

Farm and Garden

SEED CORN EVANGELIST.

How Professor Holden Taught Iowa Farmers to Plant Good Grain.

One day in 1904 an Iowa college professor worked out a problem in arithmetic which caused him to catch some of the real which the evangelists had caught in their training schools, and he resolved on a campaign in behalf of yellow and white, variegated and red, dent and flint, Indian corn, almost as unusual as that adopted by the traveling evangelists who had been calling men to account for the waste of life by wickedness.

Professor Holden's little problem showed the farmers were increasing in value because of the new and complex development and new armies of pioneers pushing into the west. At the rate they were producing the best would soon stop "paying dividends" on a valuation of \$100 per acre.

Thirty years ago, with land worth \$8 to \$20 per acre, a farmer did not need to be as careful as he must be today, when the same land is worth from \$75 to \$150 per acre. "There must be better farming in the middle west, and one way to do it is to go out among the farmers and show them that the 'book farmers' in the agricultural colleges are practical farmers—that they are capable of making more than a living on forty acres and would not starve to death on 100 acres," said Holden after having thought the matter over.

Other men were giving thought to the same problem of rising land values and lagging production. As early as 1890 Henry Wallace, editor of Wallace's Farmer, in company with State Dairy Commissioner Boardman, had made a trial of the special train as an educational agent in a campaign for the stimulation of dairy interest through the Des Moines valley. Now the former and Superintendent Given



PROFESSOR F. G. HOLDEN.

of the Rock Island road turned their attention to the corn question. They called Professor Holden into their councils. It was at once manifest that he was the ideal executive—the man to do the work.

Accordingly Professor Holden planned a campaign in Iowa with the assistance of railroad managers. He would take a special train and go out on the railroads where he could meet the farmers and show them that science only simplifies.

Professor Holden's plan was not to go into plant breeding, but to confine himself largely to insisting that the farmers plant selected seed corn, seed which had been tested in a simple device which could be made in any farm workshop. Given this hint in lectures and by the use of charts, the Iowa educator believed the direct result would be instantaneous, while the fairground of science would be opened a little way to the farmers, and they would realize after the first year or two of experimenting that by harvesting up and using the best of seed corn in corn and other farm crops production could be greatly increased and consequently the profits of farming become greater, the land "pay dividends" on a higher valuation, because brains had been mixed with muscle in meeting the seasons.

The work Professor Holden proposed to do was evangelistic, and when his trains were started down the long lines of shimmering steel they became known as "seed corn gospel trains."

Some of the figures Professor Holden presented were startling, but they sent large audiences of farmers away from the meetings pledged never again to select seed corn from a crib with a scoop shovel.

Remedy For Potato Blight.

An effective remedy for potato blight has been found in London mixture, which consists of four pounds of copper sulphate and five or six pounds of fresh lime in sixty gallons of water. This remedy is also effective against what is known as the early blight, which attacks the early varieties, while the late blight seldom appears before the first of August and does not attack the late kinds unless they are planted late in the season. This mixture can be used in connection with paris green or arsenate of lead for the potato beetle. The arsenical article is especially valuable, as it does not burn the foliage and does not wash off by rain. When spraying with this in connection with the Bordeaux mixture, use two pounds of the arsenate in fifty gallons, and use when the beetles first appear. This will prove very effective, though if other beetles appear later in the season it will be necessary to spray again in order to protect the growth made after the first application.

LAND HUNGER IN CITIES.

Increasing Desire to Get Out on the Farm and What Causes It.

The American people have always had land hunger. They have it yet, and the people of the cities have it in more acute form than ever before. Several things have conspired to develop the "back to the land" idea in our city population. The first is the increased cost of living in cities. The most economical and prudent man who works for wages in a great city today cannot save much money even if he is well paid. Thousands who make little more than enough to pay their current expenses, cannot be expected to think seriously of getting into some business in which "the bite to eat and the dud to wear" will not depend wholly on matters beyond their control, such as panics, rents and prices.

Another cause of the present land

hunger in cities is the reading of articles and advertisements in the daily papers. Never before were about so many wonderful tales of success in farming—success achieved without experience and without capital, independence acquired in a short time, prosperity on a few acres following close after the lack of it in the city. Not all this literature is false, but much bears with it evidence of embellishment, and some tells of achievements that are clearly impossible. Of course the advertisements calculated to interest the city man in land tend toward him the bright side of the picture. It is his purpose to sell land to him, and whether such advertising appeals in type or in the form of expected to show him anything but the attractive side of life on the land.

It is a good thing for the public to become deeply interested in farming. To study it and learn more about anything that makes life so different at least in a better understanding between the city and the country people of this great nation. But it is deplorable that in all this there must be so much misrepresentation, such inflated expectations and at last so many losses and disappointments, for many who attempt to gain independence without sufficient capital, without knowledge and without experience must be disappointed even if they do their level best. It would be so in any business.

True friends of city people will caution them against rashly investing all they have in something they know nothing about, will show them the necessity of study and counsel them against rash steps. The savings of many of these land hungry city people have come hard, and they should not be lured into investments that mean loss.

OUR FIRST TOMATO.

Jailbird Brought Seed From Bermuda and Started Pennsylvania.

Now that so much controversy is under way concerning the wonder berry it is interesting to read the reception accorded the first tomato grown in the United States, for both belong to the same family, *Solanum*. In reality the wonder berry is simply a hybrid but edible nightshade. The crossing of two species gave a favor superior to either of the parents, and when eaten raw the taste is much that of a tomato and fully as good. It is not at all bitter when ripe, yet in its green stage it is not so bitter as a green tomato. The only way in which the two fruits cannot compare is in the matter of size.

The story is told that a good many years ago a man recently arrived from the Bermuda Islands was committed to a Pennsylvania jail. He had with him a few seeds, which he planted in the jail yard, but before the plants came to maturity he was discharged. The plants bore strange fruit, which, as it ripened, changed from green to red and was greatly admired.

The matron of the jail, sure that it was poisonous, cautioned all the inmates against eating the fruit, but as she desired to save specimens of it she planted some of the seeds the following spring, and just as the fruit was well ripened the man from Bermuda revisited the jail and asked to see the plant. He called for pepper, salt and vinegar and to the astonishment and horror of the spectators ate the fruit with a relish. Having finished, he told them that this strange fruit was a tomato, or, translated into English, a love apple, and that it was wholesome and nutritious.

The seeds were therefore carefully preserved and distributed among friends and neighbors, who cultivated the plant as a curiosity, but it was years before prejudice gave way to appetite and this now most popular vegetable came into general use. Even now many people remember it as an emblem of the tomato rather than a useful plant. Probably more tomatoes are raised than any other fruit or vegetable, as they can be served in so many ways, eaten raw, with salt, pepper and vinegar, or with a salad dressing, or plainly stewed in soups, preserves and pickles. The tomato is never ready for an emergency, and the prudent housekeeper is sure to have it in reserve. At first it was a small fruit, somewhat like a plum. When we but the wonder berry, now in a crude state, may be improved in both size and flavor and in far less time than the tomato? Give it a chance.

Pumping by Wind Power.

The speed of a windmill depends on the angle the wheels are placed with reference to the wind. If a slow steady motion is desired the sails must



WIND POWER PLANT.

be set at a steep incline. Such sails must be long and narrow and set close together. In pumping from a deep well the angle of the sails of the windmill is such that the wheel will revolve the same number of revolutions a minute that it is desired to operate the pump. This makes it possible to connect the mill directly to the pump without the gearing necessary where a high speed is employed in operation of the pump. While the low speed means less water pumped, it greatly lengthens the life of the mill.

In the illustration the windmill, tower and tank are combined in a rather ornamental structure. When the well is located on high ground as compared with the grounds where the water is to be raised, the tank may rest upon the surface, and the windmill frame be constructed overhead. When the mill is to be located on lower ground the water tank may be placed midway on the windmill frame or on top, with the windmill just above the tank.

A tank placed thirty feet from the ground will give a pressure of fifteen pounds when the tank is full. This would lift water to the second story of a house standing on the same level. A garden hose nozzle connected with this tank would force a stream nearly as high as the bottom of the tank, or twenty-five to thirty feet horizontally. Twenty barrels of water would supply a garden hose nozzle for a little over an hour. These small tanks are commonly used in connection with an electric ten foot windmill. The same small mill, however, may be used with a larger tank where the purpose is to be used for household purposes, bath room, lawn and fire protection. A six-five barrel tank will supply a garden hose nozzle for about four hours.

THE BEST APPLES.

Some That You Will Recognize as Old Friends in This List.

North America is the great apple producing region of the world, and New York leads all the other states in the quantity grown, although varieties quite as choice are produced in other states, particularly Missouri, Oregon and Washington. To have perfect fruit the soil and the climate conditions must be of the most favorable.

A list of what may be called the best apples—best in one sense or another—has been arranged. The list comprises the varieties: The Belmont, Bethlehem, Bullock's Spitzenberg, Early Joe, Esopus, Spitzenberg, Fall Wine, Garden Royal, Melon, Mother, Northern Spy, Pomme Grise, Porter, Premier, Red Canada, Summer Pearmain, Summer Rose, Swaar, Wagner and Westfield. To this list are added the Baldwin and the Rhode Island Greening—two of the best known apples the country over.

Other popular apples include the Gilblower, Vandevere, Maiden's Blush, American Beauty, Fameuse, Blush Sweet, Talmay Sweet, Winesap, Red Sweet, Red Astrakhan, Pearmain, Ben Davis, Foxbury Russet, Spunk of Wine, King, Twenty Ounce, Hubbardston and Peach Pond Sweet.

The Pippin wherever found seems to be always well liked. But one Pippin differs from every other. What one state knows as Pippin another state greets by quite a different name. The Ben Davis, for instance, so known in the middle west, is known in New York state as a New York Pippin.

Almost every propagator of apples has found, if his experience and his orchards are extensive, specimens which he thought entitled to such names as Seek No Further, Nonesuch and Sine Non, so that if one reaches an apple bearing one of these names in Massachusetts it may differ exceedingly from one of the same name offered to him in Wisconsin. But they are all likely to be worth the eating if their grower has seen fit to honor them with such names.

The longer apples remain on the tree, unless the weather becomes too cold to permit their exposure, the better the flavor and keeping qualities. The fruit that comes to perfection the farthest north, as that in the Hood river region of Oregon, appears to have the finest keeping qualities without deterioration in flavor.

Of the varieties raised in the east the winter russets keep longest without being put in cold storage and really reach the full perfection of flavor only late in the winter or in the early spring. It used to be considered a marvelous and almost an impossible thing to keep apples over from the fall till the first summer apples appeared, but with methods of cold storage so extensively used as they are now this is easily achieved and with far less deterioration in flavor than might be reasonably expected.

HOMES FOR POULTRY.

The Open Front Type That Gives Ventilation Now Popular.

A few years ago the open front poultry house was practically unknown. The tendency at that time was to construct houses that were very tight and ventilated by the opening of windows and in many instances by means of flues and cupolas. This type of house, as a rule, was more or less damp, and it did not take many years for progressive men to realize that damp houses meant cold houses and an abundance of disease. The result has been a gradual increase of the amount of fresh air in the house and less attention given to warmth until today we have what is known as the open or cloth front house. One can still find, however, many types of poultry houses, but the open front house is fast becoming the standard for every climate.

The beneficial effects of a dry house, with an abundance of fresh air, has been very forcibly demonstrated by several experiment stations. Professor Graham of the Kansas Agricultural college states that after careful tests made with warm buildings, with double wall houses having curtains before the perches and six feet away next to the wire netting, he has found that the one ply board houses with netted fronts have given better results. In the number of eggs produced in winter and the fertility and vigor of germs.

The open front house can be modified to meet a wide range of climate. In the northern states the house is generally equipped with a curtain front and hooded roof. These curtains are made of warm buildings, with a double wall house the curtains are made of wire netting. The ordinary floating type of thermometer is likely to be inaccurate, and if possible a good thermometer with the scale etched on the glass should be used. Set the bottom of the scale to thirty minutes. The thermometer will fall slowly, but may be held more uniformly by covering the bottom with a towel. The punctured cap should be replaced with a new one or the latter, should be covered with an inverted cap. After the milk has been held as directed it should be cooled. To avoid danger of breaking the bottle the water should be warm at first. Replace the warm water slowly with cold water. After cooling, milk should in all cases be held at the lowest available temperature.

Keep Celery Growing. Celery should be kept growing rapidly and without interruption. A check in growth will often make the plant go to seed instead of producing edible stalks.

State of Ohio, City of Toledo, (ss.)

Lucas County, (ss.)

Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is senior partner of the firm of F. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the city of Toledo, county and state aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of Hall's Catarrh Cure. Frank J. Cheney.

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1916.

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GASOLINE FLOW HORSE.

Farmer Also Does Mowing With Homestead Tractor.

Harry H. Keen of Union county, N. Y., has made a gasoline pump and mowing machine, which he calls a "flow horse." He says of it: "The unit shows the tractor at work drawing mowers in the orchard. It weighs 3,815 pounds. It is equipped with a ten-horsepower double cylinder motor of the two cycle type. It draws the two three-horse spring tooth mowers when set about as deep in the ground as they will go at the speed of one and one-half miles per hour, covering about two acres per hour. As we



GASOLINE HORSE.

have quite a good deal of fruit on our farms, the principal work of the tractor has been just as shown in the picture, excepting that part of the time the harrow need is a four-horse double action disk, heavily weighted with large stones. We find the machine very advantageous for this work, as it goes steadily and does not work to one side or the other, so that you can keep the drags right to within two or three inches of the trees without the danger of backing up.

"We use the machine also in a great many other kinds of work. It hauls a two bottom gang plow (fourteen inch bottoms seven inches deep at the same speed, and with the steering arrangement we have I think we can turn around on as narrow a bend as the horses can—can turn it in a circle a very little larger in diameter than its length. We grind our own feed, using the engine to run the mill. Our mill is not large, but with this amount of power we grind thirty bushels per hour. The tractor is very handy for pulling out brush and young saplings in old fence rows, also for dragging off bowlders, as it is so much stronger than a team of horses. It is also the best wire fence stretcher we have ever used. You can draw the wire up to any tension you choose and set the brake and the wire is held tight.

"We have never kept accurate account of the fuel used when plowing or dragging with the engine, but I believe it averages about \$1.50 worth per day, which we do not consider much when it is taking the place of two teams of horses. From the use we



SIDE VIEW OF GASOLINE HORSE.

have had of the machine we do not now feel as though we could possibly get along without it. I believe no live power in the future is going to revolutionize farming operations as greatly as it has the road travel in the past few years."

Home Pasteurization of Milk.

Milk is most conveniently pasteurized in the bottles in which it is delivered. To do this use a small pail with a perforated false bottom. An inverted pail with a few holes punched in it will answer this purpose. This will raise the bottles from the bottom of the pail, thus allowing a free circulation of water and preventing bumping of the bottles. Punch a hole through the cap of one of the bottles and insert a thermometer. The ordinary floating type of thermometer is likely to be inaccurate, and if possible a good thermometer with the scale etched on the glass should be used. Set the bottom of the scale to thirty minutes. The thermometer will fall slowly, but may be held more uniformly by covering the bottom with a towel. The punctured cap should be replaced with a new one or the latter, should be covered with an inverted cap. After the milk has been held as directed it should be cooled. To avoid danger of breaking the bottle the water should be warm at first. Replace the warm water slowly with cold water. After cooling, milk should in all cases be held at the lowest available temperature.

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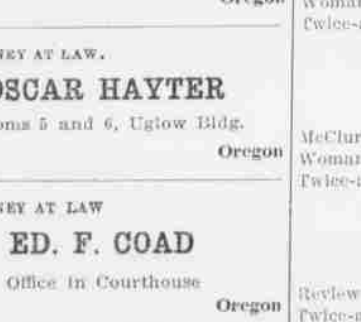


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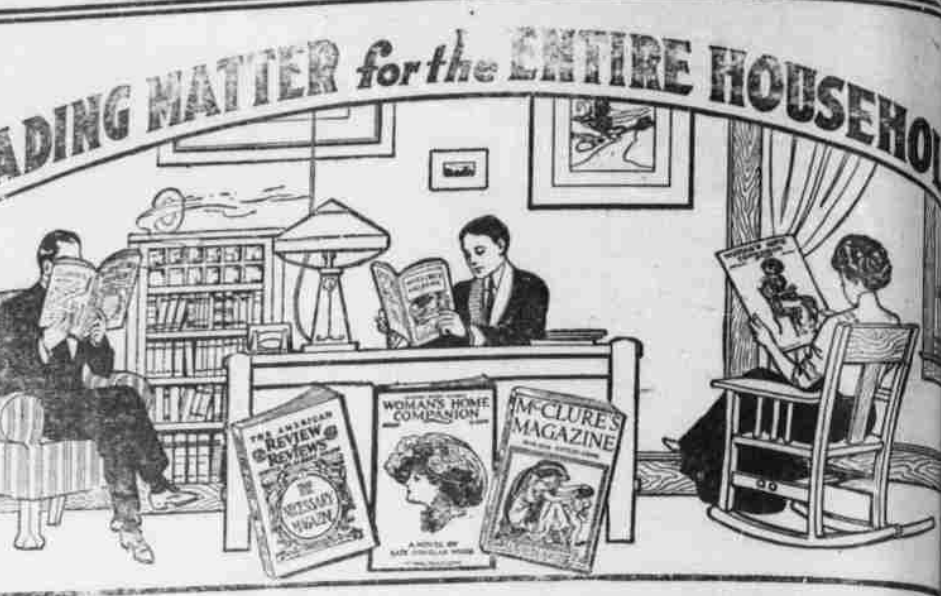
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