

self, having no talents that way, but in the little Scotch town of Dumbiedykes where I was born there was an old lady with a remarkable gift of second sight. Simple folk, not being acquainted with the proper terms to fit the case, called her the Wise Woman. Well, one day my aunt had been to the neighboring town of Micklestane, five miles off, and on the way back to Dumbiedykes she lost her purse. It had three sovereigns in it—a great sum to my aunt. In her trouble of mind she hurried to the Wise Woman—a thing to make her pious father turn in his grave. The Wise Woman—gazed into the All, I suppose, and told my aunt not to fret herself, for she had had a vision of the purse and it lay somewhere on the road between Micklestane and Dumbiedykes.

"Now, Miss Browne, I'll take the liberty of drawing a moral from this story to fit the present instance; where on the road between Micklestane and Dumbiedykes is the chest?"

Though startled at the audacity of Mr. Shaw, I was unprepared for the spasm of absolute fury that convulsed Miss Browne's countenance.

"Mr. Shaw," she thundered, "if you intend to draw a parallel between me and an ignorant Scotch peasant—"

"Not at all," said Mr. Shaw calmly, "forebye the Wise Woman was a most respectable person and had a grandson in the kirk. The point is, can you indicate with any degree of exactness the whereabouts of the chest? For there is a good deal of sand on the shores of this island."

"Oh, but Mr. Shaw!" interposed Aunt Jane tremulously. "In the sand—why, I am sure that is such a helpful thought! It shows quite plainly that the chest is not buried in—a rock, you know." She gave the effect of a person trying to deflect a thunderstorm with a palm-leaf fan.

"Dynamite—dynamite—blow the lid off the island!" mumbled Captain Magnus.

"If anyone has a definite plan to propose," said Mr. Shaw, "I am very ready to consider it. I have understood, myself, from the first to be acting under the directions of the ladies who planned this expedition. Considering its importance to myself, no one can well suppose that I am not doing all in my power to bring the chest to light. Tomorrow, if the sea is favorable, it is my intention to set out in the boat to determine the character of such other caves as exist on the island. I'll want you with me, lad, and you too, Magnus."

Captain Magnus looked more ill at ease than usual.

"Did you think o' rowin' the whole way round the dingied chunk o' rock?" he inquired.

"Certainly not," said Mr. Shaw with an impatient frown. So the man, in addition to his other unattractive qualities, was turning into a shirk! Hitherto, with his strength and feverish, if intermittent, energy, plus an almost uncanny skill with boats, he had been of value. "Certainly not. We are going to make a careful survey of the cliffs, and explore every likely opening as thoroughly as possible. It will be slow work and hard. As to circumnavigating the island, I see no point in it, for I don't believe the chest can have been carried any great distance from the cave."

"Oh—all right," said Captain Magnus.

Mr. Tubbs, who had been whispering with Aunt Jane and Miss Browne, now with a very made-to-order casualness proposed to the ladies that they take a stroll on the beach. This meant that the triumvirate were to withdraw for discussion, and amounted to notice that henceforth the counsels of the company would be divided.

Captain Magnus, after an uneasy wriggle or two, said he guessed he'd turn in. Cookie's snores were already audible between splashes of the waves on the sands. The Scotchman, Cuthbert Vane and I continued to sit by the dying fire. Mr. Shaw had got out his pipe and sat silently puffing at it. He might have been sitting in solitude on the topmost crag of the island, so remote seemed that impassive presence. Was it possible that ever, except in the sweet madness of a dream, I had been in his arms, pillowed and cherished there, that he had called me lassie—

I lifted my eyes to the kind honest gaze of Cuthbert Vane. It was as faithful as Crusoe's and no more embarrassing. A great impulse of affection moved me. I was near putting out a hand to pat his splendid head. Oh, how easy, comfortable and calm would be a life with Cuthbert Vane? I wasn't thinking about the title now—Cuthbert would be quite worth while for himself. For a moment I almost saw with Aunt Jane's eyes. Fancy trotting him out before the girls! stole insidiously into my mind. How much more dazzling than a plain Scotch sailor—

I turned in bitterness and yearning from the silent figure by the fire.

I think in an earlier lifetime I must have been a huntress and loved to pursue the game that fled.

(To be continued)

Doesn't Show in His Golfing.
A woman who has never seen her husband fishing doesn't know what a patient man she has married.—Boston Transcript.

ERGOT IS CAUSE OF HUGE LOSSES

Disease of Rye and Occasionally Found on Wheat and Other Cultivated Crops.

PRODUCE SPORES IN SPRING

Illness Has Become Widely Distributed Across Continent—Durum Wheats Seem to Be More Subject to Attack.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Ergot, a widespread disease of rye, and occasionally reported on wheat and other cultivated cereals and related grasses, has this year been observed in North Dakota as a destructive disease of wheat. Samples of thrashed wheat sent to the United States Department of Agriculture from several points in northeastern North Dakota carry as much as 10 per cent by weight of the ergot bodies. This figure does not fully represent the probable amount of ergot produced by the crop, for an appreciable percent-



Ergot Has Become Vary Destructive in Rye and Particularly Durum Wheats, Even Occurring to a Marked Degree in Barley.

age of the sclerotia, or ergot bodies, would, of course, be blown out with foreign material either as a part of the screenings or with the straw through the blow stacker.

Ergot can be distinguished in ripening wheat as large bluish black bodies, which in many instances are from three to eight times as large as the grain of wheat or rye which they displace in the head. Many of these bodies fall from the ripe wheat or rye head during the process of harvesting and lie on the ground all winter. They germinate in the spring and produce spores which infect the wheat or rye head when it is in bloom.

As a disease of wheat, ergot has become widely distributed across the country from New York to Oregon and from the Canadian border to the southern limits of wheat production, but not until within the past three years has it attracted more than passing attention. From such observations as have been recorded there is some reason to believe that the disease is becoming not only more prevalent but is also more widely distributed. The durum wheats seem to be more subject to attack than do the common wheats; at any rate, reports based on field observations and on samples of thrashed grain show a higher percentage of ergot in the durum varieties.

Ergot Is Poisonous to Live Stock.

The importance of ergot as a cereal disease lies not so much in its relation to crop yield as it does in its poisonous effect upon animals that unwittingly have been given a ration of screenings or other feed containing the ergot bodies. It is now generally accepted that flour made from wheat or rye is unfit for food if it contains more than one-tenth of 1 per cent by weight of ergot. Screenings obtained from wheat or rye affected with ergot would naturally include ergot bodies, and these when ground at the feed mill are scarcely recognizable as a part of the grit. Such feed, when fed to poultry or other live stock, may result in fatal poisoning.

As a cereal disease, ergot may be controlled by planting clean seed immediately after any other crop than wheat or rye in which there was an outbreak of ergot.

Winter rye volunteers readily, and these volunteer plants are almost always badly infected with ergot. Sowing wheat after rye, therefore, is bad practice, for, regardless of whether the ergot attacks the wheat, its presence in volunteer rye is sure to leave a considerable quantity of both rye and ergot in the wheat as it comes from the thrashing machine. This foreign matter is likely to lower the grade of the wheat as well as affect its value for bread-making purposes.

Freeing Seed Grain of Ergot.

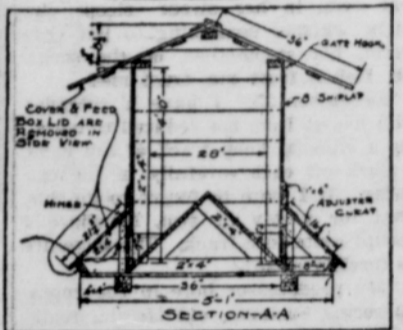
Rye or wheat containing ergot bodies can be perfectly cleaned by pouring the grain into a vat or barrel containing a 20 per cent solution of common salt and stirring thoroughly to bring the ergot bodies to the surface. The

difference in specific gravity between this solution and fresh water will bring all ergot bodies, or pieces of such material, to the surface where they can be skimmed off. The brine should then be drawn off and the grain then washed in fresh water to remove any salt remaining on the seed.

ADVANTAGES OF SELF-FEEDER

Inverted "V" at Bottom of Device Compels Grain or Feed to Slide Out into Trough.

This self-feeder for hogs, as perfected by Director Christie at Indiana experiment station, is made as shown by this cross section. It will be seen that the inverted "V" at bottom of feeder compels the grain or feed to slide out into the trough. The side gate can be adjusted to let out as little or as much feed as desired. The pigs will themselves raise the outside cover, which drops down when they are through eating. This feeder has some advantages over other types. Other types are described in Farmers' Bulletin 906—free from Department of Agriculture, Washington.



Self-Feeder for Hogs.

SOILS NEED STABLE MANURE

Fertilizer Loosens Up Clay and Assists Sand to Retain Moisture Needed by Plants.

The chief virtue of sandy soil is that the roots of plants can pass through it readily; its chief fault is that it dries out too quickly. Clay soil holds water well, but it tends to pack and harden. Both types of soil need stable manure—it loosens up clay and helps sand to hold moisture.

BALANCED RATION IS ESSENTIAL FOR EGGS

New Things Discovered to Be Given Consideration.

To Overcome Acid in Feed Mixtures Necessary to Supply Meat Scrap or Something Similar—Fresh Milk Will Help.

Every person who keeps poultry is sure to be impressed sooner or later by the importance of feeding well-balanced rations, especially for the production of eggs. Ordinarily a balanced ration means a ration that has the proportions of carbohydrates, protein and fat that have been found by experience to produce the best results, but new things are being discovered that need to be given consideration in balancing a ration. For instance, it is now thought that it may be well to have a balance between the acid and alkaline feeds and that there is a possibility that the continued use of an acid-forming diet may lead to a greater susceptibility to certain diseases.

The grain mixtures that are commonly used by poultrymen are acid. Mash mixtures containing sufficient quantities of digester tankage, meat and bone meal, dried milk or dried blood will be alkaline. The acid in feed mixtures can be overcome by these feeds just mentioned and by ground limestone and oyster shell. This further emphasizes the necessity of feeding a mash containing meat scrap or some feed of this kind. Green feed and fresh milk also help to overcome acidity.

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MISUSING GRADE NOT PROFITABLE

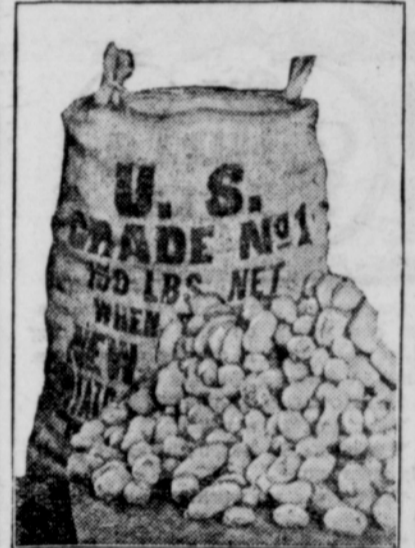
Misbranding Frequently Occurs Through Ignorance, Rather Than Intent to Cheat.

CAUSES OF IMPROPER GRADING

Specialists Point Out That Grower or Shipper Who Ships Inferior Farm Produce Soon Learns Error of His Way.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Sixty per cent of the commercial potato crop in the United States is now bought and sold upon the basis of United States potato grades, according to the bureau of markets and crop estimates, United States Department of Agriculture, and every producer contributing to that quality of graded stock is vitally concerned with the elimination of dishonest grading practices. Growers and shippers whose honesty cannot be relied upon soon find



This Sack, Labeled "U. S. Grade No. 1," Contained Run Stock Shown in the Foreground.

it difficult to market their crops anywhere, for the news that they are un dependable travels quickly in marketing circles. But in its larger aspect as concerning the whole body of producers and shippers who conduct their business on a basis of co-operation with the dealer, the misuse of a grade is a really serious matter for it tends to jeopardize the mutual feeling of confidence which is the very essence of business dealings.

Flagrant Case of Misbranding.

Several instances of the misuse of United States potato grades have come to the attention of the department. In New Jersey a growers' organization was found placing in sacks labeled "U. S. Grade No. 1" potatoes that were actually field run of poor quality. Fully 25 per cent of the potatoes in each bag were culls and only a small percentage of the remaining 75 per cent would have graded No. 1.

A short time ago a jobber in a southern city ordered a car of U. S. Grade No. 1 Round Whites from a shipper in a northern state. Upon arrival, inspection showed that the two top layers of sacks contained stock that was sound and up to the grade requirements in every respect. But the potatoes in the bottom layers of sacks were badly smeared with dry rot from contact with decayed stock, these layers evidently being of stock that had been reconditioned at shipping points. The potatoes had to be resorted at the receiving point, and the shipper suffered a heavy monetary loss.

Blemished Stock Picked Out.

In a trip through the Minnesota potato district a representative of the department recently reported that in one house where a grading machine of the shaking screen type was used the screen was padded with burlap, leaving only about one and one-half feet of screen at one end uncovered. The manager stated that this was to prevent bruising the stock, and he seemed to be much surprised when it was pointed out that the burlap interfered with the proper sizing of the potatoes.

It was also reported that in some instances shippers were of the opinion that No. 1 stock was procured simply by running the potatoes through a sizing machine. In these cases it was necessary to call attention to the fact that blemished stock must be culled out by hand; also that when there is a heavy run of undersized stock, much of it may be carried over the grade if the potatoes are run through too rapidly.

Specifications of the federal grades can be had upon application to the bureau of markets and crop estimates, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. The bureau will also be glad to advise growers and shippers with regard to detailed grading methods.

Dedicating the Wall of Jerusalem.

And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites out of all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem to keep the dedication with gladness, both with thanksgivings and with singing, with cymbals, psalteries, and with harps.—Nehemiah 12:27.

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