

RURAL ENTERPRISE

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SELF-HELP IN SIGHT

During the last hundred years discoveries and inventions have revolutionized nearly every department of productive industry. The farm as well as the factory has experienced the forward thrust of improved productive power. Impossibilities of a few years ago are achievements of today. The writer of this is no centenary, but he remembers when the first horse-drawn mowing machine came into the part of the country where he lived. After that came the reaping machine, with men following it and binding the sheaves. Then came the self binder, a wonder in its day. Now we have the combine.

Henry Ford is a mighty practical man, but we are not looking for a fulfillment of his prediction of a day when our foods will be synthetically produced by chemists and a little capsule will contain a meal. If that time should come we might rush to the surgeons to have our useless stomachs and intestines lopped off, like the useless tonsil or appendix. Fashions change, both inside and outside of us.

In feeding stock it has been found necessary to give not only the nutrients required but enough "roughage" to properly distend the digestive tract. We are all animals and subject to that same natural law, whether we believe that we descended from the monkey, the elephant or the skunk or simply that our ancestors and theirs started from the same starting post on the long and devious race we all are running.

But it looks as though the farmer might come into the sunlight of prosperity by his own action, as has the oil producer, the auto maker or the grain gambler, and without waiting to get justice in the economic tariff schedule or in the cost of transportation or for a McNary-Haugen or other kind of subsidy.

The man who cut the labor cost of curing hay and grain and snapped his fingers at the weather by stacking his crop under cover and forcing air through it, reported that he got a better product at less cost.

This week we have, elsewhere on this page, the somewhat startling story of a farmer near Chicago who not only effects this saving in cost and improvement in quality but doubles the nutritive value of his product per ton by harvesting a month before the usual time and gets the use of the land for two crops in the short season of Illinois. With seven men he harvests 8000 tons of alfalfa in a season, with a food content never before approached.

Such farming as that ought to put the farmer on easy street. Wonders never cease. One

after another they become commonplace.

Ex-Governor West's request for Senator Stanfield's attitude in the booze issue is to be answered. The senator is billed for trial at Baker Friday on a charge of being drunk and disorderly. We don't see the "drunk" in the report of the setting of the trial, but the arresting officer asserts it.

The military air service is controlled by the army and navy. When attempting a stunt like that in which the Shenandoah was wrecked we would like to see the secretaries of war and the navy go along.

The strike, as used by labor unions to force wage increase, is one of the most formidable weapons known, but some of the Portland barbers can't make the same thing work in enforcing their rise to 65 cents per haircut.

The United States senate cannot rid itself of Charles G. Dawes with a wave of the hand. He is talking to the people who pay the bills, and those same people have the votes.

The best daily paper in the state outside of Portland, the Eugene Register, expects to move into a new home, with new and up-to-date machinery and apparatus, early in 1926.

It was a mistake to elect Mr. Dawes vice-president, to reside over the senate. He is sort of efficiency expert whereas what the senators desire and need is a deficiency expert.

If the evidence is indisputable that man existed in Africa, in Palestine and in Europe millions of years ago, that upsets not the Bible, but the popular interpretation of it and Usher's chronology.

Oregon is not the only state where prisoners are permitted to farm before furloughing. Eight of them, armed, left prison at Seattle yesterday.

A chain is as weak as its weakest link, but a league of nations is stronger than its strongest member.

Vice-President Dawes and General Mitchell are rebels. So were Moses and George Washington.

Big Importance of Trees to Mankind

Many Useful Purposes Are Served by Large Plants.

Trees serve so many useful purposes that it would be quite impossible to mention them all, but if you will try to imagine for a moment, living in a world without trees and without any of the products that come directly from trees, you will at once begin to realize their true importance in relation to mankind.

1. Trees absorb poisonous gases and exhale health-giving oxygen, thus preserving our health.
2. They shade us from the hot sun and cool the air by evaporation.
3. They shelter us from their leaves, and they shelter us from the cold, blustering winds.

(Continued on page 7)

The Great Outdoors

Where Bread, Meat, Clothing, Health and Vigorous Humanity are Produced

Hay Cut and Cured In Thirty Minutes And It Has Twice the Value of the Usual Product

One man, on the average, tills as much soil and raises as much produce as three did 100 years ago. Americans are better fed, and by one-third as many farmers, than they were 100 years ago. And on the farms there are better furniture, better clothing, better buildings, better artificial light and improvement in comforts all along the line.

Part of this is due to increased knowledge of the facts on which agriculture is based, but much more to machines and tools which have been invented.

We have traveled far from the time of the sickle, the hand lail and all the other farm implements of our grandfathers, but it would seem that we are still only on the threshold of agricultural progress.

A few weeks ago the Enterprise described a hay-curing outfit that so far cut down the manual labor of haymaking, while producing a uniformly better article of feed, than was pronounced a real money-saver and a help toward bringing the farmer into his own, on a financial par with the follower of other industries.

Last week we referred to machinery which takes skim milk from the separator and in thirty minutes turns it into a powder that will keep indefinitely and be ready for solution and use whenever wanted.

Here we reproduce from the Farm Journal an account of how Arthur J. Mason, a farmer near Chicago, not only cures his hay without its being touched by hand, but secures with it twice the nutritive value of ordinary hay. Mr. Mason writes to the Journal:

"For twelve years now I have given nearly all my time, and much money, in a research having for its end a new and better regime in agriculture. It must be plain to all that he rewards in agriculture have not kept pace with those in urban life.

"A larger product per acre, and a larger product for a man's year's work, must be had.

"The time-honored dry harvest of the United States (I exclude wheat for the moment) means that not a third of what our lands actually now produce is utilized. Thus an acre of oats, cut in the milk and dried rapidly, say within half an hour, will feed three times the weight of animal it does under the usual practice.

"This astounding fact can easily be verified by reference to any good text-book, such as Voorhees's 'Forag Crops.'

"On my farm an acre of oats yields at harvest time 140 pounds of protein; the same acre yields 400 pounds of protein when evaporated in June. (Note here five or six weeks time in the growing season saved.)

"Men must work in groups in farming as they do in urban life.

"We must save the time of our short growing season—save the land's time.

"Agricultural machinery, now used ten days a year, must be used at least 150 days a year.

"The crops must all be saved, not allowed to waste by slow fermentation. More than two-thirds of their food value is now dissipated in the process of what we call maturing, which is the name we give for the sacrifice entailed when we allow them to dry naturally in the field."

The Journal says of the process Mr. Mason has perfected: The hay never touches the ground—30 minutes after it

is cut it arrives in the barn, dry and in finely ground form, without a fork ever having been used to handle it.

Mason uses a mower with a conveyor attached. As the hay falls before the on-rushing sickle it is elevated to a chopper, where it is cut into lengths of one foot and then dumped into a large wagon-box. Trucks or tractors easily haul several loads of hay to the barn at one time.

At the barn the hay is automatically unloaded into the drier. It passes through the drier, and comes out with a moisture content as low or lower than hay ordinarily dried in the sun. The hay then goes to the grinder, which grinds it up fine and then blows it into the haymow. Thus we see that the human hand has never had any occasion to handle it.

Short Grain Crop is Predicted

September Production Forecast of Department of Agriculture Is Unfavorable.

Washington, D. C.—Crop yields this year will be, on the whole, well below the average of recent years, the department of agriculture's crop reporting board announced in its September production forecast.

Corn deteriorated on account of dry weather in large areas and indicated production now is 2,885,000,000 bushels, a loss of 65,000,000 bushels in the last month. The indicated crop is 445,000,000 bushels more than was produced last year, but slightly under the average of the last five years.

Spring wheat yields are running slightly higher than early expectations. The crop is now forecast at 348,000,000 bushels or 21,000,000 more than early August conditions indicated, and 1,000,000 more than was produced last year. Winter wheat, already harvested, is estimated at 416,900,000 bushels making the country's total prospective wheat crop about 700,000,000 bushels, or 22,000,000 bushels more than was produced last year, but 137,000,000 bushels less than the five-year average.

Foreign prospects for wheat announced by the department of agriculture indicate that in 24 countries of the northern hemisphere the yield will total 2,431,000,000 bushels, compared with 2,303,000,000 last year while in the southern hemisphere crops are promising and a record acreage is apparent.

Prepare an exhibit for the COUNTY FAIR

WHEAT, CORN, OATS and BARLEY Whole or Ground FISHER'S EGG PRODUCER Gives better results O. W. FRUM

American Eagle Fire Insurance Co. Hay is worth just as much in storage as you might get for it in case of fire. The American Eagle Fire Insurance company will pay you 85% of the cash value in case of loss by fire. C. P. STAFFORD, Agent

Problems Worry Alfalfa Growers

Variety of Seed, Time of Seeding and When to Cut Are Perplexing.

The three problems which worry alfalfa growers the most are variety to seed, time of seeding, and time of cutting. The University of Illinois has been studying these problems for several years. Conclusions on the most suitable varieties have been arrived at after watching the performance of various kinds of alfalfa on the experiment field at Urbana and on the branch field at DeKalb.

Grimm Best Yielder. During the past six years at DeKalb, a variegated variety of Grimm known as Baltic has been the best yielder with an average production of 4.6 tons per acre. The varieties were cut three times each season. The second highest variety was South Dakota No. 12, with a yield of 4.07 tons. South Dakota Grimm yielded 3.75 tons; Kansas common 3.39 tons; South Dakota common 3.19 tons and Turkistan 2.9. The latter variety has been on the market in large quantities but is not hardy enough to make a good variety for Illinois.

At Urbana, South Dakota No. 12 yielded best with an average of 4.1 tons per acre. Idaho was second with 3.9 tons. Then came Kansas common with 3.8 tons, Grimm 3.7 tons, Cossack 3.6 tons, and Argentine with only about 25 per cent as much as the other varieties.

Time of Cutting. The study of time of cutting indicates that the best yields will be obtained when the alfalfa is cut when it is in full bloom. The next best yield was secured when the alfalfa was cut when it was one-tenth in bloom. The poorest yield was obtained when it was cut at the time the new shoots were beginning to come. This has been the time formerly used by many growers but in trials with other dates of cutting proved to be inadvisable.

The study carried on shows that the best time for seeding is in the spring with a nurse crop of early grain, either oats or barley. The yields from alfalfa seeded in the spring have averaged about one-half ton per acre better than the yields of fall seeded alfalfa. This study indicates that farmers can generally follow the recommendations made in this article. Seed a hardy variety that has shown a satisfactory performance; seed in the spring with a nurse crop, and cut when in full bloom for highest average yields.

Timber sold on the national forests of Oregon and Washington for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1925, amounted to 704,386,000 board feet, valued at \$1,449,898.48, according to the report of the forest service relating to the national forests of Oregon and Washington. The national forests of the two states contain 217,745,196,000 board feet of standing timber, according to service estimates.

Keep Bees Busy to Make Money

Remove Filled Supers as Soon as Possible and Put in Empty Ones.

The "busy" bee is not nearly so industrious as he has been pictured by his admirers. In fact, he has some very human qualities. He works when there is an incentive to work, and he has been known to loaf on the job dreadfully when he has gotten up enough honey to keep him through the winter.

The bee would not contribute much to man's sweet tooth if he was not persuaded to do so through intelligent handling, and through fear of starvation. A hive of bees can be kept at work through most of the summer if you keep this fear constantly before the workers.

Quit When Full.

Under the old system of having a good swarm seldom produced more than 10 to 20 pounds of honey a season for the keeper. This was due to the fact that when Mr. Bee got his house full of honey, he quit working. Since beekeepers adopted the sectional hive with supers holding small pound frames, the records of production of a single hive have constantly grown until beekeepers say that in good seasons they sometimes run 200 pounds of honey to the hive. Certainly 60 to 80 pounds is an average yield.

The point is to keep a continual watch on each hive during the honey flow and to remove the filled supers as fast as possible, putting in empty ones. If you don't do this, you are losing just so much return from the bees. Oftentimes to delay doing it at the right time, finds the bees out of the "motion" and they will continue to loaf.

By planting alsike clover for mid-summer feeding and even for late summer, the bees can be kept working right along during hot weather, and they can finish off on buckwheat or some other late crop. Buckwheat honey, however, does not appeal to the market as clover honey. If there is any considerable planting of sweet clover near by, either in fields or growing wild along the roadsides, it will keep the bees busy until well into the fall. And sweet clover is one of the best and clearest honey-makers you can find.

Prices for Honey.

Last season honey was bringing beekeepers 50 cents a pound right at the local markets. In the larger cities, the price was even more favorable. And every pound that the bees can be encouraged to produce is just that much more "velvet" for the beekeeper. It pays to have the extra supers all ready to be slipped into place as needed. The big honey flow always comes with a rush and the way the bees get it in often catches the beekeeper unawares, especially so if he is a new hand at the business. Constant prodding is good for Mr. Bee. It will help him to earn the right to the reputation he has enjoyed so long.

Bees in Orchard Most Profitable

Under Modern Methods of Handling Insects Are Not Bothersome.

Orchardists think kindly of the lowly honey bee. There is a very common saying among experienced orchardists which sums the matter up in a few words. It is: "No bees, no fruit." The failure of orchards in certain parts of the country, the different fruiting which is often blamed on the season, might very often be traced to the absence of bees. It does not make much difference, so far as the orchard is concerned, whether it is tame bees or wild bees that perform nature's method of fertilization of the bloom. It does, however, make some difference to the orchard owner in that tame bees will give him a yield of honey and sure pollenization without the consumption of extra ground. The same land can be made to yield two crops just as well as one.

Orchard Failures. The discontinuance of the keeping of tame bees on many farms, and the additional destruction and disappearance of the wild bees in the surrounding woods have all had their hand in the so-called "failure of orchards." Bees are one of the most profitable side lines which the farmer can carry. He can well afford to consider their possibilities, not only for their own sake but for the sake of the orchard. Under modern methods of handling bees, they are not half the bother and the trouble that they used to be. Swarming, the old-time bugaboo of the beekeeper, has been practically eliminated, because we have learned its cause and by practicing precautionary methods, by getting ready in

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