



The Western World

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GET READY FOR THE GARDEN

As a firm believer in the potency of the winter, or at least early spring garden, Western World again attempts to write upon the subject. As qualifications for such, we respectfully recall the back-lot efforts with the hoe that have furnished our pleasures of yore, and the voluminous information imparted by our successful gardener friends, the U. S. department of Agriculture and that itching germ commonly known as the progenitor of Spring fever.

It is a lamentable fact that many of our enthusiastic amateur gardeners failed of tangible results last year. But what of that? Does not both family pride and the edicts of the food administration, as well as the high cost of living demand that he who does not first succeed shall try, try again? In a very large number of cases ground that was wholly unsuitable for gardening was planted, and in many other cases the enterprise of backyard food production was begun in enthusiasm and ended in indifference. Ground was broken and seed planted and then the garden was left to its fate. Gardens, as everyone who has had experience knows, will not thrive under the absent treatment.

However, one of the chief causes in many cases where the efforts of the grower were conscientiously devoted to the cause, failed from no other reason than that the garden was planted so late in the spring the plants had no opportunity to make their freest growth before the summer drought came on. This was particularly discouraging. However, a little unfavorable experience last year should not deter one from trying again. And with an extra early spring at hand, it is no doubt the part of wisdom to start the garden of more hardy plants immediately, men who have had experience in gardening in Bandon, and know how, state that there is no reason at all why at least two crops of the more hardy plants cannot be produced each year. All it requires is ability to throw away a few "northern" prejudices and plant according to the dictates of reason.

The predicted food shortage is here today, and the unprecedented spectacle of limiting food purchases by law has become rather common. This year will be far more decisive in many ways than last, and it may be that the mild food shortage of today may become acute before the war is a thing of the past. The back yard has all the earmarks of a gold mine.

AIRPLANE SPRUCE PRICES

To the average person the statement that the government is paying \$130 per thousand for airplane spruce, causes the impression that the lumbermen of the West are growing rapidly rich. However, another phase of the situation dispels this assumption. The requirements for airplane spruce are such that only select trees are suitable for furnishing the high grade timber demanded, and of these, only a very small percentage is available. The requirements, among others which eliminate all knots, etc., demand that the timber shall show six concentric rings of growth to the inch. To meet this latter requirement the tree from which the lumber is made must be of upland growth and extra size and age; all of which reduces the percentage of the total output of the mills which is selected for the high price, to a minimum.

All of the cull spruce and cedar must be sold on the open market at prevailing lumber prices. Some of the mill operators claim that the profit of the lumber business in the West still resides in the sale of the staple fir.

FARM LOANS REACH 30 MILLION

Up to December 1, says the U. S. Farm Loan Board, \$29,824,655 had been actually paid out to farmers of the United States on 5 per cent long time loans. The report shows that the total applications made to the 12 Land Banks has been \$219,760,740, which was cut down by reductions and rejections to less than \$180,000,000. The interest rate has been increased from 5 per cent to 5 1/2 per cent.

Borrowing under the federal Farm Loan system is done through co-operative farm loan associations, organized by the farmers, having ten or more members, and each group borrowing at least \$20,000. About 1900 such associations are now in force.

TRADING LIBERTY BONDS

"I hope that the merchants of the country, upon a more careful consideration of the subject, will discontinue their efforts to sell merchandise and take Liberty Loan Bonds in payment," says Secretary McAdoo.

The secretary states that he has no doubt that merchants offering to take Liberty Loan Bonds in exchange for merchandise are actuated by patriotic motives, but that such transactions tend to defeat a primary object of the bond sales, as they discourage thrift and increase expenditures. Bonds so taken in exchange in most cases are immediately sold in the open market, which tends to suppress the market price and adversely affects sales of future issues.

The strongest efforts are made by the Treasury Department to have these Government bonds purchased for permanent investment by the people and paid for out of savings, thus not only providing funds for the Government but effecting conservation of labor and material; exchanging them for merchandise therefore defeats this purpose.

Rebecca West, an Englishwoman working for the British government, writes in the New Republic: "The woman munition-maker has lifted a load from the minds of feminists. For although we talked about the economic independence of women and the injustice of paying women lower wages than men for equal work, we did not really know whether women were capable of equal work. We hoped that the inferior position occupied by women in practically every part of the industrial world except the textile trades could be explained by their lack of technical training and by the physical depression caused by underpayment and the consequent underfeeding, but we could not be certain. We are quite sure now. Women are good timekeepers; they can endure long hours; they can do work that requires dexterity of eye and hand; they are careless of danger; they are in every respect save that of muscular strength as useful as men."

Along with the discouragement of travel merely for pleasure, at the present time when railway resources will be strained to the utmost in caring for business thrust upon the carriers by the war, comes the intimation that discussion is going forward with regard to the increase of fares. That step, if it were taken, infallibly would exert an influence in the direction of reduced travel. Even the war tax of eight per cent on railway fares and ten per cent on sleeper tickets is operating materially to cut down business.

According to figures compiled by the U. S. government, it is shown that the country is turning more and more to the single thought of carrying on the war. The report states that the tendency everywhere is a diminution of industries having no direct bearing upon our preparations for the conflict. On the other hand, industries dealing with the war are growing with leaps and bounds.

Living in a land which is producing in the month of January an abundance of geraniums, calla lilies, violets, carnations and other supposedly hothouse flora, local people arise and ask, "Is this not a bit of paradise?"

Since learning that the community is becoming a financial paragon, local pride suggests that citizens take greater cognizance of the armpits of the vest as the proper resting place for the thumbs.

The tendency thruout the nation appears to favor continuing road-work except in cases where to do so

Men Have Been Blind to Opportunities to Be Found in Agricultural Pursuits

By Warner M. Van Norder, New York Banker

Eyes have been blinded to the magnitude of the opportunities afforded by the development of agricultural pursuits, due in great part to modern inventions having made easily possible the accumulation of wealth which has been gathered with but little heed as to how long the supply would last. It has been done in our skimming way as we do many things—sip the froth without tasting the substantial. But the roots of humanity strike deep into the earth and it is only now when the question of our very existence is automatically forced on us that we reflect upon the possibilities of this endeavor.

From time immemorial the farmer has been the vertebrae of all nations, and the countries who possess the wisdom of foresight have accorded him his rightful place. Countries which have turned their minds and attention to other pursuits are becoming cognizant that their life will be at stake if more effort is not directed toward agricultural development. The pendulum is swinging backward once more and farming will come into its own.

Farming unlocks a thousand doors of opportunity. The days of pioneering are over. Trails have become roads; facilities for the transmission of intelligence are innumerable. The development awaits the keen awakening to the modern necessities of sustenance.

To the homeseeker, the man who wants a paradise, his own vine and fig tree, farming is replete with suggestions and there is no country better prepared to promote these suggestions and individual dreams than the United States.

Millions of acres are going practically to waste, but the enormity of this available land should in no wise create an infamous reflection upon the quality and condition of the land, but rather construed as a derogation of the man who has been content to look afar for verdant fields without inspecting those about him.

No Man Should Expect More From His Country Than He Will Give It

By DR. IRA NELSON HOLLIS
President of American Society of Mechanical Engineers

All preparations for public service must be based upon a foundation of good citizenship in our whole country if our officials are to serve well in this republic. A human pyramid can be formed only with strong men at the bottom, and no first-rate public service can ever be built up on a flabby, careless attitude toward civic duties. America is young yet. It is like a boy who has grown far too rapidly, loose-jointed and tall, with unlimited possibilities after his frame shall have been knit into a solid mass. One hundred and twenty-eight years is not enough to bring a nation to its majority, especially one made up of such diverse elements as ours, the dumping ground of all the world for the oppressed and the poor.

Every individual must be regarded as part of the public service, and the first thing he must acquire whether he be native born or immigrant, is public conscience. In some way the ordinary citizen too often argues that because this is a government by the people and for the people the state owes him something. In that respect our patriotism is in part a sham, and we have plenty of evidence to prove it.

The first demand of our republic is, then, an educated public conscience. No man should expect more from his country than he is willing to give it. Those who whine about injustice in modern society are usually getting about what they deserve.

The second demand on every citizen should be a knowledge of our institutions and the method of government. The normal American is right-minded and is morally upright, but slack in his responsibilities to the public. The first thing to learn is that freedom does not mean emancipation from all responsibility to others. It means the self-control that permits reasonable surrender to the needs of all men. Rousseau's doctrine, that man is born free, is false unless the word free is defined in some better sense than that in the dictionary. Men are never free. From the cradle to the grave they have to yield, and every individual lacks freedom in just the proportion in which he has to learn to live with other people. He must think of the wishes and the interests of others.

works a direct hardship upon some dairy industry? Three-fourths, industry supplying war materials.

LOST—Has anyone seen or heard anything of a New Era Club since the U. S. entered the war and Bandon adopted the Red Cross, Y. M. C. A. and the Home Guard?

The man who owns a few cows is the fellow who sits up nights these times, planning what he shall do with his ever increasing hoard.

How much of the local prosperity can be directly traced to the boom in

WANTED—A good remedy for the Spring Fever. Apply to any local automobile owner.

The Russians won't let the Germans kill them, but they don't mind killing each other.

The earth wants a peace "made in Germany"—but not by Germans.

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