WEATHER BUREAU LORE.

The Government Macaroni Wheat Propaganda.

GUY ELLIOTT MITCHELL.

While the Weather Bureau and its forecasts have been the subject of many jokes and puns at the hands of the newspapers yet seriously the Weather Bureau records are now having increased use as evidence in the courts of the country.

During the past ten years observers of the Weather Bureau have appeared with records in court nearly three-thousand times. Evidence as to the weather is a great factor in a variety of cases, both civil and criminal. Civil cases are largely personal injury, damage to perishable goods, as by freezing or rain, and loss by fire. The criminal cases are usually confined to murder trials. In most cases claims for damages are almost always settled outside of court, information as to the existing weather conditions having been secured by both sides. As a usual thing when an official of the Weather Bureau appears in court with records to give testimony, he does not know the character of the suit on trial, for it is generally arranged by the attorneys to put him on the stand immediately upon his arrival in court and he is excused after his testimony has been given.

An observer of the Weather Bureau was once called in a case in which the plaintiff had stated that while she was riding in a street car she attempted to shut a window in order to keep out the raw cold weather. As the car reached a curve she was suddenly thrown headlong into the street. The railway introduced the weather record to show that on the date of the alleged accident the weather was warm and sunny and there was no occasion for shutting a window. The wind records of the Weather Bureau are valuable during trials involving damage by wind, such as blowing down of buildings, super structures and flag staffs, the wrecking of vessels on the lakes and ocean etc., and seldom is a suit for damage caused by high wind brought in any of the large cities that the Weather records are not called into court.

Evidence is sometimes desired in a case of damage by lightning. Several years ago a building in Illinois collapsed during a severe thunderstorm. It was insured by loss against lightning and not against loss by wind. The owner claimed full insurance on the ground that the destruction of the house was caused by a bolt of lightning. The matter was placed in the hands of the adjuster who in turn called to his assistance a scientist, then in charge of one of the principal weather bureau offices, to whom by mutual consent the decision was left.

No Mud on His Boots.

The subject of rainfall was important in a peculiar way in a trial in Connecticut some years ago. A burglary had been attempted one night in a prominent residence and the occupants believed that they recognized as the intruder their own coachman who lived near by in a stable. A thunder storm with heavy rain prevailed at that time and shortly afterwards the officers who had been summoned put the coachman under arrest. He denied the charge and called attention to the fact that his shoes were not wet and muddy. During the trial the Weather records were produced showing heavy rain at the time and the jury concluded that it was case of mistaken identity, and the man was discharged.

Saved His Life.

Weather Bureau records have figured in some of the most notable murder trials. In one instance an observer was called by the defense to show that the night the victim disappeared was dark and threatening. This evidence contradicted that given by a witness for the prosecution who had testified that, although distant several hundred feet, he saw the accused take the victim into a factory.

The relations between the Judiciary and the Weather Bureau are mutually agreeable. The value of the Weather Bureau records is appreciated and the thorough co-operation of its officials is acknowledged. With the increase in the number of observing stations and more comprehensive and complete meteorological data at hand, the weather service will naturally be a still more important factor in the adjustment of claims and the trial of suits in which the question of weather in any of its phases may enter.

Macaroni Wheat Introduction.

...tion has been recently made of ...t value to the American farm... importation of a new variety ...nown as Durum or macaroni ...has been stated this grain ...trumental in bringing into ...d which heretofore has not been considered valuable for wheat raising.

The introduction of macaroni wheat into the United States came about through the pilgrimage to Europe and Asiatic Russia in 1899 of Mark A. Carleton, of the Department of Agriculture, (then the assistant in charge of cereal investigation.) He was sent there by the Secretary of Agriculture in order to gain all possible information in regard to macaroni wheat and to select such varieties as would probably succeed in the great grain regions and especially in semi arid portions where the ordinary bread wheats were sometimes at best but an indifferent crop. Mr. Carleton made a thorough exploration and secured a large number of varieties. In the Russian provinces north of the sea of Azov, already the home of the best of macaroni wheats, he found the climatic conditions approximately the same as those of our Great Plains. He secured a number of bushels of the best varieties of wheat grown there and these wheats the Department of Agriculture distributed to growers in suitable localities, thereby increasing the stock. The crop secured, together with two fresh importations, was distributed in 1901 to the farmers of the northwest, through the experiment stations of the various states.

Great Crop for Northwest.

Since the Department of Agriculture undertook the work, the production of macaroni wheat in the northwest has increased with astonishing rapidity. Perhaps no other new crop has been so warmly welcomed by the farmers in the regions suitable to its growth. It has been found splendidly adaptable to the climatic and soil conditions of the Great Plains region. It thrives in abundant sunshine, does not require a large amount of moisture, resists vigorously all the smuts and rusts and is a strong grower, yielding far in excess os the ordinary bread wheat.

A peculiar property of macaroni wheat which makes it valuable for its distinct uses is its protein or gluten content.

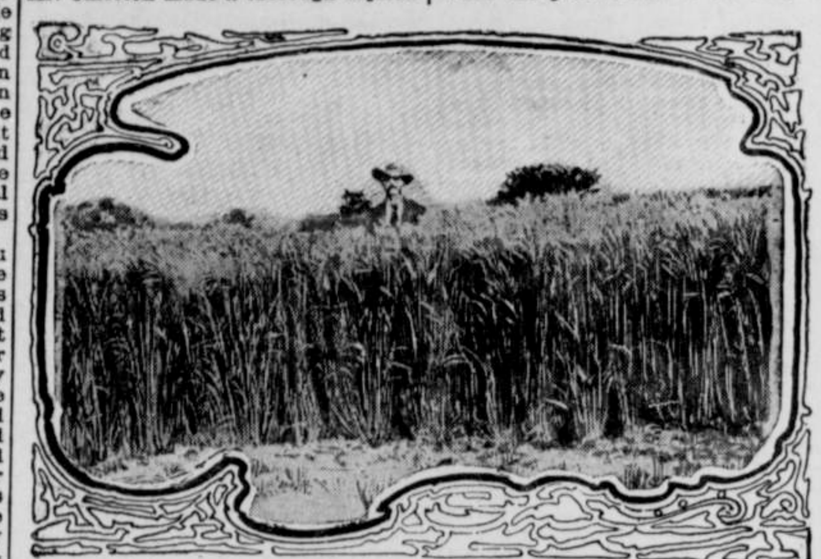
In a general way the methods to be employed in the cultivation of macaroni wheats are similar to those required for the best results with any other wheats.

The first and most obvious use of the macaroni wheat is the manufacture of macaroni, vermicelli and other forms of edible pastes. At the present time this country is importing these products largely, the importations amounting to nearly 30,000,000 pounds annually with a value of $1,250,000. In 1900 there was not a single factory in the United States manufacturing macaroni from macaroni wheat. All that was made in this country was of an inferior quality and was sold as such on the market, being produced from the bread wheats. Now there are 20 or more factories using American macaroni wheat and proudly branding their products, "Made in America from American Grown Wheats." Macaroni flour is also used for the purpose of blending. It is mixed with a low grade of bread wheat flour making a most valuable article for bread making and pastry cooking. Macaroni flour is also used for ordinary bread making. Tests made by the Department of Agriculture and by private families have demonstrated that bread made from macaroni flour is very palatable and nutritious, many people preferring it to ordinary wheat bread. The use of the flour extends also to many other articles of common diet such as rolls, bread-sticks, griddle cakes, etc., and officials of the Department of Agriculture think there is no reason why a breakfast food far excelling a majority of those in common use at the present time, both as to palatability and nutritiveness, cannot be prepared from it. As a stock food macaroni wheat and its products have been found by actual experiments to equal if not surpass bread wheat. Owing to the fact that it is a surer crop than the latter, with a heavier yield, farmers will learn to turn to this abundant source of protein in using balanced rations.

Rapid Increase in Production.

The progress of the macaroni wheat industry in this country may be understood when it is known that the first crop of any considerable amount was in 1901 when it was estimated that from 60,000 to 70,000 bushels were harvested. In 1902 the yield was between 1,500,000 bushels and 2,000,000 bushels. In 1903 nearly 12,000,000 bushels were obtained while in 1904 the yield amounted to nearly 20,000,000 bushels. While the possibilities of the crop of 1905 cannot be accurately determined at this time, estimates run from 25,000,000 to 30,000,000 bushels—this is a comparatively new crop in the United States. Instead of importing macaroni wheat for the purpose of manufacturing domestic macaroni, the United States is now exporting annually about 2,000,000 bushels to France and Italy and other European countries, for it has been found by the manufacturers there that the American grown wheat makes a most excellent product. Secretary Wilson stated that the value of the macaroni wheat industry in this country now reaches more than $7,000,000 annually.

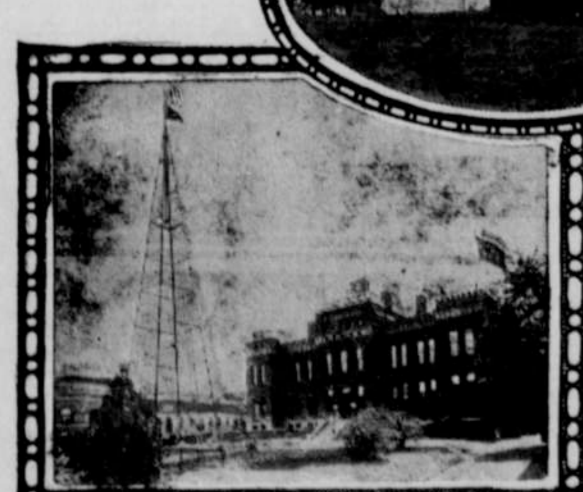
With so many splendid possibilities in its favor, officials of the Department of Agriculture believe that macaroni wheat has a great future. Bread and pastry made from it will find a welcome addition to the tables of the American people while the introduction of the wheat into the Great Plains region has proved an inestimable boon to the farmers of the semi-arid belt, extending from North Dakota to Texas. While it may take some time to educate both producers and consumers to its excellence and value it is believed that macaroni wheat and its products will give it high rank among standard farm crops.



CROP OF MACARONI WHEAT RAISED AT THE NEW MEXICO EXPERIMENT STATION.

MACARONI WHEAT SEED EN ROUTE TO SEAPORT FOR SHIPMENT TO THE UNITED STATES.

Weather Bureau Station on the Crest of the Blue Ridge.



The United States Bureau at Washington.

The Vegetable Vender.

"If a man who turnips cries,
Cry not when his father dies,
'Tis a proof that he would rather
Have a turnip than a father."

There were 593,000 cattle exported from the United States in 1904. They were distributed as follows: United Kingdom, 387,000; Cuba, 135,000; Canada 38,000; Belgium 18,000; and other countries, 15,000.

The people of the United Kingdom eat annually about 200,000,000 pounds of American ham.

King Victor Emanuel of Italy is said to be the best shot among the royalty of Europe.

The first shipment of frozen meat was made from Australia, was a lot of 400 sheep sent from Melbourne in 1880. The trade did not gain much importance till 1890. In that year one hundred million pounds of frozen beef and veal and 66,000,000 pounds of frozen mutton and lamb, were exported.

The British Columbia Fish and Game club has arranged for the importation of a large number of English pheasants to be distributed in western Canada.

Shoes for fat women are now being made to lace up on the inside ankle instead of up the instep.

No one can tell why the blossoms of fruit trees are limited in color to white, pink, scarlet and purple. There are no violet or yellow fruit blossoms.

Keeping Records on the Farm.

The Bureau of Animal Industry has published a very valuable book giving "Records of Dairy Cows in the United States." This publication contains valuable information and excellent halftone illustrations of record cows of the country. It urges dairymen to adopt better business methods on the farm—a complete system of bookkeeping whereby definite knowledge of the sources of profit and loss may be ascertained. In no department connected with the farm is there more need for absolute data than in the dairy. While village merchants and grocers, for example average about alike in their knowledge of their businesses, their prices and profits being nearly equal, the records show that there are progressive and unprogressive dairymen, one making a good profit while his next door neighbor with the same soil and market may be losing money. The difference in their profits therefore must be accounted for largely by the difference in the intelligence put into their business. Experts of the Department of Agriculture believe that one-fourth of the cows in the entire country kept for milk do not pay for the cost of keeping and nearly one-fourth more fail to yield an annual profit. The object of the book issued by the Bureau is to show dairymen the importance of keeping records complete enough so that it will be possible to avoid the handling of unprofitable animals and to bring the dairy industry of the country up to a paying basis.

Trials of a Turkey Raiser.

Members of the House of Representatives are having quite a lot of fun at the expense of Representative Charles D. Landis of Indiana, who has been making some experiments in turkey raising.

Representative Landis bought a few pairs of bronze turkeys, paying a big price for them, spent a lot of money in a turkey house, with all the comforts of turkey home, heated rooms for the expected chicks, etc., and laid in a stock of literature on how to get rich on turkey raising.

At the outset one of the finest hens became disatisfied with the luxuries of home and finding the trammels of the modern method distasteful made off for the woods. The other hens stayed at home, however, and in due time brought out five broods of fifteen or so, fine little chicks. They were being tenderly reared but one day escaped and went into a wheat field for a change of diet. A rain storm overtook them, they caught cold and every young turkey died. Turkey-raiser Landis was disconsolate over his loss and while he was bewailing the fate of the young brood, in stalked the insurgent turkey hen from the woods and behind her was a husky brood of woodland raised chicks, fit as a fiddle and looking for town raised chicks to come against them.

The latest report is that Representative Landis is about to give up modern methods of poultry raising.

An Automatic Watering Pot.

German publications have been describing a very useful automatic watering can which the housewife might adopt to care for otherwise neglected plants.

A thick, untwisted cotton wick about 5 feet long is inserted in a rubber or glass tube about three feet long and of ¼ inch bore, which is bent iin U shape, one leg longer than the other, the wick being allowed to project at both ends. The short end of the tube is left in a pail of water over night, while the wick takes up the water from the pail until it is saturated.

In the morning, the pail may be set on a stool, and the slow seeping of water through the wick is started by suction. The wick at the end of the long leg of the improvised siphon is separated into several strands, one strand being placed in each pot to be watered. The caretaker may now go away for the day with the assurance that his flowers will receive all the water necessary. In warm weather, it is best to cover the pail and wrap the tube cloth, to prevent the wick from drying. The German inventor of this device says it has always worked successfully.

AUTOMATIC WATERING POT.

Charged for Brains.

A farmer's pump having gotten out of order, the owner and his men spent some hours in an attempt to rectify matters, but without avail.

Then some of the farmer's neighbors came on the scene, but after much tinkering they also had to retire discomfited. Finally, a young man from a neighboring farm was asked to try his hand on the job. He looked the pump over, hammered at it for a while, and after a little more tinkering, had it in working order again. The owner of the pump was delighted.

"Name your own price, Joe, my lad," said he.

Joe thought a while, and then suggested five dollars.

"Five dollars!" ejaculated the owner in indignant tones; "why, you didn't spend fifteen minutes on it, and any one of us could have done what you did. Fifty cents would be an ample price for the work."

The young man smiled. All right said he, "I'll make another charge, and send you my bill." And he departed.

And this is the bill that was subsequently presented:

For 15 minutes' work on pump...	.50
For skill and common sense such as no one else connected with job could show..................	$4.50
Total	$5.00

Kindly remit, and oblige,

More Eggs Than Kings.

An innkeeper once had the good fortune to entertain his sovereign, who consumed, among other things, a couple of eggs, for which he was charged a guinea apiece. "Eggs must be very scarce here," remarked his royal highness, as he scanned the bill. "No, sire," was the answer, "but kings are."

Representative Longworth is a violinist and has a collection of violins embracing a Stradivarius, a Guillaums and an Amato.

Seoul, the capital of Korea, has a population of only 22,000.

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