

FARM ORCHARD AND GARDEN
 BY **FETRIGG**
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 CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED



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IS THE INVESTMENT SAFE?

A friend makes inquiry as to the wisdom of purchasing land as far west as Martin county, Tex., which the map shows to be about a hundred miles west of the one hundredth meridian. Generally speaking, the ninety-ninth meridian is accepted as the agricultural "dead line," west of which there is little use to break up the soil for tillage purposes. A glance at any civil map of the United States will show how uniformly the western tide of settlement has stopped at this line, as shown by the location of towns. As indicated in this way, it is seen to run in almost a direct line from the northern boundary of North Dakota through to southern Texas. It is true that during the past six or seven years the rainfall has been sufficiently heavy, so that fair success in purely agricultural pursuits has been had on lands lying quite a distance west of this line, while the breaking up of considerable areas may have had a modifying effect on drought conditions. But a cycle of dry years is quite likely to come, and it is conditions which will prevail in such seasons that the land seeker should take note of if he has in mind purchasing a permanent farm home. The earmarks of this dry country, which is not lacking in fertility, but in moisture, are buffalo grass, sagebrush and cactus. Where herbage of this kind abounds more conclusive evidence is furnished of the unwisdom of purchasing for tillage purposes than in any "spiel" the agent may make, unless, indeed, irrigation is possible, when the situation is entirely altered. The investing of from \$2,000 to \$6,000 or \$7,000 in a quarter section of land is a serious move as well as an important one for the man of limited means who has had to work hard for his savings. The step should be taken only after thorough, sober and careful investigation. Better a fellow should spend \$300 acquainting himself thoroughly with a prospective land purchase than to buy in haste and find out later that he has been deceived and swindled.

LADIES TEACHING FARMING.

An interesting fact noted by a leading western educator, State Superintendent Bishop of Nebraska, who is a pioneer in the field of agricultural education in the rural schools, is the prominent part which lady county superintendents of schools are taking in the matter of introducing these subjects into the courses of study in the schools under their charge. One Nebraska lady superintendent has 700 children at work in agricultural classes, while one residing in a southern Iowa county has issued a special bulletin dealing with practical scientific agricultural subjects. Some idea of the interest which the department of public instruction in Nebraska is taking in this line of work may be gained from the fact that arrangements have been made by Mr. Bishop to hold the conventions of the Nebraska Boys' Agricultural society and the Nebraska Girls' Domestic Science association in Omaha during the national corn exposition, which, it is estimated, will be attended by 3,000 boys and girls of the state.

A COSTLY LESSON.

While the numerous forest fires which raged in so many states during September and October are deplorable from almost every point of view, it is more than likely that they will serve a real mission in calling the attention of the people of the country to the immediate necessity of the inauguration of radical and vigorous measures for the protection and conservation of the nation's rapidly diminishing forest resources, which will include not only the planting of new areas to forest trees, but the patrolling of present national and state reserves in such manner as to prevent or at least greatly decrease the enormous losses which have resulted in the present year from the one cause of forest fires. This lesson of forest preservation is one that we are very slow to learn as a people, a costly experience such as we have had the present year being about the only way it could be effectively impressed.

STUFFING TOO MUCH.

The draft horse that has been working hard all summer sometimes gets stocked up and out of condition when the slack season arrives as a result of too little exercise and too much feeding. Much the same condition is apt to prevail in the case of the man of middle age who after many years of strenuous outdoor life with the vigorous appetite which this type of life has developed sells or rents his farm and comes to town and has little to do but sit in the light chairs about the house and sometimes not that. In both cases

the only safeguard is a material reduction in the bill of fare and taking of a good bit of exercise every day, even if it is nothing more than walking.

Bismarck's Drink.
 The mixture of dark beer and champagne, which was for a long time Bismarck's favorite drink, was the result of a mistake on the part of a servant who inadvertently poured champagne into a stone drinking cup that had already been half filled with beer. The drink tickled the palate of the great German, and the servant's error brought him a reward.—New York American.

In the Name of the Law.
 A mayor in Paris finished a marriage ceremony recently with the words "You are united." The wedding party had just left when he remembered that he had omitted part of the formula and that consequently the marriage was invalid. He promptly opened the window and shouted after them, "I say, you know it is in the name of the law that you are united."—Paris Correspondence.

Problem in Political Economy.
 "It's no use," said the young man with heavy rimmed eyeglasses. "I can't get this political economy straight."
 "What's the trouble?" asked the professor.
 "I can't discover whether a lot of people go broke because we have hard times or whether we have hard times because a lot of people go broke."—Washington Star.

His Company.
 Mark Twain, meeting Charles Guthrie, a prominent British lawyer, in Vienna, asked him if he smoked.
 "Sometimes, when I am in bad company," was the reply.
 After a pause came a second question, "You're a lawyer, aren't you, Mr. Guthrie?"
 "I am, Mr. Clemens."
 "Ah, then, Mr. Guthrie, you must be a very heavy smoker!"

On a Camel.
 The sensation of riding on the back of a camel has been likened to that which would be felt by mounting a stool placed on a springless cart driven over a plowed field. I found it all that and more. Next to walking barefoot in chains, riding on camel back is, in the eyes of the Moors, the worst degradation they can put upon their prisoners.—Grey's "In Moorish Captivity."

How to Brighten Old Mahogany.
 If your mahogany looks grayish and grimy don't be afraid to give it a good bath. Housewives do not realize the value of soap and water on old mahogany. It cleans the wood as nothing else does. Take a bowl or a bucket of warm water into which has been put a tablespoonful or more of olive oil and a few shavings of castile soap. Use a soft sponge or a fresh piece of cheesecloth. Wring it out in the water, so that you will not ruin the carpet or the floor. Go into all the crevices of the carvings with the cheesecloth wrapped about a small pointed stick.
 Be sure that every piece of the wood is dried with fresh cheesecloth or a bit of soft flannel.

How to Cure Blisters on Feet.
 Blisters of the feet, usually at the heel, are due to friction by rough shoes or wrinkled stockings. The fluid should be allowed to escape through a minute hole, made by the point of a sterilized needle, and the skin left in place. To avoid these blisters the shoes should be well fitting and the stockings quite smooth. Before starting out on a long tramp dust the feet with this powder: Burnt alum, 5 grams; salicylic acid, 2½ grams; starch, 15 grams; talcum powder, 50 grams.

How to Stuff a Turkey.
 Make a stuffing for turkey of a large cupful of crumbs, seasoning with parsley, sweet marjoram and thyme and moisten with melted butter. Chop twenty small oysters fine and mix with the dressing. If you prefer you may leave the oysters whole. With this stuffing fill the breast of the turkey.
 Lawyer—Are you—er—truthful?
 Youth—Yes, sir, but I ain't so blamed truthful as ter interfere with your business.

THE GRANGE
 Conducted by
 J. W. DAREW, Chatham, N. Y.,
 Press Correspondent New York State Grange

TIME LEAKS IN THE GRANGE.

Some Suggestions That May Be Useful to Grange Officers.

The importance of utilizing time and the extravagance of allowing it to go to waste are well stated by Jennie Buell of Michigan, in which the following reasons for time running to waste are stated:

When the grange is not called to order on time because some officer or leading person is not present.

When the stewards distribute badges, song books, etc., after the gavel has fallen instead of before.

When the chorister selects songs after they are called for.

When the secretary shuffles his papers over or stops to write a receipt after the order of reading the minutes is reached.

When a committee audits a bill or passes upon an application for membership after reports of committees are called.

When business that might be referred to committee is transacted by the grange, especially with prolonged discussion.

When members speak upon questions that have not been brought properly before the grange by motion.

When a grange stands still while the paraphernalia and decorations are gathered and prepared for initiation.

When members are allowed to wander in discussion in the lecture hour.

When matters foreign to the time or place are introduced and delay the closing past the time fixed.

THE MICHIGAN WAY.

Grange Deputies in Michigan and How They Are Compensated.

The compensation of the grange deputies in Michigan is figured on a liberal basis. Each grange pays the organizing deputy \$25, of which \$15 goes for the charter. Then by application of a series of bonuses, offered by the state grange, if the organizing deputy reports five granges, he receives \$22 for each, and in like increased proportion for ten granges he will get \$25 each.

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Then there is a grand prize of \$100 to any deputy who will organize and instruct twenty-five granges during the year. And in order to increase their efforts to get the full twenty-five the prizes for the second ten granges. So that for twenty granges they would receive \$500, and for twenty-five granges, which would entitle them to the grand prize of \$100, they would receive \$750. The deputy must get in his charter list a sufficient number to warrant taking the \$5 of the money from the charter members for his own services. Thus it provides a safeguard against a charter membership so small as to make them weaklings. It is estimated that the charter list should not be less than twenty-five in order to warrant the taking of the five dollar fee. This liberal payment of the deputies will account largely for the marked increase in the number of granges in Michigan during the past few years.

A Worthy Exhibit.

There have been numerous grange exhibits at county fairs this season, and it is a good sign. Perhaps one of the most interesting of these was at the Hudson fair, Columbia county, when Lindenwald grange of Kinderhook exhibited 161 varieties of fruits, vegetables, grains, flowers, nuts and canned fruits. They exhibited 50 varieties of apples, 19 of grapes, 12 of pears, 27 of vegetables, 17 of flowers and 17 of canned fruits. This grange won the first prize of \$40. German-town grange exhibited 134 varieties, of which 64 were apples, 28 of pears and 22 of grapes, and won \$30. Claverack grange exhibited 67 varieties, among which were 19 varieties of cucumbers, 14 of beets and 19 of beans. Livingston grange had 37 varieties. These two granges were awarded \$10 each.

The Essay Exchange.

Two or three of the state lecturers at least have established recently what is called an "essay exchange." Essays on various topics suitable to be read in grange meetings are written and loaned to granges that may be in need of such material. The idea is a good one, and yet the essay exchange should not be allowed to take the place of essays or papers written by members of the grange. However, the latter may be consulted, and essays which it furnishes may be occasionally used to help out a programme where there may be but few who feel themselves qualified to prepare papers.

A Vote For Direct Primaries.

Genesee (N. Y.) Farmers grange met Oct. 9 with an attendance of about 200. The subordinate granges of that county reported a total membership of 2,276. The following resolution was adopted: "Resolved, That we demand direct voting at the primaries and hereby direct our delegates at the next state grange meeting to do all in their power to effect the passage of such a law." The next meeting will be held at Batavia on Dec. 17.

Pembroke Church, Long Edge, was

founded in the fourteenth century by the widow of Aymer de Valence, earl of Pembroke. Few foundations in England have been so closely connected with the revival of learning and the reformation or have produced so many distinguished alumni from a small society. Edmund Spenser published promising poems when an undergraduate here, and Gray migrated to Pembroke from rowdy Peterhouse. William Pitt when at Pembroke associated chiefly with the dons, from whom he is alleged to have learned that partially for port wine which enabled him to "see two speakers," but shortened his existence.—Westminster Gazette.

Filial Love.
 That's a pathetic story of the Gourdon fishing boat crew. The Gourdon boat was manned by a father and his four sons. When the boat sank three of the latter went with her. The old man got an oar, and soon the fourth son appeared by his side. But the oar could support only one, and the lad, taking in the situation at once, bade his parent farewell in the words, "Weel, weel, father, I maun jist awa," and sank. Only readers familiar with the northern dialect will fully appreciate the depth of kindly resignation and true feeling which the words denote. The father endured terrible sufferings, but was ultimately picked up. "Greater love hath no man than this."—Westminster Gazette.

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