

WAGES ARE TOO LOW

LEGISLATURE TO TAKE ACTION ON PACKING HOUSE MATTER.

\$9 PER WEEK AS MINIMUM

House Roll No. 442, Alleviating Situation, Unanimously Recommended.

Lincoln.—Well down in the house general file, but not so far down but that many members are keeping an eye turned in its direction, is a bill which will shortly attract the support of legislators who believe in progressive economic legislation as well as in progressive politics.

The bill is house roll No. 442, introduced by McCarthy of Greeley county and unanimously recommended for passage by the committee on labor. It provides for a minimum wage for adults in work shops, factories and packing houses of 20 cents an hour or, if the work is contracted by the week, of \$9 a week, overtime to be paid for at time-and-a-half rates.

The committee's unanimous recommendation, despite employers' protests, resulted largely from information in its hands relative to the wages paid unskilled labor in South Omaha packing houses. Additional information on this subject has since been secured by the special working girls' investigation committee.

Legislators stood appalled at unchallenged statements that 1,500 men employed in South Omaha plants secured only 17 1-2 cents an hour, a weekly maximum, if by good luck there were no short days, of only \$3.40. As a matter of fact, it was shown that the average weekly wage of 3,000 unskilled laborers was about \$7.00.

Worse than this, the average weekly wage of women and girls, who have been employed in increasing numbers during the last few years, was shown to be \$4.50.

How men could support families on such paltry sums, even when the wife and mother aided in the earnings, was beyond the comprehension of members of the committee.

The employers' representatives, including men from the railroads, telephone companies and the South Omaha packing industries, objected, but the bill went to the general file. It will come before the house sometime during the next three weeks.

The progressive members, who have looked up New Jersey's recent action in attempting a \$9.00 minimum wage for girls, to say nothing of men, expect it to receive plenty of attention.

Governor Sends Message.

In executive session the senate received the message from Governor Morehead announcing appointment of Henry Gerdes of Falls City, C. H. Gregg of Kearney and Charles Graff of Bancroft as members of state board of control soon to come into existence. In accordance with a predetermined plan, agreed upon at a caucus Kemp of Nance moved that a committee of five members be appointed to investigate the character and competency of appointees and to report their findings back to senate before action on confirmation is taken.

Yeiser Given \$200.

The claims committee of the house reported its bill back to the house carrying appropriations totaling \$75,000. John O. Yeiser was given \$200 for his services on the pardon board, this being all that was allowed for his claim for \$1,200 for this purpose.

House Passes Potts Bill.

The house corporations committee has recommended for passage the Potts bill taxing all corporations one-tenth of 1 per cent on the capital stock representing Nebraska business, an increase of about \$320,000 a year over the present corporation tax.

Bill Gets Ax in Senate.

The senate's first application of the ax upon a bill coming before it on the order of third reading took place when the Bartling bill requiring railroads to man switch engines with full crews while operating in yards at division points was defeated by a vote of 14 to 11.

House Passes Lee Bill.

The house has passed the Lee bill permitting the city council of Omaha to vote \$50,000 for park improvements and to construct a work house.

Senator Placek Has Pneumonia.

Senator E. E. Placek of Saunders is very ill with pneumonia at the Lincoln hotel. Mrs. Placek is with him.

Governor Signs Bill.

Governor Morehead signed house roll 353, a bill appropriating \$50,000 for the state penitentiary deficit.

Franchise Bill Quickly Killed.

Killed and buried in less than fifteen minutes was the fate of senate file No. 340, the bill that would have given electric light free and unregulated entry into any city or town in the state. No person appeared before the senate committee on roads in support of the measure, and Senator Heasty, who introduced it asserted he did not care much what became of it, as it was introduced merely by request. Many members joined Senator Wolz in a successful effort to see that the measure was quickly slain.

NEBRASKA IN BRIEF.

Coming Events in Nebraska.
March 5 to 15—"Made-in-Nebraska" Show, Omaha.
March 11 to 14—Convention Federation Nebraska Retailers, Omaha.
April 4 and 5—Annual Y. M. C. A. Indoor Athletic meet, Omaha.

A new brick building is being erected at Craig.
More than 1,000 hives were lost in the mines of Pennsylvania in 1912.
Carl Frahm recently sold a hog in Bloomfield that weighed 730 pounds.
The Aurora Y. M. C. A. membership has reached 140.

Nine cars of cattle were recently shipped to Kansas City from Granger. In the fall at Beatrice there are three well defined cases of smallpox.
Many arrests have been made at Fort Crook for bootlegging.
C. A. Dixon, an old resident, died recently at Blair.

Dr. Heath has returned to his home in Fairbury from an extended sojourn at Tampa, Fla.

In the state oratorical contest Bellevue won first, Creighton second, Cotner third and Doane fourth place.

Crofton defeated the Bancroft basketball team on the Crofton field by a score of 16 to 9.

Judge J. B. Raper has adjourned district court at Tecumseh until some time in March.

The thirty-third annual convention of the Burt county Sunday school was held at Tekamah.

At Silver Creek the question of voting \$8,000 bonds for water system is being discussed.

Richard Allen, a former well known Nebraska cattle man, died recently at his home in Boston of pneumonia.

Omaha High school defeated Sioux City High school at Sioux City, 25 to 14, in a rough game of basketball.

The rural route carriers of Red Willow and adjoining counties met in convention at Bartley recently.

The seven-year-old son of W. S. Blanchard of Edgar has a badly broken arm from a fall from a pony.

The business men of Brunswick have organized a company and will build a new hotel.

The use of liquor by Omaha & Council Bluffs Street Car company employees is absolutely forbidden in an order recently posted.

In the first game ever played between the two schools, Dana college of Blair defeated the Bellevue college five by a score of 25 to 13.

The little 6-year-old daughter of Arthur Lakey, living near Fairbury, was seriously burned while playing with matches.

At the time of the recent railway wreck at Kearney a fireman was in charge of the engine instead of the engineer.

Deputy State Bank Examiner Joseph Pigman, a resident of Broken Bow, has purchased the bank at McGrew.

The state board of health has acquitted Dr. C. A. Yoder of Elm Creek of the charge of performing a criminal operation.

The first auto delivery truck ever installed at West Point was put in use this week by the proprietors of a department store.

The city council of Fremont decided unanimously to place the \$40,000 paving bond proposition before the voters at the spring election.

Governor Morehead announced the reappointment of F. W. Booth as superintendent of the Nebraska School for the Deaf, located in Omaha.

There will soon be held an election at Fort Dodge to pass on the question of issuing \$50,000 to be used in the erection of a new school building.

The Southeast Nebraska Fruit Growers' association, at a recent meeting at Auburn, changed its name to the Eastern Nebraska Fruit Growers' association.

According to findings by veterinarians the horse disease that did much damage in this state last year, has again put in appearance in Gage county.

The dedicatory services for the new Methodist church in Brock were held with an address by L. O. Jones of Lincoln, president of the Epworth assembly.

Usually at this season of the year Scottsbluff has a series of banquets and dinners, which are in the main "get together" meetings.

Herman B. Fairchild, one of the most widely known farmers of Jefferson county, was found dead in a chair at his home six miles southeast of Fairbury, near Endicott.

Plans for the new building for the City National bank at York have been approved by the directors and stockholders and contractors are now figuring on the work.

About 125 clerical employees of the Burlington have left Omaha for Chicago, at which place the auditing headquarters will be located.

Woman suffrage passed the house committee of the whole at Lincoln, but under circumstances that practically insures its defeat on third reading.

Rev. E. B. Taft, who has been pastor of the Baptist church in Fairbury for several years, has tendered his resignation to take effect April 1. It has been accepted by the church.

Electric lighting in both stories of the new Masonic building at Omaha is now assured, the wiring having been started. This will be the first building with electric lights in Ohiowa.

Five young men and one young woman were arrested on the charge of complicity in the highway robbery of Mrs. John Jensen, the wife of a West Point business man, which occurred two months ago at West Point.

NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM



By William Pitt

Spray the trees.
Scald out the feed troughs.
Feed a cow according to her capacity.

Ditching scraps cut up and fed raw make a good egg food.
It is well to keep grit and lime within reach of the chickens all the time.
There is less in the kind of separator you use than in the way you use it.

One great advantage in the poultry business is the quick returns on the investment.
Water the calf often. He will not be so liable to gorge himself with milk if you do.

Fear blight can be eradicated if you are thorough, careful and prompt in your work.
The lime in wood ashes sets the nitrogen free when ashes come in contact with manure.

Time and care spent in the orchard is almost sure to pay for itself and a good rate of interest besides.
Silage, in light quantities, is often beneficial to a brood mare, as it adds a bit of succulence to the ration.

One of the great drawbacks on many farms is the small size and irregular shape of the cultivated fields.
The chick that has been stunted will never become a show bird and seldom develop into a profitable fowl.

Do give the later summer hatched chicks a chance to eat their meals without being run over by the older birds.
For the geese a low shed open to the south is about all that is needed, as geese seem impervious to cold weather.

Parched corn is a good food every day or so, and warm water is appreciated by the fowls during the freezing weather.
Hundreds of trees set every year die because of the neglect of the owners. It is not always the fault of the nurserymen.

Dr. L. O. Howard declared recently that an annual loss of \$357,000,000 is caused by disease transmitted by mosquitoes and flies.
Sheep that are being conditioned must have some form of green or succulent food, and for this purpose root crops are unexcelled.

You may think you know a good deal about how to raise poultry, but the deeper you go into it the more surprises you will find.
Meat or animal meal is important during the winter months, or when the birds are kept in confinement. Ground green bone is also good.

The pig that is fed corn alone from the time that it is weaned until it is marketed, at seven or eight months of age, rarely is profitable producer.
A flock of sheep will waste more than hay enough to pay for the lumber to build a good rack in a single winter, if you feed them out on the ground.

The poultryman who provides warm quarters for his birds and feeds them well will get eggs the winter through. Not so many eggs as in summer, but more than enough to pay for their keep.
A bright, intelligent man, a good manager and a close observer will save more than his wages in the amount of work he will accomplish, and in maintaining the condition of his team.

A cement floor in a poultry house has the advantage of being easily cleaned, is rat proof and does not harbor vermin of any kind, but it is very cold. For the comfort of the fowls it should be covered with three or four inches of clean dry dirt.
Good seed-corn is the key to getting good stands of corn. A good stand of corn is necessary to secure good yields. Owing to the wet fall of 1911, there is now much doubtful seed-corn in the country. One cannot afford to plant corn any year, much less this year, without thoroughly testing. The single-ear method of testing seed-corn is the only practical method.

Plant trees this spring.
A mule eats less than a horse.
Give the chickens lime and grit.
Tree roosting in cold weather is not conducive to laying.

Cultivation is one of the four great essentials in orchard management.
Churning at too low a temperature is too long a piece of work for anybody.

Keep the poultry house clean and free from drafts as well as dampness.
Agricultural experts tell us that the potential fertility of the soil is unlimited.

A good live interest in exhibition stock is commendable in the market poultryman.
Apple trees may be planted either in the spring or fall. The main thing is to plant them.

Peach trees make good stock for plum grafting, as they usually have large vigorous roots.
Don't fail to supply green feed, like cabbage, beets, celery tops. These are relished by the birds.

The 150-pound cow will hate to see Willie go to the short course for fear he will learn how to test her.
An orchard will live longer, bear better and be more profitable by being well cultivated and enriched.

Those old hens may be valuable as keep sakes, but the young and vigorous ones will produce the most eggs.
Well-managed poultry is preferable to farm crops in that poultry will produce an income at all times of the year.

With fruiting orchards, mineral fertilizers are often great assistance, but an excess of nitrogen should be avoided.
Soil taken from a well-established alfalfa field and spread on land to be sown to alfalfa is a very good way to inoculate it.

Spray your trees whether they have a crop or not. Spraying in off years is just as important as in years of heavy crops.
Cowpeas that have a lot of crab grass and fox tail mixed with them make even better bale hay than the straight vines.

The little chicks do best on corn bread made of sour milk, soda and cracked corn. They should be fed on something clean.
Many farmers every year lose a portion of the value of their crops because they have not force enough to sow them in season.

Do not feed a cow according to her age or breed. Feed her according to her individual capacity to put feed to profitable use.
Why not play fair with your cows? You have parcel post to help market your butter, so let's give them some more alfalfa to make it.

The poorest cull trash that finds its way to market comes from the farmers who should be producing the very best quality of prime mutton.
Cooked roots, mixed with wheat bran or ground oats or barley occasionally, will go a long way in making a better and more thrifty colt.

Root crops, such as parsnips, beets, and carrots, may be prevented from shriveling in the winter if they are covered slightly with dry sand in the bin or box.
Keep a bucket of bran and corn meal in the kitchen to use in preparing the mash. Many a table scrap or part cup of milk will enrich the mash if the bucket is handy.

Brood sows should have a quiet, warm, dry place where their litters may spend the first week of their lives without being unnecessarily disturbed by other animals or inquisitive people.
If you have several kinds of rough feed on hand it will be a good plan to mix them up in feeding. Stock like a change of feed as well as you do, and if their breakfast can be of one kind and their supper of another, so much the better.

The safest bull the dairyman can use is generally a cross bull. At first this may seem a strange assertion. The reason, however, is simple. The bull that is known to be cross will always be watched.
An overfat fowl is almost as objectionable as a lean one. To fatten chickens properly they should be so fed as to have just enough fat to make them fleshy and to cook well. The fat should be well intermixed with lean.

Very frequently when separating the whites from the yolks of eggs the yolk becomes broken and falls into the white. Dip a cloth in warm water, wring it dry, and touch the yolk with a corner of it. The yolk will adhere to the cloth and may easily be removed.
Work for the Teams.

It is advisable to keep the teams at work whenever possible, because it helps to pay for their keeping, besides being better for the teams than idleness. In many places manure can be purchased in the city and hauled to the farm at an advantage.

CAREFUL ATTENTION IS REQUIRED FOR EWES AND LAMBS DURING COLD WEATHER

When Animals Are Allowed to Run in Open During Lambing Season Task of Shepherd Is Made More Difficult Than When Properly Housed—Construct Temporary Pens.

The busiest time in the whole year for the sheep raiser is when the lambs are being dropped, along in the latter part of the winter. The actual profits of the whole year's sheep raising are really being made at this time, and the shepherd is forced to work about twenty-four hours out of every twenty-four, for a week or two.

During February and March, and sometimes during the last days of January, the good shepherd finds that practically every hour of his time is being taken up by the lambing ewes, says a Kentucky writer in the Farm Progress. Lantern in hand, he must visit the sheep once or twice during the night. When they are being allowed to run in the open his task is two and three times as difficult as when the sheep are being corralled in sheds and pens every night.

In order that help and care may be given every ewe and lamb that may need it, I try to visit every sheep in the flock about three or four times daily. During the day, while the sheep may be on the pasture, constant watching is necessary, as the ewes are likely to drop their lambs in some remote part of the pasture.

There are a number of things that may happen to the disadvantage of

the out-of-the-way corners, lambs may be unnoticed. They instinctively lie in half-concealment during the first hours of their existence.

When a lamb is left in this way, when the sheep are corralled for the night, he is apt to wander off somewhere, tangle himself in the briars of a fence corner, or fall into some hole where he will not be found till after he has starved to death. Cold and exposure will kill a lamb in a few hours, during the frosty nights.

Early in the winter months in which the lambs are to be expected I set apart as much of the sheep sheds and shelters as can possibly be spared and divide them off into temporary pens. These I use for the ewes immediately after they have dropped their lambs. This year I took a space four feet wide along the east wall of a long sheep shed and fenced it off from the rest of the interior. By dividing this long space into little pens, five feet long, I made room for a dozen ewes and their lambs.

A space four by five feet is plenty big enough to hold a mother and her lamb comfortably for a night and a day. When a ewe and lamb are brought in I put them in these pens for the night. A little feed for the mother and a bucket of water to help



A Flock That Returns Profits.

the young lamb and his mother. The unnatural ewe, and there are such, will walk away from the chilled youngster and leave him to starve unless she is watched. I have known ewes with twins to hurry away with one lamb following and leave the other one lying half asleep out in the wind somewhere. Unless some care is taken in looking over the pasture and through

ally her feverish thirst are all the attention she will need for the next 24 hours.

When the weather is raw and bad I leave them in the pens longer than when the ground is firm and the sun is out. A cold rain on the tender skin of a young lamb is about the worst thing that can happen to him. Very few survive it.

GOOD RATION FOR FATTENING FOWLS

Hens Should Be Fed Just About What They Will Clean Up in Ten Minutes.

A good feed on which to fatten fowls is two parts of fine corn meal and one part of wheat middlings. This should be mixed into a thick batter, mixing it just thick enough that it will drop freely from a wooden spoon or paddle. Feed in troughs, having trough room enough so the fowls will not crowd. Watch the fowls closely and feed just about as much as they will eat clean in ten or fifteen minutes, then take away the troughs and clean them. If this batter is mixed with skimmed milk, sweet or sour, or buttermilk, it will be more valuable. If water be used add to the mixture about 5 per cent. of the dry weight of the feed materials in beef scrap. Gradually allow the hens to eat a little longer but never let them eat until they stop of their own accord. Feed three times a day and in from 14 to 21 days the fowls will be finished and should be sold at once, as after they are finished they gain weight so slowly, if at all, that it is not profitable to feed them. No water should be given under this system of feeding as the batter fed to them has enough water for the needs of the fowls eating it.

This sounds very simple but a beginner will find that in practice it is not as simple as it seems. Individual fowls will go off their feed and must be taken out, and some will finish quicker than others and should be removed from the pen. Sometimes it is advisable to remove some of the fowls and reduce the feed given them in order to hold them back for the later ones. All these things present problems that can not very well be solved in print. With a little care there should be no great difficulty and the operator soon becomes expert in selecting the finished fowls and determining by observation how the work is coming on.

Very frequently when separating the whites from the yolks of eggs the yolk becomes broken and falls into the white. Dip a cloth in warm water, wring it dry, and touch the yolk with a corner of it. The yolk will adhere to the cloth and may easily be removed.

FERTILIZER REAL FARM INSURANCE

High Grade Variety Furnishes Needs of Plants—Several Good Formulas.

(By J. G. GENTRY.)
However, there is another insurance not so much nor so widely used as it deserves, which should be given attention, i. e., commercial fertilizers. If we put as the work suggested on the field it is only the part of wisdom to add fertilizers and thus give the crop every chance. The wheat plants need plenty of good food to make a quick strong growth, and a good fertilizer supplies parts of food apt to be lacking. It furnishes the plant food in a form which the wheat can use freely. It is easily possible to sow fertilized wheat several days later than unfertilized and obtain an equal or greater growth before winter. This enables us to avoid the fly and at the same time obtain a growth of wheat which will be unaffected by ordinary winters and will make a profitable crop after such a winter as that of 1911-12.

The high-grade fertilizers are best for making fall growth and for supplying the needs of the crop the following spring. By high-grade we mean a fertilizer made of good, easily available materials and one which carries a large per cent. of the plant food. These high-grade goods usually cost a little more, but they are cheaper per pound of plant food.

There are several good formulas for wheat fertilizers. One containing 2 to 3 per cent nitrogen, 3 to 10 per cent phosphoric acid and 5 to 6 per cent potash is excellent. This can be used very profitably at the rate of 200 to 300 pounds per acre and the effect will show not only on the wheat, but on the clover which follows.

Flower Hints.
Goldenglow is a quick grower and blooms profusely.
Late cosmos should be tied to stakes if exposed to winds.
Finch back the buds of early cosmos to make bushy plants.
Calliopsis are easy to grow, but they like the sun.
Candytuft is fine for borders.
Fill vacant spots in the sun with balsam; grow in clumps.
Ageratum is very popular for borders. Blue is the favorite.