

# WINTER STRAWBERRY PUTS GOODLY CASH IN DIXIE PURSES

PLANT CITY, Fla.—(AP)—Winter strawberries—the nation's most expensive table luxury—are streaming into market from hundreds of patches, unknown to any agricultural census but always ready with their annual supply of "cash money" fruit.

Optimists estimate an assured harvest of 5,000,000 quarts, 500,000 quarts more than were picked in the record season of 1924-25. A long, dreary drizzle did the work. It broke up a drought that for several weeks kept producers extremely uneasy, and by supplying moisture necessary to bring the fruit out for the holiday trade gives rise to the prospect that growers in this community will add more than \$1,000,000 to their bank accounts.

First shipments to the north brought from \$2 to \$2.25 a quart. Later, 1,000 quarts were sold at \$1.25 a quart. At the end of the first week of sales the daily average was better than 1500 quarts at 91 cents. Sales are expected to reach 5000 quarts a day around the first of the year. The shipments will continue thru March, but as the season progresses prices are expected to drop.

Plant City makes the first shipments of winter strawberries, and by being the earliest on the market gets the highest prices. Northern Florida follows, then Louisiana, Tennessee, Mississippi, North Carolina, Illinois, Delaware, and New Jersey market their crops.

Farmers have found the strawberry an excellent mid-winter crop to be grown when their land otherwise would be idle. In many sections it has become the "cash crop." Here, the yield usually is from 2500 to 3000 quarts to the acre and worth from \$750 to \$1500 to the grower.

Unlike most farmers, the strawberry grower does not have to wait for his money. He drives into town with the day's harvest and when he goes home his money is in his pocket. Growers finance themselves, in part with money from other crops but largely from proceeds as their sales are made.

This little town is a busy place during the market season. There is a modern auction yard with all the facilities of any produce market. When the yard is filled the gates are shut and buyers pass among the wagons, inspect the crates, and make offers. Bids are raised back and forth. If the price does not suit the producer, he can drive out, rent a refrigerator and take his chances on a higher figure.

Usually, he takes the highest bid. He must decide within a half hour whether he will sell, for there are other wagons waiting their turn at the gate. Most growers are known to the buyer by the way they pack their boxes. Seldom does a buyer "dump" a box of berries to see if the small ones are at the bottom, but he may choose for it is his unwritten right. A few growers take enough pride in their produce to place their name on their boxes. Culls are so scarce that a canning and preserving plant established here some time ago was forced out of business.

# MENTAL POTTERING HELD A HIGH BOON TO BIG THINKERS

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—(AP)—Creative thought, artists, authors, scientists and musicians is accomplished usually while the mind is occupied by "irrelevant matters."

This conclusion was announced today by Elliot D. Hutchinson, of the University of Rochester. He said it was based on material gathered from personal interviews with or written comments from some of the most famous of present-day British and American thinkers. Included were Arnold Bennett, James M. Barrie, E. Phillips Oppenheim, Robert Russell, J. A. Fleming, Sir A. E. Conze and Aylmer Hueston.

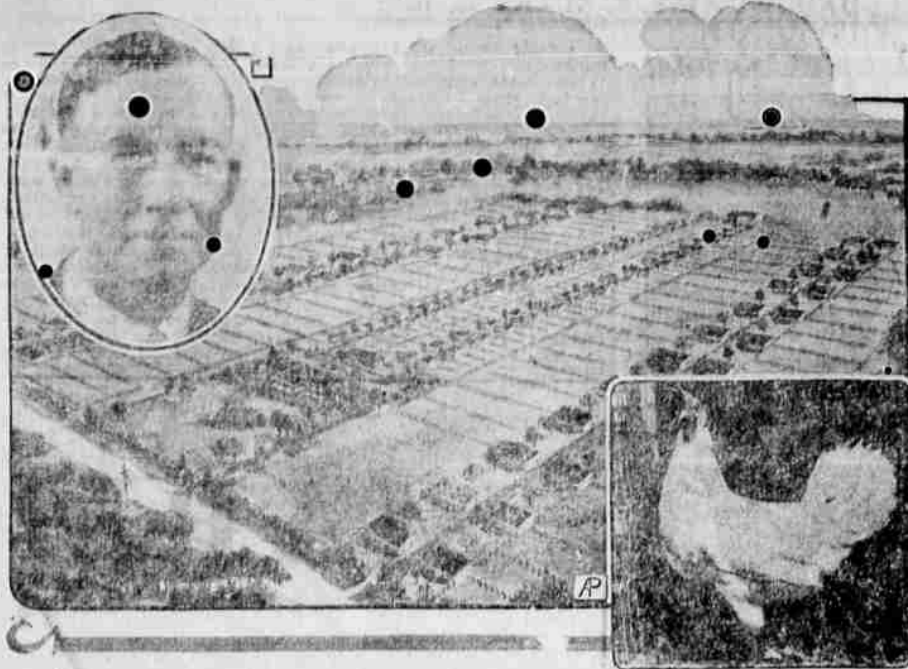
"The characteristics of creative ideas," Mr. Hutchinson said, "argue that the moment of inspiration in which brilliant ideas flash into the mind is really a period of mental dissociation caused either by emotion or absorption in other interests.

"Such creative ideas usually appear when the interest is absorbed by irrelevant matters, are usually fragmentary, often immediately unrelated to the problem in hand, are usually discovered on the fringe of consciousness, irrecoverable when lost, are sudden in appearance, sweep over the mind in a flood, develop an supplementary or alternate forms and display impersonality."

A "sticky" ration is not easily digested by the dairy cow, and feeds such as oil meals and wheat middlings, which get sticky when wet, should be combined with a more bulky material like wheat or bran or ground oats so that the digestive juices may mix more readily with the feed. If wheat bran or ground oats, or both, make up one-third to one-half the total weight of the grain mixture, it will crumble when wet instead of sticking together.

Harl Luck for Jackie, CINCINNATI—(AP)—Jackie May, Cincinnati southpaw, pitched only one full game in 1928 and that was a shutout victory over the Giants in June. Illness and a pore arm kept him out of action.

# 50-Acre Farm Produces 3 Million Eggs Yearly



On Mose Johnson's poultry farm near Wichita, Falls, Texas, (above), the chief crop is eggs. Johnson (upper left) started the business 25 years ago with five hens and a rooster and the general comment of the neighbors was that he was foolish. His hens are white leghorns, such as shown at lower right.

By Lester Posvar (Associated Press Feature Editor) WICHITA FALLS, Texas.—(AP)—Mose Johnson is wealthy because he counted his chickens before they were hatched.

Twenty-five years ago he gave up a clerical job, bought five white Leghorn hens and a rooster and moved to a 50-acre farm to raise chickens by the thousands. His neighbors couldn't see it. They said the fancy price he paid for his brood flocks was foolish. The little farm and flock had exhausted his financial resources.

Johnson's wife did a little counting herself. True, all the hatching was still to be done, but she consented to giving up the certainty of a weekly pay check because she believed her husband

could make a fortune come home to roost with the chickens.

Today the Johnson farm near Wichita Falls has 14,000 Leghorn hens which lay 3,000,000 eggs a year. There are so many chickens that an investment of \$100,000 is represented by the buildings and equipment needed for their care.

Other wives, who buy eggs for their table, can appreciate what Johnson's wife can appreciate. And, there is another, altho smaller, Johnson poultry farm near Bowie, Texas.

However, Johnson has not capped trying times in the chicken business. Five years after he started his flock a tornado swept his farm, destroying a 6000-egg incubator and almost all the hens. With 150 birds that survived the

storm he started all over again. About one-third of the egg output of the Wichita Falls farm is used for incubation of baby chicks. Johnson sold 800,000 baby chicks late spring and summer. They were shipped to Mexico, Canada, Cuba, South America, Europe, and South Africa, as well as to every state in the union.

President Calles, of Mexico, recently sent two personal representatives to Texas, to select foundation stock for the Johnson flocks for a poultry ranch he plans to establish near Mexico City immediately after he retires from office.

Johnson's love of the poultry business goes back to the time he was a little boy, scarcely able to walk, when he had a couple of chickens for pets.

# Western National at Denver, Colo., Draws Livestock Elite



The types of purebred bull and prize-winning show horse that will enter the Western National Livestock and Horse Show in Denver are shown above. A farm demonstration of a six-horse hitch is one of the attractions of the 1929 show.

DENVER.—(AP)—Livestock valued at nearly \$100,000,000 listed in entries that exceed by 12 or 15 per cent the number exhibited last year, will be displayed at the 23rd National Western Livestock and Horse Show here January 17 to 19. The value of cattle, horses, sheep, swine, and other animals, exhibited in 1928 was appraised at \$80,000,000.

C. R. Jones, general manager of the show, says the expected increase of \$20,000,000 in total valuation of stock is the result of the National Western's position as the world's greatest market for "feeder" animals.

More than 30 states will be represented in the pens and stalls, and reservations have been made for visitors from Germany, Canada, Argentina and Mexico. Carload lots of stock will be shipped from Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Oregon, Idaho and other western states.

# VETERAN OF NINE ECLIPSES GOES TO SEE HIS TENTH

PITTSBURGH.—(AP) Veteran observer of nine total eclipses of the sun, Dr. Curtis is preparing for his tenth May 9 in Sumatra.

Dr. Curtis is director of Allegheny Observatory, Pittsburgh, and will work as a member of the eclipse party organized by Swarthmore college.

"The astronomer must be ready to begin 'shooting' when the time comes," Dr. Curtis said. "For rarely are eclipses more than five seconds late.

"The star-gazer is a good loser, although an unwilling one. On the other hand, he is as lumpy as a schoolboy over an unexpected vacation. If the weather is favorable and good photographs are obtained.

before there will be another eclipse of so long duration. There will be a shorter eclipse, of a minute or so, in Patagonia in 1930 and another brief one over Canada and Maine in 1932.

"Sumatra has been favored with eclipses, the forthcoming one being the third there in the last 30 years. This is merely a coincidence, as, if one remains in the same locality, his chances for seeing a total solar eclipse average about once in 240 years. I saw both previous Sumatra eclipses, one in 1901 and the other in 1926.

"While we have had solar eclipses since the beginning, it is not very many years since photography has been known and since modern scientific methods could be applied to their study. Limiting ourselves in this way to accurate and scientific results, it has been calculated that I have had to date only 34 minutes of real eclipse 'sandy,' and this coming eclipse will increase the total to about 57 minutes. An eclipse of five minutes is infrequent."

The Swarthmore party will set up an extensive camp, probably at a little village named Takegoun 60 miles from the northern tip of Sumatra.

Thousands of dollars worth of equipment will be carried, including a camera-telescope 63 feet long, the lens of which is supported by a grass covered tower

60 feet high. A large twin Einstein camera will be used to study minute deflections of light from stars as it passes close enough to the sun to be affected by the solar power of gravity. Such deflection of light is part of the Einstein theory.

During the eclipse two members of the Swarthmore party, who will work at the base of the camera-telescope, do not expect to get even an direct glimpse of the phenomenon.

The eighth annual camera meeting, which draws students from all western states and Canada every year, will be held this year from Oregon State college. This is conducted in the horticultural products department under the direction of Professor E. H. Weigand.

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# CONGRESS COUNTS ELECTORAL VOTES ON FEBRUARY 13

WASHINGTON.—(AP) Forces to write bills to the election of Herbert Hoover as president of the United States and Charles Curtis as vice president are under way.

February 13 is a joint session of the senate and the house, the 443 electoral votes won by Hoover and Curtis will be formally inscribed on the records of the government. Preliminaries to that event began January 2, with a meeting in each state of electors of that state. The vote thus cast is forwarded to Washington.

This year will witness the first formal deliberance of the vote under a law passed at the last session, which provides for mailing the certificates to Washington in-

stead of them being delivered in person by chosen messengers. The government saves \$14,000 thereby, that amount being the average required in past years to bring the messengers to Washington and send them home.

The certificates are to be made of the electoral vote of each state. One goes to the president of the senate, four to the secretary of state, and one to the judge of the federal district in which the electors have assembled.

The certificates sent to the secretary of state are to be held subject to the order of the president of the senate and to be preserved for a year and made part of the public record of the office.

Vice President Charles G. Dawes will preside at the ceremony February 13, which by law will be in the house at 1 p. m. Four tellers will count the votes, and Mr. Dawes then will announce the result and thus the mandate of the people of November 4 will have been finally and formally carried out.

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 12.—(AP) Pacific university defeated Columbia university here last night, 44 to 23, in their basketball mix.

# DEEPEST HOLE IN THE GROUND NOW DOWN 8523 FEET

EL PASO, Texas.—(AP) The deepest hole in the ground ever down 8,523 feet.

It is the oil well—or rather, in Reagan county land owned by the University of Texas.

The previous record for depth in drilling was 8261 feet. This was made in Orange county, California and the hole was abandoned as dry.

Oil from the Texas well is so high in gasoline content that it can be used for cleaning clothes or polishing floors without being refined. It tests 66.9 per cent gasoline, 58.7 gravity; 24.6 per cent kerosene; 6.5 gas oil, and 1 per cent sediment. Drilling of the deepest oil well

lasted almost four years. It was delayed once because fire destroyed the derrick and again when the bit was lost more than a mile below the earth's surface. Fire-oil sands were encountered. The first, down 2464 feet, gave an initial flow of 330 barrels daily compared with the peak production of 877 barrels a day from the fifth sand. After 35,000 barrels of oil had been pumped from the first sand, drilling was resumed and the second was found at a depth of 3020 feet. Its total output was small. The third sand was encountered at 6284 and the fourth at 8484 feet. Cost of drilling to the first sand was \$135,000.

The success of the University of Texas venture will lead to the deepening of other wells, which have ceased to return oil in paying quantities, in the hope that even more wealth than the original project contemplated will be found below.

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—The public domain produced a government revenue of \$6,700,000 for the fiscal year 1927-28, largely out of mineral lease royalties. The administrative cost was \$2,000,000.

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