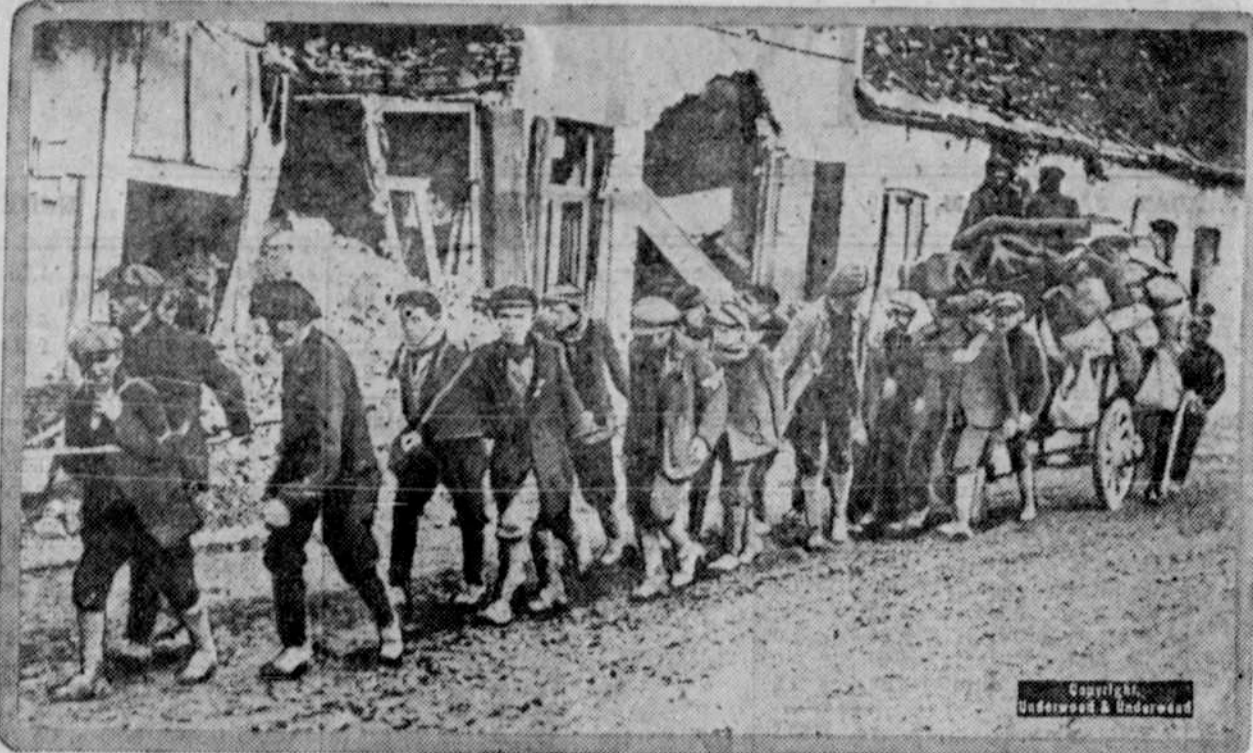
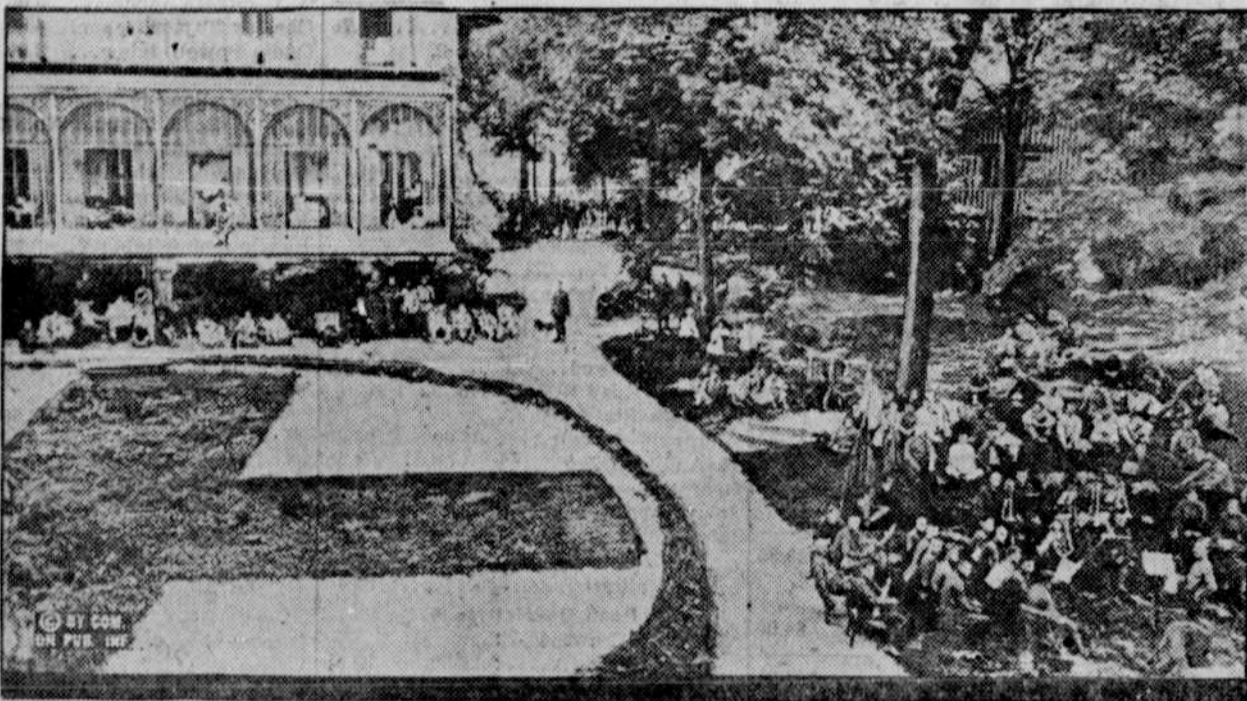


FRENCH LADS RETURN FROM GERMAN BONDAGE



Held prisoner by the German invaders and compelled under threat of severe punishment to labor unceasingly for four years in the rear of the enemy lines, these French lads, released under the terms of the armistice, are returning to their homes in France. Their belongings, piled high on a wagon which they commandeered, have been pulled for miles.

HOTEL IN GERMANY USED BY U. S. AS HOSPITAL



This hotel, which is in German evacuated territory, is being used by the Americans as a hospital. It is being managed by the One Hundred and Thirty-eighth field hospital unit and the men are recuperating rapidly, being given plenty of air and sunshine. The One Hundred and Twenty-eighth field artillery regiment band is seen in the foreground entertaining the wounded.

LADY TOWNSHEND



New portrait of Lady Townshend, wife of the hero of Kut-el-Amara. She was made a staff officer in the French army for her work in organizing canteens for the troops in Lorraine. She was often under fire.

Minor Matter.

A Cardiff woman joined a private literary circle. Her husband, who has no faith in feminine judgment on such matters, was anxious to know how things went.

"Well, and what sort of a meeting did you have?" he asked, on his wife's return.

"Splendid!" she answered.

"And what was the topic under discussion?"

"Oh" was the reply. "I've discussed the antecedent of that brazen woman with the dyed hair that just moved in opposite the Joneses, and also one of the poets—Shelly, I think."—Cardiff (Wales) Mail.

Evading the Law.

Mr. Fedup was tired of his married life, his wife annoyed him, his home life bored him, so when walking out on Sunday, as one of the numbers on his dull program, they came across a dead dog in the middle of the road. He said to the unsuspecting Mrs. Fedup:

"You stay on this side of the road, darling, and I will go on the other."

When the desired positions were occupied he shouted across:

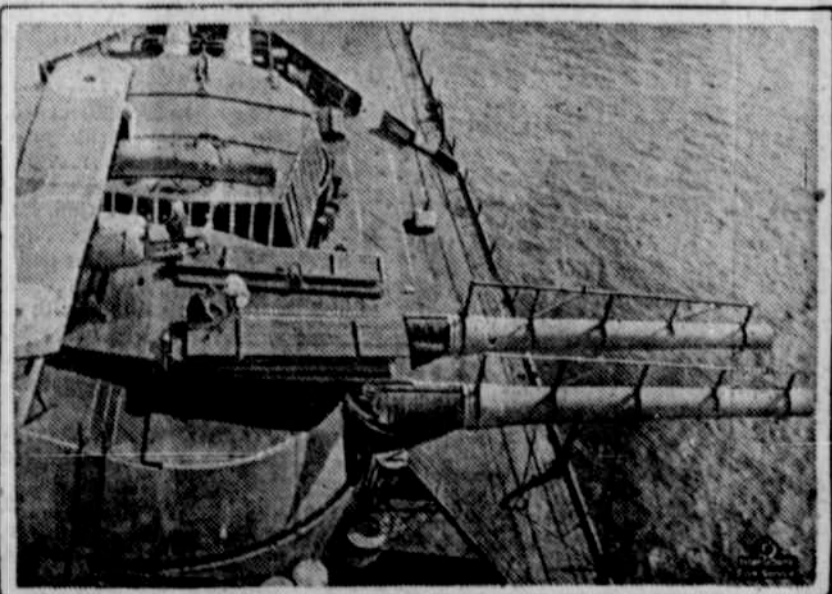
"I promised the parson when I wed you that naught but death would part us, and so I am off now!"

WOMEN'S RADIO CORPS MEMBERS



The Women's Radio corps, an organization with but 21 members and with branches in New York, Boston and Washington, is one of the unique products of the war. Their first job was to teach drafted men the radio buzzer. Their next assignment, the one they are doing now, was to inspect radio equipment in the three cities named, and six are now stationed in each city. In the picture, from left to right, are: Elizabeth Baker, Montclair, N. J.; Lorena Reed, Cambridge, Mass., and Elise Owen, Stonington, Conn.

ONE OF BRITAIN'S NAVAL SECRETS



This photograph, made on the British "hush" ship Renown, shows an airplane ready to leave the ship, the runways being placed on two of the guns.

POULTRY

REDUCE WASTE BY CANDLING

Difficulty in Determining Quality of Certain Classes of Eggs in Commercial Plants.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Although the candling method of determining the quality of eggs in the shell is the best known for commercial grading, recent investigations conducted by the United States department of agriculture show that one group of eggs of inferior quality cannot be detected by this system, and that it is inadequate in grading still another group. The investigations, reported in Department Bulletin 702, show that experienced candlers and those using extreme care do not make many mistakes in grading eggs. Eggs with green whites and those having a normal appearance but bad odors are not recognizable by candling. White rots, more particularly mixed rots, eggs with yolks slightly stuck to the shell, blood rings and eggs with bloody whites are not always detected, and are included in the group most frequently miscandled by inexperienced or careless workmen. Eggs with brown shells or light-colored yolks make detection between good and bad specimens more difficult.

In the studies with skilled candlers, who candled a number of cases of 30 dozen eggs each, the average proportion of bad eggs miscandled per case varied from 0.2 in spring flocks to 10.77 in very low grade cold-storage eggs. The percentage of bad eggs which could not be found by recandling ranged from none to 6.93 per cent per case and depended on the grade of the eggs examined. In the commercial candling of 128,587 eggs, 5,985 bad eggs were found, of which 71.65 per cent were recognized by candling and the balance, or 28.35 per cent, were not found until the eggs were opened and examined individually. Then it was observed that the 28.35 per cent was divided between a group of 17.02 per cent bad eggs, which in many instances are distinguishable by candling, and a second group of 11.33 per cent consisting of types of bad eggs which cannot be discovered until the eggs are broken.

The accuracy of candling depends upon the quality of the eggs and the skill of the candler, according to the bulletin. In plants having poor management and poor candlers the number of good eggs in the discard sometimes reached 11 dozen to the case. The en-



Candling Eggs in a Government Poultry Demonstration Car.

forcement of a system of checking the work of individual candlers, particularly in plants employing inexperienced help, was found to be the best way to maintain high efficiency and thus eliminate waste by grading marketable eggs as rejects.

BEST WEIGHT FOR LEGHORNS

Three and One-Half Pounds for Hens and Four and One-Quarter for Cocks Is Average.

There is no standard weight given for Leghorns, though the average may be said to be three and one-half pounds for hens, and four and one-quarter pounds for cocks. Pullets and cockerels are a trifle under these weights. Some strains run heavier, which is obtained by introducing Minorca blood. It is thought that some of the English breeders have crossed a little Wyandotte blood, for their Leghorns are of a much different type.

SELECT HENS FOR BREEDERS

Choose Individuals That Are Layers and Meet Standard Requirements as Far as Possible.

In selecting for egg production include in the breeding pen hens that laid in November, December and January. Choose individuals having constitutional vigor and meeting standard requirements so far as possible.

EASTERN FARMERS PRACTICE EFFICIENT HUSBANDRY IN CONSERVING PLANT FOOD



Manure Spreader Causes Uniform Distribution of Fertilizer.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Farmers who are confronted with the problem of maintaining soil fertility—important in carrying out increased food production—will find it profitable, the United States department of agriculture suggests, to study the methods of handling barnyard manure practiced in parts of eastern Pennsylvania, where excellent results in adding to crop yields have been secured. These methods are described in Farmers' Bulletin 978, recently published by the department. For over a century it has been the custom in this region to store stable manure in a walled manure yard, partly or wholly covered, in which the stabled animals are allowed to exercise during the day. Manure thrown into such a yard and thoroughly tramped by stock, according to the department's bulletin, loses much less through heating and leaching than does manure piled in the open.

Accumulates in Yards.

Nearly all manure produced on the farms in the region to which the bulletin refers accumulates in the manure yards. All cornstalks, straw and other roughage not used as bedding are added as needed to take up excess liquids. In this way the covered portion of the barnyard not only affords a dry and comfortable shelter for the live stock during the winter months, but it protects the manure so that no leaching occurs. In some instances the corn fodder is run through a cutter, which increases its power of absorption and makes the manure easier to handle. The tramping of the stock packs the manure, so that an even temperature is obtained, which seems to favor proper fermentation, as is evidenced partly by the strong odor of ammonia in the vicinity when the manure

is being removed, and partly by absence of dry combustion, or "firefang," so common in manure piles exposed to the weather.

Occasionally a farmer is found who sprinkles land plaster on the manure at intervals, the amount ranging from one to two tons a year, applied at the rate of a bushel a week. Disintegrated feldspar rock, common in the vicinity, has been used with good effect, but as a general thing the manure is not treated with chemical fertilizers.

When Manure Is Applied.

The manure is hauled to the fields twice a year on the majority of farms. Many farmers apply it during the winter when the ground is frozen and hauling is easier and when there is more time for this work, but this should not be done on hillside land or where there is danger of the manure being washed away when the snow melts and before the ground is sufficiently thawed to allow the soluble material to sink in. In general practice the sod is usually manured in the early spring at the rate of eight to ten tons an acre, and is immediately plowed and rolled. In the fall manure is applied to oats and corn stubble land. The barnyard is so arranged that the team and spreader can be driven into any part of it, including the covered portion, where loading can be done directly.

The bulletin describes in detail the crop rotation plan and methods of handling manure on ten Chester county farms, on each of which the yield of corn is maintained at 75 bushels or more an acre, and where high yields are being made at no sacrifice of profit. These farms offer good examples of the way in which manure should be handled and utilized to secure the greatest possible returns.

LEATHER IS NEEDED SO SAVE ALL HIDES

It Is Quite Profitable to Skin All Animals Carefully.

Tanner Pays More for Packers' Hides Than for Those Obtained From Farmers—Proper Storage Is of Importance.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The present very urgent demand for leather in the industries and the increase in price which unscoured hides bring on the market emphasizes the importance and even necessity of exercising the utmost care in removing skins from farm animals. By devoting a little extra time necessary in skinning animals carefully—possibly only three to five minutes in taking off the skin of a calf, or 15 minutes in the case of a beef hide—the value of the hide may be increased several times. The tanner pays more for packers' hides than for those from farmers or country slaughterers. This is due in part to better facilities in the large packing houses for curing and storage of hides, but principally to the fact that such hides have been taken off properly. Country hides removed by unskilled workmen are often cut and scored. When such hides come from a tannery, scores show very plainly, and in many cases one-half of the thickness of the leather is lost by such defects. Imperfections can be avoided by the careful use of the skinning knife, by keeping the hides clean and free from blood and by proper storage and packing.

The use of the knife may be avoided by taking off calfskins, except on the head, neck, legs and flanks, as the body skin may be drawn or fisted off. Where the knife is used, the skin should be drawn taut with one hand, while the knife is used with the other, special care being taken to hold the back of the blade close to the skin. In lieu of the knife some butchers use a wooden stick shaped like a man's thumb and employ a knife only on the portions of the body mentioned.

It is objectionable to have blood on the hides, particularly in the summer-time, as it is likely to cause the hair to slip from rotting or decomposition when the hides are packed and the placing of otherwise good hides in the No. 2 grade on the market.

Care should be taken to avoid placing any hides in the pack until they are free from animal heat. Allow them to lie folded for from three to five hours, or sufficiently long to allow the animal heat to get out of them. If this is not done, patches of decomposition may result and such hides are often reduced in market value at least a cent or more a pound.

In building up a pack of hides the

outer edges should be kept a little higher than the middle, so that the liquor or brine formed by the dissolving of the salt in the natural moisture of the hides may be absorbed by them. If the pack is low on one side, or is built slanting like a shed roof, the brine will seep up, causing the hides to shrink in weight. Use salt that has been screened and is free from large lumps and dirt. Dirty salt will stain the fresh sides of hides. One pound of salt to each pound of the hide is the general rule. Hides should remain in pack from 15 to 30 days and stored in cool (60 to 65 degrees Fahrenheit) cellars from which the outside air is excluded.

COWS FED INDIVIDUALLY

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

If dairy cows are to be fed for profitable production they must receive a liberal ration at all seasons. In summer, pasture generally is depended upon, but often it must be supplemented by molasses or silage, and sometimes by concentrates as well. For winter feeding, the ration usually is composed of hay, silage, and a mixture of grains. In properly balancing the ration the grain mixture is compounded to fit the roughage with due consideration for cost, bulk, palatability, and physiological effect upon the cow. For best results, cows must be fed individually, salted regularly, and furnished with all the clean water they will drink.

WAR CROPS HAVE INCREASED

County Agents Boost Hog Production and Sugar Beet Yields in State of Minnesota.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

A 7 per cent increase in hog production and a 25 per cent increase in sugar-beet production over the preceding year is the result of campaigns carried on this year by county agents in Minnesota. When the call came for more pork and more sugar as a war emergency, surveys were made in those sections of the state where hogs are raised and where sugar beets are grown profitably. The county agents advised farmers to raise one litter more of pigs and to house and feed them properly. In spite of the fact that there has been a shortage of corn for feeding and that a large number of brood sows and hogs were sold and shipped to neighboring states where corn was more plentiful, the increase in production was made. A larger acreage in sugar beets was also secured through the efforts of the agents.