

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TRIBUNE

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THE COUNTY FAIR.

That the old order changes, that the simple life gives way to sophistication, and that in the onward march of science the rural community profits by the marvels of man's invention, as well as the cities, are strikingly exemplified at the modern county fair. These fairs are no longer expositions of fine animals that are happy accidents of natural development, or fruits and flowers that by "casual fruition" have attained extraordinary size or beauty. Nowadays successful farming is as much a matter of exact calculation and accurate knowledge as its any form of manufacturing or non-agricultural industry. Steam and electricity perform the work of many day laborers. Proper sanitary conditions forestall the risk of bovine tuberculosis. The butter churn is no longer wearily operated by hand, and horses are enfranchised from the treadmill of the thrashing machine. The telephone brings the country dweller into closer contact with all the world. The rural doctor comes to the door with the speed of wings in his motor car.

Pennsylvania is doing well in forestry and in tree conservation. The state commissioner reports nearly 1,000,000 acres in the reserve, to which additions are being made, and has much to say about the effective system of replanting, cultivation and general safeguarding. Replanting is a very important part of the work. Many millions of young trees have been planted, and with the appropriation available it is hoped to add not less than 9,000,000 this year, while the ultimate number is expected to be 20,000,000 annually. An excellent institution is a state forestry academy, in which young men are trained for the forestry service. All this is indicative of active and intelligent supervision. Pennsylvania is a state of hills and valleys, and denuding the crests of trees has wrought incalculable mischief, a fair specimen of which is furnished by the freshets which so often sweep down the Ohio and other streams, carrying havoc for many miles.

A curious statement comes from Kansas as to the effect of "overflowing granaries and bulging banks" on the fortunes of the University of Kansas, says the Troy Times. Chancellor Strong of that institution says: "So much money has been made in this western country in the last ten years, and the boy has been furnished with so much of it, that he has desired to live pretty well. Some have craved and now own motor cars. All of this has a tendency to distract attention from studies, and we have some hard work to combat the tendency." There seems to be no doubt that the west is developing wealth and a leisure class of its own.

A French engineer and inventor has asked for a franchise permitting him to carry passengers and freight to and from Paris in an aerial omnibus which he has designed. He declines to reveal the nature of his invention, as such disclosure might interfere with obtaining patents for which he has applied, but the scheme is represented as practicable. Another Frenchman is using his aeroplane to go about the country making social calls. An American company has been formed for transporting passengers by an air line. And the German Zeppelin dirigible balloon is mentioned in connection with various flying enterprises.

The people of this country want the Cuban republic to be as peaceful, as orderly and as firmly established as the government of the United States. Any Cuban who believes that there exists in the United States any public sentiment in favor of the annexation of Cuba must be a victim of his own fears and suspicions, says the Boston Advertiser. The only people who are working for the annexation of Cuba are those unworthy Cubans who are fomenting trouble within the republic and who would like to raise a revolution or such disorder as to persuade Americans that the Cuban government is unstable.

The man on the aeroplane raises no howl for better roads. All roads look alike to him.

Save us from a bumper crop of forest fires!

Now that American heiresses are marrying royal princes, mere barons, counts and dukes will find a former easy international marriage path beset with difficulties. For this is an age of aviation, and everybody is flying high.

The time-honored swindling schemes do not show much variety, but then they probably rely, with more or less certainty of profit, on the fact that there are no special novel changes in human nature.

TAFT ON IRRIGATION

President Will Ask Congress for \$100,000,000 Bond Issue.

Outlines His Plans for Continuation of Reclamation Work in Speech Delivered at Spokane for Preserving Waterway Sites.

In a speech on the conservation of natural resources delivered recently at Spokane, Wash., President Taft declared that he would ask congress to authorize the issuance of \$100,000,000 in bonds to complete irrigation projects already begun in the west and on which work had been stopped for lack of funds.

This has been the hope of many settlers in the arid regions who had taken up lands in expectation of procuring a supply of water to make them fertile, and the president's declaration was enthusiastically cheered.

The president said: "My administration is pledged to follow out the policies of Mr. Roosevelt in this regard, and while that pledge does not involve me in any obligation to carry them out unless I have congressional authority to do so, it does require that I take every step to exert every legitimate influence on congress to enact the legislation which shall best subserve the purpose indicated."

The president had praise for Chief Forester Gifford Pinchot, and referred to his "wonderful work for the conservation of the forests, supported by Mr. Roosevelt."

President Taft declared as to water-power sites that congress must authorize the government to allot these sites to private interests for development, the government retaining general control and supervision.

He declared also that he would urge on congress the necessity of an authoritative classification of public lands to prevent difficulties of the past, such as the setting aside of coal and mineral lands as agricultural lands, and vice versa.

In speaking on the subject of irrigation President Taft said:

"The plan of the government to reclaim the arid and semi-arid lands, manifested in the reclamation act, has been carried out most rapidly by the bureau charged with its execution."

"There are some 30 projects which have been entered upon by the reclamation bureau, and I believe that all of them are to be commended for their excellent adaptation to the purpose for which they were erected, and for the speed with which the work has been done."

"Now, it appears that it will take \$100,000,000 or more, which is not available in the reclamation fund at present, fully to complete the projects, and it also appears that a great number of persons, by reason of the beginning of the projects, have been led into making settlements, the expenditure of time and labor, with the hope and upon the reliance that such reclamation enterprises would be carried through in a reasonable time."

"Something must be done to relieve the present situation, which is one of disappointed hopes to many settlers on the arid lands, who counted on an early completion of the projects undertaken and invested their money and spent their time and seem to be no nearer the goal of satisfactory irrigation than they were when the projects were begun."

"I think it wise to apply to congress for relief by urging the passage of an enabling act which shall permit the secretary of the interior to issue bonds in the sum of \$10,000,000 or more to complete all the projects."

"These bonds should be redeemed from the money paid into the reclamation funds after the completion of the projects."

CULTIVATING THE ALFALFA

While Disk Harrow Does Good Work the Cultivator is Better for Stirring the Soil.

Disking and harrowing alfalfa fields early is beneficial in that it stirs and loosens the soil compacted by the irrigation of the previous season. The soil is thus aerated and irrigation water can penetrate more readily than otherwise. Such cultivation also kills weeds and greatly aids in holding them in check.

Disking cuts up the crowns more or less and this has the effect of inducing stooling. It may be practiced on old alfalfa fields with benefit, but in disking second year alfalfa the disks should be set nearly straight so as not to cut off too many of the young crowns. While the disk harrow does good work the "alfalfa cultivator" is a better tool in that it stirs the soil more completely and does not ridge the ground. On light soils the drag harrow may be used with benefit. Cultivating alfalfa after each cutting is of much needed benefit. This can be practiced where the fields are flooded, but is not practicable where the furrow system is employed, as the furrows would be obliterated. With furrow irrigation the land must be marked out for irrigation as soon as disking in spring.

Fertilizing Beans.

Fertilizing is an important matter in raising beans. If the soil is too poor it will not raise good beans and it will not do to apply barnyard manure directly to the crop. It pays better to apply manure a year in advance, and if the farmer will give this crop proper attention he will find it will give him as great returns for money and time invested as anything he can raise.

First Irrigation of Alfalfa.

The first irrigation of young alfalfa should be withheld as long as possible and no water applied until there is real need of moisture.

POTATO AS GOOD FOOD CROP

Ranks Next to Cereals in Importance of Food and Vastly Improved by Irrigation.

Root crops, of which the potato is the most important, rank next to the cereals in importance as food. In Europe the potato was long popularly believed to be poisonous, but bad harvests in staple crops in the last half of the eighteenth century directed attention to it, and its use has since then constantly increased.

In the west, through irrigation in an open, porous, thoroughly prepared soil, well supplied with humus or vegetable mold, there are produced potatoes fit for an epicure—uniform in size, not too large, nor too small and regular in shape.

It is cheaply raised, can be kept over winter, is easily prepared for table, pleasant to taste, and rich in digestible starch. Potatoes are almost wholly digestible and contain a much smaller percentage of water than turnips, sugar beets, carrots, parsnips, etc. Besides its table use it is employed as stock food and in the manufacture of starch, sirup, alcohol and dextrin. Potatoes may be preserved as an ensilage for stock. Dried, they can be easily preserved in tropical and arctic regions and form an excellent diet, in a convenient form for transportation.

The potato requires abundant light—plenty of sunshine. The soil considered best is a deep, mellow, free working loam, grading to either a sandy or clay loam. But it is raised on lighter or heavier soils if the latter are drained. Depth of plowing varies with the soil—six or eight inches being most common. Though the potato is sometimes grown continuously for years on the same soil, rotation of crops is preferable as, among other advantages, it lessens the danger of attacks of diseases and insects. Carefulness in choosing the variety suitable to a particular locality and in selecting seed is an important factor in success. The growing crop must be closely watched to protect it against parasites.

Between the tuber grown under ordinary conditions and that which springs from a combination of proper soil, suitable climate and intensive cultivation, there is as big a difference as can be found in any class of food products.

WOMAN ON A MODERN FARM

Modern Methods Have Lightened the Labors of Farmer's Wife—Machinery a Big Factor.

First of all a home life of singular attractiveness, if she enjoys nature at all—and an ideal place for her children, is what is meant to a woman on a farm. Of hard work there is plenty, of course—but not of the coarse drudgery which used to weigh so heavily upon our rural mothers and grandmothers of a generation ago. Times have changed on the farm. Modern methods have lightened the labors of the farmer's wife. The use of machinery is reducing the hours of work and intensive tillage keeps the men folk nearer home. Meals are more regular.

The modern creamery relieves her of caring for the milk, churning butter and making cheese. To-day the farmer hauls his milk to the nearest creamery, where it is tested and weighed and paid for in a few minutes—and passes into butter by scientific process.

Gasoline engines, portable and stationary, are now used on the farm to pump water, saw wood, operate machines, etc., and thus save the housewife's muscle. Acetylene gas lights her house as well as electricity and without any more bother. Hot water heaters, modern plumbing, kitchen cabinets—are but a few of the many city advantages enjoyed by a prosperous rural community. In many irrigation localities even electricity is available for light and power. There are few, if any, urban conveniences to-day which tillers of the soil cannot enjoy at less expense.

Check Method.

On land that is almost or quite level where it is difficult to spread water over the land, a method of flooding termed the check method may be employed. Levees are thrown up dividing the fields into small areas ranging in size from half an acre to two acres. A large head of water is used and each "check" is in turn flooded with water to the desired depth. The checks may be square or rectangular and the surface of the land in each one should be graded perfectly level. Scrapers are used for making the levees and the soil needed for their construction is taken from the highest part of the check or if the land is level from the whole surface.

Weeds.

Certain weeds are prevalent in alfalfa fields. The chief ones are dodder, sweet clover, Russian thistle and squirrel-tail grass. One of these, dodder, is a parasite on the alfalfa. The others are all pernicious because they occupy space that should produce alfalfa.

Dodder, or "love-vine," germinates from seed and the young plant, when of sufficient height, entwines itself about the alfalfa stem and then becomes disconnected from its own root and thenceforth feeds upon the alfalfa plant.

First Irrigation of Alfalfa.

The first irrigation of young alfalfa should be withheld as long as possible and no water applied until there is real need of moisture.

The Little Touches



These little individualities of dress are a valuable feature. Any separate idea can be appropriated by those designing a new gown and often this little original touch will impart an air of elegance to an otherwise colorless costume.

The new small sleeve is a problem to nearly every home dressmaker—how to avoid the "nippy" look. Nos. 1, 2 and 3 offer suggestions for sleeves for different gowns. No. 1 is a sleeve for a semi-dressy evening gown of crepe de chine, piped with chiffon velvet in a darker tone, and the buttons are covered to match. The undersleeve is chiffon and lace. No. 2 is a blue serge, suitable for a morning frock. The top of the sleeve is leg-of-mutton shape, cut with one seam, and the band scalloped well up the back, from which falls a frill of lace or hemstitched mill. No. 3 is attractive for a cloth afternoon gown and takes away the plain look from the top of the arm which is not often becoming. The little cap is made of the material, braided, and held together with matching cord and braid buttons, which also trims the outside of the sleeve.

The cap is lined with a matching shade of soft satin.

No. 4 is a novel finish for a simple blouse. Two rows of narrow velvet ribbon, black or some dark shade, and a row of gold and one of silver buttons form the trimming.

Something new in buttonholes is sketched in the serviceable coat in No. 5. The garment hooks with large cloak hooks, while the buttons and double simulated buttonholes form a finish. The buttons and collar facing are of moire silk—another new feature of the winter modes. The buttonholes and collar are of darker cloth.

No. 6 shows one of the smart touches on the latest chapeaux—a lace cockade, stiffly wired and tied with a black and white bow.

For this fashionable cloth coat for early fall an unusual collar finish is the only trimming required.

No. 7 is a light pearl gray cloth with square, stitched revers of black satin. A very stunning effect is given by three great gold disks on the end of each tie.

A belt of two shades of taffeta and black soubatte braid, crossed over in front and fastening under a black satin bow, gives a cachet to a plain silk gown.

HAT OF MOIRE.



Edged with black silk, with a soft crown and a wreath of oxidized silver roses.

A Trying Collar.

The very extreme collar has not returned, but has given place to a moderately high straight collar, surmounted, in many instances, by a suggestion of a frill again.

Platted linen is better than ruching, and a tiny outstanding turnover is good. This is purposely allowed to flare so as to form a frame for the face. It is slashed open back and front, and is rather stiff and formal looking.

This type of collar is no more generally becoming than is the Pierrot ruff. It takes away from the natural outline of the face and neck, and should be cautiously chosen. There are always styles of this sort for the very slender woman, and they should be reserved for her.

Just a Toilet Hint.

A little borax in witch hazel is a good face wash after motoring, and is also of value in so many ways that every woman should have borax and witch hazel in her dressing case, says an authority on such matters. A little bicarbonate of soda and orris root in the bath make it much more pleasurable.

CHANGES IN TABLE SILVER

Knife Handles of Ivory and Mother of Pearl No Longer Seen—Lavish Display Frowned On.

All of the latest knives and forks have handles of silver, which has entirely superseded the white handles of ivory and mother of pearl. The silver is found to be more substantial and is less likely to be spoiled or broken by constant use. Silver platters also take precedence over the ones of china for the serving of all meats, poultry and fish, as they hold the heat better and insure the serving of these courses piping hot, a thing not possible with china.

It is not customary abroad to place half a dozen knives and forks of various designs, some for fish and some for fowl and some for no one knows what, alongside the plates before a dinner is begun. But for each course as it is removed the waiter brings the "tools" for the next. Not only is this bit of show done away with, but it is considered bad taste to spread out an array of silverware before your guests, an act which appears rather parvenu, as though the object of a feast were to make an exhibition of wealth. It is taken for granted by one's guests that there is plenty of silver to go round.

New Fall Goods.

Whipcord.
Satin-faced crepons.
Crepe bengaline.
Travers cord.
Satin prunella.
Herringbone serge.
Striped English solet.
Marquise.
Velveteen and corduroy.
Broadcloth.
Cashmere de sole.
Fancy messaline.
Chevron worsteds.
Sturdy homespun.
Rough chevrot.

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