NEW CITY CHARTER TO BE DRAFTED BY SEVEN CITIZENS

By vote of the council, Mayor Moore has been authorized to appoint a committee of four councilmen and three citizens to frame and draft a new charter, so badly needed. The mayor has not yet named the committee but assures the people that suggestions and advice will be welcomed by the seven men who will be asked to undertake the task.

RUSSELLITE ARRESTED IN INDEPENDENCE FREED

Charles Condart, who was arrested in Independence several days ago, for selling or distributing copies of Pastor Russell's book, "The Finished Mystery," was released when given a hearing before United States Commissioner Drake in Portland.

Condart declared he had violated no law as he had removed four pages from the book which had been declared objectionable by government officials. Regardless of the Commissioner's decision, U. S. Attorney Rankin says he will present the case to the Federal grand jury.

FORMER DALLAS LASSIE DOING BIT AS BARBER

Sandy, Or.—Harry Reed's barber shop, on Main street has re-opened today under feminine management. Reed is serving his country in France.

Miss Lillian Boynton, formerly of Dallas, new manageress, says she hopes to keep all of Reed's customers.

"When Harry gets back," said Miss Boynton, "I'll turn the shop over to him. That's how I'll do my bit."

ONE HUNDRED ACRES OF PORTERFIELD FARM SOLD

A deal was made last week in which O. P. Moore of Illinois purchased 100 acres of the Porterfield farm, four miles south of Independence. The house and barn are included in the sale and will be occupied by Mr. Moore. No stock, feed or machinery were included.

GROWING ALFALFA IN WILLAMETTE VALLEY

(By D. R. Ruble)

The success and failure with alfalfa in the Willamette valley has been mainly due to two or three conditions that have not been fully understood. The man that has made it a success has either been posted in regard to its requirements and worked accordingly or he has been fortunate enough to plant where the conditions have been favorable to its developement. And the conditions that are favorable to its growth not being understood has led to many a failure and for that reason this part of the country has merited the reputation of not being suitable for alfalfa. The three most important things with alfalfa are inoculatiown by the nitro bacteria culture, acidity, and drainage.

As alfalfa belongs to the legume family the most important of the three conditions is inoculation. As this condition has not ben fuly understood by scientific men only for the last 25 or 30 years, and understood by but few that do not belong to that class of scientists, it has been a stumbling stone, times without number. And of all the plants that belong to the legume family alfalfa is perhaps the most exacting in its requirements. The bacteria is seldom found in land in sufficient quantities to inoculate the plants. Although strange as it may seem, thre seems to be always a few plants that will form the nodules on the roots and in time will inoculate the soil in a sufficient culture that the second seeding of a run down alfalfa field will come forth with all the plants bearing the nodules that draw the nitrogen from the air and thereby greatly enrich the soil; for this reason it is an old claim and justly, too, that alfalfa causes the land to grow richer in fertility while many other hay crops deplete the soil of its fertility.

There are two ways of inoculating the plants. One is to get the nitro culture from some reliable laboratory or seeds man and mix the culture with the seed about the same day it is planted; an ounce of the culture will inoculate enough seed for one acre and it will be seen that the seed thus inoculated will make much larger and thriftier plants than the seed that is not inoculated. The second way to inoculate the soil is to go to a thrifty field of alfalfa and get about from 200 to 400 pounds of the soil from one to five inches deep and sow it on the land to be seeded and harrow it in like a seed crop; it is much more expensive and inconvenient than to inoculate the seed. In any event either the seed or the inoculated soil must not be exposed to the rays of he sun as it is almost sure to destroy the bacteria.

The second important matter to consider is the acidity of the soil. A very sour soil is poisonous to the bacteria and for that reason alfalfa will not flourish on an acid soil. If one desires to grow alfalfa and the land is found to be very sour a dressing of lime from three to five tons to the acre should be sowed on the land before the alfalfa is planted. As much of the farming land in the Willamette valley is sour it is not strange to understand why alfalfa has not been a success in this section. A very loosesoil or a river bottom soil that is underlaid with gravel is less acid and naturally adapted to the growth of alfalfa.

The third to consider is drainage. It is an old saying that alfalfa will not flourish with its feet in the water. I have had to take issue with this claim as some of the best fields of alfalfa are with the lower roots almost continually in water, but if the water stands for any great length of time around the crown of the plant it is sure to be fatal. I believe therefore that if the water is kept off the surface of the land it will be found sufficient drainage. In the last few years the question of growing of growing alfalfa by dry farming system has received much attention and has been tried out in so many cases that it is safe to say that hte system has "been tried and not been found wanting." About 40 years ago there lived a man in Carver county, Minnesota, by the name of Grimm, who introduced a kind of alfalfa he had brought from Germany. This alfalfa was so ironclad that it soon became known that Grimm's alfalfa would not winter kill while some seasons most all the common kinds would succumb to the hard winters.

About 20 years ago Prof. Hansen of South Dakota introduced a new kind from Siberia called Cossack that was found producing large thrifty plants on high land where the rainfall was not more than 10 inches per season. It and the Grimm differ from the common kinds, to some extent, in the root system. While the common kinds send down one long tap root, the Grimm and Cossack are inclined to be more spreading and produce many short roots. There seems to be however more or less of both kinds of plants that send down one long tap root like the common kinds. Some of the Cossock plants make a crown as much as sixteen inches in diameter. Its flowers are more or less varigated and sometimes there are two or more shades of colors on a single stem. The main point that is claimed for the Cossack over the Grimm and other kinds are that it will stand closer pasturing. I cannot say from experience about this claim as I am growing the plants by cultivation and can see but little difference, so far, except that the flowers are different.

Large fields of alfalfa are being cultivated like corn in rows in the alfalfa districts. It keeps the fields clean from weeds and makes a much surer stand. It stands to reason that in the absence of irrigation that the plan of cultivating would be a much surer way of growing the crop where the rainfall is not very much during the dry season. Alfalfa has a big advantage over other clovers as it is a perenial plant and it is claimed that where it is not disturbed of its natural lease of life it should endure for a century or more. This one feature ought to appeal to the farmer who wants green feed during the dry season without having to reseed every two or three seasons. It certainly has a great advantage over sweet clover, which has to be reseeded every two years.

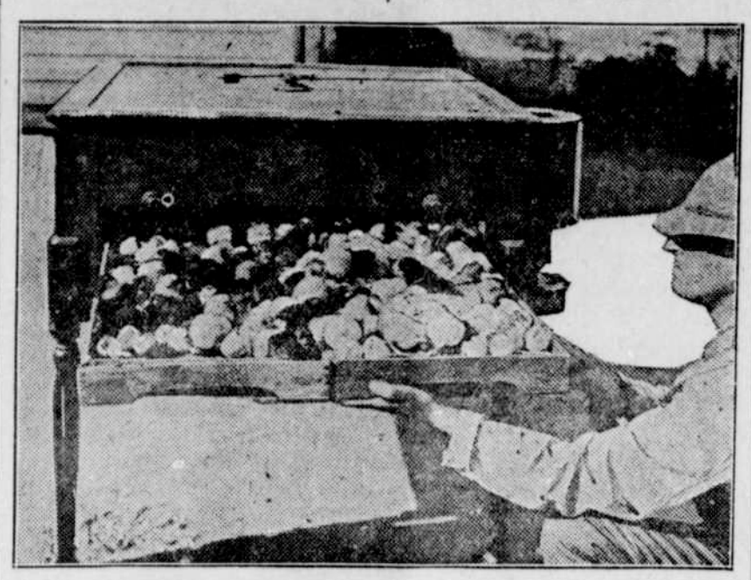
BRUIN HUGS MAN, THEN TOSSES HIM DOWN WELL

Seattle, Wash.—A monster bear is reported to be playing havoc in northern Saskatchewan. Recently a woodsman spied the bruin and began to pepper it with his .22-caliber rifle. Undaunted, the bear made for the man, who dropped his gun and dashed to his cabin. He led the animal for several laps around the cabin, but bruin suddenly stopped and waited. The woodsman ran into the bear, sustained several broken ribs in its powerful clutch, and was tossed into a nearby well. Later the woodsman pulled himself to the surface in the bucket.

A Bird in the Hand

(Special Information Service, United States Department of Agriculture.)

IN BUYING AN INCUBATOR—SOME SUGGESTIONS.



A Good Hatch—Give the Incubator Your Personal Attention.

WELL TO SELECT BEST INCUBATOR

Hatcher Found to Be Successful Locally, Usually Most Profitable.

MANY MAKES ARE RELIABLE

Machines Most Popular in Vicinity Enables Beginner to Learn From Experience of Others—Size Is of Importance.

If you are concerned now with the selection of an incubator, you have the choice of many reliable makes. Since it is not advisable to recommend any particular machine, you would best study the types and decide for yourself. Wherever possible it is well to select an incubator which has given satisfaction in your locality, so that you may get the benefit of the experience of other operators near by. Some machines have become popular in certain sections of the country because they were advertised extensively in that section rather than because of adaptability to the climatic conditions.

Don't Buy Cheap Machine.

Cheap machines are less reliable, require more attention and wear out much quicker than higher-priced incubators. As the value of the machine is small compared to the value of the eggs used during the normal life of the incubator, it is poor economy to purchase a machine that is not reliable.

The details of construction and equipment of most incubators are so subject to change that it is impossible to state definitely the best kind of lamps, brackets, regulators and other equipment for the different incubators. The lamp should have a bowl large enough to hold sufficient oil to burn at least 36 hours under average weather conditions; it should be easy to remove and replace and set absolutely tight in position. The incubator should be set so that the lamp is at a convenient height and the egg tray convenient to handle.

Size of Machine to Get.

The best size of an incubator to buy depends upon circumstances. It takes about as much time to care for a 60 as it does for a 300-egg machine, so that it is generally advisable to get one of at least 150-egg capacity, although special conditions often exist which make smaller machines valuable. A small machine is often used in connection with a larger one, placing all the eggs in the large machine after the first or second test. Incubators of from 300 to 400-egg capacity are generally used on those large farms which use individual lamp incubators. Many poultrymen believe that it pays to have an incubator capacity large enough to hatch the bulk of their stock in two or three batches, so that much time is saved in tending to the incubators and brooders, while the chickens are more even in size than those that are hatched when the incubating period extends over a longer time. A fair estimate for a poultry farm is an incubator space of one-egg capacity per hen, provided that about one-half of the flock is to be renewed yearly and no outside hatching is carried on. The larger machines cost less in proportion to their capacity than the smaller ones.

Early Hatch, Early Layers.

February, March and April are the best months to hatch chickens, but the sooner it can be done the better. Hatching should be completed if possible by the first of May. Chickens hatched before this time will have a good chance to mature and be in laying condition as pullets before the cold weather of fall sets in, and should, in consequence, be producers during the entire fall and winter. This is one of the chief reasons poultry specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture are urging the importance this year of the early hatch. Early hatched chickens are also easier to raise, as they live and thrive better than those which are still small when the hot weather begins.

City Chickens Need Room.

Whether the backyard poultry keeper should try to renew his flock either by hatching and rearing chicks or by purchasing and rearing day-old chicks is an open question. Raising chicks should not be attempted unless a plot can be provided separate from that to which there is grass or where a supply of green feed can be furnished. Hatching under these conditions can best be done with hens.

Patience With Sitters.

To be successful with sitting hens requires careful and faithful attention to their needs, and above all, patience. Even with the best of care some hens prove to be fickle mothers and cause trouble and loss in hatching by breaking their eggs, leaving their nests or trampling on the chickens when first hatched. Most hens of the general-purpose breeds, such as the Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, Rhode Island Reds and Orpingtons make very good mothers. The heavier class or meat breeds, including the Brahmas and Cochins, are good sitters, but are inclined to be clumsy on the nest. The Leghorns and other Mediterranean breeds are very nervous and usually do not make good mothers.

Instead of Beef Scrap.

If it is desired to substitute cottonseed meal for beef scraps in the dry mash for hens the feeder should be careful not to replace more than half the beef scrap with this substitute, as the result in egg production and in the quality of the eggs will be unsatisfactory. Chopped green bone, available at the butcher shop, is an excellent substitute for beef scrap when fed fresh to the hens. Buy it in small quantities as it does not keep fresh very long, and when spoiled it is likely to be harmful.

HOW TO HELP INCUBATOR.

Follow the manufacturer's directions in setting up and operating an incubator.

See that the incubator is running steadily at the desired temperature before filling with eggs. Do not add fresh eggs to a tray containing eggs which are undergoing incubation.

Turn the eggs twice daily after the second and until the nineteenth day. Cool the eggs once daily, according to the weather, from the seventh to the nineteenth day.

Turn the eggs before caring for the lamps.

Attend to the machine carefully at regular hours.

Keep the lamp and wick clean.

Test the eggs on the seventh and fourteenth days.

Do not open the machine after the eighteenth day until the chickens are hatched.

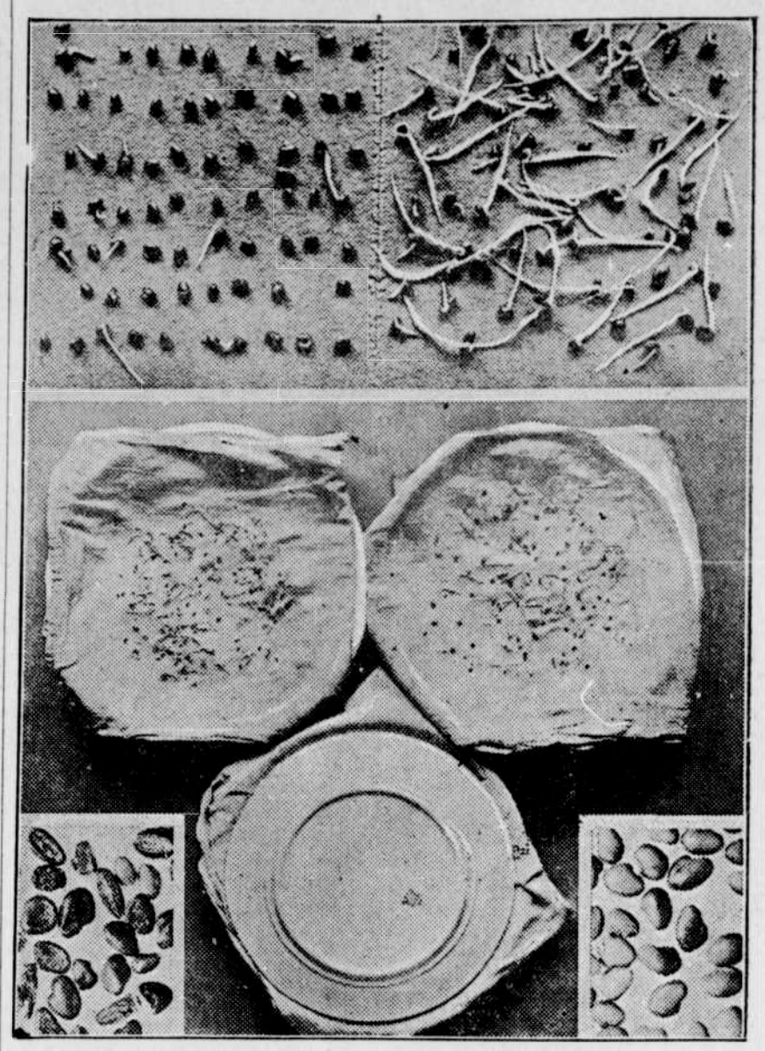
SELLING HENS NOW MEANS LOSS OF EGG MILLIONS.

To effect a saving of 150,000,000 eggs for the food supply in the United States, poultry specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture are making every effort to encourage farmers to keep their hens until after the spring laying season rather than send them to market at this time. Figures compiled by the specialists show that more than 5,000,000 hens, each capable of producing 30 eggs, on an average, are sent to market from the southern states alone in the winter and early spring. The "Save-the-Hen" message is being sent by the Department of Agriculture broadcast through press notices and posters and through its county agents, especially in the southern poultry-raising sections, where the practice is more common.

Our Part in Feeding the Nation

(Special Information Service, United States Department of Agriculture.)

LET THE WISE SOWER LOOK TO HIS SEED.



Which Do You Sow? Clean Seed (Lower Right); Adulterated Product (Lower Left). Make a Tester of Two Dinner Plates and a Moist Cloth. Bad Germination (Upper Left), Good Germination (Upper Right).

PURCHASE ONLY LABELED SEEDS

Farmers Urged Not to Take Any Chances With Product of Poor Quality.

MAKE A GERMINATION TEST

Home-Made Device Will Tell Value of Seeds—Clean Small Grains Before Sowing—Send Sample to Agricultural College.

The seed trade has voluntarily agreed to label all field seeds with the percentage of pure seed that will grow, giving the purchaser exact information as to quality. The United States Department of Agriculture urges all farmers to buy their seeds only from dealers who comply with this agreement and not to run the risk of buying high-priced, unlabeled seed that will not give a stand in the field.

Make Germination Test.

Get your seed early and make a germination test of it before sowing. Count out 100 seeds; put them between folds of moist paper or cloth between two dinner plates and keep at room temperature for four days; then count the sprouted seeds. If 95 seeds sprout the seed is good; if only a small part of them sprout the seed is either poor or the test was not properly made. If in doubt as to the value of the seed send a sample to your state agricultural experiment station or to the Seed Laboratory, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., with the request that it be tested for quality, including percentage of purity and germination.

Don't take any chances with the quality of the red clover seed you sow this spring.

High Price of Seed.

Never before has the price of red clover seed been so high as it is at the present time, and never has the quantity of seed on hand been so small in proportion to the acreage to be seeded. In years when the demand for any kind of seed exceeds the supply, all available seed is put on the market and much of the seed is of poorer quality than in normal years. Therefore, every farmer before sowing should know what proportion of the seed he buys cannot be expected to grow. If one lot contains 96 per cent of seed that will grow and another lot contains 64 per cent of seed that will grow it will take three bushels of the 64 per cent seed to sow the same number of acres that two bushels of the 96 per cent will sow.

This is important from the standpoint of cost alone when red clover seed is selling for $20 or more per bushel. It is much more necessary, however, to know the quality of seed in order that the rate of seeding may be proportional to the quality, so that enough live seed will be sowed to insure a stand in the field. First know how much of the seed may grow and then sow accordingly.

SCREENING SEED MAY PREVENT NEW DISEASE.

Screening out the shriveled grains from wheat seed before planting will remove one cause of spreading the new bacterial disease of wheat which has been discovered in many states of the middle West. This has been learned by specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture who, in co-operation with the experiment stations of Kansas and Wisconsin, are studying the problem of controlling this disease. Wheat kernels that are plump do not contain bacterial cavities, but shriveled ones often do.

SEED DEALERS TO FURNISH INFORMATION WITH PRODUCT.

According to a plan agreed upon by representatives of the seed trade and representatives of the United States Department of Agriculture in conferences last year, seed dealers will provide the following information with all lots of ten pounds or over of field-crop seeds which they sell:

1. Name of seedsman.
2. Kind of seed.
3. Proportion of pure live seed present, with month and year of germination test.
4. Country or locality of origin in the case of the following imported seeds: Beans, soy beans, Turkestan alfalfa, and red clover from southern Europe and Chile.

Since the seed trade conferences, practically all the larger seedsmen have individually agreed to conduct their business in accordance with these suggestions.

CLEAN SEED BEFORE SOWING.

Cleaning and grading the small grains for spring sowing should be done before the spring rush in preparing the land and sowing the seed. Wheat, oats, barley, and flax can be improved for seeding by running the seed through the fanning mill at least once. The cleaned grain will run through the drill or other seeding machinery more evenly and thus insure a more uniform stand than can be obtained from uncleaned grain.

Cleaning grain removes most of the weak and diseased kernels, many of which may not grow at all, or if they do grow are likely to produce small, weak plants. Uniformly large, plump kernels germinate more evenly, produce stronger plants, and yield more than ungraded grain containing small, shrunken kernels.

Thorough cleaning also removes a large part of the weed seeds the grain contains. The preparation of the land for seeding destroys many seeds that are in the ground and thus helps to keep weeds in check, but the value of this work is largely lost if foul seed is sown.