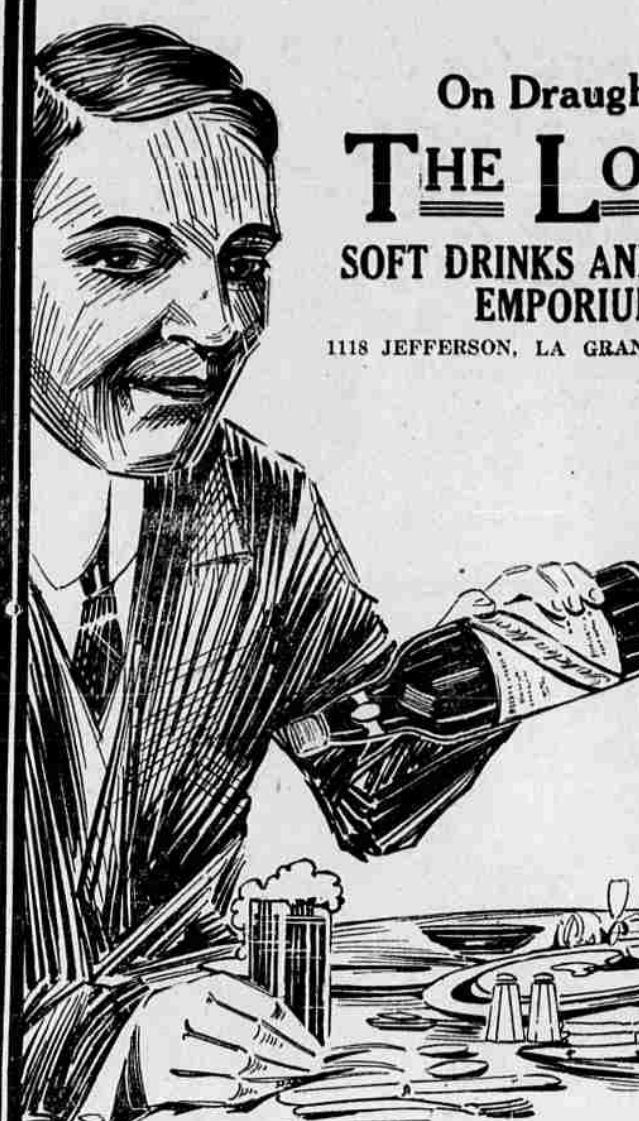




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ALFALFA WEEVIL IS SPREADING

The alfalfa weevil is spreading in a way which makes it possible that sooner or later every section of the country will have to consider the problem of guarding against this pest. During the 12 years since the weevil was introduced into America it has been confined to the limits of the Great Basin of the West, but it has been found this year by the Bureau of Entomology at Malta, McCammon, Pocatello, and Blackfoot, Idaho, all well within the Snake River drainage system, and at Duchesne, Utah, in the Colorado River system, which, like that of the Snake, slopes to the Pacific. Within the Great Basin the weevil has spread as far south as Richfield, into the alfalfa fields of central Utah. The insect in spreading across the continental divide, department entomologists say, is to be re-

garded merely as passing a convenient landmark rather than as surmounting a barrier, for experience has not shown that it spreads faster along rivers than across mountain ranges. Nevertheless, it is now many miles nearer to important alfalfa-growing districts which have hitherto felt safe from its attack.

Description Of The Weevil

A description of the alfalfa weevil and methods of combating its ravages are contained in a new publication of the department, Farmers' bulletin 741. The spread of the pest has, as a matter of fact been slower than was at one time feared, but its progress has been steady. In Utah and in small portions of Idaho and Wyoming, where it now exists, it has caused at times a loss of 50 per cent of the first cutting of alfalfa and a total loss of the second cutting.

In order that farmers in those sections in which the weevil has not yet appeared may be able to recognize the pest and to protect their crops from it, the bulletin contains details of its habits and of its appearance in the various life stages. The weevil is most easily discovered in the form of the full-grown larva. It is then a green worm-like creature one-fourth of an

inch long, with a black head and a faint white stripe running down the middle of the back. It feeds upon the leaves of alfalfa mainly during late May, June, and early July and may be found by sweeping the tops of the plants with an insect net or by looking for the notches in the leaves where it has fed. When the larvae are numerous they destroy most of the tender growth and cause the field to look as if frostbitten when viewed from a distance.

The adult insect is an oval, brown beetle, three-sixteenths of an inch long, with a prominent snout. Its color frequently is nearly black. This beetle is harder to discover than the larva, but, on the other hand, is present in the field the whole year round. In winter it can be found by digging around the crown and roots of alfalfa plants.

Control Measures

The alfalfa weevil does not hibernate definitely. When the weather is cool the adults are quiet, but with warmer temperatures they quickly resume their activities. Egg laying begins in early spring and is usually ended by June 10. One efficacious method of controlling the pest then is to destroy the eggs by pasturing

the first crop up to that time. A similar result may be obtained by cutting the alfalfa green and feeding it as a soiling crop.

If this is not done, the larvae hatch in large numbers about the last week of May, or earlier, and eat the alfalfa leaves so rapidly that the plant is unable to outgrow the injury. After the field is cut the larvae which have been feeding upon the first crop gather upon the buds of the stubble and frequently consume all of the second crop. By that time most of the insects have completed their growing period and have gone unto the pupal or resting stage. The later growth of the crop, therefore, does not suffer from them.

To protect the crop pasturing as has been said is effective in the early part of the season. The field should be divided into two or three lots, and each lot should be pastured alternately, the animals being left in it until the alfalfa has been eaten down close to the ground. The number and size of the lots should be proportioned to the producing power of the field and the number of animals to be pastured, so that each lot may be grazed about once in two weeks. Pasturing should be continued until most of the weevil eggs have been laid, which in practice means a little later than the usual cutting time for the first crop. This method has the additional advantage of providing an economical method of fattening live stock. Combined with the proper feed of grain, alfalfa pasture is excellent for putting on weight, and it is said that many farms would probably be more profitable if their management centered around the pasturing of stock on alfalfa, with the growing of enough other crops to provide grain and forage throughout the year.

If the weevil are killed early in the year, they may be destroyed after the first crop has been removed by getting rid of all the vegetation in the field; crushing the clods, and filling the cracks so as to expose the entire surface to the sun. This is best done by covering the field by dust mulch, the dust being an additional means of killing the weevils. Success obviously depends upon doing the work when the ground is dry and the weather warm and bright.

The second crop may also be protected by spraying the stubble. Spraying may also be resorted to in the spring. From 50 to 100 gallons per acre of a mixture of arsenite of zinc and water, in the proportion of 4 pounds of powder in 100 gallons are used for this purpose. The apparatus best suited to this purpose is described in the bulletin. Still another recommendation made in this bulletin is the stimulation of the growth of the alfalfa by cultivating the field in the spring. This does not destroy the weevils but it serves to produce a larger and earlier yield when their attacks make early cutting necessary.

Up to the present, however, more farmers are concerned with preventing the alfalfa weevil reaching their field than they are controlling them. No one knows exactly how the weevils spread, but certain facts in regard to this matter have been ascertained.

It is known for example, that the insects are often found in green alfalfa fresh from the field and in second-crop hay and among potatoes which have been in contact with it. They are found also in cured alfalfa hay, especially that of the second cutting. Potatoes often are hauled in cars upon a bedding of green alfalfa hay, and there is danger that the weevil may be transported in this way. On the other hand there is no evidence to show that the weevil spreads more rapidly along railways than elsewhere.

MONEY LEFT TO CHARITY

Wealthy Chicago Man Makes Gifts of Over Half Million

Chicago, Sept. 4.—Charitable bequests approximating \$700,000 was provided for in the will of the late Norman W. Harris.

The document, dated January 24, 1911, disposes of an estate estimated at more than \$12,000,000, the bulk of which is left in trust for the benefit of the widow and five children. The income will be distributed in accordance with the inheritance laws of Illinois.

An immediate distribution of \$1,500,000 in real and personal property will be made among the six heirs.

The largest charitable bequest is \$500,000. This sum, according to the language of the will, is "for benevolent, charitable, educational or public objects, as may be specified and requested in writing signed by the widow and children, or by a majority of them, or the survivors of them, or a majority of the survivors of them."

ALIENATION IS CHARGE

Dr. D. R. Schmutz Demands \$50,000 of Realty Broker

New York, Sept. 2.—Dr. Louis R. Schmutz, of the Hotel Empire, sued for divorce in the supreme court against Mrs. Mabel M. Schmutz. At the same time he brought action for alienation of his wife's affections against J. Arthur Belden, a real estate broker, at 215 West One Hundred and Twenty-fifth street, from whom he demands \$50,000.

Dr. Schmutz says he and Mrs. Schmutz were married in 1906 in Buffalo and that for four years they lived happily. On information and belief, he asserts, Belden exercised an influence and control over Mrs. Schmutz and won her affections.

Grange Fair Opens

Cottage Grove, Or., Sept. 14.—The local grange fair opens today and continues for three days. The exhibits are good, but owing to the lateness of the season everything is from three to four weeks later than usual. Owing to the conflict of dates, this city will not be represented at the county fair being held in Eugene this week.

New Directory

If you wish your name to appear in our System Directory soon to be printed, or if you wish some change made in your name let us know at once.

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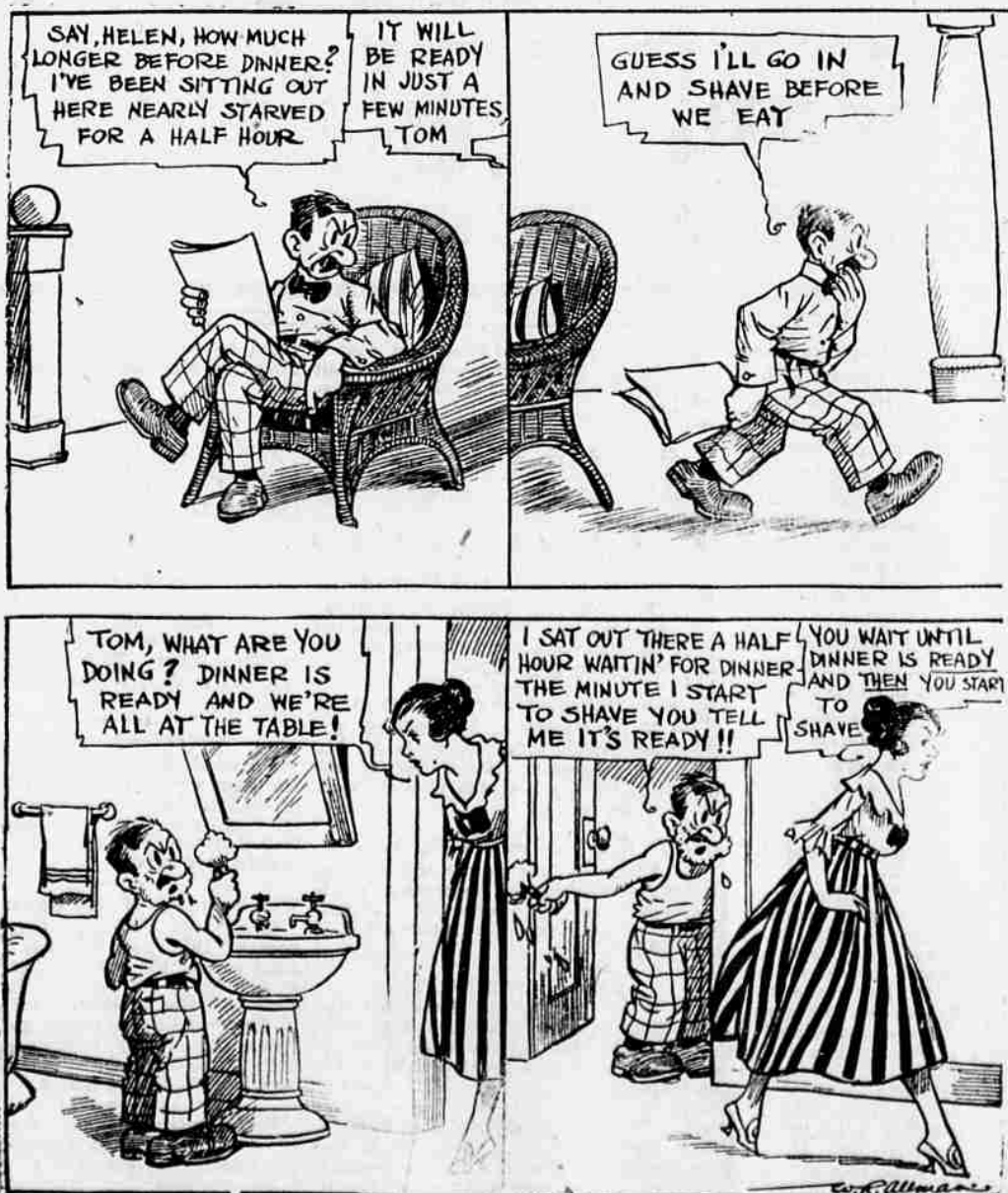
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DOINGS OF THE DUFFS



SAY, HELEN, HOW MUCH LONGER BEFORE DINNER? I'VE BEEN SITTING OUT HERE NEARLY STARVED FOR A HALF HOUR.

IT WILL BE READY IN JUST A FEW MINUTES, TOM.

GUESS I'LL GO IN AND SHAVE BEFORE WE EAT.

TOM, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? DINNER IS READY AND WE'RE ALL AT THE TABLE!

I SAT OUT THERE A HALF HOUR WAITING FOR DINNER. THE MINUTE I START TO SHAVE YOU TELL ME IT'S READY!!

YOU WAIT UNTIL DINNER IS READY AND THEN YOU START TO SHAVE.