

BIG CROP ON ONE FARM

Kansas Grain Grower Who Began
25 Years Ago With Little
Except Hope.

MADE \$150,000 LAST YEAR.

Now Has 12,000 Acres of Land and
Will Plant It All in Wheat—
Sowing and Reaping.

The crop of wheat from one farm in Thomas county, Kansas, sold last year for \$150,000. That farm embraced 10,000 acres of land. This year 2,000 acres have been added to it and if the crop is as large and prices as good as last year the farm revenue should approximate closely \$200,000. And that, most any one will agree, is a pretty fair income for any down-trodden farmer.

But beginning with that kind of a statement is telling the story backward. To bring the real Kansas atmosphere into a story one must never speak of the dollars first, the Kansas City Star says. They always come, of course, in Kansas stories, but at the last and plentifully. To tell it right, one must start the story back twenty-five years, in this case, to the conventional setting when a pair of thin, jaded, harness-scarred ponies draws into the landscape and outlines against the setting sun a dilapidated covered wagon.

Bronzed by the sun, and with that spring that ambition puts into the young, the driver, "Jim" Fike, springs from the seat to the ground. From under a canvas he swings two chubby babies to the thick carpet of buffalo grass and turns to give his arm to his wife. They are young and vigorous and at once begin the making, on that wide prairie, that which they have been planning for years—a home.

There is the regulation routine, the location, the trip to the land office, the filing of homestead papers, the building of the sod shanty, the like of which dotted the prairies in thousands in those days; the breaking of virgin soil and the planting of the crops, and then—sometimes—the harvest. Through all the years of drought and hard times, through all the disappointments that come with the early settlement of a country, through the bountiful golden harvests, this man toiled on, working harder and harder, but always with the firm belief that the country was destined to be a great country of homes.

Hope died in many a breast these trying times and many were those who wended their way back to the old home because they lacked the brave heart to face the hardships. But "Jim" stayed. "Jim" he was to everyone who knew him in those days, and "Jim" he still is to every resident of Thomas county. "Jim" Fike is one of the largest and most successful wheat growers in America to-day.

The average yield last year on his 10,000 acres was about fifteen bushels an acre. The price paid for the wheat, which was not sold in the usual way, but marketed in carload lots, was within a few cents of \$1 a bushel. A large portion of it was shipped to the West, where millers were especially eager to obtain it.

The Fike wheat farm does not all lie contiguous, being made up of a number of farms ranging from 320 to 2,400 acres in extent. Harvest usually begins about July 1, but last year harvest was late, and all over Thomas county the hum of the header did not begin until about July 15. To cut this 10,000 acres of wheat in fifteen days requires intelligent and systematic handling of the small army required to complete the work before the wheat is ruined in the field. Seven big steam plows were used in the fall plowing for this season's crop.

FINDING A COUNTRY HOME.

Some of the Mistakes Which Must Be Guarded Against by Novices.

It is easy to prove that an income of \$1,000 in the country is worth \$2,000 in the city, and that the difference is saved in the cost of living and in the fact that the home helps to support itself. On the other hand, there are vexations, disadvantages and even hardships incident to rural life, and they cannot fairly be passed by, says Ralph D. Paine in Collier's. Money is bound to be wasted in experiments, in bungling methods, and in learning how to do things right. The utmost vigilance is required to avoid spending what is saved on the one hand by going ahead too fast with improvements on the other. A dozen temptations to put more money into the place lie in ambush at every turn. Economy is fully as difficult as in the city. Isolation, lack of congenial society, and maddening inability to find efficient servants—in fact, any kind at all—are insistent factors of the problem. The initial outlay is likely to be no more than half the ultimate cost. Tools and equipment pile up bills to dismay the novice. Labor is lazy and untrustworthy. If there are children, and there ought to be children in every country home, their education must be considered.

It still remains true, however, that to find and own and improve one's own farm, however small and humble, is an achievement worth fighting for, whether it be for an all-the-year-home or not. And few there be who have won this fight that would willingly return to the flat in the city or the hired house in the suburbs with its fifty-foot

frontage of lawn. The ownership of land, and plenty of it, creates a spirit of independence. It was the "embattled farmers" who drove back the red-coats from the redoubt on Bunker Hill. To-day the foreign immigrant is populating the abandoned farms of the Eastern States and gaining prosperity for himself and his children.

The man who is tied to the city by his business or profession, yet who genuinely desires for himself and his family the peculiar kind of contentment, health and self-reliance that are bred of country life, has the solution of the problem in his own hands. Let him first choose the region in which he wishes to live. Then let him lease a farm for a year, spend as much time on it as he can afford and learn all he can about making it productive. If he takes kindly to the experiment, let him go in quest of a farm of his own, buy it (and farms are sold on uncommonly easy terms of payment) and make up his mind to retire to it whenever circumstances will permit. Owning a country home is not a speculation. It is one of the soundest and sanest investments in the world.

POPULAR SCIENCE

The Simplex system of driving concrete piles, which the British admiralty is trying at Rosyth, is the invention of an American, F. Shuman. A steel tube, having a loose point or a pair of hinged jaws at the lower end, is first driven to the required depth. Then, as the tube is withdrawn, concrete is introduced, and this passes through the now opened lower end and fills up the hole made by the tube. The concrete is filled up to a level several feet above the finished head of the pile, in order to allow for sinking as the tube is withdrawn. The plan has been successfully tried in many places.

In an English review of the progress in aeronautics following 1909 the first place in the list of unsolved problems is given to that of obtaining a certain degree of automatic stability at slow speeds. It is recognized that the high velocity of flight required to enable the aeroplane simply to keep aloft must be lowered before the machines can become truly useful and safe. Another question is that of the engine. In order to make this certain in operation, it is suggested that the weight must be still further reduced, so as to permit either of a duplication of parts, or of the employment of two complete engines, each under normal conditions working at only a fraction of its full power.

A remarkable photograph of half a dozen porpoises, playing under water, just ahead of the bow of a steamship traveling at the rate of 13 knots an hour, has been published by a correspondent of Knowledge, C. H. Gale. The sea was calm and the photograph was made by leaning over the bow of the vessel. Mr. Gale calls attention to the singular fact that the porpoises, while easily maintaining their position ahead of the ship, showed no apparent effort or motion of body, tail or fin. Yet he thinks that they were not carried along by movement of the water in front of the vessel, because air bubbles were seen rushing from their backs, and the photograph shows the effect of these bubbles by the white streaks on the backs of the animals. Sometimes they rolled over sideways, but always maintained their position.

In a recent book about ants, Rev. H. C. McCook gives some surprising facts about the mound-making ants of the Alleghenies. He has measured some mounds more than 30 feet in circumference, although rarely more than three feet in height. But around these there are many new mounds, in course of construction, only a few inches in height. They are found in groups, one of which, near Hollidaysburg, Pa., contains 1,700 mounds within a space of 50 acres. Their total population is enormous, and each group of mounds appears to constitute a community—an insect kingdom or empire. In regard to their numbers, Doctor Forel is quoted as saying that these ant kingdoms have in all probability from 200,000,000 to 400,000,000 inhabitants, "all forming a single community, and living together in active and friendly intercourse."

Ruskin's Grave.

Ten years ago John Ruskin passed peacefully away at Coniston. A grave in Westminster Abbey was immediately offered by the dean, but was refused out of respect for Ruskin's frequently expressed wish that he might be buried wherever he chanced to die, says the Westminster Gazette. He was laid to rest in Coniston churchyard on Jan. 25. In poets' corner there is a medallion of him by Onslow Ford, immediately above the bust of Sir Walter Scott. In his native Camberwell the master's memory is perpetuated by the bestowal of his name upon the finely wooded park on Denmark hill, within a stone's throw of his old home.

His Opportunity.

"How did you manage to go through every house on that block in broad daylight without being detected?" asked one burglar.

"Very easily," replied the other. "I selected a time when a moving van drove up to a vacant dwelling. I worked while the neighbors were hanging out of the front windows to criticize the furniture."—Washington Star.

It's easier to break away than it is to get back.

Successful physicians are lucky guess



Poultry House for Five Dollars.

We have two poultry houses made from rough lumber, sawed from a tree out of the woods, and covered with shingles, but the cheapest one we have I made out of scraps of lumber found around the barn and lumber pile—such as can be found on most farms. Inside measurements are 10x12 feet, 5½ feet high in front, 4 feet at back and 7½ feet at the comb, which is 3 feet from front.

We like this shape and size of house very much and if we were building another, think we would build the same shape of roof, as it is convenient and easy to get around in it.

"Of course, there were cracks and irregular shaped boards in my house, but after I had covered the entire



A FIVE DOLLAR HEN HOUSE.

house with three-ply roofing paper these were covered up and we had a nice looking, warm and dry house.

The window in front is 3x4 feet and is hinged so it can be easily opened for ventilation. At the end of the house I made a smaller window of ten panes of glass. These window openings are covered on the outside with ½-inch mesh wire screen. We have an inside door of lath, which we can close and leave outside one open on mild days in winter when the ground is covered with snow and we don't want the chickens out, or at night in summer.

It required four squares of roofing paper to cover the entire house, which cost us about \$3.75. We buy 8x10 glass by the box of 100 panes; so the 26 panes cost about 52 cents, and the wire netting for windows 75 cents. I built the house four years ago and it is as good as ever, excepting the roof, which was damaged by a very hard hail storm last spring. We put new paper on top of old, and it is now as good as new.—Mrs. J. E. Thompson, in Farm and Home.

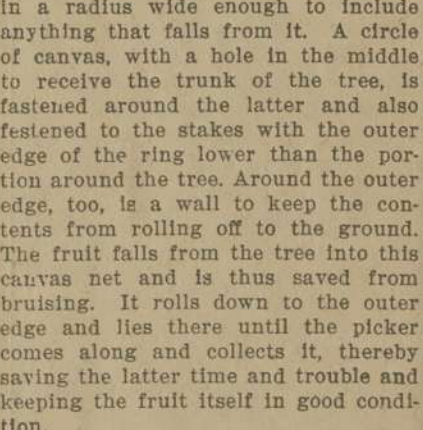
The Quality of Butter.

The quality of butter depends to a great degree upon the food and drink of the cow. She should have clean, pure water and wholesome food. Much care should be taken in the selection of the ration. The individual cow has much to do in this regard. But with respect to the part that is played in handling the product of the cow too much carelessness is evident in the processes of butter-making. After churning is finished the butter and milk mixture should remain quiet for about ten minutes in order to let the butter come to the surface. A cup of cold water will hasten the process. An old recipe says:

The butter should be carefully skimmed off into a wooden bowl half full of water. The water should be repeatedly changed until it shows no indication of milkiness. It is important that the butter should not be pressed or worked during the process of removing the milk from the butter. After this the butter may be pressed into a mass and salt to the extent of one-fourth its weight worked into it. The water should be well pressed out, but the less worked the more perfectly its granular character is maintained.

Catches All the Fruit.

One of the most ingenious of time-saving contrivances is the fruit gatherer designed by a Kentucky man. It collects all the fruit that falls from a tree and holds it where it can be quickly picked up and placed in a basket, also saving the apples, pears or whatever they may be from damage by falling. A circle of stakes is driven around the tree in a radius wide enough to include anything that falls from it. A circle of canvas, with a hole in the middle to receive the trunk of the tree, is fastened around the latter and also fastened to the stakes with the outer edge of the ring lower than the portion around the tree. Around the outer edge, too, is a wall to keep the contents from rolling off to the ground. The fruit falls from the tree into this canvas net and is thus saved from bruising. It rolls down to the outer edge and lies there until the picker comes along and collects it, thereby saving the latter time and trouble and keeping the fruit itself in good condition.



Fat Sometimes Disadvantage.

Fat covers up weakness, a fact which purchasers do not duly consider. The ability does not seem to be cultivated by many, notwithstanding the great value of such ability. Even buyers of young dairy bulls are likely to give preference to young bulls that carry the most flesh.

Hatching Turkey Eggs.

Turkey hens are profitable until five years of age, but it is a good plan to change the gobblers every year. It requires twenty-eight days to hatch a turkey egg and seven eggs are considered a sitting. The nests should be on the ground.

Rheumatism of Horses.

In the highly fed and pampered horse, inadequately exercised, a form of rheumatism, indistinguishable from gout, is met with, says Horse World. It chiefly affects the fetlock, but may attack the navicular joint when the patient experiences "those pains arthritic which infect the toe of libertine excess."

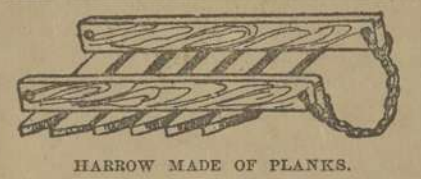
The lameness is peculiarly painful when the latter joint is involved, as no swelling can take place and give relief which is afforded by the puffing of a fetlock, a knee or hock. There can be little doubt that many of the intermittent foot lamenesses attributed to true navicular disease are rheumatic in origin, and that the so-called cures of navicular lameness otherwise than by the operation of unnerve are due to the disappearance of rheumatic arthritis. Many navicular bones examined after the death of horses long suffering from disease have all the appearances of the rheumatic deposits.

The Milk Industry.

The milk producers of Northern Illinois have decided to resurrect a dormant industry in their fight against the milk trust. They are considering plants to re-establish their own creameries which were sold to the Borden Company ten or fifteen years ago. These will act as an outlet for their product if the association does not succeed in establishing its own distributing depot in Chicago, which is looked upon as more than a possibility. Fifteen years ago the Northern Illinois section was dotted with creameries established by the farmers, many of them being run on the co-operative plan. This was when the Borden Company was beginning to branch out. Offers of purchase were made to facilitate trading with the farmers and they agreed with most disastrous results.—Agricultural Epitomist.

Homemade Plank Harrow.

A good homemade harrow can be made by fastening together several planks so that each plank overlaps the one next to it like the clapboards of a building. It is said to be as good



HARROW MADE OF PLANKS.

as a roller for smoothing and fining the surface soil on lumpy ground. It will be found to work especially fine in the lighter soils. It can be used also for broadcasting small seeds and in the planting of garden truck.

Fattening Fowls.

Buckwheat meal is very good to use in fattening chickens, but should be used in preference mixed, half of its bulk of other meal, choice being given to cornmeal or ground oats. To fatten a fowl you should commence doing so exactly eighteen days before the fowl or fowls are needed for killing or for marketing, as after eighteen days of fattening they begin to lose flesh instead of gaining it.—A. V. Meersch in Western Poultry Journal

Cost of Producing Eggs.

A bulletin from Cornell University gives the results of a record of a few hundred hens kept in 1902 as 9.2 cents per dozen for the average feed cost of eggs throughout the year. Some figures published in Farm Poultry gave the record of a large number of poultry keepers, which shows the average cost of eggs per dozen in winter as 15 cents, in summer 8.7 cents. Under present prices the feed alone would be about 11 to 12 cents per dozen.

Slow Development Best.

When one is growing baby beef there are good reasons for forcing the feeding. With that class of animals forcing is necessary, but is not necessary with animals that are to stand at the head of herds. Development more than normally quick will be of no advantage to them. With them that style of development should be followed that will result in fullest and most vigorous growth when matured.

Smallest Cows in the World.

The smallest cows in the world are found in the Samoan Islands. The average weight of the males does not exceed 200 pounds. The females average about 100 pounds, they are very stockily built and are seldom taller than a merino sheep. In color these cattle are nearly all alike, a reddish mouse color marked with white. They have very large heads, and their horns are of exceptional length.

Fastening Wires to Small Posts.

If you are using hedge fence posts, especially small ones, the only sure way to fasten the barb wire to them is to wire it with hay wire. The staples might possibly stick at first, but the chances are that there will be a crack at that point and the staple will drop out or be pulled out sooner or later.

Sowing Beet Seed.

Beet seed should be sown rather thinly, if you want to save back-breaking thinning. Parsnip seed should be sown rather thickly to insure their getting through. In thinning parsnips never touch them when wet, as wet leaves touching any part of the hand, usually unexposed, will make painful blisters.

Utilizing Manure.

We have a small dairy of about fifty-six cows, mostly Jerseys, and sell milk, cream and butter. The manure from this herd is stored under shelter and applied with a spreader to wheat and young grass, says a writer in an exchange. We think that best results are secured by this method of applying

THE WEEKLY HISTORIAN



1684—A charter for an American colony was granted by Queen Elizabeth to Sir Walter Raleigh.

1622—The Indians massacred 349 of the Virginia colonists.

1676—Marlborough, Mass., destroyed by Indians.

1719—Spanish fleet intended for the invasion of England dispersed by a storm.

1764—A circular letter was issued by the Presbyterians of Philadelphia preparatory to the organization of a synod.

1765—The British Stamp Act became law.

1790—Benjamin Franklin petitioned Congress to abolish slavery, this being his last public act.

1807—Abolition of the slave trade in the British Empire.

1808—The French under Murat entered Madrid.

1815—Napoleon joined by all the army after his return from Elba.

1836—Steam power was introduced into the mint at Philadelphia.

1838—Sir Francis Bond Head resigned office as lieutenant governor of upper Canada.

1849—Complete defeat of the Sardinians by the Austrians at Novara.

1854—Great Britain declared war against Russia.

1861—Vote of Louisiana on secession made public. First State Legislature of Kansas met.

1862—Gladstone presided at the presentation in London of a \$10,000 testimonial to Charles Kean, the celebrated actor.

1863—Confederates under Clark captured Mount Sterling, Ky.

1865—The British Parliament granted \$250,000 for the defense of Canada.

1867—The British North American Act received the royal assent.

1871—Commune proclaimed at Paris.

1873—John Drew made his first appearance on the stage at the Arch Street Theater, Philadelphia.

1877—Execution of John D. Lee, Mormon bishop, convicted of being the main instigator of the Mountain Meadows massacre.

1880—Great banquet given in Montreal in honor of Sir Alexander Tilloch Galt, the first Canadian high commissioner in London.

1882—Samuel Blatchford of New York appointed an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

1885—The Saskatchewan rebellion broke out with an attack of half-breeds upon the Northwest Mounted Police.

1890—President Harrison declared the Bering Sea closed to unlicensed seal fishing.

1892—The British and French governments renewed the "modus vivendi" respecting the Newfoundland lobster fisheries.

1897—Opening of the second session of the eighth Parliament of Canada. New steel arch bridge over the Niagara River completed.

1900—Canadian troops arrived at Cape Town to engage in war with the Boers.

1903—Strike in the cotton mills at Lowell, Mass., threw 20,000 out of employment.

1904—United States Senator Joseph R. Burton of Kansas convicted at St. Louis of accepting a bribe.

1908—Great Britain and the United States reached an understanding in regard to the fresh water fisheries disputes between Canada and the United States.

1909—Crown Prince George of Serbia renounced succession to the throne. New Zealand offered a battleship to the British Imperial army. Lieut. Shackleton, of the British navy, reached New Zealand after having penetrated to within 111 miles of the south pole.

Explorers Believe Peary.

The new element of distrust thrown about the story of Commander Peary by the refusal of the House Committee to favor special honors for his discovery of the North Pole has brought out a defense from two noted polar explorers. Knud Rasmussen, the Danish expert in Arctic travel, is quoted as saying that the length of sledge journeys which Peary claims to have made is not impossible. Rasmussen himself says he has traveled on sledges from seventy to 100 miles in a day. But still he thinks it a little strange that Peary made those wonderful marches on his return journey from the pole when his dogs must have been very tired. Rasmussen thinks Peary should give all his data to Congress. From London comes an interview with Lieut. Shackleton, who holds the Antarctic record. He says one can not have the slightest doubt of Peary's achievement.

A Fortune in Bugs.

The University of Kansas has a collection of insects which has just been invoiced and valued at \$47,000. The collection was begun in 1873 and there are now 130,000 specimens, all mounted and labeled. Most of the specimens are American insects, but there is a fair foreign collection obtained through exchange. All the known Kansas crop pests are mounted, together with samples of their ravages, and the farmers are being taught how best to make war upon them.

VALUE OF SOCIAL QUALITIES.

Every Mother Should See That Her Daughter Possesses Them.

Thank goodness we are getting away from the idea that to be frivolous is wicked and nowadays up-to-date parents insist that their children shall face life with a laugh rather than a serious face and that they shall have accomplishments as well as virtues.

This question of accomplishments is a very important one in a world which is selfish and exacting and doesn't want to give without receiving in return, the Duluth News-Tribune says.

Who has not seen the wallflower girl, who, when others were entertaining the company, replied solemnly: "I have no parlor tricks," which trite saying veiled very thinly the fact that she was secretly envious of the cleverness of the others and wished she could unlimber and do something herself.

Now, whose fault is it—the girl's? No, indeed—her mother.

No doubt that estimable maternal relative was of the sort who believe it their "duty" to see that the child tells the truth, is neat, punctual and obedient. No frills was her motto, but a thorough drilling in the three Rs, and, as she often observed to her little girl, "handsome is as handsome does."

Well, that may have often been the case in her day, but just now we are thinking of a great deal of the veneer, it would seem.

It is very easy for a clever mother to cultivate social talents in her children. Most little ones show a leaning in some direction, and it is a matter of patience and tact to cultivate this. The main thing is to free the child from the dreaded curse of self-consciousness, which prevents so many women from making a success, no matter how gifted the yare.

Encourage the children to give little entertainments for the family in which each one does his part.

Never laugh at mistakes, but enter into the spirit of the children themselves. Home concerts are splendid things, with mother playing the piano and every one, even the tiniest tot, joining in the singing.

Make the boys and girls feel they have no right to hide their gifts, but should give them unselfishly toward the entertainment of their relatives and friends. In this way you will bring to them the true spirit of social life, which is an even mixture of give and take.

A LAUGH ALL AROUND.

And, as Usual, Those Who Laughed Last Laughed Best.

"Common decency is cheap abroad," said the man who had just returned from his first trip to Europe. "During all the time I was on the continent I was subjected to discourtesy in but one instance, and I think I got away with it then, at that."

"We were crossing one of the Swiss passes by diligence, or coach, and stopped off for luncheon at some little town. It was hot, and I suppose I made rather a comical sight in my shirt sleeves and black glasses, with a handkerchief over my collar, as I stepped out of the vehicle to the road. I suppose, too, that the brand of French in which I tried to ask questions was pretty ragged."

"Anyway, a group of young Frenchmen waiting in a carriage while their team was changed saw in me their long lost original scream, and the way they laughed was convincing, if not flattering. They weren't backward about pointing out the real, racy bits in the picture either, and they only laughed harder when I glared at them mildly. Another American and I trudged off for lunch, and when we came back there was a bunch ready to take up the howl at me again. I looked at my compatriot and he at me. I don't think either of us put the idea in words, but we began."

"We began to laugh. We fell into each other's arms and laughed. We held each other up and laughed. We laughed till the tears rolled down our cheeks. We laughed till we couldn't stand. We rolled into our coach, still laughing, taking inspiration for each outburst from a glance at the Frenchmen."

Well, sir, that bunch of Frenchmen just wilted. First they closed their mouths; then they lost their grins; then each one began squinting at the other, trying to make out what was wrong. Before we'd been at it two minutes they all discovered they needed a drink and sneaked off to the little hotel. We laughed till we saw the last of them, and then we laughed at the way we had turned the trick."—Chicago Tribune.

An Unnecessary Adjunct.

Many of us have heard of the woman traveler who, while riding through the Yosemite, exclaimed, "Oh, I do love scenery; it adds so!" M. C. M. Simpson, in "Many Memories of Many People," instances an opposite case where "the scenery was considered not only unnecessary, but rather obtrusive. In speaking of Sir George Cornwall Lewis, the famous English statesman, the writer says:

Although greatly beloved, he had a very cold manner. He was a marked contrast to his enthusiastic wife, Lady Theresa, who once complained that a tree overshadowed a window of the drawing room of their country house, and interfered with the view. Said Lewis, calmly and rather contemptuously: "Why can't you, when you come into the country, sit with your back to the window and read a book?"

Some smart men do not properly estimate the importance of politeness.

Nothing jolts a woman's sweet trusting disposition like marriage.