

FARMS AND FARMERS



Corn for the Silo

There is a popular notion that the ensilage of corn adds something to its value which is not contained in the original material. This notion is wrong and the greater the feed value of the product put into the silo the greater will be the value of the ensilage. Corn should be planted for the silo but little if any thicker on the ground than it should be planted where the object is to produce grain. Corn is distinctively a sun plant, and if it is so thickly seeded that the sun cannot reach all parts of the growing plant there is produced a product which is lacking in digestibility and which is not relished by farm stock.

A few years ago some experiments were conducted by the Cornell experiment station, the object being to determine what method of planting corn produced greatest food value. Certain plots were drilled in thickly so that no ears would develop, other plots were planted with the rows 40 inches apart and with the plants close together in the row, and other plots were planted in hills from 3 to 3½ feet apart. While a larger quantity of produce was obtained per acre where the corn was



CORN PLANTED FOR THE SILO

drilled in thickly, yet it contained a higher per cent of moisture and was deficient in protein and in fat.

While the money value of the broadcasted corn is not very different from the value of that grown on the other plot, this estimate does not take into account the digestibility of the various products.—Country Gentleman.

Treatment of the Hired Man.

Because a man is working for wages on a farm or anywhere else it is not necessary to make him feel that he is a menial or a mere machine to be wound up every day to run for so many hours. I never worked as a farm-hand, but during some ten years or more in business houses in the city I only had one employer who gave me to understand that I was nothing but a machine to run ten hours a day. I only stayed with him a year; another year would have killed me. Every man in whose employ I was, this one excepted, made me feel that I had some responsibility outside of the general routine of my work. These men would discuss methods and ask advice, and it was no unusual thing for me to be left in full charge of the business for weeks, and in one instance several months. In every day I was made to feel that the success of the business somewhat depended upon me. I was not only to do a certain amount of work, but was expected to have eyes and ears open and be ever on the alert to further the interests of the firm, and that I succeeded in so doing is one of the happy memories of life.

If our farmer community would elevate the position of the farmhand by the same kind of treatment that the successful business man of to-day employs toward those in his service there would soon be a better class of help in the field, a brainy, thinking, seeing man about the farm in place of the careless, shiftless, ne'er-do-well farmhand of bygone days.—New York Tribune.

Money in Eggs and Poultry.

According to the report of the United States Commission of Agriculture, New York State consumes as many eggs as England, both dispoising of \$18,000,000 worth of hen fruiting annually. The United States yearly consumes \$500,000,000 worth of eggs and poultry. Canada exports \$30,000,000 worth of eggs annually. The egg industry is worth \$150,000,000 more than all the dairy products of this nation. The poultry products of this country aggregate more in a year than any single crop. Of all the country's industries the poultry industry is most generally pursued. Last year the poultry earnings of the United States amounted to over \$300,000,000, being a greater value by \$52,000,000 than our entire wheat crop, \$105,000,000 greater than our swine brought us, \$30,000,000 more than our cotton crop, more than three times as great as all the interest paid on mortgages during the year, \$112,000,000 more than we spend for schools, and yet there are people who think the hen "small potatoes."

Growing Table Beets.

Upon a sandy loam land which had been for ten years heavily manured and cropped with table beets and celery, it was found by the New Jersey station that the use of nitrate of soda in amounts varying from four hundred to seven hundred pounds per acre, in three equal applications, hastened the maturing of the crop. At the first pulling and making of two-pound bunches, there was 63 per cent more on nitrated plots than on those without the nitrate. At a second pulling, four days later, the nitrated plots gave 135 per cent

more bunches, and at third pulling, three days later, there was 17½ per cent more, after which they produced about equal amounts. The greatest gain per acre by use of nitrate was where they used seven hundred pounds per acre, \$27.10 more than where nitrate was not used. This was due to the higher price obtained for the earlier pullings, and amounted to about \$3 for every dollar the nitrate cost.

Notes for Beekeepers.

Drones do not live so long as workers.

Bees can endure dry cold, but not dampness.

Cool vinegar may be made from honey.

More bees are lost in wintering than by disease.

Lack of ventilation is the cause of dampness in many hives.

Combs cost the bees about ten pounds of honey for every pound of comb.

The life of the bee depends on the work it does. When it labors most

To secure the best results in bee keeping good movable hives should be used.

Its life is shortest.

It is a serious mistake to let a colony of bees become overstocked with drones.

Guides for the brood frames and boxes need not be more than an inch in width.

Bees should not be moved during the winter, nor should they be disturbed or molested in any way.

All empty frames of combs should be well taken care of during the winter when not in use.

The worst enemy to empty combs in winter is mice; if allowed access to them they will destroy them.

Successful wintering of bees depends to a great extent on the right kind of fall management.

If colonies are found short of provisions during the winter they may be supplied with food in the shape of candy.

The entrance to the hives should be contracted during the winter. Three inches long and three-eighths wide is sufficient.

Bees seldom, if ever, take a fly while there is much snow on the ground. If they are in a proper condition they will not fly at all.—St. Louis Republic.

The Hare Craze.

The Belgian hare craze reminds me of the carp craze of twenty years ago, when every man with a pond could raise his own meat. But where are the carp and the carp ponds now? Gone glimmering. A hundred farmers in the country where I live had carp ponds. There is not a carp pond here now, and the carp is execrated, cursed. Three years ago more than 400 persons in the country kept Belgian hares. Now not half a dozen keep them, and those who did keep them could not be persuaded to try them again. I write this as matter of history. When foolish hare breeders tell about the hares being better and more profitable than fowls, they are digging their own financial graves. The people can be fooled some of the time, but not all the time.—J. H. Davis, in Practical Poultryman.

Poor Butter Versus Butterine.

Farmers, their wives, sons and daughters and those helpers on the farms must decide whether butterine shall have the preference to butter on the tables of citizens of cities. Butterine now has the preference to much of the butter which is put on the market.

A good, even quality of butter can be produced on every farm every week in the year if pains be taken with the cows, the feed, the milking, the milk, the cream, the churn, the churning and keeping of the butter after it is churned. Much of the spoiled butter is spoiled after churning by being placed where it can take up the odors from vegetables, meats or the tobacco smoke from the pipes of men who sit and smoke their tobacco in the kitchen while the crock of butter sits in the pantry or cupboard near by.—H. W. Phelps.

Ripening Cream.

It is desirable that the ripening of cream either naturally or artificially should be at a temperature not exceeding 65 degrees, and after the ripening has been completed—that is, when the lactic acid has been well developed—it should be reduced still lower before churning, say not to be above 50 degrees, and some of the best butter has been made at 47 degrees. Cheese also ripens best at a low temperature. The experiment stations have said that cheese ripened at 65 degrees was better than that which was allowed to stand in a higher temperature and that ripened at 55 degrees was much superior to that at 65 degrees.

Marketing Farm Products.

Selling grain and hay from the farm in bulk reduces the profit in two ways. It is expensive to handle and haul, and it takes away elements of fertility that should be saved and returned to the soil. Feed hogs, sheep and cattle and so market your product in the most condensed form and in the easiest way, on the hoof, and keep up the land while you are cropping it.

Horses Coming Back.

Horses are again coming back in the harness. A big concern in Chicago which invested heavily in all kinds of horseless vehicles to do their transportation have abandoned them and gone back to the horse. What with keeping them in repair and the charges for electricity, they found that the new method cost twice as much as the old method.

TO REMODEL BATTLESHIPS.

Proposed to Change the Oregon and Two Others.

Washington, May 2.—A scheme is on foot to remodel the battle ships Oregon, Indiana and Massachusetts, which are all of one class. The idea seems to be that superimposed turrets shall be placed on these ships, which will put them in the same class as the Kentucky and Kearsarge. Of course these ships carry 13-inch guns, and the 13-inch guns have been discarded, as it is held that the weight of the guns is more than enough to compensate for the weight of metal which they throw, and hereafter 12-inch guns are to be the largest used by the navy. The reason given for remodeling the Oregon and her class is that when in battle, if the four 13-inch guns are all being fired from one side of the ship, it will cause her to list to that side and raise the opposite side so that the armor belt is out of the water, and that if a shot from that side should strike her below the armor belt the entire machinery would be endangered.

While it may be true that if the long muzzles of the four 13-inch guns of the Oregon should be pointed in one direction, the ship would list about three feet, making it necessary to raise the muzzles of the guns to bring them to bear upon the enemy, there is nothing to prevent the raising of the muzzles so that the guns can be used if all were turned in one direction.

On the other hand, it may be said that if the Oregon was fighting an enemy, or in any conflict where a ship was on either side, it is not at all likely that her big guns would all be pointed on one ship, leaving her exposed on the other side to the other ship. Those who are seeking to have the change made in the Oregon point out that in case a fort was on one side and a hostile ship on the other, the listing of the ship would expose one side. But others who are experts in naval warfare say that if the Oregon or any other ship of her type was fighting a fort and a battle ship at one time, she would probably have two of her big guns trained on the fort and two on the battle ship, which would make her ride even.

SENDING US CRIMINALS.

Victims of Italian Brigands Voluntarily Pay Their Way to America.

New York, May 2.—The Herald states: "Italy is making of the United States a dumping ground for her criminals and paupers. This fact has been forcibly called to the attention of the local authorities by the arrival in this port of three Italian brigands, whose depredations made them a scourge to the provinces in which they were reared. Despairing of being relieved in any other manner, the merchants upon whom they had preyed made up a liberal purse with which the three were sent to America, arriving here with money enough in their pockets to enable them to land unquestioned. These three outlaws, who encountered no obstacles to bar them from entering this country, are now in Kansas City, Mo. Warning has been sent out by Police Commissioner Murphy to the Kansas City police officials, who now have the Italians under strict police surveillance."

BAD TRAIN WRECK.

D. O. Mills and Party in a Wreck in California.

Emigrant Gap, Cal., May 2.—In the darkness of the smoke of the snowsheds a Raymond excursion train ran into the rear end of limited train No. 2, at Yuba Pass, four miles east of here, last night. The private car of D. O. Mills was on the rear end of the limited, and was badly damaged. The fireman on the excursion train was instantly killed and several passengers and men of the train crews were slightly injured.

The limited had struck a rock in the sheds and was delayed until the second section caught up.

"Black Jack" Nearly Escaped.

Santa Fe, N. M., May 2.—It developed today at the hearing of William Wilson, charged with furnishing convict George Stevenson with the revolver used by him in the recent attempted delivery at the penitentiary, that the plan was to secure the release of Tom Ketchum, who was executed last Friday, and "Broncho Bill" Carver, a member of his gang. Wilson confessed his guilt, and said Carver's sister offered him \$500 to smuggle the revolver in to the prisoner. The plans were so carefully laid that but for the bravery and good marksmanship of the prison officials "Black Jack" and a score of other desperate characters would have regained their liberty.

Oklahoma Bank Robbed.

Kingfisher, O. T., May 2.—The Blaine county bank at Watonga was robbed last night of \$1,800, the vault being blown open with dynamite. The robbers escaped.

Five Men Were Killed.

South McAlester, I. T., May 2.—An explosion of gas occurred in the mine of the McAlester coal company this morning by which five men lost their lives and seven were injured, and another is reported missing. It is believed the explosion was caused by the firing by some of the men of a defective blast left by the regular shift firing crew. All the dead were asphyxiated.

EXPOSITION OPENED

The Great Buffalo Fair Is Now Ready for Visitors.

FORMAL OPENING CEREMONY POSTPONED

Rain Kept Many Visitors Away—First Ticket Sold for \$5,000—Many Exhibits Not Yet In Place—President's Congratulations.

Buffalo, May 2.—The beautiful electrical display last night was the culminating event of the opening day of the Pan-American exposition. The attendance in the morning was small, owing to the weather, which kept many away from nearby towns. Later in the day, however, when the sun broke through the gray clouds, the crowd began to assume the proportions of an exposition throng, and last evening thousands passed through the turnstiles.

The gates were opened yesterday without ceremony, the opening day ceremonies having been postponed until May 20, when they will be combined with dedication day exercises. The change in the date, however, did not cause a relaxation in the efforts being put forth by everyone connected with the exposition to have everything as nearly ready as possible for yesterday's opening. The appearance of the buildings and grounds in the morning bore ample evidence of their efforts. Storm and the inevitable delays incident to an undertaking of such magnitude made impossible the realization of the hope that this might be the first of the great expositions to be completed on its opening day. But so much more already has been wrought than was deemed possible at the inception of the project that all are satisfied with the extent and beauty of the fair as it appeared yesterday morning, carried through the beginning by the citizens of Buffalo without state or federal aid.

William Hamlin was permitted by permission to purchase the first ticket, having offered some time ago to pay \$5,000 for the privilege. The ticket was sent to him yesterday. At noon the paid admissions aggregated to about \$1,000, the majority of the visitors being employees or others entering on passes.

At noon the government building was thrown open and General Brigham made an address. The president sent a message of congratulation to the citizens of Buffalo upon the auspicious opening of the fair.

At 2 o'clock in the afternoon a salute of 45 aerial bombs was fired and simultaneously hundreds of flags were raised on the buildings and grounds.

FROM VENEZUELA.

Satisfactory Explanation of the Arrest of Consul Biaz.

Washington, May 3.—The state department has received from the government of Venezuela a satisfactory explanation of the circumstances under which Ignacio Biaz, United States consul agent at Barcelona, came to be arrested and mulcted of a heavy fine. While no details are furnished, it is stated that the action of the Venezuela government in the matter is all that could be desired, and that Biaz, who has recovered, or will recover, the money extorted from him, will not be further molested.

The state department's information regarding the legal proceedings in Venezuela in connection with the asphalt controversy indicates that it will be many months before the issue will come to trial in the Venezuela high court. As there is no disposition exhibited to dispossess the American concessionaires who are in possession, pending the termination of the legal proceedings, the state department is entirely satisfied with the status quo as to this case. There are, however, other issues which may change the aspect of American affairs in Venezuela.

The official mail received today from Venezuela continues to show a specific and agreeable tone toward the United States.

German Claim Against England.

Berlin, May 3.—A representative of the government has informed the reichstag committee on petitions that Germany had demanded £5,000,000 from Great Britain on account of certain Transvaal expulsions, and Great Britain had refused the demand on the ground that she did not wish to establish a precedent, but was investigating the whole subject. "The number of expelled persons," said a foreign office representative, "is 180, of whom 60 have already been indemnified. A part of the remainder have no right to a claim of indemnity, because they fought against England or because of other patent reasons. The sound claims, however, are being vigorously championed."

New Telephone Line.

Colfax, Wash., May 3.—Construction work on a private telephone line connecting the villages of Dusty and Endicott and the Popular Grove creamery west of Colfax, has begun. The line will be about 20 miles in length, and will connect with the long distance system at Endicott. The stock has all been subscribed by the residents of the two towns and farmers along the line.

CLAIM AGAINST CHINA.

Amount of Indemnity Has Been Fixed at \$273,000,000.

Paris, May 3.—The foreign office has received a dispatch from Peking announcing that M. Pichon, French minister, presented today the report of the committee on indemnity. The amount China has to pay has been fixed at 1,365,000 francs (\$273,000,000). How it is proposed that the indemnity be distributed among the powers is not set forth.

There was much disappointment over the fact that the United States is supporting England against an increase in the customs. This is attributed to the influence of the American community in China. It is believed that England, if alone, would yield, but fears are entertained that England's scheme is to prolong negotiations until her hands are free in South Africa, when she would show a stronger policy in Chinese affairs.

Official advisers received here from Peking say the ministers are divided into two parties in the discussion to decide how China is to raise the indemnity. France, Germany, Russia and Japan agree in favor of raising the customs duties, which can be relied upon to produce a great part of the requisite sum, and the imposition of a duty on junks, which will constitute a tax on internal navigation and taking over of some of the likin (provincial transit duties). On the other hand the United States and Great Britain decline to agree to an increase of the customs duties, but they do not appear to have presented a counter proposition. The fact that the United States and Great Britain have joined hands on this issue has caused surprise here. It was hoped that the United States would stand with France and Russia. The result will be to greatly protract the negotiations.

TWO ROBBERS CAUGHT.

Arrest of Men Who Broke Into the American Express Office at Paris.

Paris, May 3.—The principal author of the robbery of the American Express Co.'s office in Paris the night of April 26, when three masked burglars escaped with 30,000 francs, has been arrested. His name is George Miller. For some time he has lived in Paris under the name of James Samuel, being employed in a barber shop. Some days before the burglary the detectives noticed three men of English appearance whose behavior was very mysterious. These persons entered banks without doing any business, and inspected buildings. The detectives maintained a careful watch at the railway stations for persons who might possibly have been connected with the robbery, and their patience was awarded when they apprehended Miller. Miller was the bearer of a large number of stolen checks to the amount of 6,000 francs in a box in a leather handbag. He had also in this bag dynamite cartridges, jimmies, a metal saw and drills of the finest steel.

Another one of the thieves has been arrested at Amiens, his baggage being seized at the railway station. Other arrests are imminent.

Memento for the President.

Seattle, May 3.—The Snoqualmie Fall Power Co., is preparing a beautiful souvenir to be presented to President McKinley on the occasion of his visit to Seattle. It will be a solid tablet of silver some eight inches by six inches in size, with an outline of Snoqualmie Falls, and the surrounding rocks and trees embossed in purest gold. In the lower corner will be an attached leaf, bearing on its upper surface a suitable inscription and showing underneath a plan of the company's work room cut into solid rock of Snoqualmie.

Rate War to Alaska Towns.

Seattle, May 3.—Heavy slashing is the order in the Alaska steamship rate war. Fares first and second class to Lynn canal are cut to half of the old rates. First class tickets are selling for \$10, and second class for \$5. A week ago they were worth \$25 and \$16. Corresponding reductions in freight rates are also reported.

Great Fire at San Juan.

San Juan, Porto Rico, May 3.—The new \$150,000 pier caught fire this afternoon and was destroyed in half an hour. A large stock of sugar and rum was lost in the fire. The fire continues to rage and the flames threaten to spread to the stores of the custom house.

Vetoed Insurance Tax Bill.

Denver, May 3.—This was the last day for the consideration by Governor Orman of bills passed by the recent legislature. He vetoed the bill increasing the tax on insurance companies from 2 to 3 per cent of their gross receipts, but permitted the bill restoring capital punishment to become a law without his signature.

Large Grain Crop Sure.

Eugene, Or., May 3.—Crops in this section are looking much better since the rains of a few days ago. Farmers say it is impossible to estimate the good done by the showers. Large grain crops are more than assured. Crop prospects were never brighter in Lane county.

A special agent of the United States department of agriculture reports that beyond doubt grain can be matured anywhere in Alaska.

A BIG CITY BURNED

Noonday Fire and Strong Wind Ran Wild For Hours.

A PROPERTY LOSS OF FIFTEEN MILLIONS

Several Lives Reported Lost—Many of City's Finest Buildings Destroyed—Slight Accident to Machinery Started the Fire.

Jacksonville, Fla., May 4.—Fifteen million dollars' worth of property gone up in smoke and 10,000 people made homeless is the result of a bit of wire accidentally getting into a shredding machine of the American Fibre Company yesterday at the corner of Davis and Union streets. The fire started between the hours of 12 and 1 o'clock in the afternoon and owing to this fact the loss of life will be comparatively small. The fibre factory was a wooden shell, full of inflammable material.

The wind, which was already blowing strong from the southwest, seemed to be possessed with a sudden fury and soon was carrying destructive embers all through the city, the fairest portion of which lay right in the course of the wind. Some delay was experienced in sounding an alarm and the engine at the water works suffered a mishap and nothing more than ordinary pressure could be obtained. By this time the flames had swept to the Boston, a huge furniture factory. It leaped across Davis street and took a course right through a section on which block after block of frame buildings had been erected.

Here is where the fire department lost control, as simultaneously in half a dozen places, some of them six blocks from the main fire, roofs were seen to burst out in flames. The wind, rising higher and higher, set on fire whole rows of buildings and attracted at first a crowd of curious sightseers who seemed to be fascinated by the sight until they learned that their residences too were in danger of total destruction. It took just four hours for that restless mass of flames to consume every building in its wake for a space of six to eight blocks wide from Davis street, near where it started, to the Hogan street viaduct, a distance of over one and a half miles, and then, not satisfied with eating out the heart of the residential portion of the city, it doubled back and came roaring up the principal thoroughfare of trade, destroying everything in what was the original incorporation of Jacksonville.

From the humble homes of the poor to the elegant residences of the well to do was but a short journey for the flames. It seemed that wherever there happened to be a shingle roof the flying embers found lodgment. Blocks away from the main fire other fires would break out. Right into the heart of the town the flames swept. As the viaduct leading over the marshes of Hogan's creek to East Jacksonville was reached, it was plain that the limit of the progress of the flames westward had come. As far as the money value of the damage was concerned the worst was yet to come.

Just as the material for the flames was apparently consumed, a shift in the wind sent a roaring sea of flames southward toward the river. Then it was beginning to dawn on the minds of the unfortunates who had sought refuge at the river side, that they were in danger of being cut off and being suffocated. A rush was made for the South Jacksonville ferry and hundreds were carried over to the other side.

Then came the most thrilling scene of the entire day. The flames caught the freight warehouses on the Atlantic, Valdosta & Western Railroad and began from there on their march backward in the teeth of the wind. Slowly but surely the fire ate its way against the wind, taking either side of Bay street until it reached Jones' boatyard. While the flames failed to cross the open space known as Jones' boat yard, a new danger threatened. The flames swept down the rear of the United States hotel and that, with the Law Exchange, was doomed. Meantime the county court house caught fire and another splendid edifice was soon a total wreck. From the United States hotel the flames jumped across the street and the work of destruction continued, only to be checked when the last building near McCoy and Hogan's creek had been destroyed.

Storm in Utah.

Salt Lake, May 6.—Reports received at the government weather bureau in this city show that the prevailing storm extends almost over the entire Rocky mountain district. Nearly two and three quarters inches of rain have fallen in Salt Lake during the last 36 hours, the heaviest precipitation ever recorded here and the weather officials state the total rainfall will reach three inches or over before the storm ceases. Swollen streams and flooded flat lands are reported from many places.

Japanese Cabinet Crisis.

Yokohama, May 6.—In consequence of the continued postponement by the Japanese minister of finance, Viscount Watanabe, of the carrying out of the expected public works the cabinet crisis has reached a climax, and Marquis Ito, the premier, after the last cabinet meeting, proceeded to the palace and tendered his resignation to the mikado. All the other members of the cabinet did likewise, with the exception of one.