

ENTRANCE CLOSED

PORT ARTHUR IS NOW BLOCKED TO BIG VESSELS.

Battleship Is in the Way—Only Small Cruisers Can Go Out—Japan Foresees Possibility of Coal Being Held Contraband of War and Has Immense Supply on Hand.

London, March 7.—Little change in the Far Eastern situation is reported this morning. It is apparent that the Japanese are busily engaged in transporting their forces into Corea, and this work is facilitated by the enforced inactivity of the navy.

According to the Sebastopol correspondent of the Daily Graphic, Admiral Skrydloff has learned privately from Port Arthur that the Russian battleship Retzivan lies in such a position as to block effectually the exit of battleships from the harbor, the passage being practically only the cruisers. The correspondent adds that Russia's new battleships now building on the Baltic will not be ready for active commission before the end of August.

The Japanese officer who has charge of Japan's financial and commercial interests in England declares that the government foresees the possibility of coal being declared contraband of war, and that it had been collecting large stores of Welsh steam coal for years, so that today it has a supply sufficient for the navy for years to come.

According to a Tokyo correspondent of the Standard, the Mikado has sent a personal message to the Emperor of Corea assuring him that the war was declared solely with the view to securing permanent peace, and expressing the sincere wish that the recently concluded Japanese Korean protocol would increase the intimacy of the two countries.

On the strength of a statement made by a missionary, the Shanghai correspondent of the Daily Chronicle sends in a doubtful report that 28 Japanese sailors have landed at Tientsin, west of Chefoo, saying their vessel had sunk as the result of an engagement with Russian warships, which also went down. No Russian warships, but 200 Japanese were rescued by Chinese junk. This action is reported to have occurred between Port Arthur and Miao in Laotieshou channel.

GO TO PANAMA.

Canal Commissioner Called to Washington for Conference.

Washington, March 7.—Admiral Walker, chairman of the Isthmian canal commission, had a conference today with the President relating to canal affairs. At the conclusion of the conference Admiral Walker said he had advised the commission by telegraph to come to Washington at their earliest convenience. He said he expected the commission would sail for the isthmus on March 22. If, however, all the members could not arrange their affairs so as to leave at that time the commission would leave a week later.

It is said the President adopted an unusual procedure in specifically naming in the list of nominations Admiral Walker as chairman of the commission, as it is usual to leave the selection of chairman to the commission. But there were slight signs of friction, it is said, which impelled the President to prevent any contest in the commission by naming the chairman himself.

Rear-Admiral Rixey, Surgeon-General of the Navy, is going to Panama to make an inspection of the sanitary conditions on the isthmus. No date has been set for his departure, but he will have a conference with Rear-Admiral Walker before working out the details of his trip.

The health of marines and of the officers and men on the ships on duty in Isthmian waters comes under the charge of Rear-Admiral Rixey, and he will make a careful investigation of the sites selected for camps, and on his return probably will draft a report he may see fit regarding proper quarters for the men and the making of whatever sanitary safeguards he thinks necessary.

There are on the isthmus six surgeons of the navy already. One of them who has just returned reports that the health of the men is excellent.

Anxiety for Von Waldersee.

Hanover, Prussia, March 7.—The condition of Field Marshal Count Von Waldersee is causing anxiety among his friends. He has been ill for some days, and is losing strength. There was no improvement late tonight, according to dispatches from Hanover. Professor Orth of Berlin, and Professor Epstein of Göttingen, have diagnosed the disease as intestinal inflammation. The Count is very weak and the worst is feared. Emperor William has ordered that full reports of the Field Marshal's condition be wired him frequently.

Naval Station a Live Issue.

Washington, March 7.—Almost the entire time of the senate today was given to consideration of the question of a site for a naval training station on the Great Lakes. The controversy arose over the appointment of a new commission to select a site. The committee amendment was so amended as to make it apply to all the Great Lakes and not alone to Lake Michigan, but Quarles' amendment calling for a new commission to select a site was not acted on.

Great Earthquake in Peru.

Lima, Peru, March 7.—A tremendous earthquake, which did much damage, occurred here at 5:20 this morning. Nothing comparable with it has been experienced during the last 30 years.

GALE DRIVES FIRE.

Prairie Fire Sweeps Over Oklahoma With Great Damage.

Lawton, Okla., March 5.—Driven by a terrific gale from the north, which at times reached the velocity of 90 miles an hour, a prairie fire swept over thousands of acres of Kiowa and Comanche counties last night, destroying hundreds of farm buildings and much live stock, made 1000 persons homeless, caused the death of several persons, threatened a number of towns and swept away scores of buildings in the outskirts of towns.

The losses from wind and fire reported to date follow: Hobart, \$4000; Vinson, \$8000; Lawton, \$10,000; small country towns, aggregate, \$50,000; farm property, \$100,000.

The country was very dry, no rain having fallen for months. Grass and stubble fires set by farmers, as is customary at this season of the year, were soon driven beyond control by the gale, which rose suddenly.

All estimates of the loss exceed \$200,000. At Hobart, the county seat of Kiowa county, the fire destroyed numerous outlying buildings. The 75,000 acres of Government military and timber and Indian reserve near Hobart were swept with loss of buildings and cattle.

In the Homestead district near Lawton, occurred the loss of life. Late at night the fire began moving southward toward the city. At 12 o'clock, midnight, 5000 people of this city were in battle with the flames.

The advance line of the fire was fully two miles in length and moved in a semicircular form. Two thousand men turned their efforts to checking the grass borders of the reservation at the city limits. Water from every source, carried in every conceivable way, was distributed along the line and carried all around the city limits. This served the purpose of checking the advance lines of the fire, but was of little avail in hindering the continued rolling of the firebrands into the streets of the city.

In more than a hundred places flames arose from dwellings, barns and out-houses, but wherever a blaze grew men were present to quench it with water. As a result of the cool judgment of the fighters, the city's loss was only \$10,000.

Stories are coming in tonight of how families laid out on the barren prairie through the freezing night after the storm had passed with only the thin clothes on their backs as reminders of once prosperous homes. Hundreds of people are destitute and are suffering intensely in the cold with the excruciating pains caused by their burns. Clothes, medicine and physicians are being sent out from all the cities and towns of the district to relieve the suffering.

TO RENEW FIRE.

Japanese Ships Believed to Be Replenishing Supplies.

St. Petersburg, March 5.—The authorities are badly puzzled at the apparent disappearance of the Japanese squadron which has been investing Port Arthur, and are inclined to believe that the ships are being coaled and their ammunition supply replenished, in order to renew the bombardment at an early date.

The report which is being persistently circulated by the "official" news agency that the Japanese have retired discouraged at their lack of success in damaging the fortress, and the severe injury to some of their ships, is laughed at by the best-posted of the naval experts here. They point out that the ships of the Japanese squadron have used a great deal of ammunition in their several bombardments of the fortress, and declare it was to be expected they would have to withdraw to their base in order to load supplies and coal.

CEMENT BIDS EXCESSIVE.

Government Will Erect Own Plant at Arizona Irrigation Works.

Washington, March 5.—The Interior department today rejected all the bids submitted several days ago for the supply of some 150,000 to 250,000 barrels of Portland cement to the government for the Salt River irrigation project in Arizona. The action is the result of the excessive prices submitted by the cement manufacturers, the department stating that first-class Portland cement can be manufactured at the dam-site on Salt River from good materials at hand there for less than \$3 a barrel, including the entire cost of the plant, fuel, operation, etc.

The department will now consider the question of erecting a plant for the Government manufacture of the cement, the purchase of the supply in open market, or readvertisement of bids.

Steamers Intended for Russia.

Tacoma, Wash., March 5.—While no confirmation of the fact is obtainable at this time, the belief is gaining ground that the steamers sold by the Northern Pacific Steamship Company to the Northwestern Siberian Company are intended for the Russian government, and will never be put on the Alaska run, except to pass Alaska on their way to Kamchatka. The fact that John Rosene, manager of the purchasing company, recently returned from St. Petersburg, and the further fact that he is owner of valuable concessions from the Russian government, lends odor to the report.

To Prevent Crossing of Yalu.

Seoul, March 5.—The Russian forces at Anju are compelling the Koreans to supply them with rice, fodder and fuel. The Russians are fortifying Anju heavily, with the apparent intention of preventing the Japanese from crossing the Yalu. The commander of a British gunboat, bringing down residents of that nationality from Song Chong, reports the death of Prince Yi Chai Sun, a nephew of the former king and a man who has filled all the high posts in the kingdom.

Siberian Reserves Anxious to Go.

St. Petersburg, March 5.—Mail advices from Siberia say the army reserves from the rural districts seem to be more anxious to go to the front than the townsmen. Many of the latter are presenting physicians' certificates of illness.

SUNK BY SHELLS

RUSSIANS AGAIN LOSE IN BATTLE AT PORT ARTHUR.

One Torpedo Boat Sunk and Two Battleships Badly Damaged—Attacking Fleet Which Withdraws in Good Order, Is Met Outside, but Opponents Soon Seek Shelter.

London, March 2.—A dispatch to the Daily Telegraph from Yinkow, dated February 29, says:

Fifteen Japanese warships furiously bombarded Port Arthur from 10 to 12 o'clock this morning. The Russian cruisers Novik, Askold and Bayan, accompanied by four torpedo-boats, steamed out to meet the attack. They were, however, forced to retire. The Askold was in a sinking condition. The Novik was badly damaged, and a torpedo-boat was sunk. The Russian battleship Retzivan was again damaged. The Japanese withdrew in good order.

This battle shows a repetition of the now familiar tactics of Japan, and it is presumed the attack was made in bad weather, previous telegraphic advices having reported a severe gale raging at Port Arthur. As usual the Japanese did not remain long enough off the harbor to enable the gunners at the fort to get their range. Again at the time the three cruisers, the Bayan, the Askold and Novik, came out to meet the attack, and this suggests that either they were the only effective ships there, or that the larger battleships were unable to get out.

Many alleged dispositions of the opposing forces are published this morning, but they differ too much in detail to be of any great value.

A dispatch from Shanghai to the Daily Chronicle says the Russians are transferring the guns from the disabled ships at Port Arthur to the forts there.

A dispatch from Chefoo to the Standard, dated February 29, says a Japanese cruiser and torpedo-boat entered that harbor without lights at 1 o'clock on the morning of the 29th, and it is believed they embarked the Japanese who took refuge there after the attempt to bottle up Port Arthur. A Tokyo correspondent of the Times cables that the steamers sunk by the Japanese on either side of the Russian battleship Retzivan at Port Arthur practically obstruct the entrance to the harbor.

NOT RELISHED BY RUSSIANS.

Chinese Troops Are Concentrating to the Westward of Mukden.

Liao Yang, March 2.—General Mishchenko, with a detachment of mounted Cossacks, has reached Kashajia, Corea, and is expected at Ichio Yang at once. His men and horses are in good condition and he is well supplied with provisions.

The concentration of Chinese troops westward of Mukden, in the district of Gubantsa, is not relished by the Russians. War material is being brought up and the militia posts are being strengthened. It is doubted if the attitude of the population can be relied upon. The people at several points refuse to sell produce to the Russians. Snowstorms are raging here and the frost is intense. The railroad is working perfectly and troops are arriving uninterruptedly. Their health and spirits are excellent.

SAY FORT WILL DESTROY FLEET

Russian Military Authorities Have No Fears for Port Arthur.

Moscow, March 2.—Interest throughout Russia is now fixed on Port Arthur, and speculation as to the probable fate of that supposedly impregnable fortress takes the widest range.

The publication of General Stosel's order to the troops, while it has had the effect of arousing enthusiasm in Russia, had also attracted attention to the tremendous strategic value of that fortress and to the crucial part it plays in Russia's plans for the defeat of the Japanese in Corea.

While the failure of the Japanese attempt to bottle up the fleet evoked sarcastic comment from the Russian press as to the Japanese cunning and the mischievousness of the enemy plans, the Russian military authorities are pointing out that this attempt having been defeated, therefore it must follow Port Arthur is impregnable and the Japanese can never capture it.

Original force of Rebels Was 3000.

Manilla, March 2.—General Leonard Wood reports, under date of February 15, an engagement with Datu Moros, under Hassan, on the island of Jolo. Lieutenant West and six privates were wounded. One has since died. The Moro loss was heavy. Hassan succeeded in making his escape. His original force of 3000 has now been reduced to 15. The island is now under control of the American authority, and influential Moros are aiding in the pursuit of the outlaws. The members of the constabulary who revolted at Vigan are all in custody.

No Trace of Japanese Fleet.

St. Petersburg, March 4.—The War Office has given out what purports to be a summary of an official telegram from Viceroy Aleieff, which states that Admiral Stark, commanding the Port Arthur squadron, reports that there was no attack by the Japanese on February 28 or 29. On March 1, Admiral Stark reports he made a reconnaissance with his cruisers and destroyers within a radius of 60 miles, but failed to discover any trace of the enemy.

Will Not Advance for Month.

Paris, March 2.—Reports received from Russian sources state that the Russian land preparations in Manchuria will not be completed for a month, and the general advance cannot be ordered before that time. It is then expected that whatever ground the Japanese have gained will be overcome and they will be finally annihilated.

NO TROOPS TO GO.

Cabinet Decides to Let Marines Remain at Panama.

Washington, March 3.—Important matters relating to the Panama canal were under discussion by President Roosevelt and his cabinet today. Attorney-General Knox and other officials of the department of justice have under consideration the title to the canal property, which is to be passed to this country by the Panama Canal Company, but as yet they have reached no conclusion.

It was said after the meeting that no money could be paid by this government until a clear title to the property was obtained, but no intimation was given as to the length of time which might elapse before a decision was reached.

The entire subject of the canal and its construction was discussed in addition to the legal phases of the question. In this connection it was decided, as heretofore indicated might be the case, to countermand the orders issued to the Third United States Infantry to go to the isthmus to relieve the marines now on guard duty there. For some time the marines will continue to guard the isthmus. This government is opposed to establishing two jurisdictions on the isthmus, and, as the naval vessels must remain there, it was thought best to allow the marines to continue to do land duty.

It is the earnest wish of the President and the members of the cabinet that no unnecessary delay occur in beginning the work on the canal, and it is their intention to press it with the utmost vigor.

CHINA CAUGHT IN A TRAP.

Russia Knows She Can Never Take Up Siberian Railway as Per Lease.

Paris, March 3.—Information has been received from Harbin which is extremely interesting at the present time, dealing as it does with the Trans-Siberian Railway. A correspondent of Martin met M. Chaffajon, the noted French explorer, and the latter discussed the railway which he has recently inspected. He declares Russia does not own the land the road is constructed on, despite the general opinion to the contrary. Russia merely has a 99-year contract or lease.

M. Chaffajon declares the treaty with China stipulates that, if at the end of 99 years, China desires to enter into possession of the line, she may do so, after reimbursing the company for all of its expenditures for the construction and maintenance of the road.

M. Chaffajon declares it is difficult to imagine China refunding to this Russian company the millions that would be necessary under the lease, and declares the Flowery Kingdom is caught in a trap.

The terms of the lease, also, he declares, provides that Russia shall have the right to place all of the soldiers necessary in the territory adjoining the line of road in order to guard it, and also to build such stations as it desires.

RUSSIA IN FEAR.

Combination of Yellow-Races May Be Formed Against Her.

Moscow, March 3.—Among thoughtful Russians, there is a constantly deepening impression that Russia will yet have to face the combined power of the yellow races, the cunning neutrality proclamations of China and Corea to the contrary notwithstanding. There are serious traces of despondency among the better class of Russians, and some solid Russian success is anxiously awaited and badly needed as a tonic.

The government, knowing this fact, caused to be circulated a report of a Russian success at Port Arthur yesterday, in which a Japanese warship was said to have been sunk, but the news was received with open skepticism in the absence of direct official confirmation.

It is semi-officially stated that the Japanese and Russian advance are in sight of each other, and news of the first land battle is awaited with a degree of apprehension.

News of the activity of the Chinese troops in the province of Chi Li is confirmed from official sources. Generals Yuan Shi Kai and Ma are concentrating their foreign-drilled forces at strategic points and trouble is feared.

Farmers Form Big Concern.

Omaha, Neb., March 3.—Twenty states were represented by 250 delegates to the National Co-Operative Graingrowers' and Stockraisers' Association, when that body convened here today. It provided that the name of the association shall be changed to the Farmers' National Exchange Company. Its object shall be to "buy, sell and deal in grain, livestock and all kinds of produce on commission and otherwise, and for that purpose build and equip elevators, warehouses, cold-storage plants, stockyards and whatever shall be necessary for the carrying on of the business."

Great Attack May Now Be On.

London, March 3.—No confirmation of the report published yesterday in the daily Telegraph that the Japanese had bombarded Port Arthur February 29 has been received from any point. The wires from the scene of war have been practically silent for the past 24 hours, and in some quarters this silence is supposed to indicate that Japan's great attack on Port Arthur is actually in progress, and consequently the use of the wires has been discontinued.

Essentially a Military City.

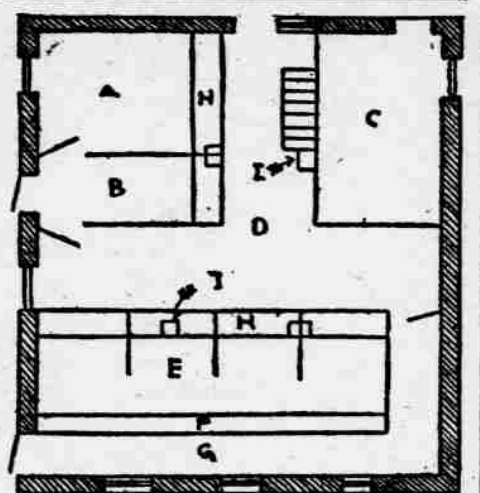
Yinkow, March 3.—Liao Yang, Manchuria, is now essentially a military city, as an area comprising three and a third square miles adjoining the railroad has been inclosed for a military camp and magazine purposes. There is also a military camp at Hai Cheng, Manchuria, 30 miles from Niu Chwang, which, with its defenses, covers over 1000 acres.



Small Stock Barn.

The accompanying plan of basement of barn, 30 by 34 feet, contains rooms for eight head of cattle, one single horse stall, one box stall, and one sheep pen. The floor above has a driveway of 12 feet, with a mow of 12 feet one side over the cattle, and one of 10 feet over the horses and sheep pen. The stairway goes down from the side of the barn floor and the feed is put down through a swinging door in the side of the mow beside the stairway. By using the swinging door it will always be kept shut and prevent draughts in the stables.

The cost of a cement concrete wall, and concrete stable floor, together with the frame work above, would be



PLAN OF STOCK BARN.

A—Box stall; B—Horse stall; C—Sheep pen; D—Feed room; E—Cow stall; F—Gutter; G—Passage; H—Cattle; H—H—Mangers; I, I—Posts under sill.

about \$415, besides the expense of boarding the men working on the barn. If the board has to be paid for it would cost about \$125.

Homes in the Country.

The advantages of country life over crowded quarters in our large cities was discussed in a sermon by Dr. John Merritt Driver delivered recently in one of the Chicago theaters. Dr. Driver said in part:

"With the almost illimitable empires in the West and Southwest, rich with opportunities for the poor man to acquire a home and competence, yet thousands beg in Chicago; other thousands live by crime alone; other multitudes eke out a pitiful livelihood always within easy reach of the tooth and claw of abject nakedness and starvation; others, by close and often humiliating economy, get along fairly well until the first strike or shutdown, or sickness, or accident, and then go to the wall."

"And yet out in God's country the green fields and blue skies and rippling brooks are fairly riotous with invitations, saying: 'Come hither from race course and dance hall; come out of slum and back alley and dingy tenement and find for yourselves and for your children acres of your own, society at once simple and inexpensive and yet self-respecting and ennobling, and religion pure and undefiled.'"

Cook Vegetables Outdoors.

The practice of cooking cabbage and turnips in the house sometimes leaves an odor that is unpleasant to most people, and some very good housewives do not cook these vegetables on this account. That these vegetables may be served without being bothered with this unpleasant condition, I have hit upon a very good plan. At first I took an old piece of stovepipe and made some openings in the bottom for admitting the air and in this pipe I made a good fire, hanging my kettle over as shown in the sketch. I liked this plan so well that I have since had a camping stove made for cooking things in an out-house or out of doors that leave an unpleasant odor in the dwelling.—Cor. St. Louis Republic.

Feeding Apples to Stock.

A correspondent asks for an opinion as to the advisability of feeding apples to farm stock of various kinds. There can be no possible objection to it, provided the feeding is done in connection with the other rations. A large orchardist living near the writer stores all his elder apples for feeding to his stock, as long as they last. In feeding to horses and cows his plan is to cut up several quarts of the apple into small pieces and mix grain with them.

In feeding to hogs, sweet apples only are used for this purpose. They are fed whole or, if large, cut in half. For poultry they are chopped fine and well mixed with bran, and sometimes with wheat, the feeding being done in a trough, so that there will be little waste. As a matter of fact, unless there is a silo on the farm, our animals get too little green food and oftentimes the surplus apples and potatoes, as well as other vegetables, can be used to better advantage in feeding stock than in any other way.

The Future of Poultry.

That the poultry industry of the country is yet in its infancy is clearly shown in the constantly-increasing demand of both eggs and dressed fowls.

The general trend of the markets for the past two years has shown a

shortage of supply, and a consequent advance in price, until to-day the products of the poultry yard are at high tide, with no prospects of any early change.

More poultry has been raised this season than ever before, and yet the people want more, and the demand will continue to grow.

The wise poultry man will, as the buying goes, "get in on the ground floor" and be prepared to furnish his part of the supplies which the markets are sure to demand.

Side Lines to Farming.

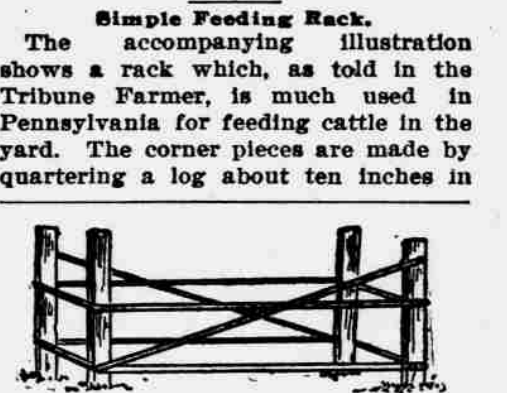
Some of these may be very profitably taken up by farmers as well as gardeners, advises Rural New Yorker. In some localities the farmers follow this course to such an extent that it is hard to tell just when farming leaves off and gardening begins. It is a good practice, and the small farmers are often able to turn as much clear money on two or three acres of sweet corn, cabbage, horehound or like crops as from their entire regular crops. It would be time well spent for many farmers favorably located to plan for some of these crops. There is easily \$75 to \$100 in an acre of sweet corn properly managed, and more than that in horehound. With the latter crop nearby markets are not so much of an object, as it will stand storing for high prices and hauling or shipping to any distance. The sweet corn, however, is an entirely different matter, and without easily accessible markets at the canning factories or the larger cities for immediate supply the grower will very likely get caught. Cabbage also is worthy of attention as it may be easily stored to await favorable market opportunities or long shipment if necessary. So there is no reason why many of the ordinary farms may not become far more profitable than as at present conducted.

Stunted Pigs.

Sometimes these are caused by an inherited disability to make use of the food given them, but probably more often by conditions after birth. If they are watched it will be found that the other pigs are driving them from the teats and later from the trough, says Farmers' Review. Having once become weakened they are less able than the other pigs to fight for their food and have to be satisfied with short rations. It is evidently a part of the plan of nature to eliminate the weakling as a breeder. However, these same pigs, if given a chance at the teats and the trough, often develop into good sized hogs and prove profitable. We would not, however, advise using such an animal as a breeder. The hint that nature has given us should be taken. We agree with her in wanting for breeders only the most vigorous.

Simple Feeding Rack.

The accompanying illustration shows a rack which, as told in the Tribune Farmer, is much used in Pennsylvania for feeding cattle in the yard. The corner pieces are made by quartering a log about ten inches in



FEEDING RACK.

diameter and five feet long. The boards should be five inches wide and one and a quarter inches thick. The figure simply shows the manner of making the rack, without claim of accuracy in dimensions. Four head of cattle can feed at one time, and all loss of feed is prevented in wet weather when hay or fodder would be trampled into the mud. Brace rack as shown.

Barley Crop Is Increasing.

The production of barley in the United States has increased greatly within the past few years. It is estimated, in a general way, that about two-thirds of the product is good enough for malting purposes, the remainder being used for feeding. Only a small proportion of the crop is exported; in the record year 1898-99 the exports amounted to 23,661,662 bushels, but this was exceptional. The usual quantity of exports in late years is from 6,000,000 to 8,000,000 bushels.

Farm Notes.

A Williamston (Mich.) farmer hired four women to husk corn, being unable to get men, and in seven days they husked 1,160 bushels.

If we could only do our own work as easily as we sometimes think we could do the other fellow's work what a happy life we would lead.

An Illinois farmer is said to dry out bins or cribs of damp grain by putting layers of drain tile through the mass. We should like to hear from any reader who has tried this.

Eggs are sold by the dozen regardless of size. Should potatoes be sold in the same manner a gigantic kick would be made by potato consumers. A dozen potatoes may weigh one or ten pounds.

The State of Wisconsin, says Rural New Yorker, is trying to get rid of the German carp in its southern lakes, which are destroying the bass and spoiling the wild celery beds that furnish a feeding ground for canvasback ducks.

It is very essential that each farmer should know the nature of his own soil. It may differ materially from that of a neighbor, in which case it would be folly to imitate him. Many failures are made by not knowing the nature of the soil. When a crop is grown on soil unfitted to it it is very much like fitting a square plug in a round hole. One should study to adapt crops to his soil.