

TAKING MOTHER "OVER THE TOP"



A soldier of the Twenty-seventh division reviewing his experiences "over there" to a proud old mother and an admiring sweetheart. He is explaining, with the aid of a map, how the One Hundred and Fifth machine gun battalion hammered away mercilessly at the Hun.

WEIRD TALE OF THE LAND OF SLAVERY

Polygamy and Witchcraft Flourish in Island of Sumatra.

VAST MIXTURE OF RACES

Has Population of 5,000,000 and Could Easily Support 100,000,000—Missionary Gives Some Interesting Facts and Figures.

New York.—Weird is the story of a land where slavery, polygamy and witchcraft are flourishing, which Earl R. Hibbard, first white missionary ever sent to southern Sumatra, a great island southeast of Asia, told here recently upon his arrival in New York.

Picture a land where alleged magicians known as pawangs, who are said to be able to call crocodiles from the rivers and wild beasts from the jungles, are believed to have control over evil spirits, and you will catch a glimpse of the island of superstition in the Pacific.

"This curious land," said Mr. Hibbard, "is destined to be one of the great countries of the globe. It has 5,000,000 population and could easily support 100,000,000, or all the people of the United States."

Mr. Hibbard is head of the Methodist school in Palembang, and also runs a prosperous Christian church. The leading Christians are Chinese, Chinese are crowding the island rapidly; many of them are wealthy merchants.

"Our island is roughly as long as from New York to Chicago and 400 miles broad," said Mr. Hibbard. "Palembang has 60,000 people, of which 600 are whites. There is only one white doctor for the whole city. All the rest of the medicine and surgery there are in the hands of witches.

Mixture of Races. "There is a vast mixture of races. In my church, where I preach in the Malay tongue, we have noted at a single service Ambonese, Menadense, Japanese, Malays, British Indians, Chinese and Javanese, besides Dutch and English, not forgetting that the pastor is an American.

"The people, religiously, have sunk low. Most of them are Mohammedans, but of a debased form. Idolatry, witchcraft and animism are mixed with their Mohammedanism. The magicians, called pawangs, who call the crocodiles to the banks of the rivers and the wild beasts from the jungles and who pretend to have the evil spirits under their control, are highly thought of.

"If I have an enemy and will pay a pawang high enough he will send a magic, invisible poisoned arrow by a honu or evil spirit to kill the person I desire slain. So the natives say. "Every year a great pilgrimage lasting two days is made to the top of Gunung Dempo, highest mountain on the island and an active volcano, and in a shrine there the evil spirits are propitiated.

"Polygamy is common. Wives are put away on slight cause. Women are held lightly, although they do not wear the veil and have more freedom than in other Moslem lands. "Slavery also has not been stamped out. Our Christian people fight it, and of course the Dutch administration gives it no legal sanction. But it is there. In one case a young man who had become a Christian convert bought a little slave girl to save her from a horrible fate.

Interested in America. "The wealthy classes of Palembang are the Arabs and the Chinese. "The school of which I am principal is self-supporting. We have four teachers and 160 pupils, and teach all

sorts of stories, especially their complaints against the government. On the whole, the Dutch treat them well. "Much of Java is still wild land, inhabited by wild men. In the north the Ashinese never have been conquered, although the Dutch have fought them for 500 years. There are a number of other backward tribes. "We have great tigers, which sometimes come right into the suburbs of Palembang; wild elephants and a curious, toothed bird living on flesh, which has no English name so far as I am aware."

FIX DUTY ON FLYING PLANE

Tariff on Machine Brought into Country on its Own Power Is Puzzle at First.

Washington.—Customs authorities have encountered the first case of an airplane imported into the United States under its own motive power.

An American bought a Canadian plane, and it was flown across the border near Detroit. The question then arose as to whether it is dutiable, particularly since airplanes are not mentioned in any tariff acts.

Customs officials finally decided that if it remains permanently in the United States it should be taxed "as a manufactured article" at the rate of 20 per cent, and if it flies out of the country again within six months it will be regarded as "on a tour," and will not be taxed. In view of the prospects that international air touring may soon be common, the ruling was regarded as important.

PERSHING BEATS THEIR SHOW

Pleas Important Engagement to the Cressys, Then Puts on St. Mihiel Drive.

New York.—Mr. and Mrs. Will Cressy of the vaudeville team of Cressy and Dayne, who came back from France the other day after entertaining soldiers, were giving a performance near St. Mihiel, to which General Pershing was invited. He pleaded an important engagement. Early next morning he started the St. Mihiel drive.

A month later the Cressys met him, and he asked: "How did you like my show?" Adding: "When I told you I had an engagement I had that show in mind, so I could not see yours."

YANKS ARE BUSY LETTER WRITERS

Home-Bound Mail From France Increased Enormously After Armistice.

SEND TONS OF SOUVENIRS

Post Offices at Bordeaux and Brest Have More Extensive Distribution Service Than Any Post Office in World—Mail Handled Quickly.

Washington.—Since the boys "over there" have stopped fighting they have taken to letter writing.

The home-bound mail from France has increased enormously since the signing of the armistice and the parcel post has become a souvenir service. The value of souvenirs may be measured by the ton, consisting of small cases, parts of rifles and revolvers, bayonets, uniform buttons, and fragments of demolished airplanes.

A captured German helmet is the most prized token. Four or five hundred thousands of these have come through the mail since the war began, and the shipping requirements of the postal service were relaxed so that a large number have come through unwrapped.

The mail from the American forces in France is dispatched from two ports, Bordeaux and Brest.

During the month of November—the armistice having been signed on the 11th—17,615,400 letters were dispatched from Bordeaux, besides 2,816 sacks of papers; 5,419 sacks of customs packages and 26,089 pieces of registered mail, the whole volume amounting to 287½ tons.

Busy Letter Writers. The fight-freed boys got into full swing of letter writing during December and January, and for these months the amount of mail increased about 20 per cent over the plethoric month of November. One soldier wrote 30 letters in a single day. It is not known how many others equaled or surpassed this record. Frequently 12 to 15 letters were sent by each soldier.

It is likely to be some time before the home-bound mail from France grows less. As the number of boys coming home increases the impulse to write becomes stronger among those who remain. The regularly equipped post offices at Bordeaux and Brest, from which all mail from the expeditionary forces to the United States is dispatched, have the most extensive distribution service of any post office in the world. While a larger volume of mail is carried by the New York and Chicago offices, their fields of distribution are more restricted. From Bordeaux mail is dispatched to every

state in the Union, and to every city, town, hamlet and rural route.

Mr. Richard N. Bird, who was detailed by the post office department to take general charge of the offices at Bordeaux and Brest, has recently returned from France and his report of the work over there is full of interest.

Mail leaving this country addressed to the expeditionary forces in France passes out of the jurisdiction of the post office department into that of the army when it leaves the port of embarkation at New York. The army collects the soldiers' mail through approximately 150 army post offices scattered throughout France, making the letters up in packages by states, and delivers it to the officials of the post office department at Bordeaux and Brest. Before being dispatched to the United States all mail is sorted at Bordeaux or Brest and made up for direct dispatch to cities and railway mail routes in this country.

Every bit of mail is cleaned up to the very minute of sailing, and choice between sending it by a slower boat or by a faster boat that may sail a day later is determined by the time scheduled for the boats to arrive in New York. The boat to arrive first is given the mail in preference to sending it a day ahead by a slower boat. Approximately 25 dispatches, or one every day except Sunday, are made from either Bordeaux or Brest each month, and the time to New York is about ten days, with an infrequent delay of a day or two due to storms or accident.

Sent Direct to Trains. The pouches or sacks when received in New York are sent direct to the railway postal cars and dispatched on fast mail trains to the routes or cities for which they are labeled. About 85 per cent of mail is handled in this way.

The soldiers being located with substantial permanency since the signing of the armistice, there is no delay in the distribution of mail on the other side by the army except where it is improperly addressed or the unit to which it is addressed is one selected to return to the United States. In the latter case the mail is held on this side. Whenever any mail from the army post offices is delayed reaching Bordeaux or Brest, the date of its receipt at those terminals is noted by "back-stamp" on the delayed letters.

The site of the Bordeaux terminal post office is on the river close to the depots. The building is 250 feet long and 25 feet wide and is well ventilated and lighted. It was built by the United States army engineers from plans submitted by Mr. Bird. It has every convenience for employees, and every appliance for the proper handling of mail. Provision is made for 10,000 separations of letter mail and 400 separations of paper mail.

FARM POULTRY

EARLY HATCHING IS FAVORED

Poultryman Enabled to Get Chicks Started Before Hot Weather—Rapid Gains Insured.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.) In order to have eggs when eggs are scarce begin operations in early spring to plan for early-hatched chicks. Early hatching enables the poultryman to get his chicks started before hot weather, which retards their growth and which, with the presence of lice, causes millions of late-hatched chicks to die each year. Pullets hatched early produce eggs in the fall when

hens are molting. Early-hatched cockerels bring the best prices and early layers will brood early the following spring.



Early-Hatched Pullet—Mature and Laying on September 25.

Contrary to general belief chicks do not grow or thrive as well during warm months or hot summer days as they do earlier in the spring. Chicks hatched early are stronger, thrive better and have the advantage of a more growing season. Early hatching not only insures more rapid gains in the growth of chicks but has a favorable influence on the size of the individuals of the flock. Late-hatched chicks rarely if ever attain the size of those hatched early.

Given the same feed, care and attention, chicks hatched in March and April will weigh more when they are four months old than those hatched in May and June. The early-hatched chick, having the advantage of a more favorable growing season, makes greater gains during the first four months of its life than the late-hatched chick. During the early spring months when the temperature is not so varied the growth of chicks is more uniform and constant than it is during the summer. If for no other reason chicks should be hatched early so their growth will not be interrupted by the presence of lice, which are much more plentiful and destructive in hot weather than in the cooler days of spring.

Many farmers and poultrymen realize considerable money each spring from the sale of broilers, the price of which is usually governed by their size when sold and the time marketed. Thus it would seem that in order to increase the amount of money from the sale of broilers and fryers early hatching would be employed so as to have a marketable-sized fowl early in the spring when prices are highest.

WASHING WILL HELP DECAY

Many Eggs Are Spoiled Each Year Because They Have Become Wet Before Reaching Market.

It is estimated that more than 5,000,000 eggs are spoiled every year because they have been washed or in some way have become wet before reaching market. The shell of an egg contains a gelatinous substance which prevents air and germs from entering the eggs. Washing destroys this substance and promotes decay.

WOOD ASHES OF MUCH VALUE

Average Composition Derived From Mixed Timber Is Equivalent to 70 Per Cent Carbonate. Wood ashes have a much larger value than coal ashes. Their value lies in their content of potash, phosphoric acid and lime. The average composition of wood ashes derived from mixed hard and soft wood timber and produced in the household fires is about 5 per cent potash, 2½ per cent phosphoric acid and 35 per cent lime, equivalent to 70 per cent lime carbonate.

CULL ALL WEAK SPECIMENS

Fowls That Do Not Give Promise of Being Profitable Should Be Disposed of at Once. If there are any culls, weak specimens or any birds that do not give promise of being profitable they should be disposed of immediately before they eat any more grain than is necessary to get them in proper condition to sell.

VENTILATION IS NECESSARY

Essential for Preservation of Health of Fowls—Direct Draft Should Be Prevented. While good ventilation is absolutely necessary in preserving the health of the fowls through winter, a direct draft should not be allowed to reach the birds, especially when they are on their roosts.

DOULTRY NOTES

A system of cleanliness in poultry raising is desirable. Hens must have things to eat that contain egg-making elements. The hen as a rule is a better sitter than the pullet for the incubation of eggs. When mites, lice, ticks, fleas, etc., once get a start they are very troublesome. Egg testers are to be easily had from manufacturers and dealers in poultry supplies. To successfully hatch chicks great care should be exercised in the selection of the sitting hen. Any old hen seldom does in these matters. There are four common breeds of geese, the Toulouse, African, Embden and the White China. Of these the Toulouse is the most popular and most generally raised.

TOP DRESSING WITH MANURE AIDS WHEAT

Application Should Be Made When Ground Is Still Dry.

Acid Phosphate May Well Be Added to Each Load of Fertilizer Before Spreading—Do Not Smother the Plants.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Farmers have been very busy and short of help during the past season. Doubtless in many cases the manure pile is still in the barnyard. There was neither time nor help at hand to spread this manure at the usual time, and as a result the wheat may now be growing on land that is not as fertile as is desirable.

In such cases it will be of great help to the wheat crop and of profit to the farmer if manure, or straw not needed for other purposes, is spread evenly



Manure Spreader Is Well Suited for Applying Top Dressing on Wheat.

and thinly on the more level wheat fields this winter. Such application should be made when the ground is dry or frozen. In case fertilizer has not been applied recently to the land and it is known that phosphorus is needed, 40 or 50 pounds of acid phosphate may well be added to each load of manure before spreading. The application of manure should not be heavy—probably not over six tons to the acre in any case—and it should be spread evenly so as not to smother the plants.

COST OF PORK PRODUCTION

Young Growing Pigs Become Thin in Flesh If Compelled to Exist on Pasture Alone.

While a liberal use of pasture undoubtedly lowers the cost of producing pork, it is possible to overdo the matter. Mature hogs will live on a good blue-grass or clover pasture without any grain, but young, growing pigs become thin in flesh if compelled to exist on pasture alone. Their growth is stopped. And when this happens they do not finish satisfactorily for the fall trade. Those which are to be marketed in the spring when a year old get along very well on pasture alone during the grazing season and fatten well during the winter. From 1 to 3 per cent of the hog's weight in grain along with the pasture gives the most satisfactory results in the majority of cases.

TIME TO SPADE IN GARDENS

Work May Be Done Much Earlier on Sandy Soils Than on Heavy or Clayey Kinds.

Spading may be done much earlier on sandy soils than on heavy or clayey soils. When the soil adheres together in a heavy lump it is too wet for working. Allow such a garden to dry a little more, because if too wet the clods that form will often remain unbroken throughout the whole summer. When manure and leaves have been spread over the surface of the garden it will be an advantage to get this material down into the soil.

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Average Composition Derived From Mixed Timber Is Equivalent to 70 Per Cent Carbonate. Wood ashes have a much larger value than coal ashes. Their value lies in their content of potash, phosphoric acid and lime. The average composition of wood ashes derived from mixed hard and soft wood timber and produced in the household fires is about 5 per cent potash, 2½ per cent phosphoric acid and 35 per cent lime, equivalent to 70 per cent lime carbonate.

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DAIRY DAIRY

CLOVER FOR EARLY PASTURE

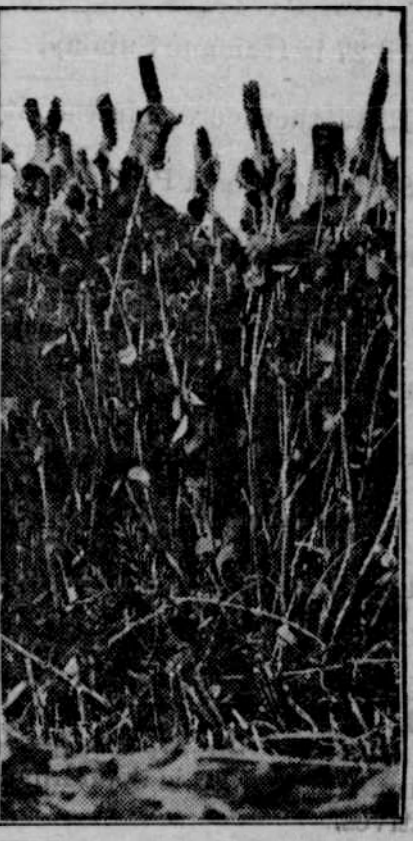
Highly Valued by Dairymen as Substitute for Silage and for Green Feed in Spring.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Excepting rye, crimson clover is the earliest pasture available in the spring in the Middle Atlantic states from New Jersey to North Carolina. Crimson clover is grown mostly for soil improving and for hay.

Crimson clover pasture is especially valuable for hogs and sheep, which relish this clover quite as much as they do red clover and alfalfa. It is highly valued by dairymen as a substitute for silage and as a means of obtaining green feed very early in the season. Many dairymen pasture their cows on crimson clover in order to save their silage for dry spells during the summer. An average acre of crimson clover furnishes day pasture for two or three cows and reduces the amount of silage that must be fed by about one-half.

Hogs, sheep and light cattle can be run on upland pastures throughout the winter and early spring except when snow is on the ground. Heavy cattle must not be turned on the fields when the ground is soft, although crimson clover is not injured by tram-



Crimson Clover, Showing Most Advanced Stage of Ripening Which is Allowable to Use for Hay.

pling as much as permanent blue grass sod. Crimson clover is not as likely to cause bloating as other clovers, but cattle, and especially young cattle, should not be allowed to graze when the clover is covered with frost.

DEFECTS IN BUTTER MAKING

Cooling Too Quickly or Working at Too Low Temperature Makes Butter Brittle. Butter that possesses a perfect texture has a flinty appearance. If the grain is destroyed it is usually the result of overworking or of too high temperatures. Such butter has a weak, greasy body. Cooling too quickly or working at too low temperatures, makes butter brittle and crumbly. If milky brine is present, it shows the lack of thorough washing. Leaky butter results from lack of thorough incorporation of wash water through washing in a fine granular form with cold water, then working insufficiently. A dry body is due to excessive churning or high churning temperature.

PROVIDE CALF WITH SALT

Supply of Clean, Fresh Water, Always Available Is Another Simple Requisite. By the time the dairy calf is old enough to eat roughage it should have either access to or small daily offerings of salt. Plenty of clean, fresh water, constantly available, is another simple and inexpensive requisite of good calf care that is too often neglected. Because a calf receives milk to drink is no reason why it does not require water. After the calf is two weeks old it needs water in small amounts at a time, though often.

NEW MILK FOR YOUNG CALVES

They Should Have It for First Two Weeks and Gradually Be Weaned to Skim Milk. Young calves ought to have new milk for the first two weeks of their lives, then they can gradually be weaned from new milk to skim milk, and at three or four weeks of age you can take the skim milk away from them by substituting a combination of grains and hay, or any other dry forage that they will consume. Then gradually teach them to eat whole grain, like oats and corn, and give this to them extra besides their porridge.