

Home and Farm Magazine Section Editorial Page

Suggestions From Our Associate Editors, Allowing for an Interchange of Views, Written by Men of Experience on Topics With Which They Are Fully Acquainted—Hints Along Lines of Progressive Farm Thought.

FACTS FOR FARMERS.

THE farmer needs a market. Otherwise he will farm at a loss. Every consumer is a market-maker.

The silo is the farmer's best friend.

In the country you keep your cheek close to the breast of nature.

A cultivator under the shed is worth two left out in open weather.

Let farming become an abandoned profession and everything would stop.

Help to organize rural life and make the country a better place to live in.

Good cultivation not only helps growing crops but permanently improves the soil.

The proper preparation of ground works wonders in lessened cost of cultivation.

We can best serve our interests by giving all possible attention to marketing.

Production without thought to marketing is like building elaborately on foundation premises that are not true.

The man that owns the soil on which he lives is the only man whose feet do not rest on shifting sands.

As the season advances, the plow is the farmer's best friend, but when the season closes the silo comes in handy.

The commonly accepted theory that we are short on production is wrong. We are short on marketing information.

Many wealthy corporations and individuals have been telling the farmer how to plow, when they should have been telling him where and when to market.

The problem of marketing is the biggest business proposition of any age or nation, and one that will demand the combined efforts of all the agencies of civilization to solve.

BEAUTY VERSUS USE.

NERO could enjoy the spectacle of Rome burning. Children and fools naively would delight in a conflagration that would consume for spectacular purposes a million tons of coal a week. We let the equivalent waste in horsepower go on at Niagara and hear it called saving beauty for the people.

ELECTRICITY.

OTT here in the Northwest we are setting an example to civilization.

Farms anywhere within easy reach of a city or town now can be lighted, and usually are lighted, by electricity.

On many farms the hum of the electric motor is heard. Sewing machines are driven by electricity. Silos are filled; water pumped, feed cut up. It has one hundred and one uses.

Electricity is so easily controlled either by the push of a button or by automatic apparatus especially designed for that purpose, that one oftentimes loses sight of the complexity of the distribution system and control mechanism between the lamp and the source of supply.

Indeed, there are as many as a thousand points between the electric light station and the lamp where the most trivial fault will result in failure to receive light.

Trouble in the electric light station itself is never permitted to interfere with the service to customers; it is the trouble in the lines and house circuits which causes the lighting company most concern.

In the great majority of cases there is only a minute or two of work between no electricity at all and perfect satisfaction. The blowing of a fuse will place a house in entire darkness, yet a new fuse can be installed in a fraction of a minute.

Electric light companies throughout the country make it a point to

remedy these faults as speedily as possible, and in order that the electric light men may reach the seat of trouble as rapidly as possible, the companies provide motor cycles for repair men.

The fact that one of these men is able to make an average trip and arrive at the home of a customer within a few minutes of the time when the call is telephoned to the city or town office gives electric light companies an advantage and prestige.

It is usual to have the motorcycle repair corps on tap at any time of day or night.

This course involves heavy expense, but the lighting companies are ore than compensated in satisfied customers.

A HINT FOR US.

WE HAVE just visited Canada—Western Canada.

And we are still quite content to make our home in the Northwest.

Just the same we found a few ideas of special interest.

One in particular seemed worth while.

It gives an idea to our own railroads.

The Canadian Pacific Railroad has recently added to its staff a "scout," a man unknown except to a few officials, whose duty it is to travel over the system and discover those employes who are especially worthy of advancement.

Incidentally he will report those found wanting; but it is significant that his function primarily is not to make complaints but to make doubly sure that the deserving are recognized.

Undoubtedly this is a step in the right direction.

There is a feeling among railroad men that advancement is slow and that merit is not recognized.

Very likely if men can be brought to realize that the display of initiative will be appreciated and rewarded their attitude toward their work will be decidedly changed.

If the scout idea will bring home to the employes of the Canadian Pacific that their interest in the road will be appreciated and rewarded, it will help much in raising the line's efficiency.

Incidentally, when we see the courtesy and consideration Simms, our depot master, uses to everyone; when we see him wrestle with heavy trunks and bulky express packages, in between times rushing to the telegraph ticker or the telephone; making up voluminous reports, selling tickets and doing the scores of duties the railroad requires him to do cheerfully and well, we hope a "spotter" will come along and send in a report on Simms that will give him well-deserved promotion.

FARM LOAN EXAMPLE.

NO STATE in the Union has been the subject of more discussion as to its financial standing and prospects than Oklahoma.

Opened to settlement only 25 years, it has become one of the wonders of the nation, but through the process of development has been compelled to utilize a great deal of outside capital.

Most of the people who went to the state as farmers were poor. They have built cities and improved farms and made all the development of a prosperous commonwealth and are today standing with a splendid showing of their accomplishments.

The farm loan field of that state has seen its ups and downs.

It has gone through a period of depression when there came a period of low prices for real estate and an overwhelming debt.

Then it has come to the successful point of today.

Oklahoma in all its central section is capable of almost universal cultivation. Farms cover the land and the climate is such as to bring

excellent crop production. Cotton and corn, wheat and oats, alike are raised, and the stock interests are among the foremost in the West.

The success of this field has manifested itself in the history of investments made through a period of years. One insurance company has over \$7,000,000 in Oklahoma farm loans and is increasing its investments in that state. There are many large loan companies that handle millions in far loans and their record is phenomenal for the slight losses.

Yet interest rates are strong and the demand for money is active.

Two elements go into the Oklahoma loan field that make for strength.

One is the character of the people. They are among the most energetic of the West's population. They have the ability to get the most out of the soil. The other is the climatic and soil conditions that bring good crops and in almost every year give the farmers a profit.

Labor is cheap, many negroes being available for help. The warm winters make the expense of fuel and clothing lighter than up North and the long seasons give a chance to diversify crops.

Land values have steadily risen all through the state, until they are today standing at a figure that is likely to remain. Yet there is no boom value. That has long ago been squeezed out and the land is on an income basis.

In the eastern half of the state is what was, until five years ago, the Indian Territory. Here the Indian rights are to be considered, but they are rapidly becoming available for the owner, and the whites are taking the place of the redskin. Fine towns are growing up and schools and churches are being built.

The loan companies are making loans here less extensively than in the central section, but they will eventually make this one of their leading fields.

The Oklahoma farm loan is well established among careful investors and is gaining prominence as the state comes to a fuller prosperity.

The present season promises to be one of the best in the state's history, and with a good wheat crop, it will have a marvelously prosperous year. There is all the time an increasing population.

CARING FOR ANIMALS.

AS A PEOPLE we are somewhat short-sighted.

There has just been a capital example of this.

John D. Rockefeller has given another million dollars for the study of diseases in animals.

Now, we don't particularly admire Mr. Rockefeller as a man but that is no cause for the flippant and even bitter comment his action has aroused.

Critics profess to see more reason for the million in other quarters.

They say that human diseases should be eliminated before the ills of the lower creatures are taken into consideration.

Anything that Mr. Rockefeller does is, of course, a fair mark for those who are not enamored of him or impressed with his munificence.

Our inalienable right to kick at all times is granted without argument.

But it would seem that in the consideration of this particular donation a certain amount of intelligence might be manifested.

Many people incorrectly assume that lavish governmental and state appropriations for the prevention of disease among animals are based on pity for the animals.

Of course, the practical farmer knows this is rubbish.

By being careful over our animals we are acting purely selfishly.

Mr. Rockefeller is not bowed with grief over the sufferings of the hog with cholera.

Nor are our agricultural colleges.

Their anxiety is to preserve as many hogs as possible for the consumption of humanity.

The feelings of the hog are not considered.

Anthrax, cholera, pleuro-pneumonia, glanders, tick, fever and tuberculosis among our food and working animals play a decided part in the cost of living.

When hog cholera is conquered we may look confidently for a drop in the price of pork because the farmer will be able to sell hogs at less money and make more money.

Protecting the health of animals upon which we are dependent is one of the certain methods of benefiting humanity, and the Rockefeller gift will be certainly justified even if its benefits never become generally known.

PHILOSOPHY FROM A JAILER.

JOHAN L. Whitman, jailer of the Cook county jail, Chicago, recently made a speech to his guards and keepers.

"Although jailer, I can accomplish little without the united assistance of all my guards; they are just as necessary to the success of my ideas in the management of this jail as my own acts. . . .

"Always keep in mind that kindness is the key to all human hearts, and sympathy the passport to good fellowship. Men imprisoned here are human, and are entitled to every consideration they can consistently receive at our hands. Never strike a blow, never abuse an inmate. Rather give a kind word, a little sympathy, and the necessity for harsh treatment will soon vanish. Get the men to believe that you are their friends and not their natural enemies, and that you are here merely to do a plain duty as kindly as it can be done. When you will have done this you will have done everything."

Strikes us some of Whitman's ideas might work handling farm hands, store help and employes generally.

That about kindness would be worth trying at home.

PUT IN A SEPTIC TANK.

NO FARM where the use of a septic tank is possible should be without one," says Professor O. L. Waller, vice-president of the Washington State College at Pullman.

Farm sanitation is an important subject.

What is worth more to you than health!

A septic tank is a simple and effective sanitary device.

Put one in.

Any of the agricultural colleges in the Pacific Northwest will tell you how.

A LOT of farmer boys go to the city looking for trouble and when they find it they do not know what to do with it.

THE farmer who takes crop raising on faith gets many a hard jolt.

For Uniform Road Laws.

Through the co-operation of the American Bar Association and the American Highway Association the work of revising the road laws in different states has been undertaken with the object of codifying and simplifying them on a uniform basis. Many of the road laws are a century old, based on colonial legislation and following English precedent and are entirely out of use in modern traffic and conditions. Because of these obsolete laws it is impossible to give the nation a new network of improved highways, so a change must be made. The committee will urge upon the governors of the various states the necessity for legislative action and will provide a plan for such procedure.