

NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt



If you have not started those farm accounts yet begin now.

Remember the cow must have food to keep up her bodily vigor as well as to provide for the milk yield.

Cut the burdock off at the crown and pour a few drops of kerosene on each stalk. Time will do the rest.

Calves should have access to good clean hay at all times if the best results are to be obtained from the grain ration which is fed.

A can with a hole punched in the bottom of it the size of the seed to be sown makes an excellent aid to sowing of seed in the garden.

Get the sunshine habit. You know how sunshine makes the crop grow. Sunshine in the home and about the daily tasks is just as essential.

It is folly to sell off the stock just because the prices seem to be low and it looks as though it was unprofitable to raise them. Be patient and wait for prices to recover, as they will.

An old farmer who has tried it says that common poke root boiled down to a strong tea and added to the drinking water in proportion of one cupful to a pailful of water will cure chicken cholera, and hog cholera, too.

A farmer who fed his hogs the skim milk warm from the separator, mixing with corn meal at the ratio of one to three, that is, one pound of corn meal to three of milk, found that he secured what amounted to 40 cents a 100 pounds for his skim milk.

Owing to the wet weather this spring the weeds have given the farmers a hard fight in most sections. But if by extra effort the fields are kept clean, the crops will show proportionately greater improvement as a result of the more thorough cultivation.

The farmer's wife should be his helpmeet in all things, but not his drudge. She should help in planning the work of the farm but she should not be asked or expected to take the place of a hired man and do rough chores. We think that she should not even be asked to help do the milking.

Ever stop to figure out how many eggs your hens averaged for the year? Perhaps you would be surprised to know how low an average your flock would show. It costs no more to feed a 200-egg-a-year hen than the one that only lays 100 eggs. Why not study the individual merits of your flock and breed for better layers?

Farmers in some sections are experiencing trouble this year from cloddy ground due to the plowing having been done when wet. There is not much which can be done to relieve such a condition. The only thing to do is to watch and put the harrow on the ground at the moment when the clods appear to have their greatest possible friability, due to their containing a certain amount of moisture.

Whitewash may be put on with the spray pump provided the wash is thoroughly strained before pumping. Otherwise particles are apt to clog in the pump. It is a fast way of getting on the wash and a good way, as the wash may be forced into nooks and corners where the brush cannot reach. Every farmer should have a spray pump, as it is not only handy about the poultry house, but is frequently necessary in the orchard.

In a hog feeding experiment by the Oklahoma station in which Duroc-Jerseys and Poland Chinas were used, six lots of five each were fed as follows: Lot 1, corn meal; lot 2, seven parts corn meal, one part meat meal; lot 3, eleven parts corn meal, one part meat meal; lot 4, four parts corn meal, one part cottonseed meal, alternated every two weeks by corn meal alone; lot 5, corn meal, alfalfa hay; lot 6, corn meal, cowpea hay. In this test the cost of making 100 pounds of gain in each case was as follows: Lot 1, \$8.01; lot 2, \$4.94; lot 3, \$4.73; lot 4, \$6.38; lot 5, \$5.88; lot 6, \$6.67.

Little or no grain should be fed the brood sow when not suckling pigs.

Keep the boar in a separate pen far enough away from the sows to keep him from fretting.

The wet land will grow alsike clover when other clovers will fail. Try it. It is high in nitrogen content.

There is no reason to suppose that the Plymouth Rock egg is harder to break than that of any other variety.

Don't be discouraged. Corn often more than makes up in July and August what it has lost in May and June from unfavorable conditions.

In climates where low temperatures are constant during the winter a hillside site for the orchard is to be preferred to the low-lying places.

The grain from two-rowed barley is usually of better quality than that from the six-rowed variety, although the production is not quite so heavy.

The right start with work in the morning makes things run smoothly all day. Try planning out the work the night before, so that each one of the hands has definite work assigned.

It is coming to be more generally admitted that the dairy farm needs the dairy type of cow and the beef producer must hold himself to the beef animals. In other words, the dual-purpose idea is on the wane.

The drainage is a subject which is receiving more intelligent consideration of the farmers than ever before. It is costly improvement, but repays the outlay many fold in increased productivity of the land thus treated.

The trap nest is the only sure way of finding out the best layers, but the observant farmer's wife can pick out the best layers and by keeping them for the breeders next season she will be on the road to improving her flock and increasing her egg money.

Too many poultry yards are unsightly mud puddles after a rain. One farmer eliminated such condition by enlarging his yard space so as to take in a big patch of green and by the poultry house door laying a wide strip of cement and around this cinders up to the point where the green sward began.

New ideas are all right if they are carefully digested and wisely used. The man who plunges blindly ahead into something which sounds good but which may have weak and impracticable points connected therewith, is the man who is constantly making serious mistakes and is making a failure of farming and stockraising.

Have you put in that patch of corn for summer use for the cows? Remember that the pasturage gets pretty dry and thin during the hot weeks of July and August and you need something to piece out and prevent serious shrinkage in the milk yield. It is a great mistake to let the cows run down in their milk.

Secretary Wilson defines the progressive farm as one who rotates his crops, tile-drains his land, keeps dairy cows or mutton sheep or both, breeds draft horses, does farm work with brood mares and growing colts, and improves the power of the soil by growing legumes. How is it? Do you come into the class thus defined?

A mason who is onto his job and who builds in the interests of his employer says if chimneys are plastered up inside as they are built with a mortar to which one-fourth common salt is added it will have a glazed finish to which the soot will not stick, and hence there will be no chimneys catching fire from the soot accumulations.

A good oil or vinegar barrel cut in half and placed over the pasture spring will make a good drinking place for the stock. Without the barrel the water softens all the soil about which is tramped by the stock until it becomes a mud hole. If the land slopes away from the spring the other half of barrel can be sunk into the ground and a pipe run from the half barrel to the spring.

Spare that tree! There is not a tree of any variety in the United States which should be cut down unless there is an apparent and immediate necessity for its destruction. There are few pieces of wooded land west of the Rocky mountains which will not soon be worth more as they are now than if cleared and under cultivation. Data furnished by the agricultural department, and from other sources reliable in details furnished, show that this is absolutely the case. Estimates made show that the hardwood timber of the United States will be practically exhausted within the next 16 years. The same estimate, with a lengthened time for destruction, applies to timber of other kinds.

HE GREW TAFT TROUSERS.

This Texas Angora Supplied Mohair for Famous Garment.

Chicago.—The pair of trousers which members of the Texas delegation to the recent Republican national convention waved aloft during the periods of enthusiasm attending the nomination of William H. Taft for president, were made especially for that candidate. He has accepted the gift and has promised to wear them on the occasion of his inauguration if he is elected president. The mohair from which the cloth of these trousers was woven was cut from Admiral Togo, a Texas three-year-old Angora



Goat That Supplied Mohair for Taft Trousers.

goat, owned by Frank O. Landrum of Montell. The sire of Admiral Togo was imported from South Africa and won the first prize at the Louisiana Purchase exposition at St. Louis. His mother also was a noted Angora. Her name was Lady Holmes and she won many prizes.

Admiral Togo bears the marks of his splendid lineage. The mohair clip which was used to make Mr. Taft's pair of trousers was of six months' growth. It was cut last March and yielded ten pounds, which is said to be the largest six months' clip ever taken from an Angora goat.

It was suggested by some of the Angora goat raisers in Texas who are admirers of Mr. Taft that it would be doing a nice thing to have a pair of trousers manufactured from the mohair that had been cut from Admiral Togo. John B. Carrington of San Antonio took charge of the matter and sent the clip to a Philadelphia firm of cloth manufacturers. It was converted into an elegant piece of cloth. It was then sent to Owen Owen of Washington, D. C., who is one of Mr. Taft's tailors, and had his measure. It was found that the piece of cloth from the ten pounds of mohair was ample for a pair of trousers for Mr. Taft. Mr. Owen made the goods up in proper style and the trousers were then turned over to Col. Cecil Lyon, Republican national committeeman from Texas, for use at the Chicago convention.

MAY BE PROHIBITION CANDIDATE.

Friends of Judge Artman Would Have Him Run for Presidency.

Chicago.—Judge Samuel R. Artman of Lebanon, Ind., who has a large



JUDGE S. R. ARTMAN

number of friends in the prohibition movement who favor making him the party's candidate for president, is a circuit court judge of Boone county, Indiana, who gave a decision against the constitutionality of licensing saloons February 13, 1907. According to the decision the state of Indiana had no more right to license liquor selling than to license gambling, being dangerous to public morals and public safety. The decision supported the claims of the Anti-Nuisance League of Indiana and was hailed by prohibitionists as affording a means of combating liquor-selling throughout the nation. Since the decision Judge Artman has been in demand as a lecturer for prohibition. He is a Republican.

Washington Whisperings

Interesting Bits of News Gathered at the National Capital.

Taft Boom Was Born in Barber Shop



WASHINGTON.—The nursery of Taft's boom for the presidential nomination was a room in the executive offices of the White House grounds, where President Roosevelt, before he left for his home at Oyster Bay, was shaved each work day. Here, when the boom was a green and tender thing, its first young shoots pushed to the light. Here it was coaxed to sturdier growth. Here, in full blossom, it was talked over and admired.

Frank Hitchcock was the official and the president the unofficial manager of the Taft boom. The president, at these heart-to-heart talks with the can-

didate, was in a barber chair. A certain White House messenger wielded the razor and lather brush. It was the only part of the day when official business did not claim all of Roosevelt's time. It was Taft's one chance to do most of the talking.

Even then, the barber had to be watchful, and quick to snatch away the brush or blade. When T. R. wants to talk he sometimes forgets he is being shaved. If the barber's hand had not a gambler's quickness, the president would have had the lather brush in his eye as often as he had it in his mouth. The shaving of the president and the midday cultivation of the boom of Taft started at 1 p. m. and lasted a half hour.

When Taft was away Roosevelt often received others in the shaving period. Sometimes the correspondents talked with him there. Sometimes it was Hon. Jimmy Garfield, he of the classic brow.

Wholesale Prices Are Highest in Years



IT will be of interest to those who were busy last year in keeping the wolf from the door to know that figures on wholesale prices of 258 representative staple articles reached the apex of their soaring last October. These statistics are for the 18 years between 1890 and 1907.

The annual report on this subject of the commerce and labor department shows that the average for the year 1907 was 5.8 per cent. higher than for 1906; 44.4 per cent. higher than for 1897, the year of lowest prices during the 18-year period, and 29.5 per cent. higher than the average for the ten years from 1890 to 1899. Prices reached their highest point during the 18-year period in October, 1907, the average for that month being 1.2 per

cent. higher than the average for the year 1907.

When the commodities are divided into nine groups every group shows an increase in price in 1907 as compared with 1906. For farm products taken as a whole this increase was greatest, namely, 10.9 per cent.; for food, 4.6 per cent.; for clothes and clothing, 5.6 per cent.; for fuel and lighting, 2.4 per cent.; for metals and implements, 6.1 per cent.; for lumber and building materials, 4.9 per cent.; for drugs and chemicals, 8.3 per cent.; for house furnishing goods, 6.8 per cent., and for the miscellaneous group, five per cent.

The effect of the money stringency in the latter part of the last year is reflected in the decrease recorded in all commodities during November and December, the average price showing a decrease of 3.5 per cent. below October. Of the 258 articles for which wholesale prices were recorded 172 showed an increase in the average prices for 1907 as compared with 1906; 35 showed no change and 51 showed a decrease.

Wiley's Poison Squad End Their Test



DR. HARVEY W. WILEY'S hygienic experimental students, irreverently referred to at times as the "poison squad," have ended the season's feasting at the bureau of chemistry, and their condition is being carefully noted to ascertain what effect the diet has had upon each.

Seven young men compose the class, and they have been giving their services to demonstrate what effect saltpeter and a variety of miscellaneous food products chemically or artificially treated have upon the human system.

The students have resumed the regulation boarding house meals without fear of interfering with the scientific investigations of the government.

Besides taking up such matters as summer beverages, widely advertised as possessing medical properties, but

thought by scientific men to be objectionable because containing caffeine or other injurious substances, there is a wide field for the students to experiment.

One of the most interesting possibilities is the determination of whether or not feungreek, the famous old world herb remedy, which is part of most medicines advertised to increase flesh, is really what it is said to be, and will accomplish the purposes for which it is advertised. A class in feungreek is said to be one of the possibilities of the early future.

Condition foods for animals also offer a field of endeavor that Dr. Wiley may yet explore to determine if the claims made for the various brands of food are really true.

The experiments conducted by Dr. Wiley are the first large experiments of the sort conducted in the scientific world. The classes, which were started in the fall of 1902, have already gone through a variety of experiments. Borax and boric acid were the first to receive attention, sulphuric acid, benzene, formaldehyde and copper salts have also been fully tested as to their effects on the human system when taken with food.

Makes New Record for Cabinet Changes



THE retirement of Secretary of War Taft leaves but two men in Roosevelt's cabinet who were there when he succeeded to the presidency on the death of President McKinley. These are Secretary of State Root and Secretary of Agriculture Wilson.

Mr. Root was secretary of war when Mr. Roosevelt became president in September, 1901. He shortly afterward retired from the cabinet, but was persuaded to re-enter it upon the death of Secretary of State Hay.

There have been more changes and shifts in President Roosevelt's cabinet than in that of any of his predecessors. He has had two secretaries of state, Hay and Root. He has had three secretaries of the treasury,

Gage, Shaw and Cortelyou.

With Luke E. Wright he has had three secretaries of war, Root, Taft and Wright. He has had three attorneys general, Knox, Moody and Bonaparte; five postmasters general, Smith, Payne, Wynne, Cortelyou and Meyer; five secretaries of the navy, Long, Moody, Morton, Bonaparte and Metcalf.

He has had two secretaries of the interior, Hitchcock and Garfield. He has had one secretary of agriculture, Wilson, and three secretaries of commerce and labor, Cortelyou, Metcalf and Straus.

The retirement of Secretary Taft has led to some speculation as to how long Mr. Wilson will continue at the head of the department of agriculture. The chances are that he will continue to serve through the term of Mr. Roosevelt, and should Secretary Taft succeed to the presidency, it is possible that Secretary Wilson would continue in the cabinet. It will be 12 years next March since Wilson became secretary of agriculture.