

Agricultural Experimentation in Box Butte County

PROF. E. W. HUNT, DIRECTOR

Advantages of Fall Plowing

I wish the farmers of northwestern Nebraska would take this matter of fall plowing seriously to heart. Not that it is beneficial here alone; it is beneficial everywhere in the state, and in no part of the state should be neglected. But in northwestern Nebraska it is more than beneficial; it is necessary to certainty in crop production. Of course there may be seasons when a farmer may raise reasonably good crops with the ordinary method of cultivation. But there are certain to come seasons, and the present season is one of them, when, unless there has been adequate preparation of the soil and proper cultivation of the crop, failure is certain to result. The intelligent, progressive farmer will endeavor always to be prepared for the worst, and then if the season happens to be favorable his returns will be so much the greater. But let him always be prepared for the worst, for the worst is liable to come at any time. To neglect this is to imperil his chances.

In northwestern Nebraska it is the question of moisture in the soil that we have to reckon with. Plants, as well as animals, have to be fed in order to grow. They must be furnished material out of which to build plant tissues. Unless this is furnished them they will sicken and die—starve to death. They are not able to take this material, this plant food, in bulk. It must first be dissolved in water, and this water holding this material in solution is sucked up by the feeding rootlets of the plants and goes to build new tissues. In this way the plant grows.

This is the only way in which it can take food. It follows then of necessity that unless there is water enough in the soil to dissolve this plant food, the plant cannot get it, and cannot grow. An adequate rainfall supplies this necessary moisture. But where the annual rainfall is scant, it must all be stored and saved. This is the condition in northwestern Nebraska. Here, if there is to be assurance of a crop year after year, the total rainfall must be stored and saved. The rainfall here is adequate if it is properly taken care of. Nature does her part. It remains for man to do his part. If he fails to do this and he loses his crop, let him not blame the country, or the soil, or the climate. The blame is his, let him take it.

Fall plowing affords the easiest and most practicable way for storing water in the soil. If the soil is loosened to a depth of two inches, these two inches will hold a certain amount of water before allowing any to run off. If it is loosened to a depth of six inches it will hold three times as much before becoming saturated. For this reason fall plowing should be as deep as possible. It is necessary to catch and hold all of the later fall and winter rains, all of the snow and the water from melting snow, and all of the early spring rains, if there is to be certainty of moisture enough to mature a crop. Whoever neglects to store and hold this moisture is taking desperate chances, and has himself to thank if he fails. All of the rainfall is needed, and to let any of it get away is to invite failure.

Another reason that should persuade every farmer to practice fall plowing is that it actually prolongs the season of growth. Fall plowed land warms up much more quickly in the spring than land that has not been stirred. But if any one has doubts about it, it is an easy matter for such a one to prove it to his own satisfaction by a simple test. Take a thermometer, or rather two of them that register alike, and insert one of them to a depth of two or three inches in fall plowed land, and insert the other in a similar manner in land that has not been stirred, and note the result. This earlier warming of the soil is a very important fact that should be taken into consideration by every farmer. At this altitude, with the consequent shortening of the season of growth, it is an important matter to be able to add a couple of weeks to the crop season. The last spring was exceptionally cold and backward. The time for planting was nearly a month later than usual. No fall plowing had been done; the work was all bunched together; there was not time to do any of it well; planting was delayed till late in June and then hurriedly, and in many cases improperly done. The result is certain to be shown in the harvest of the all-season crops, especially corn and potatoes. Work of planting might have begun at least two weeks earlier had the ground been deeply plowed last fall, and that much added to the season of growth. Two weeks at the beginning of the season means a great deal to any crop. No farmer can afford to lose these two weeks of most importance to any crop. The only way to secure them is by plowing in the fall.

I have a single suggestion to offer with respect to planting corn or potatoes on fall plowed land. Plant these crops with a lister, running the rows east and west, instead of north and south. When planted in this way, the ridges thrown up by the lister will protect the bottom of the furrow from the cold north winds, and at the

same time the bottom of the furrow, where the seed is planted, will lie open to the sun and be warmed to quick and vigorous growth. If the lister rows are made to run north and south, the warming action of the sun will be more than neutralized by the cold north winds that will sweep the entire length of the furrow. But when potatoes are planted with an ordinary potato planter on fall plowed land, they will grow more quickly and vigorously than when planted on spring plowing, because the fall plowed land warms so much more quickly.

At this elevation, I am not in favor of spring plowing for any crop. Here the rate of evaporation is double what it is in the Missouri valley at the eastern end of the state. When ground is plowed here in the spring the chances are that most of the moisture that is in the furrow slice will be lost through the high rate of evaporation caused by the drying spring winds. The success of the crop depends on saving this moisture. Besides, if the seed be planted on the top of spring plowing, it will be planted above the reach of the moisture brought up from below by capillary action, for that comes only as far as the ground is solid and unbroken. It will then have to depend for its moisture on the ordinary rainfall which in some seasons, like the present, may not be sufficient to mature the crop. If ground that has not been fall plowed is to be used for a small grain crop, it is better to disk it thoroughly, lapping the disk half, and put in the seed with a drill, placing it next to the firm ground beneath, where it may draw upon the moisture that is brought up from below by capillary attraction. For the same reason I should not spring plow for either corn or potatoes, but should disk as above advised, and then plant with a lister, running the rows east and west. This method will not, however, in ordinary seasons, produce nearly as good a crop of either corn or potatoes, as might be secured on fall plowing.

Now I do not ask any farmer to take my word alone for all this. That might be asking altogether too much. But this much I do ask of every farmer, namely, to prove for himself the truth of what I have said by trying both methods side by side and noting the result. My only anxiety is to assist the farmers of the northwest to make the most they can under these soil and climatic conditions. I tell them what I believe to be true, and it is up to them to prove by honest, fair experience whether I am right. If I am right, they can indefinitely increase their product by following my advice.

Save the Moisture

Most parts of the county have by this time received a plentiful rain. It was sorely needed, and in some parts the need is still great. The fortunate ones should get busy at once to save all they can of what they have received. Let them get into their corn and potatoes at once with cultivators. Do not cultivate too deep. Stir the soil not deeper than three inches, so as to prevent the moisture from rising to the surface and being lost by evaporation. Keep it where the feeding rootlets of the corn and potatoes can get at it. Do not go too deep. At this time of the season the fine, almost invisible feeding filaments of the plants stretch from row to row, and deep cultivation will cut them off and rob the plant of just so much feeding power. Do not get too close to the rows. The young potatoes just set and beginning to grow should not be disturbed or they may stop growing. If the main trunk roots of the corn are disturbed by cultivating too close, it will work great injury to the crop. But stir the soil at once. Show your appreciation of the rain by saving the moisture received. Put off haying or other work till this is done. By neglecting cultivation now, more will be lost than gained in any other work.

Care of the Teeth in Summer.

Horace Fletcher is of the opinion that in the summer the dust laden atmosphere is particularly injurious to the teeth. He says: "Dental defects cause far more disease than the public imagines. 'In the dust laden atmosphere of towns the teeth are very liable to disease,' he says, 'and even when healthy are necessarily dirtied. Some go so far as to advise all town dwellers daily to WASH OUT THE NASAL PASSAGES AND TO GARGLE THE THROAT; but, whatever may be thought of this, it is certain that under existing dietetic conditions special means are needed in order to keep the mouth and teeth clean. 'When man fed on raw food this was not necessary, the food itself and the copious flow of saliva, induced by prolonged mastication, effectually cleansing these parts, but under present conditions food tends to remain within the mouth, especially between the teeth and in their crevices, and therefore special means are needed to remove it. 'This is done by cleaning the teeth and by rinsing the mouth after each meal.'"

IOWA HAPPENINGS

Stepson Admits That He Murdered Thomas Currier.

MYSTERY IS CLEARED AWAY.

Confession is Made to Man Who Succeeded Victim as His Mother's Husband—Currier Was Found Near New Virginia With Head Split Open With an Axe and a bullet in His Side.

Indianola, Ia., Aug. 17.—What is believed to be the solution of one of the most remarkable murder mysteries in the annals of Iowa has been reached here through the confession of Harry Hutchinson, a twelve-year-old boy, that he killed Thomas Currier, his stepfather, a wealthy farmer, at his home near New Virginia, in this county, on the night of March 1, last. The boy's confession was made to George Brand, who recently became the successor of the late Thomas Currier as his stepfather.

Harry said Currier had abused both him and his own son, Fred. His story is to the effect that when he and Fred returned from New Virginia in the evening Currier had refused to let them in the house, though the weather was bitterly cold, but had sent them away to pasture to drive in the cattle. It was 10 o'clock when they returned and Currier again refused to let them in. Then Harry says he broke into the kitchen through a window and secured his rifle.

Later when Currier emerged from the house and made a rush towards them, he opened fire. The bullet struck Currier's neck. He fell in his tracks, and the boy completed his murderous work with an axe. Then he tied the body to a wagon, hauled it out and threw it in the ditch where it was later found.

HIT IN FIST FIGHT; MAY DIE

James Hanshaw in Critical Condition at Bedford.

Bedford, Ia., Aug. 17.—James Hanshaw lies at the point of death here on account of injuries to his head received in falling after being struck by William McCoun, who is held under \$1,000 bonds awaiting the outcome of the injuries of Mr. Hanshaw.

Some one circulated the rumor that Carrie Nation, while here, had slapped McCoun and he was looking for the man that started the story. He encountered Hanshaw and they got into an altercation, which resulted in McCoun striking Hanshaw. Hanshaw, falling, struck his head on the cement walk and is unconscious still, although his skull is not fractured.

OLDEST MAN IN IOWA DIES

Cornelius Monahan passes Away in Clinton at Age of 103.

Clinton, Ia., Aug. 14.—Cornelius Monahan, born in Ireland in 1806 and said to have been the oldest man in Iowa, is dead at his home here. As a youth he was a sailor on the high seas and great lakes. Coming to Chicago when it was an Indian village, he marked the site of the future metropolis. He has twenty-seven descendants.

SLASHES AGED BLIND MAN

Patrick Ryan Probably Fatally Wounded by Tramp at Clinton.

Clinton, Ia., Aug. 17.—An unknown tramp was arrested after making a murderous attack on Patrick Ryan, an aged blind man, at whose house he was drinking. The assailant refuses to talk and his identity is unknown. Ryan's head is terribly gashed with an axe, but he still lives.

TEACHER IN DROWNED

Van Buren County Young Man Fell Out of Boat.

Ottumwa, Ia., Aug. 14.—Ernest Miller of Douds Leando was drowned in the Des Moines river south of Keosauqua. Mr. Miller had been teaching in the Van Buren county schools for the last fifteen years.

More Flour Is Under Ban.

Davenport, Ia., Aug. 17.—Fourteen hundred sacks of alleged bleached flour, the product of the Wells, Abbott, Nieman & Co. of Schuyler Neb., were seized here upon order of United States Attorney Colonel M. L. Temple, through Dr. Artemus Brown, food inspector.

Woman Kills Herself.

Cedar Rapids, Ia., Aug. 17.—While her husband and seven small children were at dinner in the farm home near Waukeek, Mrs. Rose Schvattel went to the barn and took a fatal dose of strychnine. No cause is known except she had been despondent.

Infant Drowns in Jar.

Charter Oak, Ia., Aug. 16.—The infant boy of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Frauchkr was drowned in an eight-gallon jar containing about four gallons of water, while two of the child's brothers played about the yard.

Victor Steel Drowns at Clinton.

Clinton, Ia., Aug. 17.—Victor Steel, aged twenty-five, son of a prominent Fulton (Ia.) stove manufacturer, was drowned in the Mississippi. He fell from the ferryboat.

Drowning at Burlington.

Burlington, Ia., Aug. 16.—Elmer Spiker, aged fourteen, was drowned while swimming in the river. His body was recovered.

WIFE WITNESS TO DROWNING

Sees Husband's Vain Struggle in Water for His Life.

Pleasantville, Ia., Aug. 17.—Tom Peffers, a well known farmer, in company with his brother-in-law, John Speed, was bathing in the Des Moines river, a few miles east of town. The young men tried to swim across the river.

Speed succeeded and was sitting on the opposite bank resting, waiting for his companion to complete his task. When a little over half way over, Peffers' strength failed him, and he called to Speed to come and help him. Speed went to his assistance. The struggles of Peffers, however, as he caught hold of his would-be rescuer, caused both to go under the water, and Speed was obliged to give up the attempt and save himself.

While the sad tragedy was being enacted Mrs. Peffers and her two small children stood on the bank and saw the drowning of husband and father.

MINBURN HAS \$20,000 FIRE

Blaze Destroys East Side of Business District.

Minburn, Ia., Aug. 16.—Fire destroyed several buildings in the east part of the town. The loss was about \$20,000. Three buildings were consumed, the Slocum furniture and general store, the Keller meat market, over which he and his family lived, and the Odd Fellows' building, in the lower part of which there was an implement store.

The fire started in the rear of the Slocum store. The fire fighters were aided by the Perry company in controlling the flames. The burned buildings are located on the east side of the business street.

SLASHES FRIEND WITH RAZOR

A. C. Davidson Fatally Wounded in Barber Shop at Carson, Ia.

Carson, Ia., Aug. 14.—Mart Ring and A. C. Davidson of Carson went to Avoca, Ring paying Davidson's fare to secure his company. While there Ring purchased a half gallon of whiskey. On the way home the liquor was lost and Ring accused Davidson of having stolen it. In the evening, while Davidson was in a barber chair getting shaved Ring rushed in and attacked Davidson with a razor, inflicting wounds from which Davidson is sure to die. Ring was drunk when he made the attack. He is in jail.

FROWNS UPON FOOTBALL

School Board of Clarion Will Make Parents Assume Responsibility.

Iowa Falls, Ia., Aug. 14.—One board of education in this part of the state proposes to assume no responsibility growing out of the pupils playing football this fall, and has put it up to the parents of the scholars. The board at Clarion has decided to eliminate football from the curriculum of the school unless the parents signify their desire that their children participate in the game.

EPWORTH ASSEMBLY OVER

Colfax Gathering Comes to a Close With Hanly.

Colfax, Ia., Aug. 16.—The Epworth league assembly closed its annual encampment here with a concert by the Whitney quintette. Governor Hanly gave a lecture, but the hot day greatly lessened the crowd. Several hundred dollars were subscribed for park improvements and to meet expenses by business men and Epworth leaguers.

CHAUTAUQUA TENT WRECKED

No One Was Injured, However, at Centerville.

Centerville, Ia., Aug. 16.—At the close of John Temple Graves' lecture at the chautauqua a windstorm wrecked the tent, but no one was injured. Mr. Graves paid a high tribute to the Iowa senators for their vote on the tariff bill, which he said was cast "against greed as represented by the protected interests."

INFANT BURNED TO DEATH

Gasoline Explosion Results Fatally at Clinton.

Clinton, Ia., Aug. 16.—In an explosion of gasoline here the thirteen-month-old child of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Judd was frightfully burned and died in a few hours. The mother of the child was painfully burned in an endeavor to rescue the little one from death.

Drownings of a Day.

Des Moines, Aug. 16.—The following drownings were reported in Iowa: Kenneth S. Fox, aged sixteen, near Fort Des Moines; Frank Cheney, aged sixteen, at Adel; Orville Irwin, aged nineteen, near Oswalt; Thomas McLaughlin, aged twenty-four, at Keokuk.

Injured by Gasoline.

Ottumwa, Ia., Aug. 14.—Cliff Ware, son of George Ware of Moulton, was brought to the Ottumwa hospital suffering from severe burns received by an explosion of the gasoline tank on an auto. His face and eyes are disfigured by the burning liquid.

Hayes Retains Tennis Title.

Sioux City, Ia., Aug. 16.—Playing a steady, consistent game, Walter T. Hayes of Chicago retained his title as singles tennis champion in the tri-state tournament here, defeating Ray L. Branson of Mitchell, S. D., in three straight sets.

Heat Victim at Keokuk.

Keokuk, Ia., Aug. 16.—George King, an employee of the cereal plant, and aged fifty-five, was prostrated by the heat. At the hospital it was said that he would die.

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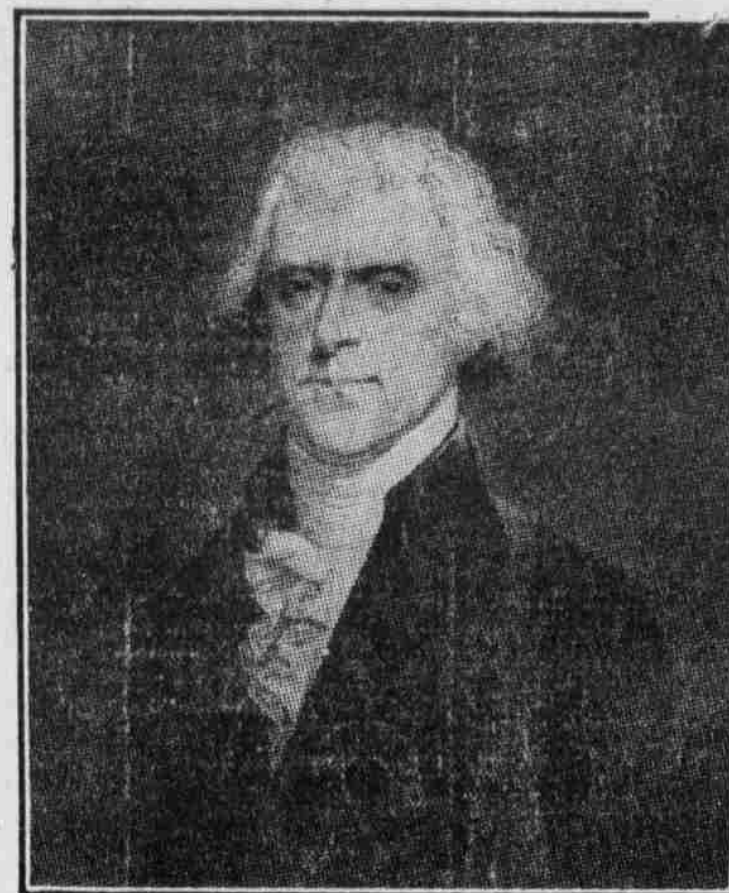
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