

WHAT RAINDROPS MEAN TO FARMER

Crop Reports Indicate Difference Few Showers Make in Humanity's Scheme of Things.

BIG PART PLAYED BY NATURE

Takes About 2,260 Tons of Water to the Acre to Grow a Food Crop—Process of Evaporation Yields Chemicals Valuable as Fertilizer.

Washington, D. C.—"Rain might be looked upon as the oil which lubricates the world's economic machinery," says a bulletin issued from the Washington, D. C., headquarters of the National Geographic society in connection with recent reports of world-wide drought damage to crops.

"With the smallest estimated cotton crop since 1893," continues the bulletin, "with spring wheat in poor condition at home as well as in many of the other wheat countries of the world, with other important crops below their average, and with drought cast as the villain, or at least as an accomplice, in each case, the difference that a few showers make in humanity's scheme of things is strongly emphasized.

Depends on Rainfall.

"While everybody realizes in a general way that the world depends on rainfall and fertility for food, there are very few, perhaps, who even approximately appreciate how comparatively little the farmer actually does in the great process of crop-growing. To plow millions of acres furrow by furrow, to spend millions of dollars on fertilizers, and to reap and gather and thresh, is no mean task. And yet compared with the part that nature plays in the process, man's work seems a very slight labor. For instance, it takes about 20 inches of rainfall to grow a food crop under our general farming methods, which means about 2,260 tons of water to the acre. That seems a preposterous figure, but the doubter can easily demonstrate its correctness. Suppose the American farmer had to haul the water his ground must have to give him a good crop, and that the distance and freight rate were the same as the average railroad haul and rate in the United States. On that basis it would cost him more than \$4,000 an acre to water his place.

"But not only would his water bill be nearly half a million dollars on a 100-acre farm, but his fertilizer bill, also, would amount to a neat little sum. It is estimated that in the process of normal evaporation, soil water presents the rootlets of its neighborhood with about fourteen pounds of ammonia a year to the acre. Also, it gives them some 57 pounds of potash. With sulphate of ammonia costing only 2 cents a pound (it cost 5 1/2 during the war) and a hundred pounds of the sulphate required to contribute 17 pounds of ammonia, it will be seen that the process of evaporation gives the rootlets \$1.65 worth of ammonia to the acre.

Automatic Fertilization.

"When the World War cut off German supplies of potash and it soared to \$400 a ton, geologists scoured the United States for the priceless fertilizer with little success. Yet the process of evaporation generously hands out more than half a hundredweight to the acre, in war and peace. This automatic fertilization is worth an additional \$2.50 an acre to the farmer at present prices, and would have cost him \$10 an acre at war prices.

"From this it will be seen that the \$12 to \$25 an acre that it costs the average farmer to grow wheat is a small figure indeed, compared to what he saves by having nature as his water wagon and fertilizer source."

IMPROVEMENT NOTED IN WOOL MARKETING

Product in Much Better Condition Than Last Year.

Much Credit Due Department of Agriculture for Demonstrations Showing Proper Handling and Preparing.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Wool received at concentration points for pooling is in much better condition than that handled last year, according to officials in charge of wool pools, who state that the improvement is due largely to the demonstrations conducted last season by the United States Department of Agriculture, showing the proper manner of handling and preparing wool for market. The owners of wool clips who were penalized in 1920 on account of sisal twine, burrs or seed have taken precautions this season to see that their product is free from objectionable foreign matter and in excellent condition when received at the concentration point. The percentage of unfitted fleeces is much smaller than in 1920, with a considerable number of fleeces boxed.

Especially emphasis has been placed

on the work of expert wool graders in demonstrating to producers and others the value of grading the wool clip. The subdivisions within the grades established enable the producers of long-staple wool to obtain full value for their clip on the basis of grade. In addition to the regular grades, provision also is made for the various kinds of defective wool which constitutes rejects. The wool growers are realizing the value of grading and the necessity for the elimination of rejects from their wool in order to obtain the maximum return for their product.

One large wool pool in the Middle West, which assembled and graded 340,000 pounds of wool in 1920, reports that 400,000 pounds have been received to date this year. One of the largest co-operative wool growers' associations in the Northwest has increased its membership from 1,600 to 1,700 in the last 30 days, and reports that more than 1,500,000 pounds of wool has been received at its concentration point.

RUNTS ARE NOT PROFITABLE

If Stunted Animals Could Be Eliminated Farmers' Incomes Would Be Greatly Increased.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

A questionnaire survey conducted among 1,000 leading farmers and breeders by the United States Department of Agriculture indicates that about 7 per cent of the annual production of farm live stock in the



Farmers Say It Does Not Pay to Raise Runts.

United States consists of runts and undersized specimens of the various breeds and classes. Farmers report that their annual incomes from live stock would be increased an average of 13 per cent if runts could be eliminated. Better methods of feeding and breeding, breeding better stock, the use of purebred registered sires, good care and systematic attention, better housing and sanitation, proper care of the dam before the birth of young, practical control of such objectionable parasites as worms and lice, the control of disease, and the culling from the farm of all stunted stock which indicates no possibilities of successful reformation and rehabilitation are the control methods recommended by these experienced farmers. About three-quarters of them say that it does not pay to raise runts, while the balance maintain that the Tom Thumbs of the livestock world can be raised successfully only when well bred and when plenty of cheap feed is available and dependable markets are readily accessible.

CO-OPERATIVE GRAIN MARKETING METHODS

Type of Elevator Should Fit Local Conditions.

Excellent System for One Section Will Not Always Work Out Successfully in Another—Comparative Study of Plans.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

In co-operative grain marketing it is more essential that the system be suited to conditions and practical need than it is that the system itself has been successfully applied in other fields. This has been brought out in an investigation conducted by specialists of the bureau of markets, United States Department of Agriculture, a report of which has just been published in department bulletin 937, "Co-operative Grain Marketing." One cannot carry his investigations of co-operative grain marketing far, says the bulletin, without realizing that what may be an excellent method for one section and for a particular condition will not always work out successfully in other sections or when applied to other conditions. The bulletin makes a comparative study of methods in the United States and Canada.

In the United States the most common type of farmers' grain elevators is owned and controlled by a body of stockholders in the immediate surrounding community, and the elevator is operated as a separate unit independently of any similar elevator.

In Canada the line-house type of farmers' elevator prevails and is highly successful. The line-house type consists of a number of elevators controlled by one central office in a large marketing center. Two such companies in Canada own and operate over 600 country elevators in the three great wheat-growing provinces.

In comparing the two systems, the bulletin states that the line-house operation of the farmers' elevators would seem to offer the greatest advantage in those states where crops are somewhat uncertain or where the crop year is of short duration, and under which conditions it may be necessary to close the elevators for certain periods each year. It is possible under the line-house method of operating elevators to economize in accounting and to standardize in construction and in the machinery used.

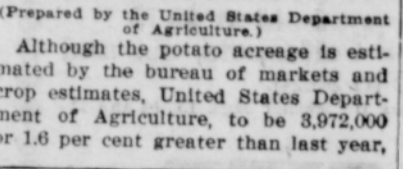
Favoring single-unit elevators is a degree of community pride which usually centers around these organizations quite independent of the services rendered. In many sections there is a prejudice against centralized authority which is not easily overcome. Elevators in the Middle West section of the United States were established primarily to solve marketing problems of local character.

DECREASE IN POTATO YIELD

Weather So Unfavorable That Estimate on August 1 Showed Drop of 61,079,000 Bushels.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Although the potato acreage is estimated by the bureau of markets and crop estimates, United States Department of Agriculture, to be 3,972,000 or 1.6 per cent greater than last year,



Grading and Packing Potatoes for Market.

the weather during July was so unfavorable that the estimated yield on August 1 showed a drop of 61,079,000 bushels from the indicated yield on July 1. The figures for yield were placed at 315,918,000 bushels, as compared with 428,308,000 for 1920 and a five-year average of 371,283,000. Prices reflected the change in condition. On July 16 the average of ten leading markets was \$3 to \$4.75 per barrel for Virginia Eastern Shore Cobblers and \$1.25 to \$2.15 per 100 pounds for Kansas Early Ohio. By August 12 Virginia Eastern Shore Cobblers had advanced from \$4.75 to \$5.50, while Kansas Early Ohio were selling at \$2.40 to \$3.25; Idaho Rurals were moving at \$3.50 to \$3.60 per 100 pounds.

GIVE HENS VARIETY OF FEED

When Weather is Cold and Fowls Are Just Beginning to Lay, Feed Them Liberally.

Do not fall to feed your hens a good variety of feed and in liberal quantities when the weather is cold and they are just commencing to produce eggs. Heavy egg production requires correspondingly heavy feeding.

BARBERRY CUTS WHEAT YIELD

Scientific Investigation Has Proven That Rust Gets Its Start in Barberry Bushes.

Your barberry bush may be reducing your wheat yield or increasing the cost of a loaf of bread. Wheat rust in some years causes a loss of 200,000,000 bushels of wheat and scientific investigation has proved that the fungus which is responsible for this disease gets its start in the spring from the common barberry plant. More than 4,800,000 barberry bushes have been located by federal workers and 3,500,000 plants destroyed. One bush may infect acres of wheat and it will be worth while to look around your farm and adjoining country and see that they do not harbor any of these wheat thieves.

MORE AMERICAN FLAX IS URGENTLY NEEDED

Supply From Russia Has Been Greatly Curtailed.

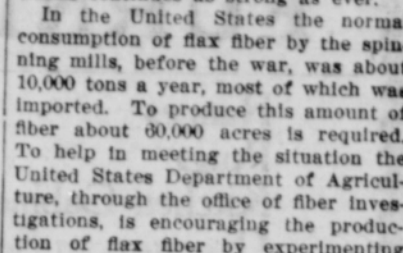
Demand for material for manufacture of Linens Continues as Strong as Ever—New Methods and Machines Investigated.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The upside-down condition of things in Russia has produced many unlooked-for results, but none more unexpected to the casual mind than its effect upon the supply of flax fiber. Before the World War Russia produced about 80 per cent of the flax

fiber used in making linens. This supply was cut off, while the demand for linens continues as strong as ever.

In the United States the normal consumption of flax fiber by the spinning mills, before the war, was about 10,000 tons a year, most of which was imported. To produce this amount of fiber about 60,000 acres is required. To help in meeting the situation the United States Department of Agriculture, through the office of fiber investigations, is encouraging the production of flax fiber by experimenting



Threshing Flax at the Northern Great Plains Station, Mandan, N. D.

with it in new localities, investigating new methods and machines, and developing improved strains of the flax which are taller, yield more and better fiber, and some of which are resistant to disease and lodging.

It has been shown that better flax is produced from seed of selected strains than from imported seed, such as has been used in the past. Efforts are being made, too, to increase the seed of these selections for distribution generally.

A special survey is being made this season to determine the extent of disease injury to which flax is subject, and to procure definite information needful in devising methods for combating such diseases.

About 6,000 acres of flax fiber was grown in the United States in 1920, but the relatively low price for fiber has resulted in a greatly reduced acreage in 1921, estimated at 3,000 acres.

PICK FEATHERS FROM GEESE

Many Breeders Follow Practice Some Time Prior to Moulting When Quills Are Dry.

Many breeders of geese in the South, and some in the Middle West and the North pluck the feathers from the live geese at some time prior to moulting. Some pick every six weeks during the summer, and early in the fall, while others pick only once or twice a year, either in the spring, or in both spring and fall. Feathers are considered ripe for plucking when the quills are dry and do not contain blood. Both young and old geese are plucked. The average yearly production of feathers is about 1.1 pounds to the goose.

The practice of plucking live geese, however, is considered by many breeders to be cruel and injurious. Geese should not be plucked during the breeding season. A stocking usually is placed over the head of the goose, and part of the soft feathers on the breast, back and sides and abdomen are pulled. Enough soft feathers to support the wings always should be left. Geese feathers are now bringing about 75 cents a pound for pure white; 65 cents for average white; and 55 cents for gray. These prices are for good, dry feathers.

COWS FRESHENING IN FALL

It Means Maximum Production When Prices for Dairy Products Are at High Level.

Milk cows bred to freshen in the fall mean maximum production when butter, butterfat and milk prices are better than they are in the summer. It also transfers the big job of milking, handling the milk, and caring for the calves to a time when the farmer is least busy. Help is easier to obtain during the fall and winter and more time is available to devote to cows. Cows freshening in the fall can be fed grain and made to produce better than they do in summer.

The Country Newspaper (Portland Journal)

The town paper will very largely be what the town wills it to be. Generally speaking, the editor is the hardest working man in the community. He is invariably doing his part to make his paper barometer the town as thrifty, wide awake and on the map. If the townspeople do a fraction of what they should in the way of support, he will make his paper an intelligent and highly respectable representative of the community. If they do only a little of their part, the paper will do more than any other one thing to give the town standing at home and abroad.

As every newspaper man knows, one of the first things done by those in distant states who are looking for a new location is to send for the town paper. Such applications come in numbers the years through every town newspaper. The appearance of the paper, its signs of thrift or poverty, largely determine whether the applicant will ever see your town. No agency does so much for the community and gets so little back as a well-conducted town newspaper. Much is asked of it, and little bestowed. The man who wants free publicity and gives nothing back in advertising bargains all newspapers, especially the home paper.

The mail overwhelms the town paper with all kinds of copy with the request that it be inserted free and marked copies sent. Stock shows, horse shows, county fairs, church fairs, school fairs, world fairs, June festivals, health committees, development committees, promotion committees, publicity committees, general welfare committees and every other kind of fair show, exposition and committee, shower the editor with requests for free space, for editorials, always holding out as remuneration the assurance that it is for the good of the community, never realizing that white paper has to be paid for in money, that printers must be paid and that newspapers cannot subsist on hot air.

In no other activity in the world is there so much endeavor to get something for nothing as is carried on with the newspapers. No activity in the world gives so much to the public gratis and gets few thanks back. The thing has gone so far that much of the public holds it to be the duty of a newspaper to support every and any public proposition that seems in some remote way to promise some public benefit, carrying their view almost to a sort of public ownership of the policy and plant of the paper.

For all the boasting of the community, for all the constructive agitation, for all the struggle for reform, for all the appeals in behalf of public movements, for all the free notices, free insertions and free exploitation, many in the town expect in return to lay a few flowers on the defunct editor's grave and let it go at that.

RED CROSS WORK

October Activities in Linn County

Miss Edith Forrest, executive secretary of the Linn county Red Cross, makes the following summary report of activities in October:

Total number of cases under care of home service section, 179.

Cases under care during October, 96.

Ex-service men and their families, 73.

Civilian families, 23.

Expended for relief of ex-service men and their families, \$90.55.

For civilian families, \$119.30.

Visits to families and reference, 97.

Office interviews, 98.

Visits to county branches, 7.

New cases, 19.

Closed cases, 13.

Reopened cases, 7.

Analysis of problems—civilian—Unemployment, 6; mental problems, 2; transportation, 1; runaway boy, 1; girl problem, 1; desertion, 1; financial relief of families, 6.

Health problems—Tuberculosis, 1; confinement, 1; asthma, 2; cripples, 2; throat troubles, 8; pneumonia, 1.

Ex-service—Unemployment, 1; mental problems, 3; transportation, 3; federal training, 8; search for lost ex-service men, 2; loans, 3; information, 20; government claims, travel pay, bonus, lost effects, etc., 24.

Government claims for compensation for disability, 35; tuberculosis, 23; loss of arm, 1; arthritis, 2; trench mouth, 1; stomach trouble, 1; loss of eye, 1; loss of hearing, 1; arm paralyzed, 1; heart trouble, 1; dental work, 3.

Appropriations totaling \$19,161,657 are contained in the budget for the current fiscal year, it was announced at national headquarters.

Reflective of the determination of the Red Cross to continue its service of disabled world war veterans until the last of these men is restored to normal civilian life, and outstanding among the items of the domestic budget, is the appropriation of \$3,660,256 for the Red Cross service in behalf of the disabled ex-service man and his family. This appropriation represents the amount allotted to this work from national headquarters only and does not take into consideration the millions being spent by Red Cross chapters for the relief of the disabled veterans.

Every month during the last year the Red Cross has been in touch with an average of 129,215 ex-service men and their families. It is providing a service for veterans and their families costing \$10,000,000 a year.

For relief in 70 disasters in the United States in the year \$1,600,000 was expended.

The American Red Cross is chartered by act of congress.

In Oregon during the year 1,645 women have received courses of instruction in home hygiene and have been given certificates.

The McKean Verdict

(Junction City Times.)

H. M. McKean of Alvadora was absolved of blame in connection with the killing of James Odis Pitney on a deer hunt in the Coast Range mountains on August 21, when the jury in the case Monday afternoon brought in a verdict of "not guilty" after three hours' deliberation. McKean heard the verdict with no show of emotion.

There is general dissatisfaction with the verdict of "not guilty" in the McKean case, not because anybody wishes to see Mr. McKean punished unnecessarily, but because this verdict virtually sets aside the law making it an offense to kill another by mistaking him for a deer.

From now on a man takes his life in his hands when he goes into the woods where wild game is even suspected to be. In fact, when the hunting season first opens and the killing spirit is on, it will be unsafe for a farmer to hunt his cows in the brush.

There is but one remedy, and that remedy is to repeal the game laws and allow the game to be wiped out. That is what should be done. The protection of game class legislation and hence un-American. It compels the land owner to feed the game at his own expense and then the fellow who contributes a small sum for the privilege goes out and blows the laylights out of the game which he has no moral right to or just claim upon.

Repeal the game law and insure safety to our hunters.

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