

In the Field of Agriculture

I REMEMBER! I REMEMBER!

I remember, I remember,
The house where I was born;
The little window where the sun
Came peeping in at morn,
You'd hardly know the old place now,
For dad is up to date,
And the farm is scientific
From the back lot to the gate.

The house and barn are lighted
With bright acetylene,
The engine in the laundry
Is run by gasoline.
We have silos, we have autos,
We have dynamos and things;
A telephone for gossip,
And a phonograph that sings.

The hired man has left us,
We miss his homely face;
A lot of college graduates
Are working in his place.
There's an engineer and fireman,
A chauffeur and a vet.,
A lecturer and mechanic—
Oh, the farm's run right, you bet.

The little window where the sun
Came peeping in at morn,
Now brightens up a bathroom
That cost a car of corn.
Our milkmaid is pneumatic
And she sanitary, too:
But dad gets fifteen cents a quart
For milk that once brought two.

Our cattle came from Jersey,
And the hogs are all Duroc;
The sheep are Southdown beauties
And the hens are Plymouth Rock.
To have the best of everything—
That is our aim and plan—
For dad not only farms it,
But he's a business man.

—Canadian Courier.

FARMERS' INSTITUTES MORE POPULAR THAN EVER

Both the number of farmers' institutes held each year and the attendance at these meetings is steadily increasing, according to a report on farmers' institute work which has just been published by the United States department of agriculture as Bulletin No. 269. During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1914, the report states, 25,238 of these institutes were held throughout the country, with a total attendance of 3,656,381. This is an increase in attendance of 26 per cent over that of any previous year. On the other hand, the expense of conducting the work was nearly \$63,000 less than last year, the total cost for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1914, being \$447,897.51.

The farmers' institute organization conducts its work under many different forms so that it is almost impossible to summarize its activities briefly. For example, in addition to

the ordinary meetings, there were movable schools in 13 states which had a registered attendance of 112,498 different people. Field demonstration meetings were also held in 15 states, although no record of the attendance was kept. Special railroad trains were organized in 17 other states for the purpose of giving lectures and demonstrations. A detailed analysis of this work showing the number of different kinds of meetings in each state, the attendance, and the duration of each, is contained in the bulletin already mentioned. This bulletin also contains a number of notes on agricultural extension work of a similar nature in foreign countries.

SWINE SPREAD FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

The susceptibility of swine to the foot and mouth disease and the failure on the part of swine owners to recognize its symptoms are giving the authorities of the United States department of agriculture no small amount of worry in their "clean-up" campaign.

Sore mouth, a common indication of the disease, is an ordinary sequence of hog cholera, and contusions on the feet are frequent in swine which have been driven or shipped. For these reasons little attention is paid by the owners of swine to these symptoms, and unless the herd is located within suspicious territory foot and mouth disease may continue in a chronic form for a considerable length of time before discovery. The danger of course lies in the ability of these animals to disseminate the disease.

Since the first case of foot and mouth disease found in a herd of hogs in Michigan, which later permitted the infection of the Chicago stock yards, hogs more than any other animal have been responsible for the spread of the disease. A few months ago, in the outskirts of Philadelphia, in a district containing close to 20,000 swine kept in small lots, several thousand were found to be infected.

On July 29 foot and mouth disease infection was discovered to exist in a herd of 20 cattle within the city limits of Hornell, Steuben county, New York. Another herd of 25 cattle, pastured across the road from from these, has been exposed and is under surveillance. As no known cases of the disease had previously been found within a radius of over 75 miles, the source of the infection remained a mystery until two days later, when 125 swine, divided among five herds, were found infected within half a mile of the first-discovered premises. These swine had evidently had the disease in a mild form for a considerable length of time. In-

fection had been carried from these to the cattle through drainage.

This again emphasizes the need, the authorities state, for continued careful examination of all live stock in previously infected areas, especially large herds of swine. Farmers and stock raisers by giving immediate notice of any suspicious cases to the nearest health officer will greatly aid the authorities in their efforts to eliminate this pest, which if allowed to gain a foothold would result in untold damage to the nation.

Owing to the fact that few animals are shipped from the section in which the latest outbreak occurred, it is believed that no serious or widespread complications will result from this new center of infection.

THE ORIGIN OF THE TOMATO

Excepting our scientists, there are comparatively few people in this country who ever stop to think of how many important products that now minister to the health, sustenance, and pleasures of mankind were added to the world's supply by the discovery of America. A few of these are incidentally mentioned in an interesting article on "The Tomato," in the current number of the bulletin of the Pan American Union, by Edward Albes, who writes:

"The greatest febrifuge known today—quinine—came into existence because the Incas of Peru had discovered the medicinal properties of the bark of the cinchona tree; the leaves of the coca plant, a South American product, have served to alleviate pain the world over by their essence—cocaine; Indian corn, or maize, was unknown to the Old World before it was found to be the great food staple of the Americas; Irish as well as sweet potatoes had their first home in the New World; the delicious concoction known as chocolate, serving man as both food and drink, had been known for centuries by the Incas of Peru and the Aztecs of Mexico before the Spaniards found it in these countries and introduced it into Europe; tobacco, whose rings of aromatic smoke now circumscribe the earth, was added to man's pleasures by the Indians of America. Many other products might be enumerated, but among them all perhaps none ministers more delightfully to the palate of the modern epicure than does the tomato, that luscious, succulent, refreshing vegetable-fruit which gratifies the eye with its beauty of color and form, stills hunger with its meat, and assuages thirst with its juice.

"The name, 'tomato' seems to be of Aztec origin, given as *tomatl* by some authorities and as *xitomate* by others, and still persists in some few of the older Mexican town names, such as *Tomatlan*, *Tomatepec*, etc., but the general consensus of opinion among botanists seems to be that the plant and its culture for edible purposes originated in Peru, whence it spread to other sections of the Americas. It is certain, at any rate, that it was known and cultivated for its fruit centuries before the Columbian discovery.

"That the cultivated tomato was known to some of the European botanists over 360 years ago is evidenced by the fact that two large varieties were described by Matthioli as early as 1554, but for many years it was only in southern Europe that the value of the fruit for use in soups and

as a salad was recognized. It was quite generally used in Spain and Italy during the 17th century, but in England and in northern Europe generally the plant was grown only in botanical gardens as a curiosity and for ornamental purposes. It was seldom eaten, being commonly regarded as unhealthy and even poisonous. This belief probably arose because of the close resemblance of the plant to its allied relative the nightshade, or belladonna, and had, of course, no foundation in fact. It was not until the early part of the 19th century that the tomato came into general use as a food in northern Europe and even in the United States. Since about 1835, however, the use and cultivation of the vegetable has grown to such an extent that it has now become one of the most important of our garden crops.

"When a successful process of canning the fruit was evolved the tomato industry at once assumed large proportions. It was found that for all cooking purposes the canned fruit was as good as that fresh from the vine, and as a result the tomato has become a staple food the year round, and millions of dollars are now invested in canning factories in the United States, whose chief output consists of tomatoes."

MARKETING OF FARM TIMBER

The marketing of farm timber presents some of the same difficulties, but in an aggravated form, that the farmer meets in selling other crops, says a Forest Service contribution to the Year Book of the United States department of agriculture, just issued. The farmer finds it hard to get enough for his timber. Most farmers now sell their saw timber on the stump to a mill man, such sales ordinarily being made for a lump sum. The mill man, experienced in estimating, goes through the woods and sizes up the quantity and value of the timber he wants. The owner, being a farmer and not a lumberman, seldom knows anything about estimating timber and has only the vaguest idea of what it ought to bring. The consequence of this condition is that the farmer often receives only a small fraction of the actual market value of his stumpage.

Astonishing examples of what a farmer may thus throw away are often encountered by foresters, continues the article. For instance, a Massachusetts farmer sold a million feet of timber to a portable sawmill man for \$1,200, and thought he had obtained a good price. His neighbor, however, who knew something about timber, got \$7,000 for the same quantity of white pine from the very same portable mill man. The first farmer, on account of his ignorance, practically presented the mill man with \$5,800; the second owner was wise enough to learn before he attempted to sell his timber how much he had and what it ought to bring him in money.

The productive capacity of the 200 million acres of farm lands throughout the country which either have or should have timber growing on them is enormous, says the article. This area is larger than all the national forests put together, and with an annual growth of 200 board feet per acre of saw timber—a moderate allowance under the practice of forestry—it would produce annually forever about 40 billion feet, or the equivalent of the entire lumber cut of the country, in addition to not less than 120 million cords of firewood.

These figures continue the article, probably never will be realized, for the reason that the present area of farm woodlands is much greater than it will be eventually. For example, woodland comprises 31 per cent of

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