

RESULTS OF INTENSIVE FARMING

Nebraska Man Makes Twenty acres of land pay handsomely.

It would doubtless be of interest to every farmer to know something about "the most successful farmer in the United States;" what he does and how he does it.

But, how do you know who he is; how can any one person, who acts as judge in this big show or contest, determine who the best or most successful farmer is since it would take one man a life time to inspect only one-tenth of the farms in the United States?

Well, perhaps we should amend by saying "the man whom the Department of Agriculture says is the most successful farmer in the United States." That is putting it exact, and it must be admitted that the Department of Agriculture is in position to know what it is talking about. When first they hear of a particularly successful farmer they investigate his farm and his methods.

This man who is the most successful farmer in this country lives near Pawnee City, Nebraska, and his name is Arnold Martin. He has been showing the Department of Agriculture some things it didn't know before. An expert has been investigating Mr. Martin's system and the department has issued a bulletin telling farmers all over the country just how the Nebraska man manages things on the plot of ground which he calls his farm.

Martin is no amateur, but devotes his entire attention to agriculture, and every cent of his income is produced from his work on the body of land which he owns, seven miles from Pawnee City.

In Nebraska as in Iowa and other middle-western states, it is generally considered that a man must tend at least 160 acres in order to make money. Martin's farm contains just twenty acres and from this body of land he cares for his family and saves \$1,000 each year.

While Martin raises a certain amount of fruit, his principal crops are the usual farm crops, corn, potatoes, wheat, alfalfa, etc. Not a foot of the twenty acres is permitted to remain idle, and two and three crops of of something or other is raised on every acre every year.

Martin came to Pawnee City ten years ago from Switzerland without a cent. All he knew was farming. He went to work as a farm hand and in three years managed to save up \$275. Then he started out for himself. "Twenty acres is all I wanted," he says. "That's enough land if farmed rightfully, for any man."

Martin found his twenty acres. It was rocky and not worth farming—so the owners of the surrounding farms declare. As proof of the poor quality of the land, Martin paid only \$12.50 an acre for it, while surrounding land was worth from \$50 to \$75 an acre. The new purchaser paid just \$100 down and gave a mortgage for the balance. The remainder of his money he used to buy farm implements and live stock.

The bulletin which the department has issued concerning Martin says:

"His neighbors used to laugh at the young farmer and nicknamed him 'Hazelbrush' but they now say he is making more money off his twenty acres than we are off our 160 acres. He does not want any more land, but wants to farm what he has better than he does now."

So successful has the young

farmer been that today, seven years after he purchased his little farm, he is entirely out of debt, has a good house, fine barns, cash in the bank, and a standing offer of \$2,500 for his twenty acres of ground. Last winter he spent three months in Switzerland, and for the past three years he has been to the Colorado mountains every summer on pleasure bent.

Says the government bulletin: "The intensive methods pursued by Mr. Martin are of particular interest. The land is kept busy from spring until fall. At the last cultivation of potatoes, corn is planted between the rows. A full crop of potatoes and a fair crop of corn is produced from the same ground.

As many as 700 bushels of potatoes and 75 bushels of corn are produced from each acre planted in this way.

"After the potatoes ripen the corn keeps the weeds down. By the time corn needs the ground the potatoes are ripe, and the corn is in the shock before it is time to dig the potatoes. Some parts of the potato patch are sowed with millet and sorghum just before the last cultivation. This makes a good crop of feed and does not hurt the potatoes. Squashes are sometimes planted in the same way. The onion patches grow corn and melons, which are planted in rows between the onions. Part of the orchard is set with small fruit and part is planted with potatoes and truck.

"In dry spells all the water that the windmill will pump is used for irrigation and it is here that intensive farming reaches its height. The water from the well flows directly to the ditches as pumped. A little manure is scattered in the ditches to prevent washing.

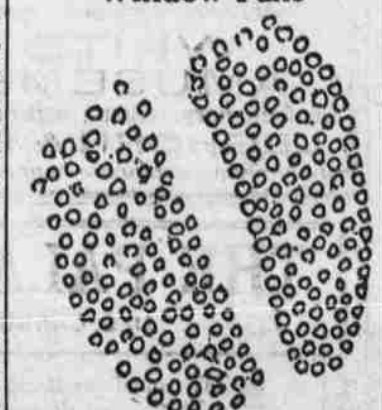
"The orchards contain 900 pear, 200 cherry, 800 peach and a few apple trees. The trees are planted in straight rows and between are raspberry bushes, tomatoes, cabbages, and sweet potatoes, with beets close by."

"I think I have found a remedy for poverty and hard times," says Martin. Any man can pick up ten or twenty acres. On ten acres he can make a living. On twenty acres he can get rich. I can't understand why a man will stay around a city working for starvation wages when he can walk out into the country 100 miles and get a farm and be independent.

"My only market is a small town of 2500 people, mostly farmers themselves. If my farm was near a city I could make a great deal more money on it. And where I am I must haul my products seven miles to town."

The government intends to exploit the style of farming carried on by Mr. Martin and to teach farmers all over the country to follow the methods of the "most successful farmer in the country."

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SMITHSON'S BEQUEST

Origin of the Famous Smithsonian Institution.

THE CONTROL OF ITS FUNDS.

Uncle Sam's Treasury Holds Its Money, Which Can Be Used Only on Appropriation by Congress—Its Peculiar Relation to the Government.

Although the name of the Smithsonian Institution is a common household word in America and millions of persons have visited the great buildings in Washington where are stored the contributions of science which have been gathered under its auspices, few understand the real relation of the institution to the national government. Most persons believe that it is a part of the government.

The Smithsonian Institution, says the Washington Times, occupies a peculiar relation to this government. It is a part of it, and yet it is not a part. Its moneys are in the United States treasury and can be used only on appropriation by congress, and yet this money does not belong to the government. It is to the government only as the money of a ward is to a guardian.

James Smithson, who contributed the bulk of the fund in the hands of the institution, was an Englishman, the son of a peer of the realm. He was a man who could trace his ancestry back to royal blood. He never visited in America and was never known to have any particular partiality for America until he wrote his will in 1826. He died at Genoa in 1829, and when they opened his will this is what they read:

"I bequeathed the whole of my property to the United States of America to found at Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men."

This property amounted to about \$500,000, which was in that day a princely fortune. Six years after his death the United States legation at London was informed that there was about \$500,000 in the possession of the adjutant general of the British court of chancery awaiting claimant.

Immediately there arose in America all kinds of opposition to the acceptance of the money. John C. Calhoun and William G. Preston urged with all the fire of their eloquence that it was beneath the dignity of this government to accept such a gift. But John Quincy Adams and others prevailed, and Richard Rush was sent to England to prosecute the claim of this government.

He was successful, and on Sept. 1, 1838, the money was delivered at the mint in Philadelphia in the shape of 64,900 gold sovereigns, which were minted into \$508,318.46 in American money.

This sum by careful management and by additions from other charitably inclined persons has now become about \$1,000,000, which the government keeps and pays interest upon for the maintenance of the institution.

For the first eight years the money lay in the treasury while plans were being formulated for the permanent establishment described by Smithson in his will. Thousands of letters were received, and there were schemes enough proposed to bankrupt several governments. Congressmen debated over this fund repeatedly, and hundreds of pages of the Congressional Globe were given up to it.

The institution has been worked out on such broad lines as to be one of the greatest forces in scientific research in the world.

The board of regents is composed of the vice president of the United States, the chief justice of the United States, three United States senators, three representatives and six citizens of the United States at large.

The National museum, the weather bureau, the zoological park at Washington, the fisheries bureau and the astrophysical observatory have been developed by the institution.

The objects of the institution, as described by its first secretary, Joseph Henry, have been adhered to through the years of its existence. They are to increase knowledge by original investigations and study either in science or literature and to diffuse knowledge not only through the United States, but everywhere, especially by promoting an interchange of thought among those prominent in learning in all nations. No restriction is made in favor of any one branch of knowledge.

The leading features of the plan of Professor Henry were, in his own words:

"To assist men of science in making original researches, to publish them in a series of volumes and to give a copy of them to every first class library in the world."

Books, laboratory accommodations and apparatus have been supplied to thousands of investigators throughout the United States.

Unprincipled Wretch.

"You simply cannot trust anybody!" declared the lady. "My maid, whom I had the utmost confidence in, left me suddenly yesterday and took with her my beautiful pearl brooch."

"That is too bad," sympathizes the friend. "Which one was it?"

"That very pretty one I smuggled through last year."—Life.

Excessive anger against human stupidity is itself one of the most provoking of all forms of stupidity.—Von Radowitz.

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