Brendley, Zanesville, Ind.

Berkshire Pen and Barrow.—Ohio State University, Columbus, O.

Poland-China Pen.—John Francis & Son, New Lenox, Ill.

Poland-China Barrow.—Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.

Duroc Jersey Pen and Barrow.—Thos. Johnson & Sons, Camp Chase, O.

Hampshire Pen.—Patterson & Rouse, Paynes Depot, Ky.

Hampshire Barrow.—R. L. Ballman, Coal Valley, Ill.

Large Yorkshire Pen and Barrow.—Iowa State College, Ames, Ia.

Tamworth Pen and Barrow.—Adams Bros., Litchfield, Mich.

Grade Pen and Barrow.—F. E. Bone.

Grand Championship Pen.—Ohio State University on Berkshires.

Grand Champion Barrow.—J. W. Brendley, on a pure-bred Chester White March pig, weighing 350 lbs.

Reserve Grand Champion Barrow.—Ohio State University on a Berkshire.

Fat Sheep Championships.

Lincoln Wethers.—L. Parkinson, Guelph, Ont.

Cotswold Wether.—University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyo.

Leicester Wether.—A. W. Whitlaw, Guelph, Ont.

Oxford Wether.—R. J. Stone, Stonington, Ill.

Shropshire Wether.—University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.

Hampshire Wether.—University of Wyoming.

Southdown Wether.—Huntleywood Farm, Beaconsfield, Que.

Dorset Wether.—W. H. Miner, Chazy, N. Y.

Cheviot Wether.—University of Wisconsin.

Rambouillet Wether.—University of Wisconsin.

Breeding Cattle Championships.

Shorthorns.—Grand Champion Bull, White & Smith, St. Cloud, Minn., on Ringmaster.

Senior Champion cow, Rosenger & Edwards, Tiffin, O., on Princess Marshall.

Aberdeen Angus.—Grand champion bull, A. C. Binnie, Alta, Ia., on Kloman.

Grand champion cow, W. J. Miller, Newton, Ia., on Barbara Woodson.

Hereford.—Grand champion bull, O. Harris, Harris, Mo., on Gay Lad.

Grand champion cow, J. P. Cudahy, Kansas City, Mo., on Scottish Lassie.

Polled Durham.—Senior sweepstakes bull, J. H. Miller, Peru, Ind., on The Confessor.

Senior sweepstakes cow, Herman C. Miller, Peru, Ind., on Wonderer's Violet.

Galloway.—Senior champion bull, C. S. Hechtner, Chariton, Ia., on Douglas of Meadow Lawn.

Senior champion cow, Straub Bros., Avoca, Neb., on Ladylike.

Red Polls.—Senior champion bull, Frank Davis & Son, Holbrook, Neb., on Dixon.

Senior champion cow, Geo. Inichen & Sons, Geneva, Ind., on Cosy.

Breeding Sheep Championships.

Shropshire.—Champion ram, Henry L. Wardwell, Springfield Center, N. Y., on two-year-old.

Champion ewe, Chandler Bros., Chariton, Ia.

Hampshire.—Champion ram and ewe, Walnut Hill Farms, Donevill, Ky.

Cotswold.—Champion ram, F. W. Harding, Waukesha, Wis., on yearling.

Champion ewe, Cooper & Nephews, Chicago, Ill., on yearling.

Southdown.—Champion ram, Charles Leet & Sons, Mantua, O., on yearling.

Champion ewe, Leet & Sons, on yearling.

Cheviot Champion ram, G. W. Parnell,

Windgate, Ind., on yearling. Champion ewe, G. W. Parnell, on yearling.
Dorset.—Champion ram, W. H. Miner, Chazy, N. Y., on yearling. Champion ewe, Nash Bros., Tipton, Ind., on yearling.
Oxford.—Champion ram, Geo. McKerrrow & Sons, Pewaukee, Wis., on two-year-old. Champion ewe, McKerrrow & Sons, on yearling.

Leicester.—Champion ram and ewe, A. W. Smith, Maple Lodge, Ont.

Lincoln.—Champion ram, John Lee & Sons, Highgate, Ont., on two-year-old.

Champion ewe, Lee & Sons, on yearling.

Rambouillet.—Champion ram, F. S. King Bros. Co., Laramie, Wyo.

Champion ewe, L. W. Shaw, Pottersburg, O.

Breeding Swine Championships.

Berkshire.—Grand champion boar, C. A. Steward, Fox, Ill.

Grand champion sow, Everson Bros., Wellington, O.

Poland-China.—Grand champion boar, J. E. Meharry, Tolono, Ill., on Keen Kutter.

Grand champion sow, J. E. Meharry, on Carnation.

Duroc Jersey.—Senior champion boar, H. E. Browning, Hersmon, Ill., on Volunteer.

Grand champion sow, Ira Jackson, Tippecanoe City, O., on Referee.

Hampshire.—Grand champion boar, Sylvester Essig, Tipton, Ind., on Pat Maloy.

Grand champion sow, Mike Sharp & Sons, Coal Valley, Ill.

Chester White.—Grand champion boar, Adams Bros., Litchfield, Mich.

Grand champion sow, F. E. Bone, Ava, Ill.

Tamworth.—Grand champion boar and sow, Arcadia Farm, Columbus, Ga.

Large Yorkshire.—Grand champion boar and sow, B. F. Davidson, Menlo, Ia.

Horse Championships.

Percheron.—Champion stallion, John Crouch & Son, Lafayette, Ind., on Imprecation.

Champion mare, Dunhams, Wayne, Ill., on Castillo.

Clydesdale.—Senior champion American bred stallion, Conyngham Bros., Wilkesbarre, Pa., on Fisk Prince.

Senior champion mare, R. A. Fairbairn, New Market, New Jersey.

Shire.—Champion stallion, Truman's Pioneer Stud Farm, Bushnell, Ind., on Royal Grey.

Champion mare, Geo. M. McCray, Fithian, Ill., on Coldham Surprise.

Suffolk.—Champion stallion, Fred W. Okie, Marshall, Va., on Ashmore Luther.

Champion mare, Fred W. Okie, on Shadbourne Ruby.

German Coach.—Champion stallion, J. Crouch & Son, Lafayette, Ind., on Minno.

Champion mare, J. Crouch & Son, on Friefrau.

Breeders' Meetings.

National Society.—The National Society of Record Associations went on record as opposed to government control of record associations. This society was organized one year ago for the purpose of co-ordinating the various pure-bred record associations for their mutual benefit.

Much progress has been made by the society in the collection of records and in negotiating with railroads for more equitable rates on shipments of pure-bred live stock. This work is in charge of Secretary Wayne D. Moore, of Chicago.

Percheron Society of America.—About 800 members were present at the annual meeting of Percheron breeders. Four directors were elected by acclamation. All records for gain in membership were broken last year, when new members were added to the number of 1,079, none of whom had previously held membership in the organization. The society now has outstanding 4,174 shares of stock in the hands of 3,979 individual breeders.

Shire Breeders' and Importers' Association.—The election of officers resulted as follows: Pres., J. G. Truman, Bushnell, Ill.; vice-pres., Joseph Watson, Lincoln, Neb.; sec., Chas. Burgess, Winona, Ill.; treas., Edward Hobson, Clifton, Ill. Fifty-six new members were reported. There is a liberal balance in the treasury and appropriations for state fairs and expositions exceeded those of any former year.

Clydesdale Breeders' Association.—Pres. A. Galbraith was re-elected president over his protest that he desired to retire from the office. Likewise W. L. Houser was re-elected vice-president by acclamation, as was Sec.-Treas. R. B. Ogilvie. There was little business to transact, but the meeting was most harmonious.

American Belgian Breeders' Association.—The annual election of officers resulted as follows: Pres., Henry Wolf, of Wabash, Ind.; vice-pres., George Crouch, Lafayette, Ind.; sec.-treas., J. D. Conner, Wabash, Ind. Much matter of general interest to the association was discussed and disposed of.

American Shorthorn Breeders' Association.—J. W. McDonald, Kahoka, Mo., was elected to the board of directors to succeed H. C. Duncan. Abram Renick was re-elected and Reid Campbell, Mansfield, Ohio, was elected to succeed W. I. Wood. The secretary's report showed that the general tone of the business of the Shorthorn association has been fairly favorable the last year.

Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' Association.—At the annual meeting on December 5, officers were elected as follows: Pres., Stanley R. Pierce, Creston, Ill.; vice-pres., H. J. Hess, Waterloo, Ia.; secretary, Chas. Gray, Chicago. This association has added 872 new members in the past four years.

Polled Durham Breeders' Association.—Officers elected: Pres., Oscar Handley, Plainfield, Ind.; directors, J. W. Newton, Versailles, Ky., and Walter Slade, Fulton, S. D. It was voted to duplicate premium appropriations of 1911 for next year and add the Sedalia, Mo., fair to the former list.

American Berkshire Breeders' Association.—At the directors' meeting the following officers were elected: Pres., Chas. F. Curtis, Ames, Ia.; vice-pres., A. J. Lovejoy, Roscoe, Ill.; sec., Frank Springer, Springfield, Ill.; treas., D. W. Smith,

(Continued on page 543).

Rayo LANTERNS



You Can Feel Safe

when driving home at night if you use a Rayo road lantern.

Its strong, white light reveals the road ahead; the ruby disc in the reflector is a warning in the rear.

It is attached to the vehicle by a simple bracket. Lift it off, and you have a first-class hand lantern.

Rayo lanterns are made in numerous styles, sizes and finishes. They are the strongest and most reliable you can find, and will not blow or jar out.

All Rayo lanterns are equipped with selected Rayo globes, clear, red or green, as desired. Wicks inserted in burners, ready to light.

Dealers everywhere; or write for descriptive circular direct to any agency of the

Standard Oil Company
(Incorporated)

STALLIONS

A fine lot of

Percherons and Belgians

with plenty of

Bone, Quality, Style and Action.

Good Ones, the drafty kind, at prices which defy competition. Write us for particulars.

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Huntington, Indiana.

DUNHAM'S PERCHERONS

Our summer importation, in our estimation the best lot of horses we have ever had at Oaklawn, has arrived. Numerous important prize-winners are included, then the high average is the main thing, as every animal would be a credit in any herd. Write us.

DUNHAMS, Wayne, Illinois.

BELLS' DRAFT STALLIONS

Percheron, Shire and Belgian Stallions

At reasonable prices.

Write us what you need.

BELL BROS., Wooster, Ohio.

100 Head Belgian & Percheron Stallions and Mares.

Direct from breeding farms of Belgium and France, all high class draft stock with quality and size. Among them are many European prize-winners. If you are in the market for a stallion or mare it will be to your advantage to see our horses and get our price. We will sell you a better horse for less money than anyone else. We guarantee every horse and back up our guarantee. Don't fail to see our stock before you buy. Send for our catalog and Government Book on the care of horses.

LOESER BROS., Box 3, Ligonier, Ind.

JACKS and MULES

Raise mules and get rich. 18 jack and mule farms under one management, where can be seen 500 head fine large jacks, jennets and mules, 14 to 15 hands high. Good ones. Stock guaranteed. Write for prices today. Address

Krekler's Jack Farm
West Elkton, Ohio
Branch Barn—Clinton, Indiana



FEEDING FOR A GOOD LAMB CROP.

Success with bred ewes at lambing and throughout the suckling period depends quite largely on the care and feed they receive during pregnancy. Ewes poorly nourished while carrying their unborn young, not only fail to perform well the work expected of them, but also fall short of transmitting to their progeny strong and desirable characteristics. To attain the highest success in handling breeding stock of any kind, attention must be directed to keep in constant harmony with the object in view. Breeding is governed by certain fixed laws, which, if carefully studied and followed, can be turned to splendid account. Neglect is a potent evil always manifesting its effect when conditions are most critical. There is no such thing as "good luck" in sheep husbandry. Results, favorable or unfavorable, are the products of unalterable and unrevealed laws.

The flock owner who is desirous of having a high per cent of strong, vigorous lambs dropped next spring should be mindful of the vital importance of feeding the ewes well during the winter months. Properly stored and wholesome feed is an essential requisite. Moldy roughage or grain should never be fed to pregnant animals of any kind. On account of the wet weather a large portion of the bean crop was injured last fall. Thousands of farmers in this state depend on their bean fodder for winter feed for their sheep, but unless great precaution is exercised to properly compound it into the roughage ration it will prove very dear feed for the flock. Bean fodder is one of the best and most nutritious roughages grown on Michigan farms for feeding pregnant ewes when the crop has been properly harvested, but in case the crop got wet several times

is followed it ought not be difficult to supply a wide range of roughage to the ewes. There is no roughage grown on the farm but what, if properly harvested and stored, can be fed bred ewes with entire safety as a part of the daily ration. No matter how good the roughage may be, sheep highly relish a change even though it be less nutritious. When clover hay is being fed twice daily to bred ewes corn stover and oat, pea or barley straw can be very profitably fed at noon. Timothy hay should not be fed bred ewes as it is too low in protein. Redtop hay, if cut at the right time and properly cured, may be fed in moderate amounts.

A most important condition in feeding unborn lambs is to supply the ewes with some kind of succulent food during the winter months. Roots, of course, are excellent, but few flock owners can afford them at the present price of farm labor. Ensilage is an excellent substitute and when properly compounded into the daily ration will answer all purposes. When roots or ensilage are not available the flock owner has a difficult problem to solve. Permitting the flock to roam the meadow fields when the snow is not too deep is a means that can be practiced as the last resort and will greatly assist in satisfying the appetite of the ewes. Every flock owner should be mindful of succulent food for the flock during winter and make necessary preparation.

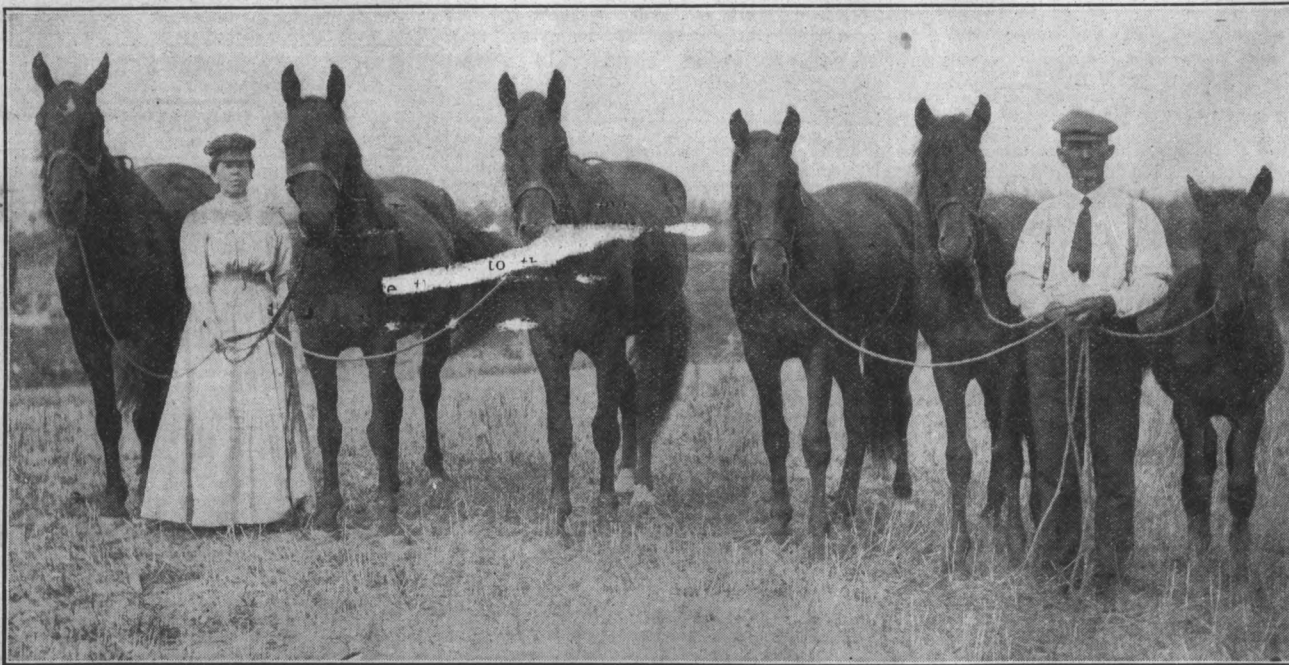
It is imprudent in feeding unborn lambs to carry the ewes along without a light grain ration. Regardless of the nutritious value of the roughage it is not difficult to supply the need of the ewes at this particular time. A light grain ration supplied as soon as the ewes are taken off the pasture has a healthful influence in getting the ewes started right and much trouble may be averted late. It is un-

We have recently organized a co-operative cattle breeders' association here, and I am wondering if the fact will not result indirectly in the breeding of better hogs as well. I have been watching, of late, the progeny of a single sire and have gathered some evidence confirming the individual merit in this animal. One bunch of eight pigs, marketed at the age of 160 days, dressed an average of 180 lbs. Another litter did nearly or quite as well and a litter of pure-bred pigs grown for breeding purposes, and consequently fed a moderate ration, (only three pounds of grain per day each, when the pigs were from four to five months old), made an average gain of a little more than a pound per day. We regret to say that the animal mentioned can not be kept longer in the community. He is a noble fellow, weighing about 750 lbs., but his usefulness is past.

The care of a bunch of pigs is a very important matter when profits are considered. The animals should be provided with a dry, well ventilated place to sleep, which should be made warm during the cold weather. Pigs can be grown as cheaply in the winter as in the summer, if other conditions are right.

Exercise is always important, but it is indispensable in the winter. The pigs should sleep warm and dry but they must exercise during the day. Anything reasonable that will compel them to work is right.

Much has been said of middlings as a food for young pigs, and it is good without question, but the price is apt to be high. The necessity for middlings depends largely upon the other feeds that are obtainable. If there is plenty of skim-milk, the demand for protein is supplied in large measure, and corn meal or soaked corn may be given the young pigs without fear of any bad results.



Horses on E. F. Chapin's Sunny Hill Farm, Osceola Co., Mich.—Brood Mare Nellie, 11 Years Old, at extreme left, and Five of her Progeny whose Ages range from 4½ years down to 7 months.

during the curing period and was improperly stored, it is a very dangerous feed for bred ewes.

Feeding unborn lambs should begin as soon as the ewes are bred. No time should be lost in getting the ewes into good flesh condition. In the fall the ewes that have been nursing all summer are generally in low flesh. Ewes that milk freely are invariably well high reduced to the limit and, unless given the best of attention, can not possibly drop lambs of high vitality. The time to prepare bred ewes for the purpose for which they are maintained is during the winter season when other farm work is not pressing. Plenty of corn should be allowed at the feed troughs and racks so that each animal will be able to secure its share of feed. Crowding is productive of serious trouble that always manifests itself either at lambing time or during the fore part of the suckling period. When a large flock of ewes are allowed to run together during the grazing season they should be grouped into smaller numbers during the winter. If the flock can be reduced to groups of 20 ewes each they will do much better than where 40 or 60 are yarded together.

It is essential in feeding unborn lambs to compound the ration for the ewes with as much variety of coarse feed as possible. Sheep are not only great lovers of variety of feed, but they do much better when given a frequent change of diet. On the farm where a rotation of crops

wise to attempt to carry bred ewes along, expecting to feed heavier toward spring when the lambs begin to come. In all probability poor, weak lambs will be the result. A light grain ration compounded from corn, oats, bran and a little oil meal will prove a big profit maker.

Shiawassee Co. LEO C. REYNOLDS.

PROFITABLE PORK MAKING.

The man who keeps a good herd of cows will usually find his profits substantially increased by a good bunch of hogs properly fed and cared for. The profits in pork making come almost naturally to the man who keeps cows, providing the hogs are right and the man does his part. It is to be doubted, however, whether either condition is a fact in many instances. We are too careless about the breeding of our hogs. Of course almost any pig, if he lives will grow into a quantity of pork, greater or less, after a while. But if we are to get the most out of the hog business, we want the right animal at the beginning. There are three or four breeds of hogs, among which I should not have much choice. The desirable thing is to procure good individuals of some good breed.

Crosses of some of the good breeds produce excellent pigs for feeding. But the breeding stock should be kept pure. It is a great advantage to any community when one or more individuals give attention to this matter of hog breeding.

Wheat flake siftings and corn flake feed are excellent for pigs or hogs of any age. Of course, the quantity of this feed is limited, but it can usually be obtained at a fair price. Beans have been greatly damaged this fall, during the inclement weather, and there will be a great many cull beans for sale at the warehouses, without doubt.

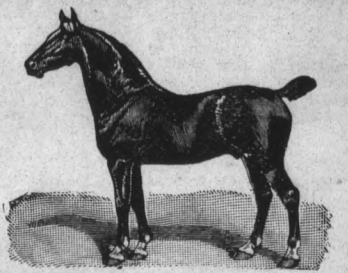
It looks as though this would be an opportunity for those who are producing winter pork. It is, however, a mistake to feed beans, alone. They should be cooked, and with corn or some other grain. Beans and small potatoes cooked and fed together make excellent feed for pigs. The price of pork is still good. It would seem that it will remain so for a little time at least, and we should make the most of our opportunity during the coming winter.

Oceana Co. W. F. TAYLOR.

J. H. Starr, of Missouri, one of the largest sheep feeders in that region, says that while he and his brother fed 15,000 sheep and lambs last winter, they will feed only half that number this winter, and he believes that is about the proportion that will be fattened by most feeders. Mr. Starr says that while feeding lambs have been bought for a trifle more than \$1 per 100 pounds lower than a year ago, corn has been selling about 15 cents per bushel higher than then. He adds: "The run of sheep this fall from the ranges was very heavy. The lambs came so fast and in such good condition that packers could use them, and did take most of them."

Warranted to Give Satisfaction.

Gombault's Caustic Balsam



Has Imitators But No Competitors.

A Safe, Speedy and Positive Cure for Curb, Splint, Sweeney, Capped Hock, Strained Tendons, Founder, Wind Puffs, and all lameness from Spavin, Ringbone and other bony tumors. Cures all skin diseases or Parasites, Thrush, Diphtheria. Removes all Bunches from Horses or Cattle.

As a Human Remedy for Rheumatism, Sprains, Sore Throat, etc., it is invaluable. Every bottle of Caustic Balsam sold is Warranted to give satisfaction. Price \$1.50 per bottle. Sold by druggists, or sent by express, charges paid, with full directions for its use. Send for descriptive circulars, testimonials, etc. Address

The Lawrence-Williams Co., Cleveland, O.

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Every horse owner should get this book from Prof. Jesse Beery, King of Horse Trainers and Horse Tamers. All who love horses should learn the secret of subduing and controlling balky, tricky, scary, vicious horses without the use of whips, curb bits and other cruel devices. Every man who is looking for a profession that pays \$1,200 to \$3,000 a year at home or traveling should learn how hundreds are making big money as professional Horse Trainers with the aid of Prof. Beery's wonderful system.

Emmett White, of Kalona, Iowa, writes: "I would not take \$500 for what you have taught me. You may judge of my success when I tell you that I have been able to buy a home and an automobile solely through earnings as taught by your excellent methods. I am proud of my profession."

A. L. Dickenson, Friendship, N. Y., writes: "I am working a pair of horses that cleared out several different men. I got them and gave them a few lessons and have been offered \$400 for the pair. I bought them for \$110."

Better write today to make sure of the grand free Horse-Trainer's Prospectus. Tell me all about your horse. Address

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VETERINARY

Advice through this department is free to our subscribers. Each communication with initials only will be published. Many queries are answered that apply to case in full; also name and address of should state history and symptoms of the same ailments. If this column is watched carefully you will probably find the desired information in a reply that has been made to some one else. When reply by mail is requested, it becomes private practice, and a fee of \$1.00 must accompany the letter.

Worms.—I would like to know what causes horses to become wormy. My horses have been treated for worms by our veterinary surgeon and they are still passing worms. I have also given different kinds of advertised worm remedies without results. Reader.—If you have given other vermifuges and the animal is not a mare in foal, give 6 drs. aloes, 1 dr. santonin, ½ dr. calomel and 2 drs. gentian at a dose, one dose only. Horses become wormy by eating food or drinking water that contains worm embryo. Kindly understand that as a horse has 90 feet of bowels, there are many hiding places for small worms or their eggs and if the food or water is infected it may take some time to get rid of most of the worms. Salt your horses well and keep their bowels open.

Thin Mare.—Six months ago I bought a six-year-old mare that is a free traveler, but she was thin and has never gained in flesh and I would like to know how to put her in condition. Have had teeth floated, but it failed to improve her. She perspires too easily and freely. J. W. W., Brooklyn, Mich.—Clip her, give her 6 drs. aloes, 1 dr. santonin, ½ dr. calomel, and 2 drs. ginger, all at one dose and one dose only. Also mix together equal parts ginger, gentian, fenugreek, cinchona, rosin and nux vomica and give her 2 tablespoonfuls at a dose in feed two or three times a day. Her food should be well salted and she should be fed some roots.

Indigestion and Out of Condition.—My mare, eight years old, is very much out of condition and her mate on same food allowance is fleshy. Her kidneys are out of order, she has trouble passing water. E. M., Chesaning, Mich.—Her teeth should be examined; if too sharp and uneven, float off edges of outside of upper rows and inside of lower. Give 1 oz. fluid extract buchu at a dose in feed three times a day; this medicine is a good kidney remedy. Also give 1 oz. ground gentian and 1 dr. ground nux vomica at a dose in feed three times a day. Groom her well twice daily.

Feeding Molasses to Brood Mares.—Would feeding molasses to pregnant mares and cows have a tendency to cause them to abort and if fed to them, is three pints dissolved in seven quarts of water too much. C. A. W., Memphis, Mich.—Feeding molasses has a laxative effect and if it produces too much bowel action on certain animals that are advanced in pregnancy it might bring on a miscarriage. Feeding it in small quantities twice daily will have a good effect.

Thin Milk.—Have a two-year-old heifer that will be due to come fresh in a few days; her bag is filled with watery milk and I would like to know what should be done for such a case. E. A., Sherwood, Mich.—She needs no medicine. As soon as she comes fresh her milk will become normal.

Weakness—Blood Poison.—My sow farrowed some two months ago, at which time her seven pigs died. She gave but little milk and has kept in poor condition ever since. J. R., Newaygo, Mich.—Mix together equal parts sulphate iron, gentian, ginger, charcoal and bi-carbonate of soda and give sow a teaspoonful at a dose in feed three times a day.

Rheumatism.—I have a bunch of hogs that I am feeding on corn which seem to be weak on hind legs. They suddenly lost appetite and soon began to show weakness. Have been giving them stock food and red pepper. J. H. McD., Watervliet, Mich.—You fed them too much corn and not enough other food. Feed them some air-slaked lime, oats, oil meal and roots. Keep them dry, clean and warm. If they are able to walk give them some exercise.

Swine Plague.—Have several hogs that were born July 1, which will weigh 125 lbs. each, that took sick some two weeks ago; one died, others will die soon. None of them have recovered. Symptoms are loss of appetite, chills, diarrhoea, breath offensive, walk with tottering gait, lose flesh rapidly, some froth at mouth and nose. I opened the one that died, and found left lung diseased, some watery fluid in chest, spleen black and inflamed, and I forgot to state that the skin was covered with red spots that seemed to mortify. I should have examined his inward more carefully. What do you think ails them? E. C. D., Marcellus, Mich.—Your hogs suffer from either lung fever or swine plague and I advise you to call a Vet to examine them at once. Perhaps kill a sick one and look into him is the quickest and best way to find out what ails them.

Rheumatism.—About two months ago our cows broke out of pasture and remained out over night; some time later one of them stiffened, but in a few days recovered, and a little later another one showed stiffness and this one remained somewhat stiffened. Her appetite is good but she seldom lies down. G. E. N., Bellaire, Mich.—Give your cow 2 drs. salicylate of soda, 1 dr. powdered colchicum seed and a dessertspoonful powdered nitrate potash at a dose in feed two or three times a day.

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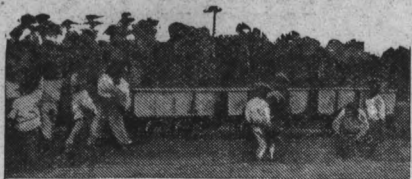
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A VITAL POINT IN DAIRY FARMING.

How to replace the cows that are discarded from herds where whole milk is sold is a question of vital interest to dairy farmers. Few dairy farmers, especially those who live outside of the great milk producing territory, realize the tremendous drain these dairies are making upon the cow population of the country. A few years ago it was possible to go out and buy good cows from dairy farmers who raised a surplus to sell, but today a man may drive for miles without finding any number of suitable cows for sale. Heavy feeding for milk production is driving many of the best cows to premature slaughter, and this removal of the best cows from the small dairy farmers' herds not only causes a scarcity of good cows, but it has a marked tendency to encourage these small dairy farmers to sell their best cows and keep inferior ones for their own dairy uses and to raise calves to sell. This constant selling of the best cows together with the downward drag of the blood of the inferior ones, that are too poor to find a ready sale, makes dairy improvement from the cow side of the question almost impossible. The extension of the city milk trade and the condensary business into new territory is creating new conditions. Milk producers who formerly bought new cows from dairy farmers within ten or twenty miles from their farms are now going from fifty to one hundred miles, and in many cases to the stock yards or other states. Here in Erie county, New York, we are buying most of our cows from the Buffalo stock yards and paying from \$60 to \$80 for anything that has the indications of being a good milker.

This question of dairy improvement is not so much a matter of a few dairy farmers buying improved cows, as it is getting the average dairy farmer to make a better use of the good blood which he already has, but which he permits to go into the hands of the milk producers just as soon as it shows signs of good milking qualities. The promise of breeding excellence does not govern his attitude; if a cow will bring \$75 this year he does not think of the calf she will bring next year. He must be shown to be convinced.

The feeders of beef cattle buy their feeders from sections where they have been raised on cheap lands and cheap feeds, and the men who produce these feeders are liberal buyers of beef bred bulls for the purpose of improving their feeder stock. You may ask me what this has to do with the dairy farmer? Some will say he can raise dairy cows cheaper than he can buy them. No doubt he can, but we must show him. It seems to me that the feeder of beef cattle and the dairyman are in about the same position. They can both make a little money if they can buy the right kind of feeders at a reasonable price. It is not my purpose to defend the milk producer or the man who buys young beef cattle to feed. These men are capable of working out their own problems. As a rule, they are progressive farmers and more capable of doing their own thinking than we are of doing it for them. What I do wish to show is the fact that many dairy farmers living on low-priced land back from the centers of population could make good money raising young dairy cows to supply the demands of the milk producers. In this way a few farmers could invest in good breeding bulls and devote more attention to summer dairying and rearing dairy heifers. These cows ought not to be offered for sale until they are five or six years old so that they can handle heavy grain rations without being injured. As a rule, milk producers feed heavy and will pay more money for cows of that age than for young animals; they feed heavy and want cows capable of producing immediate results.

The man who rears high-class dairy cows does not need a ranch in the west. There is plenty of cheap land further east. Many of the cheaper farms are best suited to raising hay, ensilage corn and for grazing. Such farms can be bought cheap and put to profitable use by supporting milch cows and growing heifers. By having the cows fresh during the season of the year when milk is scarce a ready market can be found for the cows. In fact, instead of hunting for buyers, they would soon be sought out by those who find it increasingly difficult to buy good cows. Buyers would be attracted as soon as they found a class of cows adapted for their business. A few men are making good money at this kind of dairy farming; there is abundant opportunity for many more.

Farmers situated in close proximity to milk producing sections could arrange some sort of an exchange whereby the heifer calves that show promise could be bought and raised in place of the weedy ones born on their own farms. This is an idea that has already taken root and is gaining favor among many already engaged in the business. More than this exchange is necessary, however, to satisfy the demands of the trade. A system of selection and the use of dairy bred bulls needs to be practiced. The laws of heredity must be observed in the controlling of dairy function. To raise high-class dairy cows one must keep good cows and use improved dairy sires. By the use of high-class breeding bulls and encouraging milk producers to use good sires and sell their best heifer calves to raise they would soon be able to buy better cows. The milk producer by keeping a record of the calves when taken away from his farm would be able to buy back cows of his own breeding.

Many milk producers are willing to pay from \$80 to \$100 for the right kind of cows from five to seven years old. Such cows can be made to pay their keep as soon as they drop their first calf and give two or three good calves to raise before they are sold. To grow and develop a grade dairy heifer to the age when she begins production ought not to cost to exceed forty dollars on cheap lands and the income from the summer dairy ought to pretty nearly pay operating expenses of the business.

New York. W. MILTON KELLY.

BALANCED RATION WITH SILAGE, TIMOTHY HAY AND CORNSTALKS.

I would like to learn how to make a balanced ration for milking cows. I have ensilage, cornstalks and timothy hay and I want to grind oats and corn with cows. What is the best meal to buy and mix with this oats and corn meal to balance up this ensilage ration, and how much should I feed a cow of this grain a day? Also, how much of this cornstalks and hay?

Presque Isle Co.

A. D.

As there is no clover hay in the roughage part of the ration it will be impossible to form the most economical and balanced ration without having one food stuff in the grain ration which is rich in protein and for this I would add either oil meal or cottonseed meal. Gluten feed will do fairly well though it is hardly rich enough in protein. With this roughage a good ration would be about 30 lbs. of corn silage, 8 lbs. of timothy hay, and all the cornstalks that the cows will eat up clean. But I would not insist upon the cows eating the coarser parts of the butts of the stalks. Let them pick them over carefully and give them all they want. For the grain ration I would mix in the following proportions: 100 lbs. of oats, 200 lbs. of corn and cob meal, and 100 lbs. of oil meal, and then I would feed to each cow as many pounds per day of this grain ration as she produces pounds of butter-fat in a week. I don't think you can get any better rule than this. This gives each cow a grain ration in proportion to the amount of work which she does which is the practical way to feed cows. If it would be better for you to use cottonseed meal instead of oil meal I would mix it in exactly the same proportion, but if you feed gluten feed I would mix 100 lbs. of oats, 200 lbs. of corn and cob meal, and 200 lbs. of gluten feed together, or in that proportion. Of course, the 30 lbs. of corn silage should be fed in two feeds, 15 lbs. in the morning and 15 lbs. at night, and I would feed the ensilage and then put the grain on it when they will be mixed by the cow as she eats. In this way I think you will get better mastication, digestion and assimilation.

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HORTICULTURE

ANNUAL MEETING OF MICHIGAN
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The forty-first annual meeting of the State Horticultural Society, which was held at Ludington, December 5-6-7, was one of the most enthusiastic meetings the society has ever held. Although the attendance was not quite as large as at some sessions on some previous meetings, the opera house where the sessions were held was filled from the beginning to the end with an intelligent and interested audience, each person alive to the possibilities of Michigan as a fruit-growing state, and ready to exchange ideas and recite experiences that would assist other growers in their own work. A pleasing feature was the lack of any sectional jealousy, all portions of the state working together for the common good.

The exhibits were excellent, especially those of Mason county, in which Ludington is situated. This exhibit occupied a building directly across the street from the opera house, and although the room was too limited to admit of the best display of the fruit it was very strikingly and tastefully arranged. The exhibit comprised over 150 bushel boxes of apples, besides hundreds of plates, also baskets and pyramids of the different colored fruit, all of which was of good size, high color, and we might add, excellent flavor. In one case we noted that it took but 69 King apples to fill a bushel box.

Aside from the Mason county display there were quite a number of exhibits from other parts of the state arranged on the stage of the opera house. These included the plates and baskets competing for the prizes donated by manufacturers.

There was also quite an extensive exhibit of spray machinery. A large garage was devoted to the exhibition of the machines, nursery stock, spray chemicals, ladders, fruit packages and other fruit growers' supplies.

Tuesday morning's session was opened promptly by President Farrand with an unusually good audience for the first session. The program was carried out in full as follows: "Thirty-five years of fruit growing in Mason county," by Smith Hawley, of Mason county, "New varieties for Michigan," by F. A. Wilken, of the South Haven Experiment Station, and "New Points in Peach Growing and Marketing," by George Friday, of Berrien county. The initial session is reported as one of the most interesting and inspiring of the entire meeting and we regret our inability to be present and secure notes on it for Farmer readers.

After the noon recess Mr. Henry Waller, of Charlevoix county, gave some "Impressions on apple growing in different states." He stated that in Illinois the Ben Davis is still the chief variety grown, but that its place is being taken in the new plantings by Grimes, Wealthy, Jonathan, and others. Illinois apples have good flavor but lack size and as a rule the high coloring of many of the Michigan varieties. The barrel is the package most used. In Virginia the Piedmont Pippin, Winesap, and Albermarle Pippin are grown very successfully on limited areas, the York Imperial probably being most generally grown. The Shenandoah Valley is a leading fruit growing section. Spraying and cultivation is very thorough, and the box is rapidly gaining favor as a package. In Oregon small orchards pay best, one man being able to care for about five acres. All are boosters, each one trying to rival his neighbor. Cultivation, spraying and thinning are very thorough. The fruit is sold through unions, and packed by professional packers. Michigan has many advantages as a fruit growing state in comparison with western states. Markets are near, transportation cheap, quality and color high, Michigan's chief shortcoming is a lack of universally good care and honest packing.

In discussing the above subject Henry Rose stated that the quality of Michigan fruit is far better and that the orchards are longer lived than in the states farther south, although southern Ohio is gaining in favor as an apple producing region, the Rome Beauty being their best apple. Mr. Waller believed that the west should plant only special and fancy varieties, like Spitzenburg and Newtown Pippin. As to the freedom of certain western districts from codling moth, as claimed by real estate men, Mr. Waller said there were plenty of them with the possible exception of a few small valleys where they had not appeared as yet, one

of these being near Watsonville, Cal. Mr. Rome stated that the Watsonville district produced 5,000 cars of apples against a crop of 4,621 cars for the states of Oregon, Colorado, Idaho, Montana and Washington combined. He stated that in the district referred to the lack of the customary fog several years ago caused all of the apples to scorch since which time there had been few worms, but some were present. Another cause of the freedom of worms in this district is the almost daily gathering of drops for evaporating and cider. Several growers cited instances where Michigan growers had offered a substantial prize for a wormy apple from their orchards, but had found none.

In discussing the topic,

"The Selection and Preparation of an Orchard Site,"

O. S. Bristol, of Lapeer county, brought out the fact that although on some farms there may be no ideal soil for an orchard site yet trees will grow on almost any soil unless it is muck, and growers have had success on sand, loam, and clay. In one of his rented orchards the finest apples were produced on a gravel knoll where the tree growth was small. The subsoil is a better indication of the suitability of the location than the surface soil. This should be porous and not too wet. Natural drainage is much better and cheaper than artificial drainage. The best sites may have wet pockets, which should be artificially drained. Peaches require well drained and preferably high ground, with good air, as well as water drainage. The preparation of the soil for the site is important. Mr. Bristol prefers to get the land in good tilth by fertilizer legumes and hoed crops before planting the orchard.

"The care of a young orchard" was the topic chosen by Mr. E. O. Ladd, of Grand Traverse county, because, as he stated, the young orchard is too often neglected. Mr. Ladd prefers to purchase his trees in the fall, and set early in the spring. He then gets a stronger tree and a quicker growth than from trees exposed in storage cellars during the winter. The chief requisites are: (1) get a strong growth each year to give size when in bearing, and (2) conserve and enrich the soil against bearing age. He believes in supplying manure and sowing forage crops in the orchards. For such crops corn and red clover are used, sowing in strips between rows of trees. In the bearing orchards continuous cultivation is practiced until midsummer when a cover crop of oats and winter vetch is sown. The importance of care in the handling of the young trees, both before and after setting, was spoken of and the necessity of protecting from mice and rabbits by mounding or protectors. Start the trees low and prune moderately each year. Do not forget the spraying. "Take good care of the orchard and it will take care of you."

In reply to the question of whether it would pay to dynamite hard soils, Mr. Waller did not believe it would in this locality. The question of banking trees to prevent the conical holes about the trunks due to swerving by the wind, was discussed. Mr. Keasey believed that the banking would make the holes larger, while most growers believed it would tend to prevent the formation of such cavities. Deeper planting was also suggested. Mr. Morrill stated that dynamiting a clay soil when wet will make it puddle and form basins that will hold water. Mr. Dow suggested the importance of plenty of water for sandy soils, while Mr. Farrand pointed out the danger of too much water in the subsoil, as at the experiment station farm at South Haven. The question of storing nursery stock in cellars was discussed at length and all, including such authorities as Mr. Morrill and Paul Rose, were of the opinion that it was detrimental to the stock and preferred to heel in over winter in trenches out of doors, protecting the body of the tree against freezing, by soil. Bunches should be loosened and spread out in healing in. They would be better left in the nursery row than to be healed in in bunches.

Mr. Morrill has had good results in setting peach trees in the fall and banking with soil up to the limbs, taking care to remove the soil when it was warm and no cold wind probable for some days. He stated that the apple and pear would be all right left in the nursery row until spring, but the peach was rather tender. If trees healed in are covered with evergreen boughs he stated that the mice would not trouble them. Mr. Osborn brought out the fact that a young orchard could be brought to bearing age

without cost by growing crops between the rows.

Pruning.

Paul Rose, of Berrien county, closed the afternoon session with a talk on "Pruning." He believes in heading in trees in the fall, taking care to trim the roots before heading in, if possible, so a callus will form on the cut portion of the cambium layer and the trees will be ready for growth early in the spring. Peach trees should be trimmed to a whip. Other sorts may have spurs left to protect the buds. The framework branches should be properly distributed about the trunk, even if it is necessary to cut back the trunk and reform the head from a sprout. The head is formed the next year after setting. Don't head in trees too heavily but cut back a little each year, cutting more as the tree grows older. Trees must have plenty of room for best results. In apple trees avoid cutting too many large limbs. Gold Drop peaches must be pruned very severely, Elbertas much less. Always cut a branch where the circle is at the beginning of the enlargement and parallel with it. Prune in fall and winter if necessary. Eight-foot ladders are the longest used on the cherry trees, and younger trees should be reached with five-foot ladders. If cut below the head the peach is likely to send up a shoot from below the bud, while a pear will generally throw out a shoot from the upper trunk. The principal of pruning required by a sour cherry is the shearing out of the cross branches.

The discussion brought out a number of points, for instance: Mr. Palmer had found that he could substitute sawdust for bran in the bran-molasses arsenic treatment for cutworms; Mr. Rose advised cutting the tops from a pear orchard that had become too tall; Messrs. Farrand and Bristol suggested that on drooping trees the branches would be low enough, even if the heads were rather high when set. Mr. Farrand also stated that apple trees that had been pruned but little were bearing earlier and paying better than those more heavily pruned from the start. Mr. Friday said his trees were too low and that he preferred to have the branches off the ground in his cultivated orchard, while Mr. Taylor thought it strengthened them to lie upon the ground under his sod mulch culture. Mr. Hutchins thought the heads should be high enough so careless hired men would not easily bark the limbs, while Mr. Osborn thinks that one can get closer to a tree if the branches are started low and take an upward direction.

In the evening the annual banquet of the society was held at the dining-rooms of the Hotel Stearns, closing with an excellent list of toasts under the supervision of Geo. E. Rowe, of Kent county, as toastmaster.

Calhoun Co. S. B. HARTMAN.
(To be continued).

CONSERVES MOISTURE BY CULTIVATION.

I just read the article by J. L. R. entitled, "Strawberries Failed for Lack of Water." Having had 18 years experience, raising from three to seven acres per year, I will venture a few remarks: Strawberries as a crop will do fairly well on most any soil, in favorable years—when it rains often during growing and picking time; but during my experience I remember of only three seasons when we did not have a dry spell, so in order to succeed we must arrange for plenty of moisture. How? In the first place, and I believe the most important, the right kind of soil must be selected. I want a clay loam. Then keep it well cultivated, never allow a crust to form, be sure to cultivate after every rain, while the ground is still quite wet. I have cultivated mine 15 times this season. In the fall mulch with eight or 10 big loads of straw to the acre. The above is my plan. I believe the most of the failures—and I've seen a great many—are due to men believing they can make some easy money raising berries, when they and their land are much better adapted to potatoes, melons and such light land crops. As to watering with a windmill, I've seen a mill pumping water on a sandy berry patch and the stream would disappear in two rods in the sand. If it takes 800 barrels of water to make one inch to the acre, I believe it useless to try to water berries on sandy land.

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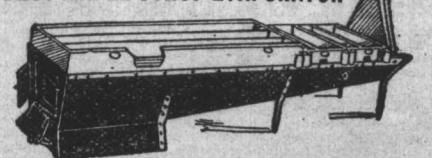
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POULTRY

DECEMBER POULTRY SUGGESTIONS.

When dressing a fowl for dinner examine the contents of the gizzard. If the grinding material is blunt and round the fowls are in need of proper grit. Also when dressing a healthy fowl note each organ and its appearance in a normal state. Then when you kill and examine an ailing bird you will have a better idea of the cause of the sickness. There is always a cause for sickness in a flock and postmortem examinations help us to discover which of the internal organs, if any, are affected.

The hens do not suffer so much for green food when the weather is nice and there is no snow on the ground. They eat grass and seem to relish it though it is dead and brown. At this season we give the speckled apples, at sorting time, to the hens. They won't eat potato peelings unless they are cooked, but the apple peelings and cores are saved and placed before the hens and I notice they soon disappear.

A scratching pen pays for itself in one winter in the fowls' health and in eggs. It won't do to allow the hens to huddle in a corner if it's healthy fowls and eggs we're after. The litter that accumulates where the hay is thrown on the barn floor makes the best kind of scratching material. The hens scratch out the fine seeds and eat every clover leaf. But this season hay is a scarce article and we have had corn fodder shredded to take its place. I find the shredded fodder makes good litter for the scratching shed. We don't like to have the hens out of doors when it is storming or when there is snow on the ground, and confinement does no harm when they are not overcrowded and have a chance to exercise by hunting for small grains in deep litter. The deeper the litter the more amusement the hens seem to get out of their hunting and scratching. But when the litter becomes damp and heavy there is no longer any fun in it for the hens for this sort of floor covering is unhealthy.

We are learning the value of bran as a hen food. In their soft food for breakfast we use bran as a basis; it gives bulk. It is one of the desirable feeds that is not too expensive with eggs at present prices. An experienced poultry breeder says bran is a good regulator of the system and I know if other conditions are right the feeding of bran will increase the egg yield.

Every owner of a flock of hens needs a trough in which to feed soft foods. I know some folks who throw mash on the floor or in the litter. If the hens stop laying from the effects of a severe cold spell feed heavier for a few days. If kept busy they are not so apt to be affected by the cold.

Indiana. F. M. W.

AVOID "FADS" AND "FOGYISMS."

I don't suppose there is one person in a thousand who has ever really discovered anything. Usually the individual who pompously lays claim to making a discovery has merely just found out for himself something that somebody else discovered in the centuries gone by.

This brings me up to the subject of "fads." Usually it is only the rich who can afford fads, so this should bar we poor poultrymen. But let me say to the young poultry keeper, beware of committing yourself too deeply to fads in poultry work. Most of our present methods are the fruit of the experience of generations before us, and we do well to profit by this experience, for we might live to a very ripe old age without discovering enough for ourselves to enable us to earn a living in this age of hustle. So don't call regular and accepted methods "old fogyism" until you are sure you have found something better.

I once had the opportunity of reading a lot of manuscripts purporting to contain advice to poultry keepers. The burden of it seemed to run in a course directly opposed to present usage in the care of fowls. Taken as a whole, it reminded me of a "belt line" railway in a neighboring city where for five cents you could ride at a good clip for an hour or more without getting any farther than you could walk in fifteen minutes in the direction you wish to go.

I have seen descriptions and diagrams of simple contrivances that would cost more to make than their use could ever earn, and so complicated that a metropolitan editor could discover neither head

nor tail to them; of poultry plants so extensive and costly that the best business head in the world could never make them earn a single dividend; of "newly discovered" and new-fangled feeds and feeding methods which, had they borne out expectations, would have speedily revolutionized things, but most of us are still at it in the old way.

Now the most important thing in every business, is that it be self-supporting, and it should be put on that basis first of all. To do this, accepted and tried methods are generally necessary. Not that there is no such thing as old fogyism. Under this head I include hen-houses filled with lice and filth; floors composed mainly of droppings; carelessly selected flocks of worthless hens; want of care and attention to the diet of hens. I call it old fogyism to inbreed year after year, or to use poor and immature males; to allow the premises to become overrun with rats and thus lose all or a part of the young chicks; to allow eggs to pile up in the nests until a part or all of them have become unwholesome, or worse, and half or two-thirds of the layers have become broody. I include also the allowing of a horde of young roosters among the layers at a time when the flock should be laying at its best but is not.

I have named a few old fogyisms. Now I am going to mention a few fads. About the worst, in my opinion, is the keeping of a flock worth about seven dollars, in a thousand dollar plant, with about thirty cents worth of experience in the business—when the keeper needs the money. Another is the continuous search for new and unheard-of breeds, and the continual changing of breeds. Leave this to the fellow who doesn't need the money. Remember that the buying public wants the goods and cares nothing as to how the getting of them was brought about.

While it is sometimes necessary to put quite a lot into a business before anything can be taken out, I say this of the poultry business: If you start right, your flock will pay its own bills right from the start. Yes, and discount them at that. So, be neither a faddist nor an old fogy, but never fail to profit by the sensible experience of others before you.

Isabella Co. Wm. J. COOPER.

IN ANSWER TO INQUIRIES.

Cankerous Roup.

My chickens are getting a disease that I know nothing about. They do not appear to be sick but their mouths are full of some kind of matter, so that they can hardly breathe. They open their mouths every time they breathe. Those that have it worst just stand around and do not seem to care for anything; appear to almost choke at times.

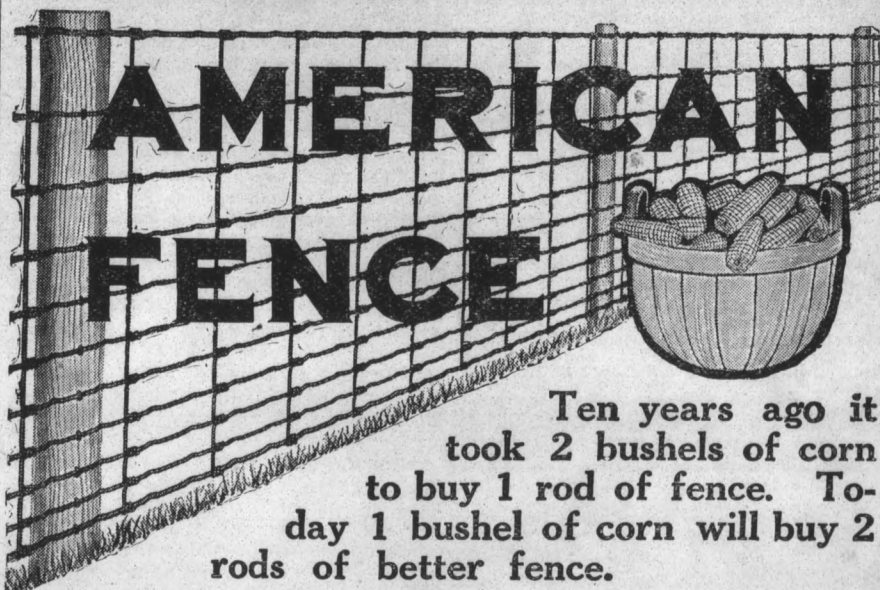
Kalamazoo Co. J. L.
Your fowls have no doubt suffered from colds for some time and the trouble has developed into cankerous roup. We would direct your attention to the article in last week's Farmer on "Treating Canker in Chickens." As stated there, it is a difficult matter to treat this trouble when the sores have invaded the windpipe, and from your description of the trouble we anticipate that you will find the windpipe clogged with the cheesy matter which covers the sores. Endeavor to prevent the fowls that are still healthy from coming in contact with the matter removed from the sores when treating the sick ones.

Probably Bronchitis.

Some weeks ago one of my Leghorn pullets began sneezing or coughing. I gave the matter little attention at the time but a little later it seemed hard for this fowl to breathe and the neck appeared to be swollen. I thought the trouble was gapes or roup, but as there are no worms and no discharge I am at a loss to know what to do. I have this pullet penned by herself but cannot see that she is getting any worse or any better. I now notice that several others are starting the same way.

Crawford Co. R. B.
The trouble is no doubt one of the many diseases that develop from colds. Examine the mouth and throat carefully for mucus patches. If they are not present, it is probably a throat or lung disease—bronchitis, congestion of lungs or pneumonia. As lung troubles are usually quickly fatal, it would seem likely that this is bronchitis. Place the fowl in a warm, dry and well ventilated room and try feeding bread or middlings moistened in milk to which has been added 2 grs. of black antimony twice a day. A drink made by steeping a little flaxseed in water will be beneficial. Dr. Salmon, of the Department of Agriculture, claims the disease may be checked in the early stages by giving 10 drops of spirits of turpentine in a teaspoonful of castor oil, repeating the dose after 5 or 6 hours. There must be something about the conditions under which your fowls are kept which causes them to contract colds. Try to determine what it is and correct it.

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The Lawrence Publishing Co.,
Detroit, Mich.

DETROIT, DEC. 16, 1911.

CURRENT COMMENT.

In his annual report Penny Postage vs. the work of the Parcels Post. just made public, Postmaster General Hitchcock includes a financial statement which is greatly to his credit. In two years he has placed the department on a paying basis, with a balance to its credit of \$219,118.12 as compared with a deficit of \$17,479,770.47 at the beginning of the present administration. The total revenues of the department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1911, amounted to \$237,879,823.60, while the total expenditures were \$237,660,705.48. In the meantime there have been extensions of the service along many lines, including the establishment of 3,774 new postoffices, delivery by carriers in 186 additional cities and 2,516 new rural routes, necessitating the employment of more than 8,000 additional people by the department. That this has been accomplished and the postal deficit wiped out at the same time, and that without any curtailment of the postal service, is a matter for congratulation, both to the administration and the country at large.

The detailed methods by which this result has been accomplished are not of as great interest to the average reader as the results themselves. However, one item of the saving in expense is worthy of special mention, inasmuch as it has a direct bearing on the recent agitation for an increase in the rate on second-class matter in which the reading public has a direct interest. This is in the shipment of bulky second-class mail, such as magazines and heavy periodicals by fast freight to points of direct distribution. It appears that the cost of handling second-class matter has been very considerably reduced by this means, and it would seem that this would obviate any necessity or legitimate demand for an increase in the postal rate on this class of matter, an increase which, in its final analysis, would be felt most keenly by the reading public.

Since January 1, 1911, when the first postal savings depositories were opened experimentally, this branch of the service has been extended to 7,500 presidential postoffices. The savings deposits, which amounted to only \$60,252 in the 48 experimental depositories, at the end of the first month, increased in a half year to \$679,310 and now, after 11 months of operation, have reached a total of \$11,000,-

000. This sum has been deposited in 2,710 national and state banks, and is protected by approved bonds deposited with the treasurer of the United States.

But perhaps the most interesting phase of the report to our readers is the recommendations which it contains regarding the establishment of a parcels post. The Postmaster-General, after commenting on the fact that the benefits of a parcels post are widely enjoyed by the people of foreign countries and should be provided in the United States, renews his request for authority to establish a limited parcels post on rural routes, and also asks for authority to institute such service in towns having delivery by carriers. The reason given for thus limiting his recommendations in this regard is that "in establishing a parcels post service great care should be taken not to cause a congestion of the mails and thus embarrass the present operations of the postoffices. An attempt to absorb immediately under one sweeping order the entire parcel business of the country would be a dangerous experiment for our postal service."

Notwithstanding the recommendations and arguments of the Postmaster-General on this point, the people of the country who are interested in the establishment of an adequate parcels post, such as is enjoyed by the people of foreign countries, feel that such service can hardly be looked on in the light of an experiment when it is in successful operation in other countries, and even extends from them to our own country. The recommendation that a limited parcels post service be established in cities having delivery by carriers would seem to eliminate one argument which has been persistently used against it, i. e., that such a delivery service would be impractical in cities. In any event, it would appear that the people at large are right in their contention that an adequate parcels post would be a greater benefit to the country than would a reduction in the rate on first-class matter, and it is certain that the advocates of penny postage will redouble their efforts to carry their point, now that the postal service is on a paying basis. Likewise the advocates of an adequate parcels post should not be idle if they expect to realize their desires in this direction at an early date. The benefits of a general parcels post would be enjoyed by a far larger percentage of the people of the country than would the benefits of penny postage, and if they would be first served they should make a personal appeal to their senators and representatives in congress without delay.

A possible solution of the farm labor problem, particularly on the larger farms of the state, has been advanced by State Immigration Commissioner Carton. Briefly stated, Mr. Carton's proposal is to co-operate with the Grange, as the most suitable available organization to act for the farmers in the several localities of the state, whether they may be grangers or not. The scheme is to have the local Grange organizations make a canvas of the communities in which their membership is located to ascertain the kind and amount of help which may be needed; whether a man with a family to live in a tenant house, a family with girls to help in the house or dairy, or a family with boys to assist on the farm. This information to be forwarded, as gathered, to a man in charge of this work in the east, who will, under an arrangement with the immigration authorities which has been consummated by Commissioner Carton, make a selection of the laborers from the agricultural sections of Europe who may be found among the immigrants coming to our shores, and arrange with them to work upon the farms of the Michigan people who have applied for help of this kind.

Mr. Carton's idea is to have the Grange name the man who will represent the farmers in New York, and his contention is that by thus increasing the amount of available farm labor, the farmers of the state may be able to produce a larger amount of food stuffs which can be marketed at a smaller price per unit and still increase the profit made from their farms, and that in this way considerable benefit will accrue both to the farmers themselves as producers and to our urban population as consumers through the operation of this proposed plan.

There are, of course, some objections to this plan, which will be likely to prevent its general adoption upon the farms of the state, objections which will occur both to the farmer seeking additional help and to the immigrants seeking a job. One of the most potent of these objections is a difficulty in breaking in a

raw recruit who, while he may be familiar with the agricultural practices of the European country from which he comes, will not be familiar with the routine work upon American farms, and this process of adaptation will necessarily be slow where neither one of the parties concerned are conversant with the language spoken by the other.

This difficulty is less apparent where the immigrant drifts to our larger centers of population, as the great bulk of them have been doing in recent years, since in this instance they are often able to secure work where the superintendent may be of their own nationality, or speak their language, or where in any event some of their fellow workmen will be able to act as interpreters. This, however, is not an insurmountable objection and in every case, particularly on the farm which is equipped with a tenant house, it need not necessarily bar an arrangement of this kind.

Without question, where help could be secured for the housewife, as suggested, this might prove adequate compensation for the other difficulties noted. There is no doubt but that the immigrants from the agricultural sections of northern Europe, or a considerable proportion of them at least, are both intelligent and industrious and have in them the making of good citizens, as well as good workers, and that it would be to their benefit, as well, perhaps, as to the benefit of the country at large to divert some of this class of immigrants to the country districts.

On the other hand, the large proportion of the farmers who are obliged to employ hired help and have no tenant houses in which men of families may be housed, will prefer to secure the best available "home talent," where the hired help must be taken into the farmer's family. However, with so many of the country young men seeking employment in the city, there is an undoubted shortage of available farm labor of this class, even at wages which compare favorably with the opportunities offered in manufacturing centers, and this effort of Commissioner Carton to offer an adequate solution will be watched with no small interest by the farmers of the state.

The office of immigration commissioner was created by an act of the legislature at the last regular session, which delegated the added duties of an Immigration Commission to the Public Domain Commission of the state and Mr. Carton, who was secretary of this commission, was designated as the Commissioner of Immigration, under authority of which office the scheme above outlined is being worked out.

HAPPENINGS OF THE WEEK.

National.

In his annual report to the President, secretary of war Stimson declares that the army of the United States is practically unprepared for field operations, which fact he attributes to the scattering of the troops over the country in the many posts, and also to the lack of reserves. The secretary also urges that the right of American citizenship be extended to the natives of Porto Rico.

An explosion in the Cross Mountain mine at Briceville, Tenn., last Saturday morning was thought to have killed at least 100 men who were in the mine at the time. However, on Monday five persons were taken out alive, and it is now believed that others who were thought dead will be rescued. Until Monday night 22 bodies have been removed. Fire damp, which was the cause of the disaster, prevents more rapid operations by rescue parties.

Members of the league of republican clubs are in session in Washington, making arrangements for the coming national republican convention.

Fire on Coney Island, the playground of New York city, destroyed property to the value of \$150,000 Monday afternoon.

James B. and J. J. McNamara have been committed to the San Quentin prison of California for dynamiting in Los Angeles. At least 25 witnesses are expected to appear before the grand jury in session at Los Angeles in the investigation of affairs growing out of the confessions of the McNamaras.

C. P. Rodgers, who four weeks ago practically completed his trans-continental trip on an aeroplane, finished the last eight miles from Crampton, where he fell and almost lost his life, to Long Branch, Cal. The actual flying time from the Atlantic to the Pacific was three days, 10 hours and 14 minutes.

For the first time since 1883 the post-office department has paid all expenses and returned a profit during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1911. The revenues amounted to \$237,879,823.60 and the expenditures to \$237,660,705.48, leaving a surplus of \$219,118.12. At the beginning of the fiscal year in 1909 there was a deficit of over \$17,000,000. The report of the department testifies to the successful operation of the postal savings banks. The system has been extended to practically all of the 7,500 presidential offices of the country. Preparations are being made to extend same to about 40,000

fourth-class offices. A recommendation that a system of parcels post be established is also made.

Charges have been made of the buying and selling of votes in open market in Fayette county, Pa. The parties making the charges claim conditions are worse than they were in Adams county, Ohio, where conditions that started and amazed the whole country were uncovered.

The Michigan employers' liability and workmen's compensation commission has completed its report, which includes the draft of a bill to be submitted to the coming state legislature. The commission has incorporated in the bill features of similar laws for Massachusetts, Wisconsin and Washington, and it is believed that the bill will meet with popular favor.

The commerce court has made permanent the injunction restraining the interstate commerce commission from enforcing its order for a reduction in cross country rates. The question will be carried to the supreme court and will decide the long and short haul clause of the railroad act of 1910.

Foreign.

Ontario elections resulted in a victory for the conservatives, although the majority is slightly below that of the former government. The returns show 82 conservatives, 23 liberals and one independent elected.

King Gustave of Sweden, presented three of the Nobel prizes to the winners on December 10. The successful parties were Mme. Marie Sklodowska Curie, in chemistry; Prof. Wilhelm Wien, in physics, and Prof. Gullstrand in medicine. The Nobel prizes each amount to nearly \$40,000.

The Persian cabinet refused to accept any tentative proposition from Russia which provides for the dismissal of the American treasurer, Schuster, who, they claim, has been able to prevent the plundering of the treasury department of the government.

The insurance bill before the British House of Lords has reached the second reading. The bill provides for the general insurance of employees, such as is now in force in Germany.

In an open letter, Easquez Gomez, former secretary for the state of Mexico, who was supposed to have joined General Reyes to aid in the overthrow of the Maderio government, states that he is favorable to the present administration and against the Reyista movement.

NATIONAL CROP REPORT.

The Crop Reporting Board of the Bureau of Statistics of the United States Department of Agriculture makes the following report:

Adopting the census statement of the acreage of winter wheat harvested in 1909 as a basis or starting point, and taking into consideration the estimated abandonment before harvest, it is estimated that the acreage planted for the crop of 1909 was 29,301,000 acres; for the crop of 1910, 31,656,000 acres; and for the crop of 1911, 32,648,000 acres.

From reports of correspondents and agents of the Bureau, it is estimated that the area sown in the fall of 1911 for the 1912 winter wheat crop is approximately 1.3 per cent less than sown last year (fall of 1910); this would be equivalent to a total of 32,213,000 acres, on the revised basis indicated above.

The condition of the crop on December 1 was 86.6 per cent of normal, against 82.5 on December 1, 1910 and 1909, respectively, and a ten-year December average of 89.9.

Adopting the census statement of the acreage of rye harvested in 1909 as a basis or starting point, and taking into consideration the estimated abandonment before harvest, it is estimated that the acreage planted for the crop of 1909 was 2,325,000 acres; for the crop of 1910, 2,413,000 acres; and for the crop of 1911, 2,415,000 acres.

From reports of correspondents and agents of the Bureau, it is estimated that the area sown in the fall of 1911 for the 1912 rye crop is approximately 0.9 per cent more than sown last year (fall of 1910); this would be equivalent to a total of 2,436,000 acres, on the revised basis indicated above.

The condition of the crop on December 1 was 93.3 per cent of normal, against 92.6 and 94.1 on December 1, 1910 and 1909, respectively, and a ten-year December average of 92.8.

MICHIGAN CROP REPORT.

Wheat.—The condition of wheat as compared with an average per cent is 86 in the state, 83 in the southern counties, 88 in the central counties, 92 in the northern counties and 94 in the upper peninsula. One year ago the per cent was 96 in the state, 95 in the southern counties, 98 in the central counties, 99 in the northern counties and 92 in the upper peninsula. The total number of bushels of wheat marketed by farmers in November at 120 flouring mills is 179,794 and at 114 elevators and to grain dealers 179,169, or a total of 358,963 bushels. Of this amount 231,713 bushels were marketed in the southern four tiers of counties, 108,648 in the central counties, and 18,602 in the northern counties and upper peninsula. The estimated total number of bushels of wheat marketed in the four months, August-November, is 6,000,000. Fifty-eight mills, elevators and grain dealers report no wheat marketed in November. The total number of bushels of wheat yet remaining in possession of growers is estimated at 8,144,000.

Rye.—The condition of rye as compared with an average per cent is 88 in the state and central counties, 85 in the southern counties, 93 in the northern

(Continued on page 543).

Magazine Section

LITERATURE
POETRY
HISTORY and
INFORMATION



The FARM BOY
and GIRL
SCIENTIFIC and
MECHANICAL

This Magazine Section forms a part of our paper twice a month. Every article is written especially for it, and does not appear elsewhere

THE SANTA CLAUS of SWISS FOLKLORE.

BY J. D. GEHRING.

THE original Santa Claus is not a product of the imagination, but was a real, living personality. There is no written history or biography of his life and doings, and, so far as I have been able to ascertain, there never was. All that is known about him has come down to us through the centuries in folklore—in unwritten history, transmitted from one generation to another by word of mouth. That, as is well known, is not an unusual way, even now, of transmitting knowledge of facts, or of persons and events. In times past, especially before the art of printing was introduced, oral history was in better repute than it now is, and also more reliable because intelligent people had better ability to remember things, and, on the average, more conscientious regard for truth.

Let it be distinctly understood, at the outset, that this story of Santa Claus is not a legend. A legend is a traditional story or narrative, with some facts, generally more or less obscure, mixed in, but not reliable as historical information. Folklore, on the other hand, is more reliable as to truth and fact.

I first heard this story of Santa Claus, when a child about eight years of age. My parents, from whom I heard it, were Christians—of the praying sort, and so also were their parents, from whom they heard the story—and so on back, from generation to generation, the story may be traced along a channel as reliable as human memory and Christian honesty can be relied upon. My telling of the story is somewhat hampered by the fact that my memory recalls it in German, my mother tongue, in which it was related to us children, in Switzerland, many years ago.

The Santa Claus of my story was originally and familiarly known by the name of "Father Klaus" (Vater Klaus), "Klaus," being an abbreviation of "Nicholaus." He was one of the better sort of Christians, as they averaged in those days of ignorance and superstitious credulity. To him the living of the Christian life meant imitation of the perfect human life which Christ manifested in living and dying for others. Father Klaus was not called a saint (from the Latin word, sanctus, holy) in the days of his quiet, but very practical holy living. The title, saint, was conferred upon him by his church, sometime after his death, in recognition of his good and useful life. From that time on he was known, in all the region of his former benevolent activities, as "Sanct Klaus," and that name has come down to us by common consent in the familiar form of Santa Claus.

It is a matter of deep regret to me that the folklore which transmitted to us the name failed to transmit also the fame of Father Klaus as the father of the Christmas-tree idea, as well as a somewhat correct knowledge of his personality, character and good works. There is—or was when I was a little boy—a distinct trace left of this among the people of the Alpine region of Switzerland. Some of these people it was, who, coming to the new world and settling in colonies here and there, perpetuated the Christmas-tree folklore among themselves by celebrating as a religious festival the old-time Christmas eve with their children. Here, then, we have the origin of our popular custom, adopted by common consent by nearly all classes of our people, of making the decorated evergreen tree a prominent feature of the annual Christmas eve celebration, especially intended for our children.

The Swiss Americans, however, from whom the custom was borrowed, were not responsible for the American caricature of the original Santa Claus. The American idea is a myth, as commonly

presented at Christmas eve festivals. The mistake made by the Americans was and is the omission from their Christmas-tree programs of the Swiss religious element as the chief feature, and the substitution of a clownish character called Santa Claus, together with a more or less frolicsome and frivolous performance called an entertainment. The foreign-born Swiss have never, to my knowledge, introduced a mimic Santa Claus into their celebration of the Christmas festival, for the very good reason, I think, that to

never in Switzerland do they mimic the hero of their Christmas-tree story, though they recall him to their children by explaining to them that it was Father Klaus who first conceived the beautiful idea of symbolizing Heaven's greatest gift to man by an evergreen tree adorned with lights and red-cheeked pears and apples and clusters of beautiful black grapes, and other good and beautiful things so pleasing and delightful to children.

Father Klaus—so the story goes—was

A DAY IN WINTER.

By Mildred M. North.

The waning moon, a silver crescent thin,
Puts out her light ere the new day begin.
The white stars take their candles one by one
And follow ere the coming of the sun.
The blackness hiding all the sea and land
Grows slowly gray, while a swift unseen Hand
Paints a faint light of topaz in the east
Which, as the slow-winged daylight is increased,
Is changed to crimson. Fleecy clouds are drest
In regal robes of rose and amethyst.
Up from behind the low dark fringe which shows
The distant wood, into the glow which grows
More deeply crimson, comes the sun—a ball
Of living flame which, rising, touches all
The landscape with a radiant light. The snow
Shows flashing jewels in the golden glow.
From the wide chimneys, rising dark and tall
Above the farmhouse roof, the smoke-wreaths crawl.
The milk pails rattle; then from out their shed
The sleek cows come with slow reluctant tread.

At noon the sky bends blue above; the snow
Glistens like diamonds any queen might show.
The sunlight silhouettes the tall gaunt trees
On snow-white canvas where they seem to freeze.
From bush to tree, with loud discordant cries
And restless movements, a lone bluejay flies.
Bevies of snowbirds circle through the air
With graceful whirl, then slowly settle where
Some tall weed lifts its head above the snow,
Or where the wild rose's bright red berries grow,
To take their midday meal. With dainty tread
A rabbit springs along, then lifts its head
With eye and ear alert for danger near.
Upon the frosty air comes, sweet and clear,
The ring of sleigh bells. Slender fragile spires
Of clear icicles catch a hundred fires
From the white sunshine, throwing back its parts
In many hues from out their crystal hearts,
And, glistening in the light which noon receives,
Hang like inverted Milan from the eaves.

The sun sinks early, down behind the hills
Snow-capped and silent. Through the air there thrills
A deeper cold. The baying of a hound,
Late from the hunt, comes with a mournful sound.
A great star like a gleaming jewel glows
Above the trees. Then, as the darkness grows,
Star after star appears to light the haze
Until the whole broad heaven is ablaze.
Far in the north the weird auroral light
Flashes its silent signals through the night.
Slow round the pole the seven sisters swing,
Bringing us one day nearer to the Spring.

them it would seem too much akin to sacrilegious mockery. And so deep and lasting has been the impression upon my mind of the folklore story of the original Sancta Klaus, as I heard it in childhood, that I have never yet learned to regard the American misrepresentation of him with any degree of approval.

My memory also recalls the fact that

trudging joyfully along one Christmas day, loaded to the limit of his strength with a great pack of various kinds of gifts for the children of his parish, for this annual remembrance of the children was one of the great joys that filled the life of this devout and charitable man. Like an inspiration, the thought came to him: "Wouldn't it please the children very

much to hear me tell the story of the Star of Bethlehem, the birth of the babe Jesus over sixteen hundred years ago, in a way they've never heard, and I've never yet told? Yes," he said, musingly, as he looked at the shapely young fir trees on either side of his path, "I shall begin my new Christmas lesson today, and teach the dear children what is to me so grand and inspiring." Suiting the action to the thought, Father Klaus cut one of the little green beauties near the ground, and then, with his pocket knife, trimmed off some of the lower limbs as he went on his way. When he arrived at the hut of one of the mountaineer families, he placed the tree upon the family dining-table by setting the root end into a jar of sand. Then he suspended from its branches the presents for the children that were beautiful to look at and good to eat, laying all the others intended for the children of that family upon the table; and, putting a few small wax candles in the most conspicuous positions upon the tree and lighting them, he invited parents and children to come and take seats around the table. He then chanted a familiar hymn, the parents and the elder ones of the children joining, after which he requested the mother to make a report to him as to the conduct and behavior of the children since his last visit. A good report concerning any one of them was heartily commended by Father Klaus, and a report not commendable concerning one or another received a few kindly-spoken words of reproof and admonition. Each child was addressed separately by Father Klaus, commending or reproving, as the case might be, according to the mother's report. It is said, too, according to the story, that in extremely bad cases of reported misconduct Father Klaus would present the guilty one with a birch switch, instead of a present that could be eaten or worn, at the same time charging the mother to use it if no better behavior followed. However, before going on his way to the next family, Father Klaus left with the mother all the presents intended for the unfortunate child, to be given to him, or her, after confession, and a promise to do better.

This ceremony having been religiously attended to, Father Klaus explained to them all the meaning of the tree and the things upon it. He said: "As I understand it, my dear children, this tree reminds us of everlasting life. It is evergreen, always green and vigorous and fresh as it grows on the mountain-side, because it never sheds its foliage as other trees do. When we look at the brightly shining lights upon it, we are reminded of the star that shone for the kings, the Wise Men of the East, when they sought and found the new King, the night He was born in Bethlehem. We are reminded, also, that Jesus proclaimed himself to be the Light of the World, which means that some time the glorious light of the knowledge of God, and of His wisdom, and of His love, shall be shed abroad over the whole earth, so that there shall be no more ignorance, nor sin, nor sickness, nor woe and misery; and no more dying and weeping and mourning in that never-ending Day. You will remember that, dear children, will you not?"

Then, directing attention to the fruit hanging from the boughs of the tree, as though it had grown there, Father Klaus explained its symbolic meaning as a Christmas lesson by telling them, in a simple, instructive way, the story of Eden.

"Those clusters of grapes," he is said to have explained, pointing to the tree, "are there to remind us of what Jesus said to his disciples when he likened himself to a grapevine (John 15:1), and them to the branches."

The lesson ended, and all of the family made happy and thankful for the gifts

Father Klaus had distributed among them, he again took upon his back the heavy load of Christmas gifts yet remaining and departed, chanting words of praise and thankfulness as he trudged along through the deep Alpine snow on his way to the next stopping place. Of course he did not forget to select, as he had done before, a suitable fir tree for use as a Christmas lesson farther on.

This, according to the folklore story as I heard it, Father Klaus continued, going from one hut to the next, until all the families of his parish had been visited on Christmas day. It was not possible, of course, for him to do all this on the evening before Christmas. The Christmas eve celebration of our time is a modern invention, concerning which Father Klaus knew nothing.

THE BACHELOR UNCLE

BY EVERITT McNEIL.

Synopsis of Preceding Chapters.—John Delvin, farmer, bachelor, is suddenly informed that his niece and nephew are being sent to him for safe keeping, while their parents take a vacation trip. His consternation at this responsibility proves to be well founded as Teddy the nephew, is a young dare devil, and Ellen, his sister, is his ardent worshiper. They have never been in the country before and have some wild ideas about conditions there. This fact brings them into many unusual and amusing situations which prove very trying to Mary Jane, the Bachelor Uncle's conscientious and sedate old housekeeper. Little Ellen's innocent observation that Uncle John ought to have a wife brings out the fact that the uncle has had a serious love affair and that, for some mysterious reason, the woman whom he loved, Elsie Lamont, and who he was convinced loved him, turned from him to Harry Rodney, a wealthy man of his own age in the neighborhood, and who was known to resemble Delvin physically. Their wedding is near at hand. On an exploring trip Teddy and Ellen see a young woman, Belle Murdock, fall from a high bank into the creek. They drag her out, seriously injured. Soon Rodney and Miss Lamont happen along and assist the injured woman, later taking her to her home. As Belle Murdock's father, Red Murdock, is a worthless fellow, and she is practically the sole support and caretaker of little Joey, her crippled brother, Delvin goes over to the house in the morning to offer his assistance, taking Teddy and Ellen with him.

There is little hope for the home of the man who has such convictions and the folly to live up to them, nor the children who are brought up amid such surroundings; and Belle Murdock, I am sorry to say, was the child of her home. She was a tall, lithe girl, with snapping black eyes, straight black hair and olive complexion, and of a gipsy-like beauty very attractive to some men. But she had a vixenish temper, and, in her way, she was as shiftless as was her father. Fortunately there was but one other child, little Joey; but he, unfortunately, was a cripple, with a painful spinal trouble that kept him in the house most of the time. All the neighborhood knew how carefully and lovingly Belle Murdock had cared for him since the mother died, and, because of the knowledge of this sisterly devotion, all had a tender spot in their hearts for the girl, and pitied her more than they condemned her.

The house was situated a little back from the road, near the bank of the river. As I turned into the driveway leading to the door, I was surprised to meet Harry Rodney mounted on his black racer. I had never known of his taking any interest before in the fortunes or misfortunes of the class of people to whom Belle Murdock belonged, and hence my surprise in finding him coming from this lowly house of trouble. Probably he was there because Elsie, who, I knew, had a heart full of kindly consideration for all in misfortune, had sent him. I fancy the meeting was not a pleasant one to either of us. I know it was not to me, and I saw Rodney start and frown when he caught sight of me, but his greeting was cordial enough.

"Good morning, Mr. Delvin," he said, stopping his horse. "What an unfortunate accident this fall of Miss Murdock's was. Poor girl, the doctor does not hold out much hope for her recovery. Elsie," I thought I detected a gleam of triumph in his eyes as he pronounced the name, "is very anxious to know how she is this morning, so I rode over to inquire, and to see if there was anything Elsie or I could do. You know Elsie and I came to Miss Murdock's assistance, after this brave little boy and girl had pulled her out of the water," and he nodded to Ellen and Teddy.

I expressed my sorrow at the serious nature of Miss Murdock's injuries, and my hope that they would not prove fatal. I did this as shortly as possible, for I did not like the way he was coupling Elsie's name with his own, and I had no wish to prolong the interview. If he had spoken thus to make me feel his triumph, he certainly was accomplishing his object, for I did feel it, and bitterly.

"Of course you know that Elsie Lamont and I are to be married a week from next Sunday," he continued. "It is a love match, and we are both very happy; and, somehow, I feel like telling everybody of my good luck. I suppose you think me very foolish, you are such a staid old bachelor; but wait until you love a girl like Elsie Lamont, though I doubt if there is another like her in the whole world, at least there is not for me," and he smiled. "Can't you congratulate me, John Delvin? You know the value of the prize I have won."

His black eyes looked straight into mine, and I knew that he meant the words to cut—and they did—right to the heart. I felt my blood begin to tingle, and my fingers itch to grip him by the neck, as he sat there on his horse watching me with that gleam of triumph in his eyes and that impudent smile upon his lips, and choke the name of Elsie forever out of his throat. Yet, I had to hide the pain and rage in my heart and to answer his courteous words with other words of courtesy, for I, the scorned suitor, had no right to publicly resent what Rodney, with such seeming courtesy, had told me. In another way his words gave me pain, for they convinced me of the truth of what I had long felt, that Rodney at heart was not a gentleman, and unworthy of the wedded love of a girl like Elsie Lamont. A gentleman would have scorned the meanness of thus triumphing over a defeated rival; for I could read plainly the motives back of all of Rodney's words, and, while I despised the man, I felt with even greater keenness, the bitterness of his triumph.

"Mr. Rodney," I said, "I do wish you and Miss Lamont a long and happy life, if you wed; but," and I smiled, "you know the old saying: 'There is many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip,' and much can happen, even in one week. Hence, I trust, you will not think my congratulations the less sincere if I withhold them until after the wedding." I spoke banteringly, to hide my feelings; and I wondered what there was in my words to cause the sudden look of fear and hatred that flashed over Harry Rodney's face; but he answered me quietly enough.

"Such sayings are for old women and disappointed suitors, not for happy lovers like Elsie and me. John Delvin, the woman does not live who can make a fool of me, and God pity the man who tries it. Good morning," and his eyes, for an instant, looked defiantly, threateningly into mine, and he dug his spurs into his horse's flanks and galloped off.

"Uncle John!" Teddy's voice was full of suppressed emotion. "Uncle John, if—if you want to punch that big man I'll hold the horses. I know you can do it, even if he is big cause you are so strong."

"No, no; oh, don't fight, Uncle John; 'cause he might make your nose bleed," and Ellen caught me by the hand, and looked up pleadingly into my face.

God forgive me! But how I did want to feel the grip of my hands around the throat that had voiced those last venomous sentences! No, no, there must be no fighting, for Elsie's sake, unless he was plainly the aggressor; and then, let him beware.

"Fighting would not mend matters between us, Teddy," I answered, shortly. "Get up," and I drove to Red Murdock's door.

When I knocked a childish voice called; "Come in," and little Joey struggled to his feet to greet us, as we entered.

"My papa's gone to town," he said. "Th' other big man sent him as soon as he comed in. He's goin' to fetch me some candy an' somethin' good to eat," and the sunken eyes lit up and the thin face flushed with pleasure. "Belle is awful sick," and his voice became lower. "She felled an' hurted her head. She's bad this mornin' 'cause I heered her cryin' when th' other big man was with her, an' he shut th' door an' I couldn't come in to comfort her. Did you want to see Belle?"

I'll tell her you've comed," and the poor little fellow started to cross the floor, painfully dragging his almost helpless legs after him.

Teddy sprang quickly to his side. "Can't I help you?" he said, very gently throwing one arm under the frail shoulders. "There, now we'll pull together like a team of mules."

The boy looked at Teddy in surprise, then he smiled. "I like you," he said, and from that moment Teddy was his hero.

When Joey reached the bedroom where Belle Murdock lay, he went up to her bed and announced, in a loud whisper: "Sister, big John Delvin an' a good little boy, an' a pretty little girl have comed to see you, an' they've got a big basket with somethin' in it."

"I don't want to see John Delvin; I don't want to see John Delvin," she answered fretfully.

"But, 'tain't nice to tell company to go away," pleaded Joey. "An' here's the good little boy. He—he comed in with me."

"Good morning," said Teddy. "Uncle John and Ellen and I called to see how you were getting on. I hope you are better this morning. You know I'm the boy who helped you out of the water."

There was a moment's silence, then I heard the woman say: "Come up closer, where I can see you face. Give me your hand. Yes, you do favor John Delvin. You're a fine brave boy, an' you saved my life that day. God bless you! Oh, oh! the pain in my head an' back! It's killing me! Killing me! An' I don't want to die! I'm not fit to die!" and she began to sob and moan. There was a deeper agony than pain and the natural fear of death in her voice.

I put ceremony to one side and stepped to the bedroom door. "Pardon me, Miss Murdock," I said, "but Ellen and Teddy told me of your accident and we have called to see if we can do you a neighborly turn. Mary Jane has put up a few things for you and Joey and your father to eat, because she thought that you could not do much cooking, for a few days at least. Now, you musn't feel so badly all we can; and we'll play—I can stay, right in a day or two. I am on my way to town, and I will have my own family doctor, Doctor Goldthorp, call to see you. He will put you on your feet in a jiffy. On my way back I will stop and get Widow Thorpe to come and stay with you for a few days, until you are better. Come, Joey, let us see what goodies Mary Jane has packed in the basket for you. I think I saw her putting in a frosted cake, and some tarts, and raisin cookies. Come," and stooping, I very tenderly lifted his frail form up into my arms and bore him back to the other room.

I could see that my presence, for some reason, disturbed Belle Murdock very much. She had given me a frightened glance, as I entered the room, and then had turned abruptly from me, and never had answered a word. The glimpse I had of her face startled me by its pallor, its marks of suffering, and the despairing look in the eyes. Evidently she was a very ill woman, too ill to be held in any way responsible for the ungracious manner of my reception.

I sat Joey down in a chair by the table, and opened the basket. He watched me hungrily, and when I came to the frosted cake and cookies and jellies he clapped his thin hands and laughed joyfully. I cut a generous slice from the cake, and Ellen passed it to him; but he shook his little head bravely.

"No, no," he said, "I must save all the nice things for Belle, 'cause she's sick. Belle always gives me th' best of everythin' when she's well. You don't know how good Belle's been to me since ma died, an' now she's took sick, an'—an'," his eyes filled with tears.

Ellen looked at the thin, pain-marked face for a moment, and then she put her arms around the child's neck, and kissed him, and smoothed his hair back from his forehead, and said: "Don't cry, 'cause I know your sister will get well now, 'cause Uncle John has comed. Uncle John can do most anything, 'cause he's good. And—" She hesitated just a moment.

"And I'll stay with you while Uncle John and Teddy go to town; and, oh, we'll have such a good time! We'll put some jelly in a saucer, and some tarts and cookies and cake on a plate, and we'll bring it to your sister; and we'll set the table for ourselves, and eat and eat just all we can; and we'll play—I can stay, can't I, Uncle John?" and she looked at me beseechingly.

"Why, Ellen, I thought you wished to go to town," I answered.

(Continued next week.)

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CHRISTMAS ALL THE YEAR.

BY VAN R. W. HORTON.

Ring out the bells, and welcome here
This brightest festive day,
For "Christmas comes but once a year,"
But happiest are they
Whose quickened ear is trained to hear
The angels' song away.

The selfish ones who eat and drink
With laughter, song and glee,
But never of the needy think,
A one-day Christmas see.

While they who heed the Christ's com-
mands,
Who live with conscience clear
And greet the poor with open hands,
Have Christmas all the year.

Each night they hear His angels sing
"Good will and peace," again,
And see each golden morning bring
His gifts of love to men—

The pleasures of their daily walk;
Sweet light, and vital breath;
The power to think, the power to talk;
Life's triumph over death;

The beauty of the vales and hills;
The singing birds, and flowers;
All, all, are gifts with which He fills
This pleasant world of ours.

For He came down to teach and die
To raise us up, and then,
When He ascended upon high,
Gave life's full boon to men.

And so they ken a Christmas-tide
Beyond death's mystic stream,
Where all His Faithful friends abide,
And life is bliss supreme.

A CHRISTMAS IN THE SUNNY SOUTH.

BY ELISABETH ROBERTS LITTS.

I was invited to spend the greatest of all festive seasons—Christmas—in the sunny south. I looked forward to it with great expectation, nor was I disappointed. To a girl from the north who has never been below the Mason and Dixon line, and whose only knowledge of the southland has been gained from books and the drama, a great many surprises are revealed. My anticipations of the novel things I was to witness were doubly realized, and the thought, "can this be Uncle Sam's country, too?" was often impressed upon me.

Perhaps the thing that strikes you first as being of the south-southerly is the colored population, as the black faces appear at every turn. You are hustled into your cab by a black porter and driven to your destination by a negro driver. At the door another gentleman of color takes your baggage, and you are shown to your room by a mulatto girl wearing a white apron and cap, as the old southern families retain the custom of having their house servants appear as neat as possible although the old style of family livery is now seldom seen.

I had heard of the old southern homes with their yawning fireplaces. The house to which I went as guest was a large, old-fashioned brick, with a hall through the center. I was told that it was the largest house in the city at the time of the war and had witnessed many encounters of the blue and the gray, as this was the historic city of Chattanooga.

When I stepped into my room the extremely high ceilings, with the long windows coming down to the floor, and the great width of the apartment, appalled me. I looked for the fireplace the first thing and instantly perceived the bright lights flickering on the walls as the flames shot up the great chimney. These fireplaces are the bright spots that relieve the dreariness of the large rooms, with their "old-timey" dark furniture and trimmings. About them there is an air of cheerfulness and they give a very homelike and comfortable feeling.

Having often heard of the hot bread of the south, and having had visions of warm, steaming, light bread, hot and clammy, such as you have often eaten at home when the bread runs out before the new baking is cold, I fancied life there, for the cooks, must be one doughy round of yeast, kneading, and scorching ovens. But here is where weak supposition comes to naught. Bread, such as we know it in the north—raised bread—is almost as much a novelty as an Uncle Tom's Cabin show or a boy whistling "While we were Marching Through Georgia." Hot bread in the south means biscuit and corn pone. Yes, pone is the right name, because the corn bread we are accustomed to is called egg bread, down there, and is considered quite a delicacy. The regular diet in the bread line is biscuit for breakfast, also hot cakes and molasses; for dinner there is the corn pone, and biscuit, too, but always the corn pone. With supper time comes biscuit again, little flaky biscuits, for if there is anything in practice making perfection the negro cook of the south

has surely reached the acme of biscuit making. Light bread, as they term it, is a side dish, an extra affair seen at supper time perhaps once or twice a week, but, in well regulated southern homes, never oftener.

The southern people are delightful. They have true hospitality, but they are reserved and wish to find out who you are and what you are before they take you into their circle of friends, although you are always treated with a politeness and consideration that has long been one of the endearing qualities of these people. What impressed me most in the contrasts that I was wont to draw, was the different mode of speech and manner in addressing you. Their tones are soft and well modulated and the words are pronounced very lightly. Scarcely ever is an "r" sounded. You are always addressed as Miss Clara, for instance, never as Miss Smith. It is Mr. Jim and Mr. Harry, too, an old-time custom that originated with the darkies in slave times and gradually crept into the talk of the white people, as many of the old darkey superstitions and weird fancies have done.

But I was to tell of Christmas time in the south and not of the ways of these people. This is surely a period of cheer and good will. It is not merely the passing of the day, as it is with the busy bustling north, but in the south it is an occasion looked forward to all year. It is the time when the boys and girls come home from college. The married daughter, with her children, comes to spend the holidays with the old folks at home. The son who is out in the world takes his vacation at Christmas time so he can join the merry family group, for this is homecoming time, and an unbroken family circle is the happiest event that can take place in the southern home.

I had wanted to see the mistletoe growing, for the south is the home of this yuletide feature which bears with it so many pretty little romances and legends. A friend offered to take me up on the mountainside where, he said, we would find mistletoe. It was a beautifully clear day and we rode through the hills where the ground was covered with exquisitely tinted autumn leaves—such beautiful shades as are only found in mountainous countries. I could not help thinking of a nutting expedition in the fall, instead of a hunt for mistletoe at Christmas time. We presently came out on top of famous Missionary Ridge and, after a search among the old trees, my friend finally discovered a large piece of mistletoe hanging from the limb of a grand old chestnut tree. How odd it looked a way out on that huge limb, with its frosty berries clustering thick among the leaves. I gave a little exclamation of surprise.

"Oh! is that the way mistletoe grows," I said, "just like fungus on an old stump?" I was informed that it grew just that way and that it may be found on most any large tree, but generally on oaks and chestnuts. And such beautiful mistletoe it was, not like the tiny, shriveled up branches we get in the north, but magnificent with its thick leaves and large full berries. My companion succeeded in knocking off several branches and I was delighted with our find.

I was to have another pleasant surprise that afternoon, and that was when I was taken up to a holly tree and asked how much of it I wanted to take home. Did you ever see a holly tree in full bloom? If you have not you cannot imagine the pretty sight. Here is a whole tree bristling with its sharp-pointed leaves, and brilliant with its cardinal berries. My mind quickly flew back to the well-known wreaths hanging in northern windows, and the stingy little pieces adorning the new silk designs in the shop windows. This, like the mistletoe, was much larger and fuller than when it reaches us in the north.

A few days before Christmas I went down town to do some shopping and was astounded to see the great quantities of holly and mistletoe that had been brought into the city. On one of the prominent corners Christmas greenery was piled along the edge of the sidewalk in great masses. I stood spellbound looking at it. On the opposite corner was a tall mountaineer with a wagon completely loaded. I felt a desire to purchase some, chiefly because it seemed so plentiful. I selected several large branches, all that I cared to carry, and asked the man how much I owed him. "Well, about a dime, I reckon," he drawled. I was nonplussed. A dime! This amount of holly and mistletoe up home would be worth several dollars.

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ferent from the northern is its carnival feature, which begins to be noticeable about the second day before Santa Claus makes his appearance. I had been told about it and was waiting expectantly for Christmas eve, when, I understood, it would break out with all its fury. It did not disappoint me. Everybody goes down town Christmas eve. The streets are jammed with people; everyone is in holiday attire; young and old blow horns, shoot toy pistols, slyly steal up behind you and, with a few swift turns on the crank of an infernal little machine they call a frog, emit the most ear-piercing sounds about your head. Crackers are exploding and your clothes are becoming covered with confetti. You catch the holiday spirit. Your mind becomes confused and you wonder what it is all about. Occasionally a big sign swung

across the street, bearing the words "Merry Christmas," meets your eye, and the strangeness of it all is forced upon you.

About eleven o'clock we returned home, but the noise did not cease as we entered the house. The darkies were singing and having a regular jubilee in the kitchen. A few were assisting the lady of the house in putting up the last pieces of holly and mistletoe. Large dishes of nuts, candies and fruit were upon the table, and we made a dash for them. After an hour of merriment we retired, but I did not sleep.

The racket, which had only increased at midnight, was still holding sway down town and I could hear it as I tried to sleep, being unusually wide awake from the excitement and novelty of it all. I was awakened from my brief nap by the

other members of the household calling merrily to each other "Christmas Gift," as that is the usual morning greeting, whether accompanied with a gift or not, and takes the place of our greeting of "Merry Christmas."

The little darkey maid came into my room to build the fire in my fireplace. When she saw that I was awake she greeted me with "Christmas Gift, Missy!" then rolled her big round eyes to see if I made any effort to give her a present, for Christmas time is a big event with the darkies. They all expect a present from everyone in the house, and they always get it. I had provided for this on learning, a few days previous, that it was the custom to give each of the servants a present. One need not give them anything great as they are easily pleased; the most trifling article will send them

off in a profusion of bows and thanks for your generosity. I pointed to the mantel, where a small package rested, and said: "That is for you, Aggie." Kindling and wood fell to the floor with a crash as she hastily seized the bundle and tore off the wrapper, revealing a collar of brilliant ribbon. Her joy knew no bounds as she immediately began to view herself in the glass, holding the collar to her neck and crooking her head from side to side until I reminded her that the fire was not yet built and I wished to arise.

All day there was noise from the firing of small arms and crackers. I determined to go to early morning service at the church and at 7:30 set forth, dressed lightly and without a wrap. I noticed a few men seated on their porches reading the morning paper, and I repeated "This is really Christmas day," to myself sev-



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eral times before I could realize it. My thoughts reverted to the familiar Christmas season up north, and in fancy I could hear the jingle of sleighbells, the ring of skates upon the ice and feel the snow crackle under my feet as I walked.

With the coming of darkness I had expected the noise would cease but it did not, entirely. On the morrow it was resumed again, and while the fervor of the small boy had subsided, he still took delight in celebrating Christmas, and for nearly a week his activities continued in desultory fashion. The holiday feeling lasted, too, and most work was suspended for the week. The darkies feel that this is the time for feast and revel, and little work is done until after New Year's. The old-time custom of burning the yule log is seldom seen now, but on some of the old plantations it is still in vogue.

With the mountaineers, or poor mountain whites, as they are called, Christmas is a great time of merrymaking. On Christmas eve, in every little building among the mountains that does service as church and school, a tree is seen sparkling in all its glory of colored candles and strung popcorn. The people gather from far and near and a great time is had. Everyone is sure of a present from the tree. Not only the children, as is our custom, get presents from the tree, but it bears something for every member of the various households, who have come from their humble homes, some in wagons drawn by their trusty mules, for horses are seldom seen in that district; others, more prosperous, have their mules hitched to a shining buggy, and some, not fortunate enough to own a vehicle, come on muleback, and it is not an uncommon sight to see husband and wife sitting firmly on the back of the same mule as the animal plods along the winding mountain paths. Others walk, but, come as they may, they are all there. Bashful swains who wish to give presents to their girls put them upon the tree and thus relieve themselves of the embarrassment of presenting them in person.

Altogether a Christmas spent in the south is delightfully entertaining and one to be remembered, there are many little ways and customs which seem strange to northerners, and which the southerners cannot tell why they cling to. It is their way of observing the holiday, as their fathers did before them, and their grandfathers also, and it suits them very well.

MY MODEL WRITING DESK.

BY FLOY SCHOONMAKER, ARMSTRONG.

I had been wishing that I might have a desk for my room, so one afternoon I visited the furniture stores in our city, only to find that the plainest, cheapest desk I could purchase would take fifteen dollars out of my pocket, and—well, I did not purchase.

That evening, while relating to my husband the particulars of my unsatisfactory visits to the stores, I endeavored to hide my disappointment. I must, however, have made a successful failure of

10 inches wide, 15c; four boards of hard pine ceiling, 16 feet long, 6 inches wide, 3/4-inch thick, 87c; one piece, 2x4, 11 feet long, 22c; 22 1/2 feet of 3/4, 3-inch band moulding, 45c; one yard of green felt (double fold), \$1; varnish, 25c; hard oil, 15c; shellac, 10c; nails, putty, sandpaper, 10c; four casters, 15c; total, \$3.44.

If you desire a handsome and convenient desk such as now ornaments my room and delights me, procure the above mentioned materials and follow these directions: Rip the piece of 2x4 lengthwise and of it make a strong, firm frame of the above mentioned size; then put a top on the desk from the board of common lumber. Cut the ceiling into desired lengths and with it cover the frame. In the center of the sides, commencing at the bottom, saw a space 20 inches wide and 18 inches high. Arch the space at top so that the center of arch will be four inches from the top of the desk. Put two shelves in each end of the desk. Now, stretch the felt tightly over top of desk, allowing it to extend two inches over the edges, and there securely fasten with small tacks.

Put a band of the moulding—which should be cut in a mitre box—around top and bottom of desk and it will then be ready for the finishing touches. Put on the casters. Carefully countersink every nail head seen on exterior of the desk and fill the holes with putty. After the putty hardens, give the entire desk—top excepted—a thorough sandpapering; when smooth, apply a thin coat of shellac. Allow the shellac to dry, then sandpaper the desk again and it will be ready for the hard oil. When the hard oil is well dried, apply the varnish.

In front of the shelves you may hang curtains of felt, cotton flannel, china silk, or whatever suitable material you may chance to have or choose to purchase.

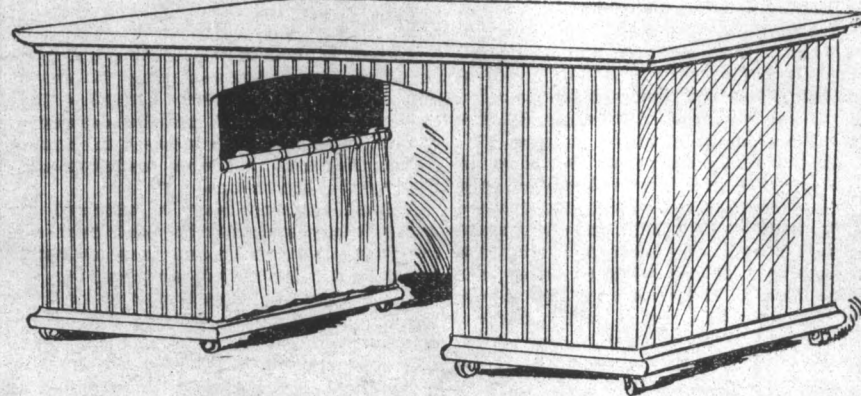
Sisters, if your husbands or brothers are only "handy" men, and, like Barkis, "willin'," you, too, may have a model writing desk whereon to lay a letter-file.

THE BEST CHRISTMAS.

BY ORIN E. CROOKER.

Even though "Christmas comes but once a year" there is a provoking sameness to it that in time robs the day to some extent of the joy it ought to bring to the heart. The stress and strain of buying and preparing gifts, the candle-laden Christmas tree, the visit of Santa Claus—all these cease at last to appeal to us as they did once upon a time. Still, we continue to find satisfaction in making others happy on this day. And in this, of course, lies the real secret of Christmas joy.

To revive the spirit of Christmas in one's heart one must give more largely of oneself. Things that cost effort always give more satisfaction to ourselves and others than things that merely cost money. To really enjoy Christmas set yourself some special tasks to do on this day that will mean some sacrifice to yourself. Visit the "shut-ins" of your acquaintance; take them a bit of Christmas cheer if you wish, but go assured in your own



my attempt, for when I paused to take breath, he said, consolingly: "Never mind, you shall have a desk for that room; we will make one."

My voice must have sounded provokingly incredulous as I asked: "How? When? Where?"

But my husband quietly replied: "With boards, nails, a saw and hammer; in the kitchen; at night, after I come from work."

To be brief, we made a desk. That is, I held the lamp and waited on "John" and he did the work.

Following is an accurate list, and the cost of the articles we used in making one desk, which is 48 inches long, 29 inches wide, and 29 inches high: One board of common lumber, 12 feet long,

mind that you will make your personal visitation the chief Christmas "greeting." Let your entrance into their presence bring a breath of the outside world, a message of goodwill, and an optimistic thought or two. It will brighten their day more than any gift you might send or bring. If you have a friend who is ill—let not the day pass without some message of cheer and hopefulness either to him or his family. Go in person, if possible. The telephone is at best a poor medium of extending comfort. Give of your time and strength that your gift and thoughtfulness may bear the savour of it. And when night comes after such a day of Christmas giving you will feel in your heart that it was the best Christmas you ever had.

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Woman and Her Needs

At Home and Elsewhere

Let It Really Be The Children's Christmas.

The current number of a well-known woman's magazine has two sketches which show in a telling manner, why Christmas is a day of torment and unhappiness to some parents and a time of peace and happiness to others.

The sketches are of two small boys, each the only son in a family of several grownups. One boy is carefully excluded from all Christmas preparations, not allowed a peek at the tree beforehand or to help a bit in any preparations. He is given a large sum of money to buy presents for the relatives and told exactly how to spend it. The tree and the wonderful presents he receives quite stupefy him, especially as the grownups insist on showing him just how he must play with every toy. By night he is cross and apparently ungrateful, and is hustled off to bed while the parents and uncles and aunts remark on the thankless task of trying to please children.

The other four-year-old is taken into everything. He helps trim the tree, saves up his pennies to buy gifts and picks them out himself. To be sure he buys his mother a toy moulding board and his father a child's drinking mug, but he has exercised his own powers of choosing and he is happy. Instead of being surprised by a magnificent tree, he proudly opens the parlor door and surprises father and mother with the tree he helped to trim. He has learned that giving brings happiness far in excess of getting and his Christmas is a happy one.

At least one mother read the story with a guilty qualm. Last Christmas it was decided in a certain home that there would never be another tree, the children did not appreciate it. That tree was planned and executed by the fond parents. The children were kept out of the kitchen while the corn was popped and hustled away from the machine while the little netting bags were made. Grandma and aunt and mother filled the bags, strung

popcorn, wrapped all the parcels, and tied all the pretty red ribbons. Father set up the tree and trimmed it himself while two miserable small boys were shooed out of the room that they might be surprised later. It was a very fine tree, taller than father's head and all lighted up with red and green candles, to say nothing of strings of tinsel, red bells, gilt and silver balls, stars and similar gewgaws.

But two small boys took one scornful look at it and demanded presents. They had nothing to do with "making" the tree and it didn't interest them a bit. Father and mother sighed and declared that there was no use doing anything for boys who didn't appreciate it. Also they declared "Never again."

This year there is going to be a different sort of tree. It will be a small one and will stand on the middle of the dining-room table. Two boys will string the corn themselves and drape it on the tree in a manner to suit their own taste. They will make colored tissue paper chains, like those described in "Stormy Days for the Little Folks," in this issue of The Farmer, and deck the tree with these. They will fill the candy bags, and cut stars out of silver paper, and hang on the tree only presents they have bought for the family and wrapped and tied themselves. They will buy the presents with their own pennies, and pick out what they want to give, even if it does seem a bit foolish. Then on Christmas morning they will light the candles themselves and give the gifts they have prepared.

Perhaps they will not like this sort of tree any better than the old, but do you not think they will? Isn't half the fun of Christmas, yes, all the fun of it, in getting ready beforehand? I'm sure it always has been to me, and I believe children enjoy the things they do far more than the things that are done for them.

DEBORAH.

Christmas Decorations For The Home.

By Mary Mason Wright.

Everyone should put her home in gala dress for the holiday season, especially if there are children in the family. It not only adds to the Christmas spirit, but it furnishes pleasant memory pictures for them to carry out in the world with them—memories of the priceless joys of home at Christmastide. The children will be glad to help with the trimming of the house and decoration of table, and if old enough will take this part of the Christmas preparations entirely off your hands except for a little oversight.

Perhaps holly outranks every other Christmas green in popularity for decoration; but if not obtainable many excellent substitutes can be found. Wreaths made out of the live oak, and decorated with a few bright bittersweet berries can scarcely be told from holly wreaths. Then any evergreen decorated with bright berries from the woods will give the Christmas effect so much desired. It is wonderful what the woods afford in the way of Christmas greens and reds, especially if one has had a little forethought and gathered them when they retained all their beauty. Pressed ferns and autumn leaves look pretty pinned against the white curtains, or arranged in wall spaces.

Ropes of evergreen wreathed around pictures, or caught up here and there on the walls always prove effective. To make these ropes use thin rope for a foundation, stretching it across the room, or at least keeping it taut. Cut your evergreen into small sprays and arrange around the rope, fastening it on with fine wire or coarse black thread. Pretty wreaths can be made by using hoops for foundations, first covering them with green cambric or cheesecloth. These wreaths brightened up with a few bright berries are nice hung in the windows or hung here and there on the walls and connected with loops of evergreen. Flat

wreaths and heavy dark masses are to be avoided unless they are intended for a background for something lighter, such as flowers. If the walls are white or some light color the branches, ropes and wreaths of evergreen will show off to much better advantage. In one home where the walls were papered in dark green they made a frieze by stretching white cheesecloth about 18 inches below the picture molding all around the room. Wreaths were suspended at intervals along the picture molding, and connected with loops of evergreen, little Christmas bells being fastened inside of the wreaths, the white background showing off the decorations in an effective manner.

Red Christmas bells may be hung in the doorways and tiny red paper bells may be strung on red ribbon and stretched across the ceiling. Gilt and silver stars fastened here on the evergreen will look very pretty. If you wish to have your greens look as if touched by Jack Frost dip the branches, ropes and whatever used, in a solution of strong alum water, or else with thin gum arabic water and then sprinkle with diamond dust and they will sparkle in the light. If you wish a still more wintry effect, after dipping the greens in the gum-arabic water place fluffy bits of cotton over them, then sprinkle with diamond dust and you will have the effect of branches and greens covered with snow. The words "Merry Christmas" may be hung in the archway or placed over a door. The letters can be cut out of gilt paper and mounted on an evergreen background, or pasteboard letters can be covered with fine evergreen, and these placed on a board that has been covered with white cloth and surrounded with a border of evergreen.

Charming effects can be obtained on the table without much trouble. A nice idea is to suspend an evergreen wreath from the chandelier or directly over the center

of the table by means of evergreen ropes; then fasten all around this hoop, by means of red ribbon, little red Christmas bells. Have at each plate a tiny bell. A pretty, deep red basket filled with ferns and trailing vines gives the Christmas colors and makes quite a pretty, yet effective, table decoration, or a fancy green basket filled with red fruit. A wreath of holly can be used for a centerpiece, with a Santa Claus in the center of it with a pack of toys on his shoulders. Clusters of holly can be gracefully strewn over the cloth. Use red candles on the table, if practicable. A little Christmas tree placed in the center of the table and decorated with tinsel, gilt stars and tiny toys is nice. Always remember that the decorations need not be elaborate to be effective. Decorations arranged with simplicity and in an artistic manner will usually be most pleasing.

STORMY DAYS WITH THE LITTLE FOLKS.

Rainy or stormy days may be made most interesting for the little tots in the house, with little or no expense and a very little time and some forethought on the part of the mother. First let me mention a few simple and inexpensive articles to be purchased at any school supply house. There are several kinds of modeling clay that cost but little and even a four-year-old can produce fairly good reproductions of his pets and many articles he sees in his home—the cat, the bird, or dog. Dishes of clay, or flower pots may be suggested and a whole afternoon will be occupied with very little direction or attention from the mother.

Always have on hand a pot of paste and several small brushes. Yes, anything that calls for paste makes a mess, but give them the kitchen table with newspapers spread over it and the mess is easily cleared away. I have found that a brush and a dish of paste possess great fascination and possibilities for a child. Now for some uses of the paste. Of course, there is the scrapbook in which pictures are pasted, these having been previously cut out with blunt scissors if the small boy or girl is able to handle these.

The colored paper chains afford amusement for hours at a time in making. The colored stripes already gummed may be purchased from school supply houses but a much less expensive plan is to go to your local printing office and ask for remnants of bright colored papers. These cost about four cents a pound and ten cents worth will make material for a long time. These pieces must be cut in strips an inch wide and about six inches long to form chain links and must be pasted together. Let the children hang these in rows across the windows of their own room or use them for decorating a Christmas tree. Other ways of using the chains will suggest themselves. Articles that children make should not be destroyed. A child will soon lose interest in making things that are considered foolish or useless by the grown-ups.

Animal patterns may be obtained for a few cents and can be used over and over again. Trace around these on heavy paper, color if desired, and cut out. A box of crayola colored pencils will be found desirable. It costs eight or ten cents and contains eight pencils—seven colors and black.

Common clay pipes for bubble blowing or the regular bubble makers may be purchased very cheaply and little folks delight to spend an afternoon blowing bubbles. An instructive as well as amusing game which little ones love, is sliced animals. These are somewhat more expensive and come in sets of perhaps a dozen animals printed in colors on stiff cardboard. They are cut up in strips which are to be fitted together to form the different animals.

These are only a few of the many inexpensive ways of keeping a child both busy and amused. I think we should try to make the child's occupations instructive as well as amusing so far as possible. If it is not possible to purchase material for children to use, there are many things about the house which we

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Cash or credit, just as you wish. Our direct, wholesale, factory prices save you \$3 to \$40 over the very best price your dealer could make. We prepay freight. The stove is one you'll be proud to own—the genuine Kalamazoo—stove standard of the country for years. Made its own way and proved its superiority in 170,000 American homes.

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What Users Say: Mrs. Maggie Pearson, Paterson, N.J., "I have made over 1,500 pairs of socks and stockings on the Gearhart Knitting Machine and am preparing for another big order." Mrs. J. S. Hudson, Oak Hill, Ga., "I have used Gearhart's Family Knitter for sixteen years. It does as satisfactory work now as when first purchased. I recommend it to mothers with growing families as a labor-saving and money-saving proposition." Carl Stelling, Lenroot, Wis., "The machine we bought of you two years ago works O. K. and my wife would not be without it." Yarns furnished at cost. Write today for catalog and free samples of work done on machine. Address **GEARHART KNITTING MACHINE CO., Box 42 Clearfield, Pa.**

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can use to amuse them with no expense at all. A basket of clothespins furnishes material for houses, barns, etc., and a whole village or collection of farm buildings may be constructed by the young carpenters.

Empty the button box into a large shallow tin or box where they may be spread out and give the little ones each a blunt needle threaded with a stout thread, and let them string buttons, all black ones on one string and all white ones on another, or alternately. Stringing popcorn is another favorite pastime and if it is near Christmas time these popcorn strings may be saved to drape the children's tree. Save up your fashion sheets and illustrated papers and magazines and let the boys and girls color the pictures.

I think every mother of young children, especially if she live in the country, should take some good teachers' magazine. Get a list of these magazines from the principal of your high school and send for a sample copy of each. You can then choose the one best fitted to your needs. In these magazines may be found excellent material for use in the house as well as school and kindergarten, also much good reading on child culture and training.

ALBERTA.

LETTER BOX.

Dear Deborah:—You are quite on the true side about table manners for children. I have been a reader of the Michigan Farmer for many years and take a great interest in your letters to us. Here is the history of a family from real life, and you will see if they can drop off as easily as the mothers think.

In my father's family there were nine children, six boys and three girls, all fairly well educated, some teaching school, some music, both vocal and instrumental, all hearty, big, and had good appetites. Now you can just imagine six sturdy young men at the table. They were never corrected by their mother, their father was dead, at all, and you could hear them smack their lips and crunch their dinners, all over the house. If they took food out of a dish they threw the spoon back in, and if they took out butter they just chopped off a slice, one chopping so hard one day when they had company that he broke his mother's butter dish.

That was 50 years ago. Today they are scattered in different parts of the globe, all have large families and fine wives, but they eat just as they did when young, for I have visited with them all for days at a time. But their children were put to such shame with their father's eating and table manners that most of them have refined manners and are very nice at the table, being told by mother that if they didn't begin young they would eat like "Pa."

Although I have seen some of my uncles try to do better they would get so nervous they would just drop things. A funny thing about them is that if they wish more drink, water, tea or coffee, they don't speak but just manage in some way to choke to attract the maid. This always brings a smile to the diners. And now I want to say, if they eat naturally why don't we children, or the grandchildren, all eat so, of whom there are over a hundred? Not a dozen eat as they do. —M. A. L.

Saving Time.

The art of making work bend to suit the strength and time lies within the reach of all women for it is just a matter of choice in regard to what you will do and the way you will do it. But I had to learn this through the hard school of experience. I was suddenly brought face to face with the problem of taking care of an invalid and doing the work for an exacting family. The spoiling of this family by too much waiting on was what brought the mother to invalidism.

I started in as my mother had left off and in five or six months I had reduced myself to a mere skeleton, a shadow of my former self. Then I got on my thinking cap and tried many reforms, but I will tell you only a few that have stayed by me.

First, I rolled the molasses cookie dough into sheets and baked and called it ginger bread. I sponged the bread, let rise once, and mixed into loaves.

I baked beans in three or four small dishes and put in the ice box. I put the white clothes right into the boiler of cold water and soap, let come to a boil, rinsed and blued.

I ironed only what I thought necessary. I asked myself often, "Is it necessary for

the health and happiness of the family?" If not, I did not always do it.

I laid the men's colored shirts on their beds at night for them to put on and I did not make any excuses about things and I did not worry, but tried to "fight fire with fire," as it were. If the men would not change their day shirts when they retired I put colored sheets on their beds, but I did not scold; scolding takes more strength than work.

Just keep in mind it is a matter of choice if you buy your bread, etc., and use an oilcloth on the table and wipe the dishes or drain them and spend your time reading a book, or if you make butter or sell your cream. Just be sensible; don't overwork; cut off the unnecessary things until you can do your work easily and have a little time for other things. I find time to do just about what I want to do. You can't do everything, so make a choice.—M. E. B. M.

A PLACE FOR TIN COVERS.

BY ELLA E. ROCKWOOD.

Every housewife knows what an unsatisfactory utensil to arrange in a cupboard is the useful tin cover. Yet a supply of these in assorted sizes is a needful adjunct of the kitchen. If placed on a shelf with other tinware it necessitates shifting all over to find the particular one required. They are not made for hanging from a nail or hook, neither do they stack successfully.

In one kitchen this problem has been solved by making a rack devoted especially to these covers.

An extension curtain rod is fastened to the wall by the long brass hooks which accompany such rods. Underneath this a few inches a strip of wood about an inch square is nailed against the wall. The covers are slipped behind the rod with the lower edges resting on the strip of wood. Here they are held in a convenient position for use when needed and any particular one can be selected at a glance. Some place near the cooking range can be found in most kitchens where the covers can be reached without waste of steps.

MICHIGAN FARMER PATTERNS.

These patterns may be obtained from the Michigan Farmer office at the prices named. Be sure to give pattern number and the size wanted.



No. 5434, Girls' Empire Coat. Cut in sizes 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 years. Age 8 requires $2\frac{1}{4}$ yards of 44-inch material; $2\frac{1}{2}$ yards of braid. Price, 10 cents.

No. 5382, Ladies' Shirt Waist. Cut in 6 sizes, 32 to 42 inches bust measure. Size 36 requires $3\frac{1}{2}$ yards of 27-inch material. Price, 10 cents.

No. 3541, Misses' Sack Apron. Three sizes, 13, 15 and 17 years. For 15 years it requires $5\frac{1}{2}$ yards 27 inches wide. Price 10 cents.

No. 5483, Ladies' Three-piece Tunic Skirt. Cut in 5 sizes, 22 to 30 inches waist measure. Size 24 measures $3\frac{1}{2}$ yards around lower edge and requires 4 yards of 36-inch material. Price, 10 cents.

No. 5378, Ladies' Tucked Shirt Waist. Cut in 6 sizes, 32 to 42 inches bust measure. Size 36 requires $3\frac{1}{2}$ yards of 27-inch material. Price, 10 cents.

When baking piecrust shells for lemon, cream or other pies, put the dough in the tins in the usual way. Set another tin of same size inside, thus baking between two tins, and it cannot puff up.—Mrs. S.

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PRACTICAL SCIENCE.

LIVING MATTER IN THE SOIL.

BY FLOYD W. ROBISON.

The Method of Inoculating the Soil.

Some few years ago the Department of Agriculture decided upon a plan of sending cultures through the mail as ordinary bacteriological specimens are sent through the mail, so that farmers might make up a solution or culture media favorable to the rapid growth of these small micro-organisms which have been found so valuable in the growing of leguminous crops. As stated before, however, we think perhaps the greatest impetus has been given to this movement by the Canadian government in the province of Ontario, at the Ontario Agricultural College. Edwards, of the Ontario station, has for a number of years been sending to the Canadian farmers throughout Ontario cultures of bacteria for the inoculation of their soils.

The general method of inoculation is to take some soil from a field which is well infected with these various micro-organisms and stir the seed, to be used, thoroughly in this solution from the earth from this thoroughly infected field, and then subsequently planting the seed thus treated in the new field. Another system is to spread the cultures broadcast over the surface of the field to be infected. It seems very necessary that the bacteria should be present during the early stages of the growth of the plant so that it may affix itself to the rootlet when that rootlet is still young and tender. We have stated that in our opinion the difficulty with the growing of alfalfa in this state heretofore has been that our Michigan soils have not been infected, or inoculated, with the micro-organism which is especially adapted to the growing of the alfalfa plant. A very interesting and favorable point in connection with the adaptation of the micro-organism to the plant is that after a time the organism which seems to be most effective upon one species of plant will in time adapt itself to a new host. This may explain why alfalfa and other leguminous crops will finally grow successfully even though inoculating experiments have not been actually carried on. It has taken a number of years to convince the farmers of the state that alfalfa can be successfully grown in this state and there are many instances now which testify mutely to the exceedingly great value of this forage crop, especially where stock farming is practiced to any considerable extent.

We should expect, then, that favorable results would be observed in the growing of any new leguminous crop in any field which is already inoculated with the micro-organisms which work most advantageously on that crop. At the same time, if the soil is already inoculated it would be an entire waste of money and of time to re-inoculate that soil with a culture from any other source and, likewise, we need not expect any increase in the yield due to this second inoculation. In the growing of leguminous crops it is therefore quite desirable to ascertain first of all, before any specific treatment is resorted to, whether the field is inoculated with the desired micro-organisms.

The effect of the sudden exploitation of the influence of these micro-organisms which affix themselves to the roots of the leguminous crops has largely passed away and we are now getting down to a realization of the net value of these micro-organisms to the plant. In agricultural work as well as in any other popular line of work, the first steps in the advance are usually taken enthusiastically and go far beyond what the actual conditions merit. This is in keeping with the understanding of a great many publicists who realize that to get a truth firmly rooted in the popular mind it is necessary to at times go almost to the point of sensationalism. So, for that reason, if for no other, energetic exploitation of the influence of micro-organisms on the growing of clover and leguminous crops has been justifiable.

There are other forms of living matter in the soil which have a tremendous influence upon soil fertility and ultimately upon plant growth. It is a matter of common observation that the surface soil, or the first six inches of most soils, contains, quite uniformly distributed, organic matter in the form of humus. It is not an easy matter to fully account for this uniform distribution of humus. We are accustomed ordinarily to look to the de-

cay of roots and the decay of leaves which fall upon the surface as the source of the humus which exists in the upper six inches of the soil. The difficulty, however, in considering this source also manifests itself when we attempt to explain why it is that this organic matter, this decaying vegetable matter, is so uniformly distributed through this upper layer of soil and so abruptly changes at the point which we call the sub-soil, which is usually just about a plow depth. An examination of the soil shows it to consist of a ramification of threads of fungi and mycelium which, no doubt, springing from the organic matter which is perhaps distributed in bunches in the soil, tends to diffuse throughout the soil the organic matter which we find thus so uniformly distributed. Mushrooms, and fungi of like nature, reproduce themselves by means of a spawn, or fine network, of fibres which spread throughout the whole surface soil. These materials all depend upon an abundant supply of air and this consequently would necessitate in most instances their being found near the surface. Probably, however, the greatest agency in promoting the uniform distribution of humus in the soil is by means of earthworms and other animal agencies. The common angle worm and other forms of earthworms actually feed upon the soil itself, that is, in burrowing through the soil they swallow considerable quantities of the soil and digest for their sustenance the particles of organic matter which these soils may contain. Certain scientists have attempted to estimate the value of the offices carried on by these earthworms in the soil. It is certain that an abundance of animal agencies in the soil is evidence of an active, healthy soil, and is an indicator worth taking into consideration in studying the soil. Not only do the earthworms in feeding upon the soil make it more available for crop production by dissolving the insoluble portions of the soil, but they also contribute greatly to the uniformity in the humus content of the soil.

Hilgard quotes Ernest Thompson Seton as saying that the earthworm practically does not exist in the arid region between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Coast, but that they are plentiful both this side and the other side of that region. He states that certain larger animals, such as gophers and other burrowing animals that live a portion of their time above the soil, take the place, to a great extent, of earthworms. These, however, are not compatible with agricultural operations, and it is extremely doubtful if their influence for the general good of the soil is any better or as great as is that of the earthworm.

The influence of living matter in the soil is a very potent one in so far as the fertility of the soil is concerned. The soil that is devoid of humus or organic matter is a soil that will take many years to bring to a state of high productivity because humus is not an easily manufactured substance and although we may apply artificial manures persistently for a number of years, it will be a considerable period before the normal or most advantageous supply of humus is incorporated in the soil proper. This is why the addition of artificial manures should be regularly practiced from year to year, not that we may expect to realize in a single year or to restock the soil in a single year with humus, but that we may return at least the equivalent of that which has been removed in the previous year's cropping. More particularly still, however, it is desirable that such methods of cultivation, drainage and cropping be carried on that the production of humus and the spread of organic matter may go on uninterruptedly in the soil.

CLEAN MILK.

The Righteousness of the Demand for Clean Milk.

The production and the marketing of milk has been in the hands of the farmer from its beginning. Very little thought has been given to the idea that in producing this milk, and in handling it, and in manufacturing it into the various milk products the question of cleanliness and sanitation should be called very vividly to the attention of the dairyman. It is only in these later years with the increased attention which has been given to the problems of sanitation and health that we have begun to give serious consideration to our food supply. The pro-

duction of clean milk is not only a necessity from the standpoint of the customer of the dairyman and not only is it a necessity because it becomes the duty of the manufacturer or producer to put upon the market a product of the highest degree of excellence which he can, but the production of clean milk is necessary because it is to the producer an economic necessity.

Milk as secreted in the udder of the healthy cow, we may assume to be clean; in fact, it is clean. If it could be marketed in the same condition in which it exists in the udder of the cow, no fault could possibly be found with that product from a sanitary standpoint. It is impossible, however, to market milk in this condition. It becomes more or less contaminated through the agency of filth on the flanks of the cow, on the hands and clothing of the milker, unclean milking utensils and unclean stable surroundings. It has long been the custom to remove in so far as possible, from the milk the visible dirt, but the visible dirt in milk is simply an indication as to the careless methods under which that milk was produced. We would assume that when particles of filth and dirt are seen in the bottom of the pan, or are strained out when the milk is poured onto the strainer, that those particles represent the harmless, insoluble residue of the product which originally contaminated the milk. The bacteria, and other undesirable parts of this contaminating filth, will be found to be fairly soluble in the milk, and to pass through the strainer with the milk.

Cleanliness is a real economy. Not only are we beginning to recognize as far as marketing is concerned, that clean milk is worth much more as an article of food than unclean milk, but the farmer is beginning to realize that a clean cow is much more apt to be a healthy cow than an unclean one. The best way to keep a cow healthy is to keep her clean. The best way to keep her clean is to clean her from time to time and to keep her surroundings clean, well ventilated and well lighted. When these conditions of cleanliness are fulfilled then the cow is in a very favorable, healthful environment and the diseases which are so common in poorly ventilated, poorly lighted, unclean stables are practically eradicated. Tuberculosis, for example, is one of the most common, most to be dreaded diseases of cows, and yet tuberculosis is a direct result of uncleanness in the stable.

Having produced milk from a clean cow in a clean way, the second great requisite is to keep it cool. For this purpose many dairies are equipped with a cooler, sometimes called an aerator, or sometimes called an aerator and cooler combined. Aeration and cooling cannot be combined simultaneously. In clean milk aeration is not desirable. It is perfectly feasible to take milk which has been directly removed from the udder of the cow and put it into bottles or other closed receptacles and cool it down to a low temperature, to be marketed without aeration. The only possible excuse for the use of an aerator is in removing the marks of uncleanness in milk. For this reason it has always been the policy of the writer to condemn the aerator. Clean milk does not need aeration. Unclean milk should not be aerated because, by so doing, one of the marks of uncleanness has been removed and the consumer is misled as to the sanitary condition of that product. At any rate, aeration and cooling cannot take place simultaneously because, when the milk is cooling it is not giving up odors, but is taking up odors, and if it were desirable to aerate the milk the milk should be warmed instead of cooled, to encourage aeration, and then afterwards cooled to a low temperature. We think aeration is undesirable.

Clean milk is a safe milk. Clean milk in the sense in which we have discussed it in this short paper, means healthy milk; milk from healthy cows. Clean milk costs more to produce but it is economical in spite of its extra cost for the dairyman to produce it. Costing more, such milk must receive a greater price and the public, we believe, is now ready to pay the greater price because the milk is worth more. We are aware of the difficulty involved in asking the consumer to pay a higher price for milk and we are prepared to say, however, that milk may cost at retail fourteen cents a quart before it equals the cost of sirloin steak at eighteen cents a pound. But paying such a price, the public is entitled to know with certainty that the milk is clean and pure and wholesome.

FLOYD W. ROBISON.

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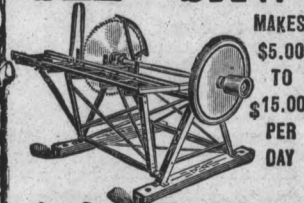
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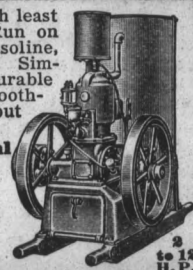
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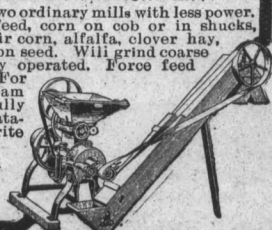


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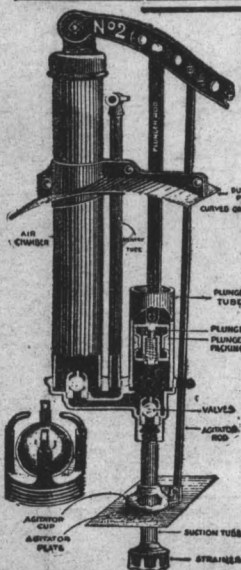
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(Continued from page 534).
counties and 96 in the upper peninsula. One year ago the per cent was 96 in the state, 95 in the southern counties, 98 in the central counties and 94 in the northern counties and upper peninsula.
Fall Pasture.—The condition of fall pasture as compared with an average per cent is 88 in the state and southern counties, 85 in the central counties, 90 in the northern counties and 100 in the upper peninsula.
Live Stock.—The condition of live stock throughout the state is 95 for horses, cattle and sheep and 96 for swine.

CROP AND MARKET NOTES.

Livingston Co., Dec. 4.—We have been having some winter weather for about two weeks. Farmers were caught with probably 40 per cent of their corn crop in the field. No fall plowing to speak of has been done. Stock of all kinds doing well. Not much stock on feed this winter on account of the scarcity of feed.

Newaygo Co., Dec. 7.—Not much snow yet with fine weather up to this writing. Good weather for corn husking, manure hauling or any other farm work that there is to do this time of the year. Beans about all threshed in this locality with rather a poor yield and lots of poor beans, some so wet the buyers refused them. No surplus of feed for sale in this locality. Some farmers busy hulling corn. Rye and wheat is going into winter in good shape, except where on low ground. There will be a large planting of peach trees in this county next spring. Potatoes are bringing 62c; beans, white, \$1.90; reds, \$2.30; butter, 30c; eggs, 30c.

Shiawassee Co., Nov. 28.—A continuous wet period accompanied with light snow and rain. Roads in very bad condition and gradually getting worse. Farmers are completely tied up, fields too wet to cross, roads too heavy for hauling beets and grain and the corn crop too wet for handling. Manure hauling delayed on account of the wet land. A few farmers have apples to deliver to cars for shipping but are unable to handle them. The larger portion of the corn crop is standing in the fields. There is still hundreds of acres of beans to harvest, some unpulled while a large number of acres are in the pile. Beans in stacks are in poor condition and some farmers say they will not attempt to thresh. Potatoes are not keeping well in cellars and a winter shortage is looked for. Lamb feeders are a little uncertain relative to filling up, on account of high prices of feed and the poor outlook for better market. No cattle will go on feed this winter. A good many farmers are disposing of their sheep and purchasing cows and will milk them this winter for the creamery. One lamb feeder who last winter fed 1,500 lambs has purchased 28 cows and will feed his grain and roughage to them rather than run too much risk. Very few farms are changing hands at the present time at any price.

THE INTERNATIONAL.

(Continued from page 528).
Springfield, Ill. The treasurer's report showed this to have been the banner year in the 36 years of the association's existence. It was voted to invest \$2,000 more in government bonds.

American Hampshire Swine Breeders' Association.—The following officers were elected at the directors' meeting: Pres., Willie Essig, Tipton, Ind.; vice-pres., Clayton Messinger, Keswick, Ia.; sec., E. C. Stone, Peoria, Ill.; treas., Hugh Atkinson, Mt. Sterling, Ill. The financial report showed the association to be in a prosperous condition with a large increase in membership.

American Poland-China Record Association.—Breeder from 13 states met at the annual meeting. The affairs of the association are in excellent condition as shown by the report of the secretary, M. P. Hancher, of Rolfe, Ia., and H. E. Singleton, of McKinney, Tex., were elected to the board of directors. Lincoln Dukens was re-elected.

National Duroc-Jersey Record Association.—Officers elected: Pres., E. A. Baxter, Pawnee, Ill.; first vice-pres., R. J. Harding, Macedonia, Ia.; sec., R. J. Pfander, Peoria, Ill.; treas., E. Z. Russell, Blair, Neb. A premium fund of \$1,200 was provided to be apportioned among the state fairs and national shows for 1912.

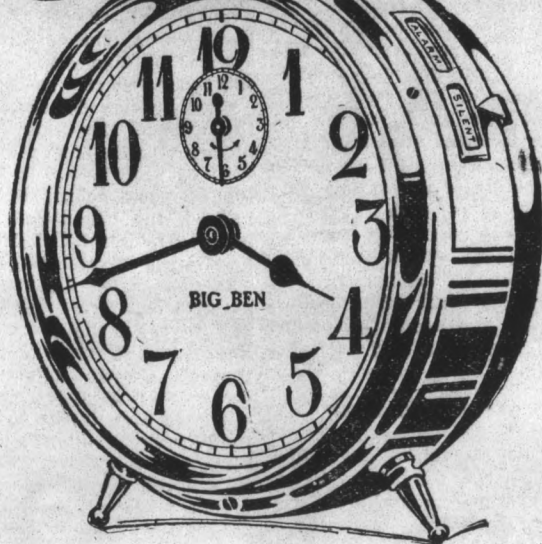
American Oxford Down Record Association.—The old officers were re-elected as follows: Pres., R. J. Stone, Stonington, Ill.; vice-pres., I. R. Waterbury, Highland, Mich.; sec., W. A. Shafer, Hamilton, O. Appropriation for prizes at 1912 International was fixed at \$250, while the mid-winter show at Guelph is to receive \$55 and the mid-winter show at Omaha \$50 in special prizes.

American Hampshire Sheep Breeders' Association.—The following officers for the ensuing year were chosen: Pres., M. C. Ring, Neillsville, Wis.; first vice-pres., Frank J. Hagenbarth, Spencer, Idaho; second vice-pres., E. N. Benha, Canandaigua, N. Y.; third vice-president, C. O. Judd, Kent, Ohio; fourth vice-pres., Comfort A. Tyler, Coldwater, Mich.

American Rambouillet Sheep Breeders' Association.—At the annual meeting in Record Hall the following officers were elected: Pres., A. R. Jackson, Dayton, Wash.; vice-pres., P. T. King, Laramie, Wyo.; sec., Dwight Lincoln, Milford Center, O.; treas., E. L. Davis, Davisburg, Mich.

Continental Dorset Club.—Officers are as follows: Pres., Harry Wheeler, of Ill.; vice-pres., H. H. Cherry, of Ohio; secretary and treasurer, elected for life respectively, S. S. Staley and Joseph H. Wing, both of Mechanicsburg, Ohio. Treasurer Wing reported business the most satisfactory in the history of the club, 24 new members during the year, the largest increase and largest sales ever known.

Big Ben



Merry Christmas! Here is Big Ben.
May he wish you many of them!

Don't waste a minute of this merry day. Have the presents ready Christmas eve. Hang each stocking up. Arrange the presents that won't go inside in little piles around each stocking.

Then, when all have gone to sleep, sneak into each bedroom a jolly-faced Big Ben.

He'll ring the merriest Christmas bell you have ever heard and get the family down to see the presents bright and early so the whole day will be yours to fully enjoy.

Big Ben is a gift worth the giving, for he is a clock that lasts and serves you daily year after year.

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He calls you every day at any time you say, steadily for ten minutes, or at repeated intervals for fifteen.

He is sold by jewelers only—the price is \$2.50 anywhere.

If you cannot find him at your jeweler's, a money order sent to his designers, Westclox, La Salle, Illinois, will bring him to you express charges paid.



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GRANGE

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STATE GRANGE AT KALAMAZOO.

The work of another annual State Grange meeting will have been concluded when this paper reaches its readers. This meeting, the first session of which is convening as we go to press, promises to be one of unusual interest and importance to the farmers of this state owing to the fact that new questions, or old questions in new form, of vital import to agriculture have come into public notice since the last meeting of this body. The action of the delegates with regard to such matters claims attention from all classes, and all readers of this paper may confidently rely upon finding, in the Grange department of succeeding issues, a complete, concise and accurate account of the great meeting being held at Kalamazoo this week.

"A WORD FITLY SPOKEN."

We have had considerable to say in our Granges about "country community building" and "the one improvement" idea. Not long ago I met a western woman who is doing the one through the other. That is, she is building up her community ideals and practices through the one improvement plan. Let me tell you the story in something of her own words:

"Our people are as yet unorganized; each family is so engrossed in wealth getting that they do not seem to feel the need of social community life, but it's telling on the farm women, and it is to help them that I am working. We have organized a little Country Club with the purpose of making one improvement at a time. We meet and have a pleasant social time with a program. The editor of our paper gives me space each issue for a report of our progress. I report every improvement which I can observe, however slight it may be. Sometimes it is no more than that Mr. S. has painted a part of his barn, or that Mr. D. has hung a gate, or that Mrs. B. has put screens in her windows. I have left my work and driven five or six miles to collect material for these reports of improvements. People are pleased to have their upward efforts noticed by others. You would be surprised at the changes which have quietly gone on without a single word being said about the neglected places or ugly practices."

It was this last thought that caught my attention and I mentally jotted it down for our Michigan Granges that are trying the "one improvement" plan. The stimulus of appreciation! What wonders will it not effect! How many masters of Granges have tried the practice which this woman outlined? How many lecturers? How many stewards? How many of us have persistently fixed the habit of mentioning the improvements we have noted in our neighbor's premises, in his fields, in his barnyard, front yard, back yard, or living room? Have we cultivated the habit until we naturally commend the good traits of his cows, chickens and children? Do we easily praise the good contribution to the Grange dinner that is made by the women to whom cooking "comes hard"? How often do we think to mention to the shy member our appreciation of her surprisingly fitting response to roll call, or to compliment the new member upon his valuable contribution to the discussion? Or, on the other hand, have we the habit of grumbling, complaining, criticizing, and playing the grouch generally concerning neighborhood and neighbors?

It seems to me the sort of reporting which the woman I met is doing is of the constructive sort, the sort good to imitate both with the tongue and pen, as being words fitly spoken that are "like apples of gold in pictures of silver."

JENNIE BUELL.

THE GRANGE AS A COMMUNITY SERVANT.

Actual Grange accomplishments along lines of community service are steadily multiplying and the Grange is as steadily gaining in popularity and influence in consequence. An eastern Grange worker has recently familiarized himself with the work of those Granges which have been foremost in striving to accomplish something which shall be of permanent benefit to their several communities. The ac-

tivities of these widely separated Granges are of interest as illustrations and suggestions to patrons and Granges which hold the interests of the community above mere Grange success.

To mark the historic spots in its town was the task which one little county Grange assumed. Suitable stone markers were secured and properly marked and the various historic spots were then hunted out. The members began to get interested in local town history and were amazed to learn how many interesting happenings had occurred in that little rural town. The outcome of the interest aroused by this Grange undertaking was the formation of a local historical society.

One Grange decided, after discussing the subject thoroughly that the village library was far from realizing its possibilities of usefulness. It included a choice lot of good books, but it was poorly housed, the books had no semblance of being catalogued and few people realized how much of value the library contained. The Grange led the way towards having suitable quarters fitted up and the books put in proper shape for convenient handling. A cozy reading room came next, through Grange influence, then an increased town appropriation for library purposes and finally a movement set on foot for a neat library building all by itself. The same Grange energy which enthused the townspeople, led in entertainments for the library's benefit and secured the assistance of former residents and other sympathetic well-wishers of the town. In due time the library building was completed, the books put in proper occupancy therein and the whole stands today as a striking memorial to Grange leadership in community benefit.

In one rural town there seemed little that a Grange could do, but it was decided after discussion at one meeting to purchase a bed of regular hospital design, adjustable frame, woven wire spring and hair mattress. The selectmen accepted it from the Grange, in the name of the people of the town, and it is in every sense a free bed, for the use of the people of the town who may need it. It is stored in the fire engine house, which is always open day or night, and there anyone in need may go for it and use it so long as it may be needed, then returning it to its storage place. The bed was originally earned by an "experience meeting." It began its career of ministry in June, 1902, and has been in almost constant use since.

In one town weekly band concerts have been a feature that has furnished much pleasure for all the people. The Grange took the lead, in the early spring, by making a proposition to the local civic league, that if the latter would raise the money for a summer series of band concerts, the Grange would get the funds and erect a band stand before July 1. The challenge was accepted and the Grange at once got busy by arranging a mock trial, of humorous character, which was put on in the town hall. The result was a handsome start towards the fund that later built the band stand—and brought the band concerts.

One Grange, in a small country town, was the means of getting a town improvement movement under way that has proved of incalculable benefit to the place. Realizing that such an undertaking would be most successful through the co-operation of all the citizens, the Grange thought best not to go ahead with an improvement project on its own account, but instead it chose a committee which conferred with the churches and with other local organizations, to secure the formation of a strong civic movement for the general improvement of local conditions. The Grange effort met an instantaneous response and the movement thus set under way has proved tremendously beneficial to that community.

Grange and Schools Co-operate.—Wayne Grange, one of the newer subordinates of Cass county, recently held the best meeting in its history, members to the number of nearly 200 gathering at the town hall for the purpose of considering school matters. The consideration of schools has been a subject of considerable interest in this section of the state, since the first consolidation of schools in this state was made in the neighboring county of Kalamazoo. At this time there is talk of attempting consolidation in Wayne township, and a prominent feature of this meeting was an able paper by Mrs. Harmon Coble on "Michigan's First Consolidated School," which was discussed at length. Several of the schools of the township participated in the program at the close of which the Grange served supper. This Grange has wrought an improvement of a public nature through an arrangement with the township by which the latter supplied lumber from which the patrons built a long row of horse sheds adjacent to the town hall.



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Packer's Brand Fertilizer will enable you to get from 80 to 100 bushels per acre of the fullest, finest grain.

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FARMERS' CLUBS

THE ASSOCIATIONAL MEETING.

The 19th annual meeting of the Michigan State Association of Farmers' Clubs convened at the senate chamber of the capitol building at Lansing on December 5. No regular session was held in the morning, the morning hours being devoted to the routine work, payment of dues, presentation of credentials and the organization of committees. The following list of standing committees was appointed by President Holden:

State Affairs.—C. B. Cook, J. N. McBride, F. G. Bullock, J. D. Leland, F. R. Freeman.

National Affairs.—A. L. Chandler, Mrs. R. R. Smith, A. B. Cook, F. W. Love.

Temperance.—D. M. Beckwith, Mrs. W. Cheney, C. P. Johnson, Rev. D. Severance, Mrs. Matthews.

Honorary Members.—J. T. Daniells, chairman.

Club Extension.—B. W. Mattoon, Elmer Cheney, R. H. Munro, A. G. Matthews, Hugh C. Whiting, Wm. T. Hill.

Credentials.—Marion Coomer, Ira E. Kinsman, Mrs. E. H. Cook, Hugh C. Whiting, F. A. Rathbun.

To Receive and Formulate Resolutions. Col. L. H. Ives, E. M. Moore, L. J. Decker, Jerry Fahey, E. J. Woodin.

The afternoon session was called promptly at 1:30 p. m., and the program was carried out intact. The session was opened by music by the students from the school for the blind, which was much appreciated, followed by invocation. Next came the report of the associational secretary, Mrs. C. P. Johnson, of Hadley and Elba Farmers' Club, Lapeer county. Mrs. Johnson's report was most complete in showing the details of Club work during the past year, and we regret that space will not permit its publication in full in this issue.

The statistical report showed that there were 676 Club meetings held by the Clubs reporting last year, with an average attendance of 50. Of these, 24 Clubs use yearly programs, 45 hold annual picnics, 40 hold Club fairs and 20 hold temperance meetings. Further details of the secretary's report will be published in a later issue.

The topics assigned for the afternoon session, viz.: "Teaching Conservation of Soils in the Primary Schools," by Mrs. Edna H. Ives, of Ingham Farmers' Club; "Good Roads," by Hon. Townsend H. Ely, state highway commissioner, and "Defects in our Educational System and its Remedy," by E. M. Moore, of Wixom Farmers' Club, were all well presented and productive of great interest on the part of the assembled delegates. Reference will be made to these numbers as space may permit in future issues.

Tuesday Evening Session.

The Tuesday evening session was opened by music from the school for the blind, followed by an address of welcome by Gov. Chase S. Osborn, who welcomed the delegates in a happy manner and incidentally discussed some public issues, including reciprocity, which he declared to be a dead issue, and proposed change in the state tax laws. He was followed by Hon. A. B. Cook, of Maple River Club, who responded to the address of welcome and touched briefly upon the reciprocity proposition by stating that in Canada—to which he referred as a sort of monarchical dependency—this proposition was submitted to a vote of the people, an example which he thought our statesmen might well follow in future years in disposing of questions of such great import.

The closing number of the program was the president's address by President B. A. Holden, of Wixom Farmers' Club. President Holden's address was an earnest plea for the betterment of rural conditions. He advocated the repeal of the reciprocity act and the amendment of our tax laws along lines suggested by the special commission of inquiry and enlarged upon the benefit of co-operation, particularly as demonstrated in England under the Rochdale plan. Space will not permit the publication of President Holden's address in this issue, but future references will be made to it.

The Wednesday Morning Session.

The early part of this session was devoted to a conference of local Clubs directed by Hon. D. M. Morrison. This was followed by the report of the committees, resolutions being presented and adopted by the Association as follows:

National Affairs.

Whereas, This State Association of Farmers' Club of Michigan did, at its

annual meeting of 1904, adopt a resolution asking that September 30, of each year, be designated "Memory Day" and be devoted to improving the condition of the cemeteries throughout the state, and of the graves therein, and which resolution was endorsed also by the State Grange, then in session, and

Whereas, At the following session of our state legislature, an act was passed in conformity with the spirit of the above resolution, and which has resulted in an improved condition of the cemeteries throughout our state—this through the creating, thereby, of a better public sentiment—and which benefits we believe should be extended over this entire land; therefore be it

Resolved, By this State Association of Farmers' Clubs of Michigan, that we do hereby most earnestly petition our National Congress, through the members thereof, from this state of Michigan, to enact that September 30, of each year, be designated "Memory Day" and be devoted to improving the condition of the cemeteries within these entire United States, and making beautiful with flowers and loving care, the graves therein.

Resolved, That we reaffirm our position in favor of the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people.

Resolved, That we favor such restriction and regulation of trusts, that unlawful and injurious restraint of trade be effectually prohibited.

Be It Resolved, That we do, with all the force at our command, renew our demand for a general parcels post.

Recognizing the vast amount of money which is annually appropriated for battleship building and harbor improvement, therefore be it Resolved, that we demand that a generous appropriation for the improvement of our public highways be made.

Resolved, That we favor such amendment to the interstate commerce law as will stop the shipping of intoxicating liquors into dry territory.

Resolved, That we favor the strengthening of our conservation laws so that the property of the public be given up only when an equitable consideration has been given.

Be It Resolved, That we favor the immediate repeal of the Canadian reciprocity pact enacted at the special session of congress last summer.

Whereas, We recognize the fact that war in civilized countries, with its fearful waste of property and life, must forever cease, therefore be it Resolved, that we do most heartily endorse the energetic action of President Taft in lending his influence and in granting the co-operation of our country in the interests of a condition of universal peace.

State Affairs.

Whereas, We are a government of the people for the people and by the people, and that this statutory recognition has been made in Michigan by legislative action in the direct primary for governor, lieutenant-governor, and other officials, as well as for expressing a preference for United States senators,

Therefore, be it resolved that we favor such additional legislation as will allow the selection of delegates to the national party conventions by direct primary, and that we request the regular party committees to provide such means for expression of choice of delegates in 1912. We further ask that the secretary of the State Association of Farmers' Clubs notify the various party organizations by sending them a copy of this resolution.

Whereas, In the final analysis the government is the people and the citizens of Michigan have for years enjoyed the benefits of an unexcelled school system, Therefore, Be it resolved that we are qualified to exercise the power of direct legislation and recall.

Whereas, The history of agriculture shows a continued depletion of fertility in cropping and unless soil losses are prevented, lessened fertility and abandoned farms must surely follow. Therefore, we ask for a careful consideration of annual soil depreciation with such due allowance in taxation as will permit a maintenance of fertility as a fair offset against the increasing land values in cities resulting from the increment of increased population.

Whereas, The sale value of farms is made up of the two items of soil condition and the labor and management of the farmer, and when so assessed for purposes of taxation the farmer is compelled to pay taxes not only upon the soil but an income tax upon his own skill as a manager and toil as a laborer and often upon that of his family as well. Therefore, Be it resolved that in the adjustment of the tax laws of this state, that all subjects of taxation be revised upward to include reasonable incomes, or that farm values be made to exclude taxation upon the individual excess of earning when exerted by the brains and toil of the farmer.

Whereas, The establishment of the binder twine plant in the Jackson prison has not only furnished employment to the prisoners, but has been of great value to the farmers in reducing the cost of twine. Therefore, we commend the use of this twine, a state production, and approve of the distribution of twine direct as an economic advance.

We commend the tax inquiry commission and when an equitable method of sharing the state's burden has been determined, we pledge our support toward the adoption of such a law.

Whereas, Education and morality are the essentials of good citizenship. There is no reason for the exclusion of those so qualified from participation in state affairs. Therefore we favor granting the elective franchise to women and men alike with a reasonable educational qualification.

Whereas, Cigarette smoking is not only pernicious, but petty, we favor the prohibition of the sale of cigarettes, but a penalty for their use in public.

Whereas, The Farmers' Clubs and other organizations have the machinery for meetings and diffusion of agricultural knowledge, therefore we would ask the superintendent of farmers' institutes to provide state speakers for such meetings, when the traveling expenses would be borne by such organizations.

Be It Resolved, That we recognize the necessity of the work as proposed for a commissioner of agriculture being performed, but believing that the work can be done more effectively and economically under the auspices of the State Board of Agriculture, therefore be it resolved, that we hereby petition the legislature to provide the necessary funds to make this work possible.

Special Resolutions.

Resolved, By the Michigan State Association of Farmers' Clubs, believing it a good and wise thing to do, that we favor and will undertake to place in each of the schoolrooms in the state in suitable form, the following true words, "It pays always to do right and it never pays to do wrong." This we favor doing, desiring thereby to aid the boys and girls of Michigan in becoming noble and true men and women.

Resolved, That the Michigan State Farmers' Association in session at the capitol, commend and congratulate the Detroit Times and the Detroit Saturday Night, for their unselfish sacrifice in excluding from their columns all rum advertisements (Additional resolutions in next issue).

Election of Officers.

Officers were elected at the close of this session as follows: President, J. D. Leland, Corunna; vice-president, Hon. D. M. Morrison, St. Johns; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. C. P. Johnson, Metamora; director, to fill out the unexpired term of Hon. Patrick Hankerd, deceased, H. W. Chamberlin, White Lake; directors for six-year term, Wm. T. Hill, Carson City, Jerry Spalding, Belding. Mr. D. M. Beckwith was re-elected to represent the Association on the directorate of the anti-saloon league.

(Continued next week.)

TO FARMERS' CLUB MEMBERS, AND OTHERS.

It will be remembered that at the annual meeting of the State Association of Farmers' Clubs in 1904, a resolution was adopted, which asked that September 30 be designated "Memory Day" and devoted, each year, to improving the condition of the cemeteries of our state and the graves therein. The State Grange, also then in session at Lansing, endorsed the above resolution, and thus did these two great organizations give force to a sentiment which resulted in an act, by the succeeding legislature, which established September 30 as "Memory Day," with its noble purposes and helpful influences.

Each succeeding year has witnessed increased observance of this appointed day, until, in the metropolises of the state—the beautiful city of Detroit—the daily papers state "Memory Day is widely observed." Thus is the more considerate caring for the graves of our dead being secured, through the observance of this set day, in the autumn time. If such good results thereby come to Michigan, is it not well to seek to extend, beyond her borders, these benefits to her sister states?

An effort will be made, during the present session of congress, to secure an act which shall designate September 30, as "Memory Day" for these entire United States—reunited through the sacrifice of the lives of her brave sons, as witness the many thousands of soldier graves on hill side and in vale. To accomplish this purpose, to secure an act of congress, appeal will be made, primarily, through Senator William Alden Smith, of Michigan, who is expected to introduce the measure in congress. It is the desire of those back of this movement to have the earnest, helpful co-operation of members of Farmers' Clubs and Granges, and others, in this matter. If you will give to this worthy cause your helpful aid by addressing an earnest appeal to Senators William Alden Smith and Charles E. Townsend and, also, to your representative in congress, and do this now, the results can hardly fail of being all that is desired.

The act sought will change no present statute, neither will it carry with it an appropriation from the treasury, but it will give practical, nation-wide support to a sentiment which is essential to man's highest good, and which is in danger of being crushed by the present overwhelming and almost universal desire to obtain possession of temporal values, yet which but perish with the using.

Thoughtful public men who have been consulted in this matter, promise their influence and aid, and the co-operation of citizens in general, is earnestly desired. Will you do your part and aid this worthy cause, as above suggested, and share in the satisfaction of having done a good deed? (See special resolution adopted at State Association). J. T. DANIELLS.

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MARKETS

DETROIT WHOLESALE MARKETS.

December 13, 1911.
Grains and Seeds.

Wheat.—Prices have been maintained around the closing figures of last week. Dealers are looking at two factors in the market to guide them in price making: One is the receipts from the northwest, which have been exceedingly heavy for some weeks past but which are now beginning to wane. The other factor is conditions in Argentina; until the past few days it appeared that growers there would succeed in getting their crop harvested in good condition but continued rains, especially in the northern part of that country, have made harvesting and threshing difficult and there is now promise that much of the grain will be damaged. This resulted in an advance in quotations in Buenos Ayres and stronger values in Liverpool where the trade is depending largely upon the South American country. Just now the flour trade is slow and millers are not good buyers of cash wheat which has allowed accumulations to pile up. One year ago the price for No. 2 red wheat was 95¢ per bu. The visible supply shows an increase of less than one-half million bushels in this country and over one and one-half million bushels in Canada. Quotations are as follows:

	Red.	White.	May.	July.
Thursday	94 1/4	92	99 1/2	94
Friday	94 1/4	92	99 1/2	94
Saturday	95	93	99 1/2	95
Monday	94 1/4	92 1/4	98 3/4	94 1/4
Tuesday	95	93	99 1/2	94 1/4
Wednesday	95	93	99 1/2	94 1/4

Corn.—Corn prices rule about steady with the closing figures of last week. Rains are preventing the delivery of new corn which is giving the market a steadier tone. New corn is grading poorly and there is a tendency to widen the margin between the better and poorer grades. On Monday No. 4 yellow corn showed a decline of a half cent, while No. 3 yellow made an advance of one-half cent per bushel. The market is only moderately active. The weather this fall has been so unfavorable as to make much of the new crop unmarketable, which will take from the trade a large block of corn that otherwise would aid the bears. One year ago the price for No. 2 corn was 53¢ per bu. The visible supply shows an increase of over two million bushels. Quotations are as follows:

	No. 3	No. 3
	Corn.	Yellow.
Thursday	61 1/2	62 1/2
Friday	61	62
Saturday	61	62
Monday	61	62
Tuesday	61 1/2	62 1/2
Wednesday	61 1/2	62 1/2

Oats.—Prices remain steady with last week. Chicago showed a slightly larger volume of business both in cash and future deals. At the local market the trade is steady and dull, there is no news that affects prices. One year ago standard oats were quoted at 35 1/2¢ per bu., which is 15¢ below present values. The visible supply shows a decrease of over one-third of a million bushels. Quotations are:

	Standard.	No. 3
		White.
Thursday	50 1/2	50
Friday	50 1/2	50
Saturday	50 1/2	50
Monday	50 1/2	50
Tuesday	50 1/2	50
Wednesday	50 1/2	50

Beans.—A reduction of 5¢ on nominal quotations took place this last week. Practically no sales are being made, and offerings continue to show poor conditions. Many farmers are just completing their threshing and reports are general regarding the high percentage of poor beans. Quotations are as follows:

	Cash.	Jan.
Thursday	\$2.20	\$2.25
Friday	2.15	2.20
Saturday	2.15	2.20
Monday	2.15	2.20
Tuesday	2.15	2.20
Wednesday	2.17	2.22

Clover Seed.—There was a slight recovery on Tuesday of the loss in price since last Thursday which was 40¢ for spot and 50¢ for March seed. Alsike is steady. Quotations are as follows:

	Prime Spot.	March.	Alsike.
Thursday	\$12.50	\$12.60	\$10.50
Friday	12.35	12.45	10.50
Monday	12.25	12.35	10.50
Monday	12.10	12.10	10.50
Tuesday	12.15	12.15	10.50
Wednesday	12.20	12.20	10.50

Timothy Seed.—No transactions have taken place in this department and the nominal prices remain at \$7.20.

Rye.—Rye lost 1¢ on Tuesday. The market is quiet. Quotations for cash No. 2 is 93¢ per bu.

Flour, Feed, Potatoes, Etc.

Flour.—There is a fair demand for flour, with prices unchanged.

Straight	4.10
Patent Michigan	4.75
Ordinary Patent	4.50

Feed.—All grades steady with last week. Carlot prices on track are: Bran, \$27 per ton; coarse middlings, \$29; fine middlings, \$32; cracked corn, \$30; coarse corn meal, \$30; corn and oat chop, \$28 per ton.

Hay and Straw.—Both hay and straw are higher except oat straw which is steady. Quotations are: No. 1 timothy, \$21@21.50; No. 2 timothy, \$20@20.50; clover, mixed, \$19@19.50; rye straw, \$10@10.50; wheat and oat straw, \$9 per ton.

Potatoes.—Last week's prices are sustained, with conditions practically unchanged. Car lots on track are quoted at \$5@90¢ per bushel in bulk.

Provisions.—Family pork, \$17.50@20.50; mess pork, \$16.50; medium clear, \$17@18; hams, 14¢; bacon, 12@14 1/2¢; pure lard in tierces, 9 1/2¢; kettle rendered lard, 10 1/4¢ per lb.

Dairy and Poultry Products.

Butter.—Creamery butter took a drop of 1¢ on Monday. High prices have caused consumers to substitute other goods for butter to quite a considerable extent in large cities. Dairy products are steady at former values. Quotations are: Extra creamery, 35¢; creamery firsts, 34¢; dairy, 21¢; packing, 20¢ per lb.

Eggs.—This product continues firm with the supply inadequate to meet the demand. There is no change in values, current receipts, cases included, being quoted at 32¢ per doz.

Poultry.—Generally speaking, prices have advanced in most grades of poultry. Turkeys and geese, however, remain about steady. There exists an improved demand, due in part to the season and also to the high prices of other meats which causes attention to be directed toward poultry products. Quotations are as follows: Live—Turkeys, 16@17¢; geese, 11@12¢; ducks, 15@16¢; young ducks, 15@16¢; spring chickens, 11@11 1/2¢; No. 2 chickens, 8¢ per lb; hens, 9@9 1/2¢. Dressed—Chickens, 11@12¢; hens, 9@10¢; ducks, 16@17¢; geese, 12@13¢; turkeys, 16@18¢. **Cheese.**—Michigan old, 16 1/2@17 1/2¢; Michigan late, 16 1/2@17 1/2¢; York state, new, 17@18¢; Swiss, domestic block, 17@21¢; cream brick, 18@19¢; limburger, 14@15¢.

Veal.—Market steady. Fancy, 10@11¢; choice, 8@9¢ per lb.

Dressed Hogs.—Light, \$7.75; medium, \$7.50; heavy, \$7 per cwt.

Fruits and Vegetables.

Cabbage.—Higher. Selling at \$2@2.25 per bbl. for home-grown.

Onions.—Steady at 95¢@1 per bu.

Apples.—Baldwins and Greenings \$2.75 @3; Spy, \$3@3.50; Ben Davis, \$2@2.50; Snows, \$3.50@4 per bbl.

OTHER MARKETS.

Grand Rapids.

Fresh eggs are still very scarce and are quoted at 29@30¢. Dairy butter is worth 28¢. Hay is selling at \$18@20. The potato market is weaker this week, buyers reporting a falling off in demand in outside markets. Farmers are getting 68¢ for potatoes at Greenville and 65¢ at Cadillac, while at Grand Rapids the retail price is 80@90¢. The poultry market is steady. Live fowls at 7 1/2@8¢; geese, 8¢; ducks, 10¢; turkeys, 13¢. Wheat is worth 91¢; oats, 50¢; corn, 65¢.

New York.

Butter.—All grades have declined 2@4¢. Feeling is weak and uncertain. Market uneasy. Creamery specials are quoted at 35¢ per lb; extras, 34¢; firsts, 32@33¢; seconds, 30@31¢.

Eggs.—Trade is unsettled after a decline of 5¢ for all offerings. Fresh gathered extras, 37@40¢; extra firsts, 34@35¢; seconds, 28@30¢; western gathered whites 33@40¢ per dozen.

Poultry.—Live.—Market firm; chickens have made a good advance but turkeys are lower. Western chickens, 12 1/2@14¢; fowls, 13@15¢; turkeys, 14@15¢. Dressed—Dull, with turkeys lower. Turkeys, 10@19¢; fowls, 5@16¢; western chickens, 15@16¢ per lb.

Chicago.

Wheat.—No. 2 red, 95@96 1/2¢; May, 97 1/2¢; July, 94¢ per bu.

Corn.—No. 3 59 1/2@60 1/4¢; May, 63 1/2¢; July, 63 1/2¢ per bu.

Oats.—No. 2 white, 48 1/2@49¢; May, 49 1/2¢; July, 45 1/2¢ per bu.

Barley.—Malting grades, \$1.08@1.21 per bu; feeding, 80@95¢.

Butter.—The general feeling among consumers that butter is too high has resulted in a wider use of substitutes and consequently in a smaller demand for butter, resulting in reduced quotations for both creamery and dairy offerings. This is the first decline in many weeks. Creameries, 26@35¢; dairies, 24@32¢.

Eggs.—The reaction in butter and the milder weather conditions have given eggs a quieter market with the undertone weaker than it has been for a couple of months. Quotations are: Firsts, grading 45 per cent fresh, 28@30¢; ordinary firsts, 25@27¢; at mark, cases included, 22@28¢ per dozen.

Potatoes.—Receipts at this week's opening were heavier than a week earlier, which gave the trade an easier tone and reduced quotations for Michigan and Minnesota stock 1¢ and Wisconsin stock 5¢. Michigan stock is now quoted at 83@85¢ per bu; Wisconsin, 75@80¢; Minnesota, 83@85¢.

Beans.—Prices dropped 1¢ for pea beans and 30¢ for red kidneys. Choice hand-picked pea beans quoted at \$2.34 per bu; prime, \$2.27; red kidneys, \$2.85 per bu.

Hay and Straw.—With the exception of the best clover all grades of hay lost 50¢ or half the advance made a week ago. Rye straw is also down; other grades steady. Quotations: Choice timothy, \$22 @23 per ton; do., No. 1, \$20.50@21.50; do., No. 2 and No. 1 mixed, \$19@19.50; do., No. 3 and No. 2 mixed, \$14@18; clover, \$15@17; do., No. 2 and no grade, \$7@13; rye straw, \$10@11; oat straw, \$9@10 per ton; wheat straw, \$8@9 per ton.

Apples.—Market about steady with a week ago. The offerings are selling from \$2@4.25 per bbl., according to kind and quality.

Boston.

Wool.—A moderate volume of business is reported. Both territory and fleeces are meeting a healthy demand. Former values have been well maintained with a tendency toward higher figures for fleeces. Ohio 1/4-bloods have been marked up a fraction. The leading domestic quotations range as follows: Ohio and Pennsylvania fleeces—Delaine washed, 30@31¢; XX, 28¢; fine unmerchandized, 22@23¢; 1/4-blood combing, 26¢; 3/4-blood combing, 24@25 1/2¢; 1/4-blood combing, 25¢; delaine

unwashed, 25¢; fine unwashed, 21¢. Michigan, Wisconsin and New York fleeces—Fine unwashed, 20¢; delaine unwashed, 23¢; 1/4-blood unwashed, 24 1/2¢. Kentucky, Indiana and Missouri—1/4-blood, 24¢; 1/4-blood, 24¢.

Elgin.

Butter.—Market firm at 35¢ per lb., which is a decline of 1¢ below last week's quotation. Output for the week, 632,000 lbs., as compared with 626,400 lbs. for the previous week.

THE LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

Buffalo.

December 11, 1911.

(Special Report of Dunning & Stevens, New York Central Stock Yards, East Buffalo, N. Y.)

Receipts of stock here today as follows: Cattle 225 cars; hogs, 120 double decks; sheep and lambs, 125 double decks; calves 1,200 head.

With 225 cars of cattle on our market here today, anything of any quality and fat sold strong. There was some of the prime cattle shown here today that has been here this winter. With very unfavorable weather, cold and raining here nearly all day, at the close everything was about sold, and we quote as follows:

Best 1,400 to 1,600-lb. steers, \$8@8.50; good prime 1,300 to 1,400-lb. steers, \$7.50 @7.85; do. 1,200 to 1,300-lb. do., \$7@7.50; best 1,100 to 1,200-lb. shipping steers, \$6@6.50; medium light butcher steers, 1,000 to 1,100, \$5.25@5.75; light butcher steers, \$4.50@5; best fat cows, \$4.75@5.50; fair to good do., \$3.75@4.25; common to medium do., \$3@3.50; trimmers, \$2.25@2.75; best fat heifers, \$5.50@6; good do., \$4.75 @5.25; fair to good do., \$4@4.50; stock heifers, \$3.25@3.50; best feeding steers, dehorned, \$4.75@5.50; common do., \$3.50 @4; stockers, all grades, \$3.25@3.50; prime export bulls, \$5@5.40; best butcher bulls, \$4.25@4.75; bologna bulls, \$3.25@4; stock bulls, \$3@4; best milkers and springers, \$5@6; common to good do. \$2.50@3.50.

The hog market ruled fairly active today, with the bulk of the choice quality mixed and medium grades selling at \$6.35 @6.40, with a few decks of selected, running to the heavier weights, at \$6.45. Best quality and weight yorkers sold generally from \$6.25@6.30, and light yorkers around \$6@6.10. The bulk of the pigs sold around \$5.90. Good kind of rough sows sold generally from \$5.65@5.70, and stags firm \$4.50@5. Hogs are well cleaned up; market closing steady.

The sheep and lamb market was active today; most of the choice lambs selling for \$6.25. Few selected Christmas lambs at \$6.35@6.40. Look for about steady prices the balance of the week, with moderate receipts. If the receipts run light, will sell higher. The sheep market was about steady; most of the best ewes selling from \$3.25@3.50. Wethers \$3.75@4. Prospects about steady on sheep.

We quote: Best lambs, \$6.20@6.25; cull to common do., \$5@5.25; wethers, \$3.75 @4; bucks, \$2.25@3; yearlings, \$4.25@5; handy ewes, \$3.25@3.50; heavy ewes, \$3.25 @3.35; cull sheep, \$1.75@2.25; veals, choice to extra, \$9@9.25; fair to good do., \$7.50 @8.75; heavy calves, \$3.50@5.

Chicago.

December 11, 1911.

Cattle. Hogs. Sheep. Received today 27,000 48,000 40,000 Same day last year... 35,893 35,934 44,233 Received last week... 60,719 172,488 134,012 Same week last year... 79,231 146,862 100,289

The week starts off with a good demand for fat cattle, and choice lots are going at strong prices, with no large offerings. Other kinds are fairly active at steady prices.

Hogs are fairly active today at an average decline of 5¢, with a good supply, light lots going at \$5.55@6.25 and the best heavy at \$6.25@6.40. The hogs marketed last week averaged 213 lbs., compared with 211 lbs. a week earlier, 203 lbs. a few weeks ago, 232 lbs. a year ago and 218 lbs. two years ago.

Sheep and yearlings were active at steady prices today, but the best lambs went at \$6, with prime feeding lambs bringing \$5.25.

Cattle sold very much better last week despite the rather large offerings, values advancing steadily after Monday, on which day the lots that were not attractive sold at weak to lower figures. Late in the week prices were 25¢ higher than a week earlier, with a particularly strong demand for prime beefs. In addition to the numerous fancy extra heavy and handy weights yearlings from the International Live Stock Exposition which had a good sale, there were numerous choice lots that were intended for the show, but were rejected by the "weeding committee," and these were sold in the regular market at high prices. A large share of the steers crossed the scales at \$5.75@5.8, the poorer light weights going at \$4.75 @5.75, while medium "warmed-up" steers sold at \$6@6.90, good lots at \$7@7.90 and choice to fancy steers at \$8@9.30. A 1,540-lb. steer sold at \$9.50, and 11 Angus steers that averaged 1,421 lbs. sold at \$9.75. Fat butcher stock had its share in the advance, with a good demand for cows and heifers at \$3.35@6.25, while a few prime heifers brought \$6.50@7.10. Canners sold at \$1.75@2.75, cutters at \$2.80@3.30, bulls at \$3@5.75 and calves at \$3@8.50. There was a much larger demand for stockers and feeders than of late, as many visitors to the stock show came prepared to take home some good cattle to fatten, and prices averaged 10@25¢ higher, stockers selling at \$3.10@5 and feeders at \$4.35@5.75, while stock and feeding heifers brought \$3@4. Milk and springers sold more freely at \$30@70 per head, the demand running mainly on a good class of cows, and inferior ones usually went to killers for canning purposes. Now that the International show is over and the cream of beefs marketed light supplies of prime steers may be expected.

Hogs were marketed last week much

more liberally, the national holiday having checked the marketing the preceding week, and several declines in prices took place, placing the market on a lower basis than for a considerable period. As usual, prices were extremely sensitive to the outside demand, and whenever eastern shippers operated sparingly, local packers were pretty sure to obtain better terms. There was no particular change in the character of the buying, and heavy lard hogs continued to sell much the highest, with nowhere near enough of them to go around. Light weights had to go at a marked discount, with pigs much the lowest of all, although they were received in smaller numbers. Hogs have continued to sell much under the exceptionally high prices paid one and two years ago, but otherwise they ruled higher than in most former years. Stocks of provisions in western storage points are so large that prices have been seeking lower levels for lard, pork and ribs. The close of the week saw a sharp rally in prices, with light hogs selling at \$5.60 @6.30 and the best heavy lots at \$6.30 @6.45, while pigs went at \$4.50@5.50. Prices were nearly as high as a week earlier. Stocks of provisions increased in western markets last month 30,819,000 lbs. and are now 95,000,000 lbs. greater than a year ago.

Sheep and lambs fluctuated considerably in prices last week, ruling alternately lower and higher in accordance with the volume of the offerings, lambs of the best grade being prime favorites and first to advance. Next in popularity came fat little yearlings on the lamb order, with wethers and ewes following at much lower prices, as usual. Feeders were scarce and steady, and there was a very wide margin in prices between the medium kinds and choice lots of sheep, yearlings and lambs, and substantial premiums were paid readily for choice grain-fed stock. The most unpleasant feature is the persistence shown by sheepmen in marketing thin and half fat flocks. By holding on to full maturity such men would undoubtedly be able to make good profits, notwithstanding the dearth of corn, hay and other feed. As the week advanced smaller offerings carried prices up to the figures paid a week earlier, lambs going at \$4@6.25; yearlings at \$4@5.50; wethers at \$3.50@4.10; ewes at \$2@3.60 and bucks at \$2.25@2.75.

F.

LIVE STOCK NOTES.

Ralph Moss, of Indiana, says that the last decade has witnessed a decrease in the number of calves produced in that state from 428,000 in 1900 to 184,000 in 1910, while the population of the state has shown an increase of 20 per cent. This decrease in the production of calves is due to a belief that beef cattle growing is not profitable on high-priced land, but Mr. Moss reports the opposite experience, when farmers carry on good breeding, generous feeding and early marketing. He places great stress upon early marketing, and uses varied feed, including corn, clover hay, blue-grass, corn stover and oil meal. He always uses silage liberally, as well as other rough feed for his breeding stock.

Ray Gardner, of Warren county, west central Illinois, says four-fifths of the hogs have been shipped out of that region on account of the prevalence of swine plague, and he adds that there will be a very limited number of brood sows in the spring, so that the pig crop cannot be a very large one. Farmers thereabouts are doing very little cattle feeding, as feed is scarce and dear, hay bringing \$20 per ton, while corn grades poorly, good corn selling at high prices. A great deal of shock fodder was spoiled and cut early. Recent reliable information states that there are not more than half as many lambs on feed around Fort Collins, Col., as a year ago, corn ruling very high, and quoted at \$1.25 per 100 lbs. for new and \$1.45 for old. Hay, however, is cheaper than a year ago, being quoted at \$18 per ton.

J. B. Harmon, a prominent farmer and stock feeder of Missouri, marketed recently at Chicago a consignment of 32 Angus and Shorthorn steers which averaged 1,461 lbs. at \$8.85 per 100 lbs. These cattle were past three-year-olds, and they all made substantial profits for their owner. A load of hogs that followed the cattle were of his own raising and sold in the country for \$6.10 per 100 lbs. Mr. Harmon paid \$4.50 per 100 lbs. for the cattle in October, 1910, when they tipped the scales at 1,000 lbs. They were roughed through until February on corn fodder and hay. Then starting them on a small ration of corn and cottonseed meal, with clover and timothy hay mixed as roughness, they were taken off this feed about the first of May and put on pasture and kept there until the first of August, when they were put on a ration of corn and cottonseed meal, although they had access to fine fall pasture.

Montana range cattlemen have made many complaints of the slow service rendered by the railroads during the season now closed, resulting in losses through shrinkages in numerous instances of 30 to 50 lbs. per head. They are urging the need of a federal law making a speed limit for the plains and another for the mountains. In a comparatively recent instance a Montana cattle shipper spent nine days in getting a single car of cattle through from Glendive to Chicago, and he had to unload them four times, whereas under normal conditions they would have been unloaded at most but twice. Weather conditions were perfect, and the poor railroad equipment was the sole cause of the delays. The cattle shrank heavily, causing a large financial loss.

It is learned that Mexico will ship 150,000 cattle to the United States in the immediate future, the greater part going to Fort Worth, Texas. Shipments will be made of about 10,000 calves.

THIS IS THE LAST EDITION.

In the first edition the Detroit Live stock markets are reports of last week; all other markets are right up to date. Thursday's Detroit Live Stock markets are given in the last edition. The first edition is mailed Thursday, the last edition Friday morning. The first edition is mailed to those who care more to get the paper early than they do for Thursday's Detroit Live Stock market report. You may have any edition desired. Subscribers may change from one edition to another by dropping us a card to that effect.

DETROIT LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

Thursday's Market.
December 14, 1911.

Cattle. Receipts, 1,086. Good grades steady; bulls dull and 10@15c lower; canners steady; other cow stuff 25c lower.

We quote: Best steers and heifers, \$6 @6.60; steers and heifers, 1,000 to 1,200, \$4.75@6; do. 800 to 1,000, \$4@5; do. that are fat, 500 to 700, \$3.25@4; choice fat cows, \$4; good do. \$3.25@3.75; common cows, \$2.75@3; canners, \$1.50@2.60; choice heavy bulls, \$3.75@4; fair to good bolognas, \$3.25@3.50; stock bulls, \$2.50@3; choice feeding steers, 800 to 1,000, \$4.25 @4.50; fair do., 800 to 1,000, \$3.75@4; choice stockers, 500 to 700, \$3.50@3.75; fair stockers, 500 to 700, \$3@3.25; stock heifers, \$2.50@3.25; milkers, large, young, medium age, \$4@5; common milkers, \$2@3.50.

Spicer & R. sold Bresnahan 9 canners av 730 at \$2.50, 1 do weighing 900 at \$2.50; to Breitenbeck 6 steers av 905 at \$5, 1 do weighing 700 at \$4, 30 butchers av 800 at \$4.25; to Roy 4 steers av 1,075 at \$6.60, 1 do weighing 960 at \$5.40; to Parker, W. & Co. 3 cows av 997 at \$3; to Lachait 12 butchers av 690 at \$4.35; to Roy 4 steers av 712 at \$4.35; to Goose 2 bulls av 790 at \$3.40; to Bresnahan 2 canners av 890 at \$2.50, 3 do av 826 at \$2.50, 4 cows av 940 at \$3.20, 1 canner weighing 880 at \$2.50, 6 cows av 1,021 at \$3.25, 1 do weighing 950 at \$2.75; to Kamman 14 butchers av 823 at \$4, 4 do av 730 at \$4.

Roe Com Co. sold Bresnahan 11 butchers av 751 at \$4, 3 cows av 1,007 at \$2.75, 6 do av 1,141 at \$3.40, 2 do av 785 at \$2.75; to Mohr 9 stockers av 503 at \$3; to Mich. B. Co. 1 bull weighing 1,140 at \$3.75; to Hammond, S. & Co. 3 butchers av 500 at \$2.75, to Bresnahan 4 canners av 955 at \$2.75, 5 do av 856 at \$2.50, 6 do av 911 at \$2.75; to Sullivan P. Co. 18 steers av 954 at \$5.50; to Newton B. Co. 19 do av 977 at \$5, 2 do av 840 at \$4; to Kamman B. Co. 3 do av 1,133 at \$6.50, 5 butchers av 672 at \$3.75.

Haley & M. sold Demans 1 bull weighing 740 at \$3.40; to Breitenbeck 9 butchers av 736 at \$4.10, 2 cows av 970 at \$3.35; to Bresnahan 2 canners av 865 at \$2.50, 4 do av 990 at \$2.75; to Newton B. Co. 2 steers av 875 at \$4.75; to Kamman 7 butchers av 663 at \$3.55; to Hammond, S. & Co. 6 do av 736 at \$5, 9 do av 1,044 at \$3.75, 4 do av 650 at \$3.25.

Bishop, B. & H. sold Bresnahan 3 cows av 833 at \$2.60, 1 bull weighing 1,150 at \$4, 1 canner weighing 840 at \$2.50, 4 do av \$10 at \$2.50; to Newton B. Co. 2 steers av 835 at \$4.75, 5 cows av 920 at \$3.75; to Parker, W. & Co. 15 butchers av 700 at \$4.25, 7 do av 743 at \$4.25, 4 cows av 992 at \$3; to Goose 3 bulls av 800 at \$3.50, 1 do weighing 1,180 at \$4; to Rattkowsky 3 cows av 893 at \$3, 1 bull weighing 1,060 at \$3.50; to Archdale 2 steers av 1,900 at \$6, 3 cows av 980 at \$3, 6 do av 863 at \$2.60, 5 do av 952 at \$2.60, 5 do av 908 at \$2.75; to Rattkowsky 5 butchers av 604 at \$3, 2 cows av 1,000 at \$3.50; to Sullivan P. Co. 1 bull weighing 1,750 at \$4, 1 do weighing 1,500 at \$4; to Goose 7 cows av 1,014 at \$3.10, 2 do av 1,135 at \$3.40; to Newton B. Co. 9 butchers av 736 at \$4.25; to Bresnahan 4 canners av 820 at \$2.50, 3 cows av 960 at \$2.50, 4 do av 895 at \$2.75, 2 bulls av 1,050 at \$3.25, 4 cows av 1,015 at \$3.75; to Newton B. Co. 2 steers av 660 at \$4, 5 do av 856 at \$5, 6 do av 828 at \$5, 7 do av 807 at \$5, 2 do av 675 at \$4, 5 do av 1,200 at \$6, 6 do av 1,050 at \$4.75; to Sullivan P. Co. 2 do av 980 at \$6.35.

Stephens sold Sullivan P. Co. 5 cows and heifers av 840 at \$3.75, 2 canners av 895 at \$2.50.

Adams sold Parker, W. & Co. 3 cows av 916 at \$2.50.

Weeks sold same 1 steer weighing 1,160 at \$6.50.

Adams sold Bush 3 feeders av 740 at \$4. Bennett & S. sold Marx 2 steers av 990 at \$5.25, 1 do weighing 900 at \$5.

Belheimer sold Bresnahan 8 cows av 966 at \$2.90.

Veal Calves.

Receipts, 486. Market steady at last week's prices. Best, \$8@8.75; others, \$4@7.50; milch cows and springers steady.

Bishop, B. & H. sold Parker, W. & Co. 11 av 140 at \$8.50, 2 av 190 at \$6.50, 1 weighing 120 at \$8.50, 1 weighing 130 at \$8, 1 weighing 260 at \$4, 3 av 126 at \$7.50, 4 av 150 at \$8.50, 3 av 140 at \$8.50, 1 weighing 130 at \$8.50, 8 av 150 at \$8.50.

Spicer & R. sold Thompson Bros. 7 av 145 at \$8, 2 av 130 at \$7.75.

Roe Com. Co. sold Newton B. Co. 3 av 170 at \$8.50, 1 weighing 150 at \$7.

Sheep and Lambs.

Receipts, 4,224. Market 25c higher than last week. Best lambs, \$5.75@6; fair to good lambs, \$5@5.50; light to common lambs \$3.25@3.75; fair to good sheep, \$2.50@3.15; culls and common, \$1.50@2.

Bishop, B. & H. sold Nagle P. Co. 94 lambs av 68 at \$5.50, 153 do av 65 at \$5.50, 15 do av 78 at \$5.75, 34 do av 75 at \$5, 33 do av 70 at \$5.50, 63 do av 82 at \$5.50; to Youngs 28 sheep av 102 at \$2.75; to Sullivan P. Co. 30 lambs av 60 at \$5.35; to Breitenbeck 52 do av 63 at \$5; to Parker, W. & Co. 15 sheep av 100 at \$2.50, 6 do av 85 at \$2.50; to Harland 10 do av 113 at \$3, 15 lambs av 65 at \$5; to Hayes 38 do av 47 at \$3.50; to Fitzpatrick Bros. 10 sheep av 112 at \$3.15, 30 lambs av 55 at \$4, 20 sheep av 85 at \$3.15, 6 do av 100 at \$3.15, 15 do av 90 at \$2, 17 do av 110 at \$3.15, 37 do av 85 at \$3.15, 4 do av 80 at \$2, 25 lambs av 55 at \$5.

Stephens sold Young 16 sheep av 83 at \$2, 98 lambs av 85 at \$5.75.

Adams sold same 34 do av 75 at \$5.65.

Weeks Bros. sold Bray 17 lambs av 70 at \$3.50, 138 do av \$5.75.

Newton sold Hammond, S. & Co. 74 lambs av 70 at \$5.50, 9 sheep av 95 at \$2.50.

Roe Com. Co. sold Sullivan P. Co. 84 lambs av 70 at \$5.50, 123 do av 77 at \$5.75, 26 sheep av 80 at \$3; to Nagle P. Co. 31 do av 92 at \$2.50, 19 do av 75 at \$2.75; to Bray 83 lambs av 65 at \$5.25.

Haley & M. sold Sullivan P. Co. 14 lambs av 66 at \$5; to Nagle P. Co. 86 do av 60 at \$5.35; to Bray 58 do av 64 at \$4.50, 50 sheep av 75 at \$2.50, 19 do av 80 at \$2.50.

Spicer & R. sold Bray 8 lambs av 62 at \$3, 24 do av 70 at \$5.75; to Sullivan P. Co. 8 do av 55 at \$3.50, 39 do av 55 at \$5; to Thompson Bros. 24 sheep av 70 at \$2.50, 30 lambs av 70 at \$5.50; to Sullivan P. Co. 7 sheep av 100 at \$2.50, 17 lambs av 50 at \$3, 109 do av 60 at \$4.75, 53 do av 73 at \$5.90, 72 do av 75 at \$5.90; to Mich. B. Co. 8 sheep av 92 at \$3.25; to Nagle P. Co. 206 lambs av 72 at \$5.75; to Barlage 28 do av 50 at \$4, 41 do av 48 at \$3.75, 12 do av 40 at \$3.37.

Hogs. Receipts, 4,606. Market steady at Wednesday's prices. Pigs 25c higher, others 10@15c higher than last week; none sold up to noon.

Range of prices: Light to good butchers, \$6.10@6.15; pigs, \$5.60@5.75; light Yorkers, \$6@6.10.

Spicer & R. sold Hammond, S. & Co. 830 av 190 at \$6.15, 150 av 180 at \$6.10, 155 av 160 at \$6.

Haley & M. sold same 190 av 210 at \$6.20, 420 av 190 at \$6.15, 130 av 165 at \$6.

Roe Com. Co. sold Sullivan P. Co. 275 av 200 at \$6.15, 225 av 180 at \$6.10, 140 av 170 at \$6, 54 av 160 at \$5.90, 29 pigs av 100 at \$5.60.

Bishop, B. & H. sold Parker, W. & Co. 1,520 av 190 at \$6.15, 1,025 av 170 at \$6.10, 157 av 150 at \$6.

Friday's Market.

December 8, 1911.

Cattle. Receipts this week, 2,389; last week, 1,416. Good grades steady; all others 15@25c lower.

We quote: Best steers and heifers, \$5.75 @6.50; steers and heifers, 1,000 to 1,200, \$5.25@5.50; do. 800 to 1,000, \$4.25@5; do. that are fat, 500 to 700, \$3.25@3.75; choice fat cows, \$4@4.25; good fat cows, \$3.25@3.65; common cows, \$2.75@3; canners, \$1.50@2.50; choice heavy bulls, \$4@4.50; fair to good bolognas, \$3.50@3.75; stock bulls, \$2.50@3; choice feeding steers 800 to 1,000, \$4.50@5; fair do., 800 to 1,000, \$3.75@4.25; choice stockers, 500 to 700, \$3.50@4; fair stockers, 500 to 700, \$3@3.25; stock heifers, \$2.50@3; milkers, large, young, medium age, \$4@5; common milkers, \$2.50@3.50.

Veal Calves. Receipts this week, 1,209; last week, 766. Good steady, common 50c@1 lower. Best, \$8@8.50; others, \$3.50@7.50.

Sheep and Lambs. Receipts this week, 11,768; last week, 4,327. Market, 15@20c lower than Thursday on lambs. Sheep steady. Best lambs \$5.50@5.60; fair lambs, \$4.75@5.25; light to common lambs, \$3.50@4.25; yearlings, \$3.25@3.50; fair to good sheep, \$3@3.25; culls and common, \$1.50@2.50.

Hogs. Receipts this week, 14,043; last week, 10,933. Good steady at Thursday's prices; light grades 5c lower and dull.

Range of prices: Light to good butchers, \$6@6.10; pigs, \$5.25@5.40; light workers, \$5.75@6; stags one-third off.

Frank Scott, manager of Clay, Robinson & Company's South Omaha live stock commission house, says: "Present conditions remind one somewhat of the early winter of 1908-1909. There is possibly a greater supply of pigs at hand and corn is around 10c per bushel higher. There was a marked tendency then, as now, to sell hogs at light weight, a desire to curtail the board bill. November average cost of hogs on the market was around \$5.75, the December about \$5.45. In January the price rose to \$5.90 and thereafter until September there was a steady rise until the front figure became \$8. Throughout that winter season light weights predominated and heavy hogs commanded a premium. We look for much the same development this winter. Hogs weighing 250 lbs. and upward, if fat, need selling, but the grower who has the stamina to mature pigs and shots will, we feel confident, be reasonably well rewarded."

In the Chicago market of late light-weight stocker cattle have been selling so slowly to stockmen that their owners have been selling them to the packers for cannery purposes, largely at \$3@3.50 per 100 lbs. No large numbers of stockers averaging in weight under 700 lbs. have sold higher than \$4.50 of late, but not long since two car loads of fancy selected calves that averaged 533 lbs., mostly Angus, with a few bredy Herefords and Shorthorns, were sold at \$5.50.

C. W. Ray, a prominent live stock shipper of Wisconsin, showed up at the Chicago stock yards recently on the way to Georgia, where he is interested in ranching. He said the development of south-eastern Georgia has been marvelous in recent years, where thousands of cattle are being grazed, some of the ranchmen feeding corn. New York and Pittsburgh are the principal markets for this Georgia beef, and the railroads furnish shippers fast train service at such times as live stock specials are loaded for the northern markets. Most of the cattle are sold on contract at the ranches, to be delivered to the northern slaughterers. Mr. Ray said improved farms sell as high as \$200 to \$300 an acre in that region, but unimproved grazing land can be purchased as low as \$20 to \$35 an acre, and northern capital has been heavily invested there in recent years.

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