

INCREASING THE CROPS.

Vast as are our American crops, the immense bulk gathered from their extension can be almost indefinitely enlarged by careful selection of the seeds. Despite the fact that figures estimating the annual yield cannot be properly realized, we are but just beginning to understand the intensive and residual force stored up in the material handled. In former times, beyond common prudence and a general survey, little attention was paid to the condition of the seed. Rough-and-ready methods were sufficient. Today, with nicest exactitude, this material is being examined, ear by ear, and the fittest only selected. Cross-fertilization and seed selection have become factors of great moment in the modern agriculturist's vocation, and applied science is working wonders with cereals and other food crops, adding more bushels to the acre, more load on the harvest cart and millions of dollars to the market. Wheat, for instance, can be cultivated to meet local conditions of soil and climate, and it has been estimated that following out this "selective" hint, our annual yield might be twice the amount now quoted. A series of tests made by the United States department of agriculture resulted in the statement that rejecting the grains of low vitality when sorting out seed means a gain of 14 per cent. on the crop. On the basis of last year's total grain production this means 437,000,000 more bushels, or more than \$200,000,000 valuation on the farms.

All the outdoor sports so dear to Americans are now in full swing. Wet days are giving place to sunshine ones, increasing the enjoyment for the young and old who delight in being in the open air. The athletically inclined who have been exercising in gymnasiums all winter are now able to get the needed practice in the open air. Gymnasium work is excellent, but all instructors are pleased when they can send their charges outdoors to get into real action in some fascinating sport. The athlete is never in the best possible condition until he has outdoor training. The pure fresh air is also invigorating for those who do not indulge in physical stunts. The indoor worker should try to get all the fresh air he can at some period of the day. Then he will be able to maintain his physical strength at normal and can enjoy life.

The secretary of the navy has abolished "port" and "starboard" as naval terms for plain land lubbers "right" and "left." But if the ruler of the land's naves thinks that he can get the salt-crusted Gloucester fishermen to abandon the sea-going terms of their ancestry on his say-so, he has several other things due him.

A woman physician says that brunettes as a rule are steady. They change less often and become specialists. They stick to one thing rather than the variety. However, the brunette who becomes a blond shows in an unmistakable manner a tendency to seek variety.

A man who fell in love with a Chicago widow on account of her feet, is now being sued by her for breach of promise. Probably she had refused to serve as a substitute for the roller he uses on his lawn.

After his spouse had hit him innumerable times with a frying pan, broken his arm, poured hot water on him, scratched his face, pulled his hair and left him seven times, a Georgia man has come to the conclusion that she does not love him any more. Quick perception, certainly.

A Philadelphia suggestion that the navy department further amend that substitution of right and left for starboard and port by making it "haw" and "gee" would make it even more familiar to naval "rookies" from the agricultural belt.

There is some consolation for those people in Chicago whose servant girls are demanding the use of the parlor at least one evening a week. The gas bill will be cut down.

The meanest way yet suggested of raising revenue comes from a French municipality, where they have been trying to collect a tax on baby carriages.

Grafting is now traced back to the time of the early Egyptians. It is more than likely that the social philosophers among the early Egyptians found it quite an ancient practice in their time.

Crossing the ocean in a day is now being considered. A tolerant smile would one day have been the only answer to this mad suggestion, but in these times the quick reply is "Why not?"

WASHINGTON CITY SIDELIGHTS



Department "Where They Send Out the Seeds"



WASHINGTON.—"That is the place where they send out seeds." This is the familiar formula which many Washington guides use in describing to tourists the wonders of the department of agriculture. This information was given through a megaphone by the conductor of the rubberneck wagon to his patrons as they pass in front of the old red brick administration building. Officials and clerks within hearing of this brief description throw down their pens (or, for the sake of pleasantry, should it be their newspapers?) and take on a look of disgust and injured pride. For so many thousands of strangers to be given the information or to get the impression that the feature of work for which the great department of Agriculture has made itself famous or notorious is the sending out of seeds is monstrous. One of the humiliating features of the whole business is that the tourists appear to like it. They look with the proper awe-stricken stare and seem to be greatly im-

pressed with the department "where they send out seeds."

"I wish you would write a piece for the paper," said a high functionary of the department, "and correct the altogether too prevalent notion that the main objects and the main usefulness of this department are concerned with sending out seed."

"I have talked to some of these rubberneck conductors. I have urged them to enlighten the pilgrims for whose instruction they are responsible, upon the vast work of this department in relation to meteorology, animal industry, animal husbandry, plant industry, forestry, chemistry, soils, entomology, biology, publications, statistics, public roads and the like."

"I have recommended these guides to acquaint their patrons with some of the valuable work being done by the bio-chemic, pathological and zoological divisions, by the plant pathologists and physiologists and the pomologists, by the soil bacteriologists, the dendrologists, the microchemical experts, the sharps in enological chemistry, by the agrostologists, the workers in solar radiation, agricultural technology, silvics, synthetic products, pharmacological work, insecticides, fungicides and all that."

"However, when the rubberneck wagon goes by on its next trip the conductor bellows through the megaphone: 'This is where they send out seeds.'"

Rep. Johnson "Nearly" Had His Speech Printed

REPRESENTATIVE Albert Johnson, the handsome and vociferous member from Oregon, nearly had a fine speech printed in a faraway coast paper for which Harry Brown is the Washington correspondent.

Johnson used to be a newspaper man in this city. He was night editor and copy editor and reporter and all the regular things which are supposed to give newspaper men that broad and sympathetic view of large affairs.

Johnson made a speech during the general debate on the tariff bill a few days ago. It was his first speech in the House. It was a good speech, taking it by and large, but the air was jammed full of speeches about that time and the only newspaper that was publishing them was the Congressional Record.

However, Mr. Johnson did not want Portland to go untinged with crumbs from his table, so the evening following the great event of his speech he started out to find Harry Brown and tell him all about it. He couldn't find Mr. Brown until the next day.

"Say, Harry," he remarked, "I tried to find you last night, but I couldn't. I made a speech yesterday."

"That did not impress Mr. Brown to any great extent, so Mr. Johnson con-



tinued to further explain:

"And as I thought your paper would want it, I filed about 800 words of it with the telegraph company."

Brown winced. His paper had been advising him to cut down the tariff stuff to the bone, as most of it was the sort of soft pap that goes well in the country districts, but hasn't much circulation in a well regulated newspaper. Furthermore, Brown investigated and found that Representative Johnson had really filed 1,500 words—and the telegraph tolls to Oregon are enormous! He had visions of being "fired" by wireless, but he discovered to his great relief that his paper had chopped the speech in two before it was entirely relayed to Portland from Chicago, thus saving a lot of time and trouble and costing Representative Johnson a whole lot of money for half a speech to Chicago.

More Americans Go to Teach in the Philippines



EIGHTY-FIVE American men and women teachers have just set out for the Philippines. This number was selected from a large eligible list certified by the United States civil service commission as having the necessary education and experience and having passed the required examination for the Philippine teaching service. They came from nearly every state in the union, representing some of the best universities, colleges and normal schools in this country. Most of them are college graduates, some have done graduate work in the universities and others have pursued

technical courses preparing them to take charge of agricultural work, manual training and trade school work and domestic science.

A fact not generally known is that the average term of service of American teachers in the Philippines is nearly six years, almost a year longer than the average service of teachers in this country. Those leaving at this time go to the Philippines under a two-year contract. This provision is made to enable the government to ascertain whether or not the teacher will succeed in the new field and also to give the teacher a chance to find out whether or not there is a sufficient future to the service to warrant him in remaining. That there are only eighty-five vacancies this year out of nearly seven hundred positions for American teachers in the service, indicates, so the insular bureau officials say, that those already on the ground have the greatest faith in the future of the educational work in the islands.

Animal Statues As Lawn Decorations In Favor

ANIMAL statues as outside decorations for houses seem to multiply when you look for them, and they always seem to be coming into view in places where you had hitherto overlooked them.

In front of the big four-story yellow brick house at the northwest corner of 16th and P streets, next door south of Foundry Church, are two white lions. Apparently they have just left the covered porch and are strolling down the walk which leads from the front door to the sidewalk—that is, they appear to be walking because each lion has his right foreleg lifted. They are also keeping step. The palor, or the whiteness of the beasts indicate that they are young lions and have not long been exposed to the wear and tear and dust incidental to guarding a doorway on a much traveled street.

They appear to be twins. Each is the same size and the attitude of each is the same; each has his head turned to the southeast as though looking down the avenue of the presidents. They may have heard some one ap-



proaching from that direction. They are walking with a stealthy tread and if they were not cold marble lions one might think that thoughts of evil were in their minds.

The path they follow leads across a green lawn at the street edge of which is a row of tulip trees, sometimes called yellow poplars. A row of hard maples is in the parking between the sidewalk and the curb. It is green and shady there, but, as every one knows, a much frequented part of the city and these lions if so inclined could count thousands of automobiles passing in the course of a day and about as many in the course of an evening.

PREPARING FOR WHEAT

Much Depends on Method to Be Used and on Season.

Under Irrigation Plowing Should Preferably Be Done in Fall, Followed by Disk and Harrow to Conserve Moisture.

The best preparation of land for wheat depends upon whether spring wheat or winter wheat is to be grown and whether "Dry Farming" or irrigation, says the Colorado Farmer. Something will also depend upon season and the forwardness of the work.

For Spring Wheat.—Under irrigation the plowing should preferably be done in the fall, except on lands subject to plowing. Following the plow should come the disk and harrow. This treatment may look unnecessary, but the better soil and soil moisture conditions resulting from such treatment pay. The soil so treated is compact and moist below and loose at the surface, while the soil left as the plow turns it over is more often dry and fluffy as deep as the furrow slice. In the first instance there is moisture enough present to start the crop and usually keep it growing some time. In the second place, the seed must be irrigated up or lie and wait for a favorable rain. Fall plowing may be deeper, if properly managed, than spring plowing. Deep plowing followed by proper treatment gives higher yields. Deep plowing to be most successful must be done sometime before planting in order to allow some weathering. Plowing which for any reason, is done immediately before planting should be shallow, not over five inches. Under this condition, it will give higher yields than deep plowing.

The land need not be plowed following such crops as sugar beets or potatoes. In this case, the land is best disked and harrowed after the crop is harvested, as the harvesting process works the soil deeply. The only further spring treatment needed will be disking, harrowing and leveling. Spring wheat should be planted early.

Winter Wheat Under Irrigation.—Greater yields are produced the earlier the plowing. The essential difference in preparing the seed bed for winter from that of spring wheat, is that plowing for winter wheat, especially if it follows another grain, must be early. If plowing for winter wheat, which is to be planted after grain or alfalfa, can be done in July or early in August so much the better.

Both winter and spring wheat do best on a well compacted seed bed. This is due to the fact that heavy lands are better natural wheat lands than sandy ones. There is, also, an advantage in having a well compacted, well tined furrow slice. A soil in such condition presents a much better feeding area for crop roots. The small or feeding roots are neither bothered by clods or open air spaces, thus they may come in intimate contact with the soil particles, the most favorable conditions for crop feeding and growth.

Litter for Little Chicks.—The question of litter for the little chicks is easily solved. Short cut alfalfa or clover make the best of litter. One of the greatest mistakes in providing litter for fowls is that the poultryman fails to provide litter that is easily digestible, should the fowls chance to swallow parts of it. Straw and chaff make a good litter for chicks and fowls, but they are not easily digested, and therefore, should not be used, especially in the case of the little chicks.

Breeding Disease.—Do not allow droppings and filth to accumulate, nor let drinking vessels become coated with slime. Unless great care is exercised there is danger in having the poultry plant located in the same place year after year, for to do so is to increase danger from disease.

Drained Orchards.—The drained orchard stands a far better chance to be profitable than the undrained one. Now is the time to figure on tiling.

LIVE STOCK NOTES

A feed of oats occasionally will be relished by the brood sow. A ration rich in protein is the only ration fit for the brood row. Protection from inclement weather will make the feed go farther.

The best money ever made is what is saved by avoiding mistakes. A sow should never be in marketable condition when she is bred.

The shorter the fattening period the greater the profit from the pen. The first litter is not always an index of the brood sow's profitability. Sheep are not found on enough farms; and the wonder is why they are not.

A hog cannot sleep comfortably in a draft or in wind. He catches cold very easily. The Tamworths are good rustlers, very prolific, and the meat is of the highest quality.

Keep the salt in a sheltered box in the sheep pasture. Spasmodic salting is very dangerous.

Hogs are the cleanest animals on the farm to bed and the easiest if given half a chance.

When lambs are grown rapidly the quality of the meat is far and away ahead of that grown slowly.

GOOD ROADS

WHAT IMPROVED ROADS MEAN

Spells Prosperity and Happiness to Every Community Which Has Forethought to See Blessings.

(By R. E. GLDS.) Good roads are conducive to better schools, live rural churches, pleasant rides, good markets, social advancement, a closer bond of sympathy and co-operation between the farmer and his city cousin who works at the forge, the lathe or the spindle. It spells prosperity and happiness to every community which has the means and business foresight to see the manifold blessings which a scientific system of good roads secures for its people. Mud roads spell an enormous mud tax beside which our tariff is like a pygmy to an elephant.

Again, good roads annihilate distances and rob farming of the dread and drudgery of rural seclusion, this fact being notably apparent where a farmer is the wise and happy owner of a high-quality, dependable and economical motor car. Mud roads bring social life on the farm to low ebb, empty the rural churches, make many little red school houses but a memory and populate the country with floating tenants who care very little for the growth and perpetuation of the institutions which are the bulwark of our national greatness.

Then good roads save time, save horses and wagons, automobiles and gasoline. They enable the farmer to market, at minimum cost, in rain or shine, his perishable produce such as fruits, vegetables, milk, butter, eggs and meat. Mud roads compel the farmer to leave such produce either to waste or deterioration, or what is near to either, deter him from producing any of these profit-bearing commodities because he has no dependable and convenient avenue for marketing them.

In cases of acute illness good roads enable the physician to bring speedy relief to the sick annually and save the lives of hundreds of our men, women and children, a fact which more than treble compensates any amount of money which we may spend as a nation, state, county, city or town. Good roads spell humanity, relief, mercy, life, growth and prosperity, whereas mud roads too often spell poverty, weakness, decay, sickness, suffering and death.

As road improvement is of nationwide interest it should be supported by our national, state and county governments. This is notably true with interstate highways, for it is manifestly unjust to tax all the improvement to the abutting land, to the county or even to the state. Why should not our national government promote interstate commerce through good country roads as well as through river and harbor improvements?

Good and patriotic men seem to be at variance as to what is the best system of building roads. Some advocate three or more cross-continent trunk highways to be built and maintained equally by the federal government and by the various states through which the trunk highways go. Others favor the improvement of these roads first which run to the county seat, provided it is a good railroad market town, and if not, to the most accessible large railroad town in the county. They believe that these roads should be properly ditched, graded, rolled and dragged. Culverts should be built where the water is inclined to flow across the road during heavy rains. Grades should be raised in low places, hills materially dug down and good bridges built over creeks and streams of all kinds.

The citizens of a given county could by this plan easily determine on the first ten miles of good roads to be built and maintained. Then the next five or ten and so on further away from the principal town or towns in the county until every foot of dirt road in the county is put in first-class condition.

The good leaven is working in the minds, hearts and consciences of the American people. Good roads, to them, now means more than ever before, the avenues which leads to national strength; prosperity and happiness to which every good citizen should be glad to give his due measure of enthusiastic support.

Kernel of Problem.—Water will change the best of earth roads into a streak of mud in a very short time and right here is the kernel of our road problem. How shall we keep the water from soaking into the traveled part of our roads? There are many who seem to be willing to tell us how, but very few are able to "show us." Tilling and dragging are the only good things that have "delivered the goods" to date.

Kansas Rock Road.—The first mile of rock road in Kansas, running west of Garnett, when completed, cost \$1,415, and much of the work on it was done by the farmers themselves. The county contributed \$200, a city club \$100, and the residents of the town \$55.

Small Farms Best.—Some men think it a fine thing to own big farms, and so it is, provided one knows how to manage them to advantage, but a little farm kept well in hand fattens the bank account more than a big one neglected.

Entertaining Literature. "I wish I had a fairy tale to read." "Here's the seed catalogue."

Don't buy water for bluing. Liquid blue is almost all water. Buy Red Cross Ball Blue, the blue that's all blue. Adv.

Ups and Downs. "I think the office force has been doing some shaking down." "Yes, it does need a shaking up."

A Nervous Wreck. "How did you happen to contract St. Vitus' dance, my good man?" "Those Balkans names did it. I was a compositor on a local paper when the war broke out."

HAIR CAME OUT IN BUNCHES

813 E. Second St., Muncie, Ind.—"My little girl had a bad breaking out on the scalp. It was little white lumps. The pimples would break out as large as a common pinhead all over her head. They would break and run yellow matter. She suffered nearly a year with itching and burning. It was sore and itched all the time. The matter that ran from her head was very thick, I did not comb her hair very often, her head was too sore to comb it, and when I did comb, it came out in bunches. Some nights her head itched so bad she could not sleep."

"I tried several different soaps and ointments, also patent medicine, but nothing could I get to stop it. I began using Cuticura Soap and Cuticura Ointment this summer after I sent for the free samples. I used them and they did so much good I bought a cake of Cuticura Soap and some Cuticura Ointment in the scalp every two weeks. A week after I had washed her head three times you could not tell she ever had a breaking out on her head. Cuticura Soap and Ointment also made the hair grow beautifully." (Signed) Mrs. Emma Patterson, Dec. 22, 1911.

Cuticura Soap and Ointment sold throughout the world. Sample of each free, with 32-p. Skin Book. Address post-card "Cuticura, Dept. L, Boston." Adv.

Cannon of Solid Rock.—When the island of Malta was under the rule of the Knights of St. John they defended their fortifications with cannon bored in the living rock. Each one of these strange weapons contained an entire barrel of powder, and as it was not possible to vary the aim of these cannon 50 were made ready, facing various directions from which the enemy might approach.

When the fame of these arms of defense became known to the world the idea was taken up of transporting rocks to summits to serve the same purpose, but it was soon recognized to be impracticable, and the cannon of Malta, bored in solid rock, have passed into history as the sole weapons of the kind ever known.—Harper's Weekly.

Changes of Climate.—A scientist who recently investigated the causes of secular variations in temperature at the earth's surface thinks that they are more probably due to changes in the amount of carbonic acid in the atmosphere than to variations in the heat of the sun. If the amount of carbonic acid that the air now contains was diminished a little more than half, the mean temperature all over the earth would, it is stated, drop about eight degrees, which would be sufficient to bring on another glacial period. On the other hand, an increase of carbonic acid to between two and three times its present amount would raise the mean temperature 15 degrees and renew the hot times of the Eocene epoch.

Ready Thrift.—Kirby Stone—I hate to mention it, dear, but I must tell you that business has been awfully poor lately. If you could economize a little in dresses—wear something plainer.

Mrs. Stone—Certainly, dear. I shall order some plainer dresses tomorrow.—Puck.

MEMORY IMPROVED. Since Leaving Off Coffee.

Many persons suffer from poor memory who never suspect coffee has anything to do with it.

The drug—caffeine—in coffee, acts injuriously on the nerves and heart, causing imperfect circulation, too much blood in the brain at one time, too little in another part. This often causes a dullness which makes a good memory nearly impossible.

"I am nearly seventy years old and did not know that coffee was the cause of the stomach and heart trouble I suffered from for many years, until about four years ago," writes a Kansas woman.

"A kind neighbor induced me to quit coffee and try Postum. I had been suffering severely and was greatly reduced in flesh. After using Postum a little while I found myself improving. My heart beats ever regular and now I seldom ever notice any symptoms of my old stomach trouble at all. My nerves are steady and my memory decidedly better than while I was using coffee. I like the taste of Postum fully as well as coffee."

Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich. Write for booklet, "The Road to Wellville."

Postum comes in two forms. Regular (must be boiled). Instant Postum doesn't require boiling but is prepared instantly by stirring a level teaspoonful in an ordinary cup of hot water, which makes it right for most persons.

A big cup requires more and some people who like strong things put in a heaping spoonful and temper it with a large supply of cream. Experiment until you know the amount that pleases your palate and have it served that way in the future. "There's a Reason" for Postum.