OF INTEREST TO FARMERS

APPROVED GRAPE VARIETIES

At more or less frequent intervals pomologists from certain research institutions meet and discuss the projects with which each are engaged. A considerable part of the time is given to a discussion of fruit varieties and their adaptabilities. Old and new sorts are subjected to the criticisms of the attending individuals. In short, there emerges a sort of Who's Who for the fruit world. The varieties of grapes that have again received the stamp of approval of this conference "for commercial planting" are the old favorites, Concord and Niagara. In spite of the accession of numerous new varieties within the last 30 years, these two still stand pre-eminent. However, there is one newcomer to the commercial class. Portland, a white sort with a yellowish tinge when fully mature, has entered the select circle. This last has won its way after many trials in far separated localities. It is very early, with large clusters and large berries. It is productive and very sweet. Since it is fully two weeks earlier than Niagara, it extends the season of the latter, which, by the way, is yearly regaining its popularity. Portland vines may now be obtained from many nurseries at fairly reasonable prices. The list approved for local markets and roadside stands includes Fredonia, a very early black sort of good quality and highly productive; Ontario, a golden yellow variety, very early, of excellent quality and very productive, and Worden, a well-known variety of large cluster and berry. Brighton has again been included, since it is one of the few midseason sorts that possess high quality. It, too, is productive. Delaware, because of its high quality met the approval of the conference. Two other varieties, Catawba, a red grape long cultivated in eastern United States, and Sheridan, a rather recent introduction, were included in the list for local markets and roadside stands. Sheridan is a large-berried black with very large clusters. Both ripen at about the same time.

MATING THE BREEDERS

The growing practice of early hatching and the fact that breeding pens should be mated at least two weeks before we start saving eggs for hatching mean that December is the best month for mating. The number of males to be used is important. Since it is generally recognized that the best breeding flock consists of yearling hens mated with early-hatched, well-matured cockerels, let us use this combination as the ideal, in which case, with Leghorns, it is well to have one male to each 15 to 20 females. In small, individual matings, when only one male is present in the pen, fewer hens should be allowed to each male. In large flock matings, where a considerable number of males are penned with a large number of females, more hens can be allowed to each cockerel. With Plymouth Rocks, Rhode Island Reds and other heavier breeds, the number of females per male should be substantially reduced, from 10 to 15 being a safe range. In mating a large flock it is well to put in some extra males, for some of them may be injured, may freeze their combs or wattles or may be killed in combat. With this precaution, it will not be necessary to replace any birds which may be removed as unsatisfactory. When new birds are put in a breeding pen in the midst of the season, they are apt to fight, doing much damage to one another end greatly reducing fertility.

CREED OF FUTURE FARMERS

I believe in the future of farming, with a faith born not of words, but of deeds—achievements won by the present and past generations of farmers; in the promise of better days through better ways, even as the better things we now enjoy have come up to us from the struggles of former years. I believe that to live and work on a good farm is pleasant as well as challenging; for farm life and hold an inborn fond- I know the joys and discomforts of farm life and hold an inborn fondness for those associations which, even in hours of discouragement, I can not deny. I believe in leadership from ourselves and respect from others. I believe in my own ability to work efficiently and think clearly, with such knowledge and skill as I can secure, and in the ability of organized farmers to serve our own and the public interest in marketing the product of our toil. I believe we can safeguard those rights against practices and policies that are unfair. I believe in less dependance on begging and more power in bargaining; in the life abundant and enough honest wealth to help make it so—for others as well as myself; in less need for charity and more of it when needed; in being happy myself and playing square with those whose happiness depends upon me. I believe that rural America can and will hold true to the best traditions in our national life and that I can exert an influence in my home and community which will stand solid for my part in that inspiring task.

TO PREVENT COCCIDIOSIS

No poultryman should consider brooding and rearing chicks unless he takes every precaution against coccidiosis. Here are a few of the most effective: First, whenever young chicks or growing pullets are placed in a brooder house or colony range house in which poultry has been kept previously, the whole inside of the house should be sprayed with a strong killing agent. There is probably nothing better than one of the tar-acid oils, or those products used in the manufacture of red-mite paints. A good red-mite paint, which has a tar-acid-oil base, thoroughly sprayed over floors, walls and perches, should kill every coccidia in whatever form it may be present in the house. This paint is very strong and kills in its burning effect. The house should be dried for at least 24 hours after spraying before chicks are placed in it. The second measure is to move the colony houses two or three times during the growing season. Forty or 50 feet will usually suffice to bring the chicks onto clean ground. If colony houses are moved in this way, the range will be free from bare spots and the sod on the whole range can be kept in a sanitary condition. Third, give dried milk in the growing mash. At least 10 per cent of dry skim milk should be included in the growing mash throughout the danger period, which is from the time the birds are three weeks old until they are four months old. If at any time individual chicks show a tendency to bleeding shins, if they become droopy and lose their natural activity, increase the allowance of milk for five days to 40 per cent of the mash and then put them back onto the regular mash. Also clean the houses thoroughly and move them to new location. These preventive methods will in most cases remove all worry over coccidiosis. To them should be added the warning: Never crowd too many chicks in one colony house or in one range shelter. Three to four hundred chicks running out from a given colony house at from 5 to 12 weeks are a maximum number for safety, and as they got older this number should be reduced substantially. Probably 100 growing pullets or cockerels in one shelter are the safest number.

DETECTING GARGET

The disease variously termed mastitis, mammitis and garget is a germ-caused inflammation of the mammary gland of the cow and is a bane of the dairy industry. It is of vital importance that a cow should be instantly isolated when anything goes wrong with her udder, and kept separate until perfectly recovered. It is also imperative that the milk from an udder affected by garget, or seen to be abnormal in any way, shall be discarded. It should be caught in a vessel containing a disinfecting solution and thrown out in a place from which cows are excluded. Many dairymen are now using a garget detective called a strip cup, in their stables It is made of heavy tin and holds a pint of milk. It is fitted with two collars, one of which has a projecting flange above so that it stays in place when inserted in the cup and its lower opening is covered with a fine brass wire mesh screen. This screen also may be covered with a piece of thin porous black cloth to be held in place by inserting a second flanged collar. The purpose of the cup and screens is to catch a strip of milk from each teat of each cow. Thus evidences of garget may instantly be detected. When garget has been prevalent in a herd, it is advisable to use this strip cup three or four times a week, testing the milk from each teat from each cow prior to the first milking in the morning.

PLUMS FOR MIDWEST

In a land of late spring frosts high winds and a demand for hardiness in trees, we are on the continual lookout for any plum that will even partially meet all conditions. On introduction the Compass cherry plum met with favor and still is widely planted in home orchards. Opata and Sapa came to be welcome additions as jelly plums. Now Oka, a South Dakota introduction, promises to be as heavy and regular a bearer as the Opata. Oka, a select sand cherry seedling, has a red flesh, a more attractive appearance than the Sapa good quality and is slightly smaller than the Sapa. Here on the plains it ripens with Opata or just before the hybrid plums come on. One big factor in Oka's favor is that it doesn't break down under load and holds it fruit even in high winds. Outstanding among the named hybrid plums for quality and non-dropping of fruit is the Monitor. This plum usually ripens between Waneta and Omaha. Nothing among the numbered varieties excels the Minnesota 194 in bringing the crop through to maturity. The plums borne on short, stout stems simply ride out the winds on willowy branches.

COTTONSEED FOR CALVES

In an experiment at one experiment station feeding five to six months old Jersey calves some enormous quantities of cottonseed meal were used. Had such a practice been suggested to us two years ago we would have predicted failure because of the cottonseed-meal poisoning. One calf in the experiment at 3.07 pounds of meal daily during its fifth month of age. Another calf ate 2.60 pounds. Each calf now in its sixth month is at present eating 3.5 pounds of the cottonseed meal daily. These calves also are getting all the prairie hay they want. They are thriving, too and are gaining over a pound per day in live weight. Some other calves that had received lower quantities of meal did not grow as they should, but none of them showed poisoning. There is some reason to believe that the manufacturing processes now yield meal of which there need be little, if any, fear. Of course, we are not recommending this ration in practical herd feeding. It does not stand to reason that such a ration is economical; certainly it is not balanced. It has given good results so far, but we may encounter some difficulties yet. Anyhow we have shown that cottonseed meal for calves is not always dangerous. To go further in the problem we are feeding other calves, bred heifers and milking cows. The meal may deserve a larger place in dairy rations than it has occupied in the past.

SUNLIGHT FOR CALVES

In view of the recent findings at one experiment station, care should be taken to see that fall calves get as much sunlight as possible. They found that although the feed contained vitamin D or was treated with ultra-violet rays, neither was sufficient without sunlight to prevent rickets. They experimented on three groups of calves. All received rations containing vitamin D. Neither the feed nor the calves in the first group were exposed to sunlight or ultra-violet rays and the calves developed a mild case of rickets. While the second group received no sunlight its feed was exposed to ultra-violet rays. These calves also developed rickets. The third group was exposed to sunlight and no rickets developed.

CONSERVE FERTILITY

No system of farming can be adopted that will return to soils as much phosphate as crops remove. Hence, sooner or later all soils will need applications of phosphate fertilizers.

WHAT MANURE WILL DO

A ton of manure on most soils will increase the yield of corn by about three bushels per acre, the yield of oats by about two bushels and the yield of clover hay by about 20 pounds.

Friendly Parting In Reno Divorce

Mrs. Mildred Zukor Loew, daughter of Adolph Zukor, was granted a divorce in Reno from Arthur M. Loew, theatre man. The Loews have been separated several years, but were on friendly terms.

Soviet Foe Gets Ten Years' Imprisonment

Professor Leonid C. Ramzin, leader of the "Prom," or Industrial Party, which fomented the revolt against Communism, with four of his aides, received a sentence of ten years' imprisonment from the four judges who sat in the trial. At first Ramzin and the other four were given death sentences. Three other men, found guilty of treason, were sentenced to eight years.

Retires After 33 Years Of Diplomatic Service

Mr. Laurits S. Swensen, of Minneapolis, Minn., who since 1911 has been the American Minister to Norway, pictured on the S. S. Leviathan when he returned from Oslo. Mr. Swensen is retiring from his post and will make his future home in Norway. In 1897 he was appointed Minister to Denmark by President McKinley.

Smack! A $5 Kiss

Mildred Kraum kisses $5 she won on bet that court wouldn't fine her for passing traffic light in New York City.

Explosion and Fire Wreck N. J. Plant

Firemen playing streams of water on the still smoking ruins of the plant of the City Chemical Company, Jersey City, N. J., after an explosion had started a fire. The plant was severely damaged and eighty families forced to flee from their nearby homes.

Now Love's Turn Comes

What Mama and Stepson Hutton didn't say last April when daughter Eleanor eloped with Preston Sturges, playwright (both shown), was nobody's business. Why they even cut her out of their will. But Eleanor didn't care—and she cares less now, for she has inherited three millions from her Grandparents, the Posts.

Cohan Must Pay Tax of $400,000

George M. Cohan, Broadway's best-known producer and song writer—in fact, the world's most versatile theatrical dignitary—has been forced by the Government to release $400,000 as unpaid taxes assessed against him prior to 1933.

Escaped Madmen Caught in Hideout

It was through the coolness and bravery of young detective Wobber that four escaped maniacs of Matteawan Asylum were captured in Brooklyn, New York.

At left is view of dwelling where William Nelson, Harry Gordon, John Biggins and Frank Gambill, fugitives, hid. Mrs. Marie Ockenfile (center) held for aiding men in escape, shown with court attendant. Inspecting clothes (right) found in room where convicts slept.

Noted Scientist Honored

Dr. Robert A. Millikan, of the California Institute of Technology at Pasadena and discoverer of the Cosmic Ray, receiving the gold medal of the Radiological Society of North America from its president, Dr. Robert J. May.

French Actress Movie Rookie

Enlisted for the Hollywood brigade, the French actress Lya Lys (and pronounce that as though it were "Lees"—not as it looks like it would sound) arrived on the Ile de France

She Who Got Spanked

Marcia Estardus, night club hostess, will be a long time collecting her spanking fee, if she ever gets it. The Appellate Division, New York, reversed the decision by which she was awarded $25,000 against Harry K. Thaw, spankee.

There to Stay for 20 Years

Behind the bars, Mrs. Edna Mae Coolbaugh glowers as a "cruel world." She was sentenced in Cooperstown, N. Y., to twenty years' imprisonment for poisoning her five-month-old son so she could elope with a local youth.