

DEFEATED DROUTH OF PAST SUMMER

AVERAGE GOOD CORN FARMER PLOWS HIS CORN AT LEAST THREE TIMES.

STORY OF NEBRASKA FARMER

Story of Nebraskan Whose Crop Will Yield Fifty Bushels to Acre in Spite of Drouth.

Near Central City, Neb., is a field of corn that will yield fifty bushels to the acre this year, in spite of the drouth.

Adjoining it, with only a barbed wire fence between, is another field of corn that will not yield enough to pay for cutting.

The corn of one field is green and its ears are full. The cornstalks in the other are seared and yellow and the winds rustle them in their dryness.

And yet each field has exactly the same soil, the same level of surface, the same drainage, the same degree of moisture, and the same quantity of rain fell upon each.

There are three reasons why one field is yielding a large crop of corn this year while the other is yielding only a few bushels:

First—Careful selection of the seed planted.

Second—Deep plowing of the soil.

Third—Cultivation of the soil five times after the corn has come up.

The field of corn that is yielding fifty bushels to the acre is owned by the T. B. Hord Grain company. This company has 1,250 acres in corn this year in different fields near Central City, and all of it is in good condition. Very little of it will yield fifty bushels to the acre, and very little of it will yield fewer than twenty-five bushels, which is a good crop this dry year.

The Hord company's fields of corn are always better than other fields in the same neighborhood where the same methods of seed selection and cultivation are not practiced.

The Secret.

A representative of the Kansas City Star went to Central City to get from Heber Hord and his farm manager, William Miller, the secret of fruitful corn growing, and here it is:

First, and the utmost importance, is the selection of the seed. The man who selects all of the seed planted on the Hord farms gave this account of how it is done:

"Select the ears for seed in your own fields and as early in the fall as possible. Begin going through the field early looking for ears ripe enough to pick and select those that ripen first because the seed of ears that ripen early this year, if planted, will mature early next year, thus avoiding possibility of damage by early frost, and making sure of an early development and avoidance of damage by late drouth.

"Pick ears for seed just before they are ripe enough to shell, but when the kernels are hard and dented good. Pick the largest and best shaped, best developed ears, going over all the field for them, picking one here and one there, and so on.

"It is very important that this corn be so thoroughly dried before frost comes that there is absolutely no moisture in it. And the best way to do this is to lay it out in the sun. If there is any moisture in the grain when frost comes it will freeze, and freezing kills the germ of life. Many farmers, every year, plant corn that has been frozen and then wonder why only a part of it comes up.

"After the corn is thoroughly dry select the best ears, with straight rows, deep grains and well filled out over both ends.

"Remember always that you can never tell by the looks of corn whether it will germinate or not. The only way to find that out is to test each ear, and tests all parts of the ear, for we have found that often the grain from one-half the length of the ear will grow when planted and the other half will not. And often the grain from one side of an ear will grow and from the other side it will not.

"From each ear take six grains, one from about two inches from one end, the next from farther along and from two or three rows away, and so on

ARGENTINE BEEF IN DEMAND.

Consignment of a Hundred Tons is Quickly Disposed Of.

New York.—The consignment of 100 tons of Argentine beef which arrived has been disposed of. Part of it was sold to dealers in this city and found its way into retail trade. When sold as Argentine beef the consumer got the benefit of a 4-cent reduction on the pound. The meat sold so well that butchers are beginning to inquire for it, but they will have to wait for the next cargo. Here are some of the

down the ear, turning the ear in your hand as you pick out the grains, so that the six grains are from all parts of the ear except the two ends.

Grading the Seed Corn.

"Then that ear is numbered and laid on a rack and the six grains are put in a similarly numbered compartment in a tray, and the six grains from ear No. 2 are put in compartment No. 2, and so on, until you have the trays of your corn tester filled.

"Then you pour water 70 degrees warm over the grain, shut the tester, light the lamp which keeps the temperature of the seed never under 70 nor over 90 degrees. In twenty-four hours the corn will be swelled up. Then draw off the water, shut the tester, with the same temperature for twenty-four hours more, keeping the seed damp by sprinkling, and at the end of the third twenty-four hours the corn will have sprouts from one to three inches long, and roots of corresponding length.

"If all six of the grains have sprouted you grade that ear 100 per cent and so on. If it grades under 85 per cent throw the ear away, it is unfit to plant.

"After you have tested each ear and saved all that grades about 90 per cent or over, you shell the ears, throwing away the corn from the length of about two inches at each end. The corn left you run through a grader so the grain saved for seed will be uniform in size, and will drop with uniformity from the planter.

"Having taken this much care in selecting your seed you will be sure that each grain planted will come up, and that it will make a strong and lusty stalk, that will mature early and have the most drouth resisting qualities, and will produce the biggest and best ears."

Cultivation.

Mr. Miller gives the following method of cultivation used:

Never plant corn after corn. Always rotate the crops, following wheat with corn.

Every farm ought to have a silo. When the corn can be cut one year when there is plenty of juice in the stalks and before the kernels have begun to dry up, and put in the silo, leaving the ground ready to plow and sow to wheat. After the wheat is harvested the next July is time to begin plowing again for the next crop of corn.

Plow nine inches deep for corn and never less than eight inches deep. This is very important and there are good reasons for it. The deep plowing throws to the surface a little new soil and, as corn roots never go deeper than the earth has been stirred, deep plowing gives the corn roots more room to go down for moisture in a dry season and the deep plowing makes a deeper seedbed and holds more moisture than shallow plowing.

Keep on Plowing.

We never plant corn before May 10, no matter what the season. The risk of a cold spell is over then and the ground is warm. We have discovered that when the soil is warm the corn comes up quicker and is stronger. A lot of vitality goes out of seed that lies in the cold earth eight or ten days.

We begin to prepare the soil for planting as soon as it is fit to be worked. First we disc it one or more times and harrow it with a 4-horse, 3-section, 16-foot harrow.

As soon as we have planted the corn we harrow it with the same harrow I have described, to kill any little fine weeds that have come up. When the corn is up one to three inches we harrow it again. When it is four inches high we go through it with a plow, using a common 2-horse riding 6-shovel cultivator.

The object of all our plowing is to leave the ground level and ridge it as little as possible, because ridges give a chance for the moisture in the soil to evaporate out the sides of the ridges, while if the field is left level there is less surface space for moisture to get away through. This is very important.

Cheating the Drouth.

When you have cultivated the field once, turn right around and cultivate it again. Plow it as many times as you can. There is no time to be idle.

The average good corn farmer plows his corn three times. That is not enough. We plow every field of our corn five times. The fourth and fifth plowing of a field of corn will add ten bushels an acre to the yield.

Mr. Miller spoke of the field of corn that is yielding fifty bushels to the acre while an adjoining piece will yield practically nothing.

"That field was plowed nine inches deep," he said. "The best selected seed was planted and it was cultivated five times and after that I went through it with a 5-tooth drill cultivator when the corn was up so high you couldn't see the mules' backs. I did that because I saw the drouth coming. The frequent cultivation conserved the moisture."

prices at which the meat was sold: Porterhouse and sirloin steaks, 18 cents a pound; prime rib roasts, 16 cents; round of beef, 18 cents; chuck roast, 12½ cents, and soup meat, 10 cents a pound.

Crowd Feasts on Melons.

Webster City, Ia.—It is estimated that 10,000 men, women and children from the surrounding country and near-by towns Thursday attended Webster City's annual celebration of watermelon day. Ten thousand melons were served free to visitors.

For the LITTLE ONES

STRANGE RECOVERY OF BOY

Letter of Sympathy From Walter Johnson, Noted Pitcher, Works Miracle With Washington Lad.

Warren A. Slee, thirteen years old, lay sick for weeks, and, according to a Washington dispatch, physicians said they did not think he would recover. Then the lad went into delirium and talked of Walter Johnson, the "speed king" among the pitchers of the American league. He had been the boy's idol, the man of men before whom this lad had stood secretly in awe, and when the mind was free the idol of his worship spoke to him.

When the team came back to Washington from its western trip, a member of the boy's family had intuitive sense enough to seek out the pitcher and tell him what the doctors said. Naturally Mr. Johnson wanted to go to the boy's bedside, but the physicians said no, that the excitement would be fatal.

So he wrote this letter, and it was read to the boy in an interval of delirium:

"My Dear Warren—I take pleasure in sending you herewith one of the baseballs used on our western trip, and hope that you will soon have the opportunity of using it with your friends."

Pills, powders and surgery had failed, but an idol worked another miracle. As if touched by the gods of old, there was an immediate change for the better, and within a remarkably short space of time the boy left the hospital and was able to use the baseball. The primitive mind had been allowed to work.

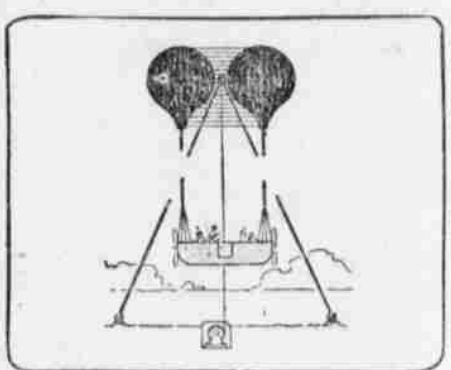
Many noted writers have tried in vain to describe the psychology of miracles such as these, remarks the New York Sun. Kipling and his "Brushwood Boy," Kenneth Grahame and his "Golden Age," have essayed to explain the mind of boy, but it can not be done. All that we know is, as Thackeray says, that every boy at a stage in his life has some idol. Of course, the idols change, eventually becoming feminine. Yet if our learned uplifters would seek to learn the name or nature of each boy's idol, and work through it, instruction in moral hygiene and eugenics would become obsolete. That way progress lies. If an idol can save a life it can do other things, for it represents the boy's ambition at its best and most impressive period.

And what matter the form the idol takes? It may be, as it often is, a locomotive engineer, a drum major, a baseball pitcher; through the hero worship of these exalted beings the boy's salvation lies. Text books on biology were never intended for the primitive mind.

BALLOON-SUPPORTED SWING

Ingenious Device, Patented in England and Germany, Has Car Suspended From Huge Bags.

This ingenious swing, recently patented in England and Germany, has a car suspended from two balloons, which are held captive by ropes fas-



Balloon-Supported Swing.

tened to anchors. The swinging motion is produced by propellers fitted to the car, and the car can move in curves within the same space inclosed by the anchor ropes. To permit passengers to enter the car, the balloons are pulled down by means of the central cable, which is wound up on a drum.

Smallest Inhabited Island.

The English island on which the Eddystone lighthouse stands is the smallest inhabited island in the world. At low water it is thirty feet in diameter; at high water the lighthouse, whose diameter at the base is 26½ feet, completely covers it. It is inhabited by three persons. It lies nine miles off the Cornish coast and fourteen miles southwest of Plymouth breakwater. Flatolme, an island in the Bristol channel, is only a mile and a half in circumference, but, consisting mostly of rich pasture land, supports a farmhouse, besides the lighthouse, with a revolving light 156 feet above the sea.

His Manifold Aspect.

Small Boy—Mummy, is it really true that the devil has horns and a club foot?

The Mother—Ah, my dear, sometimes the devil appears in the shape of a very handsome and charming young man.

Small Boy (pityingly)—Oh, mummy! you're thinking of Cupid.—London Punch.

MACAW IS LOVER OF MUSIC

On Hearing Gramophone Beautiful Bird Gives Convulsive Start and Then Begins Cack Walk.

Most of the birds in the aviary at the New York zoo took no interest in the gramophone, but there was a big macaw, a beautiful creature, dressed in blue, who went crazy with the first note. As soon as it sounded the macaw gave a convulsive start, and then began to dance about his cage. This expression of his emotions was too limited, and he flew to the bar that stretches across his cage and began a cack walk. There was no mistake about it—it was a cack walk. The music lent itself to that form of dance, and the macaw lifted his feet



Macaw Trying to Sing.

and paraded around the bar in exact measures that have been made familiar by countless strutting Afro-Americans. Then, tiring of this, the macaw turned to face the music and began beating his wings in time to the music. The macaw bent himself almost double across his rod or bar and stomped his body in rhythmic motions to the dance music that was being played. Then he tried his skill at singing. He listened attentively, with his head bent on one side, until he discovered that the simple tune that was being played was in regular measures, and then he undertook to express his musical appreciation by butting in with a chorus at the end of each line.

NOT EASY OF PRONUNCIATION

Foreigner Meets With Many Difficulties in Efforts to Understand Peculiarities of Words.

It is hard for the person to whom English is his native tongue to realize what a struggle the foreigner has to understand some of the peculiarities of our spelling and pronunciation. One foreigner gives the following description of his first lesson in an English class:

We have been given a book to learn the letters. I arrive at the class, having learned them perfectly. Soon, in the course of the lesson, we have the word lo-w. "Love," I pronounce it, thinking the w has the sound of v.

"No; it is pronounced 'lo,'" says the teacher.

"Then why is the w there?" I inquire, mystified.

"It is there because that is the way the word is spelled," responds the teacher; "but it is silent. Never mind why; it is sufficient to know that it is there."

Before long we come to no-w.

"Pronounce it," says the teacher.

"No," I reply.

"Why will you not?" she asks me.

It is some time before she understands that I am trying to pronounce the word when I say "No." Then she declares that although lo-w is lo, no-w is now.

"If you want to make it no," she explains, kindly, "you put k before it."

You may believe I am bewildered.

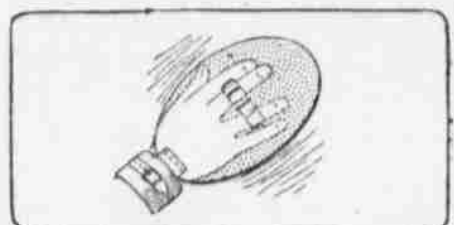
However, I memorize that no-w is now. The next word is sn-o-w. I pronounce it like now with an s before it. The teacher laughs. The w is again become silent, apparently for no reason, and the word is called snow.

But that is not all. Later I find that if you drop the n from snow you can pronounce it whichever way you like!—Youth's Companion.

DEVICE HELPS IN SWIMMING

Paddle Attachment for Hands Aids Swimmer in Getting Over Water —Blade is Slightly Curved.

A paddle attachment for the hands, designed as an aid for swimmers, is shown in the illustration. The blade or paddle is attached to the wrist by a flexible strap and to the third and



Swimming Device.

fourth fingers by means of flaps. The blade is slightly curved longitudinally in order to conform with the outline of the palm.

Tommy's Impending Promotion.

"Well, Tommy," said the father of a six-year-old youngster, "how are you getting along at school?"

"Bully!" rejoined Tommy. "Guess the teacher is going to promote me."

"What makes you think so?"

"She said today that if I kept on at the rate I was going I'd soon be in the criminal class," explained Tommy.

OUT-OF-ORDINARY PEOPLE

BRIGADIER GENERAL ALBERT L. MILLS



Brigadier General Albert L. Mills, one of the bravest and most accomplished officers in the regular army, has been detailed to give his time and talents to the organized militia of the nation—the second line of defense. In the event of a long war no man would be of more importance. He would bring the raw recruits into action. The undisciplined hosts would be trained and armed under his direction. Indeed, he is now doing everything that is possible against the day of peril to the country.

The personal experiences of General Mills make one of the most thrilling chapters in the history of the war with Spain. Years ago he fought Indians on the plains and in the mountains of the west. At Fort Leavenworth, where he was on duty at the cavalry and infantry school, he wrote a book on the Virginia campaigns of 1862. He was a captain when the Maine went down in the harbor of Havana. In Cuba, quoting the language of his commander, General Young, "he participated with distinguished gallantry and conspicuous ability in all the engagements preceding the final surrender of Santiago."

The medal of honor voted him by congress was won on July 1 at San Juan, where he encouraged "those near him by his bravery and coolness, after being shot through the head and entirely without sight." As a matter of fact, the surgeons placed him on a cot under a tree and prophesied his death within a short while. He heard what they said. Being a brave man, he struggled all the harder for his life.

NO "HOOKING JACK" FOR KERN

Observations made during a summer session of congress seem to acquaint one with the true inwardness of things much more vividly than those made during the winter sessions. Sweltering in his hotel one torrid evening, a prominent leader was bemoaning his lot. Only a few miles distant a delightful summer home awaited his coming, but alas—he was detained here to look after the caucus. Yet John Kern, senator from Indiana, had no intention of "hooking Jack" from duty. It was a humid evening and the perspiration stood in beads on his broad brow, and how could a human senator be expected to forget the home of his heart, amid the Virginia mountains? Here his father was born, and in emigrating to the west, the elder Kern dreamed of the time when he might return and own the land which so greatly and wonderfully figured in the pictures of boyhood. His wishes were more than fulfilled, for he spent many happy days at the old home during the sunset of life.

Senator Kern is known as a true Hoosier. Like many Indiana's his forefathers came from Virginia to Kentucky and thence to Ohio. With his old home town of Kokomo are associated stirring memories of youth. The noted jockey, Tod Sloan, was befriended by the senator in early days and did not forget him in the heyday of fame, for he never missed an opportunity of calling to see his friend Kern. In his own inimitable way the senator recalled the early days of Indiana; while his mind was set upon holding the Democratic caucus in line and watching every move to secure the passage of the tariff bill. He is one of the few senators who wears a beard, which he strokes meditatively with a patriarchal air, but his twinkling and snapping dark eyes belie the semblance of age.—National Magazine.



COURTESY OF FINIS J. GARRETT



Three cheers for Representative Finis J. Garrett of Tennessee, the chairman of the special committee of the house which is investigating the long-drawn-out charges by Colonel Muhlhall that a choice collection of grafters could make congress eat out of their hands at any hour of the day and night.

On a recent afternoon, when young Mr. McMichael was telling how he used to work with McDermott on various schemes in which the two of them were interested, it suddenly dawned upon several newspaper men present that if the committee kept on with its hearings much longer that day and if they held a night session there would be consternation in certain quarters owing to the fact that handsome young Mr. Sartwell of the Associated Press was to be married that evening, and many of the newspaper men present were to be ushers, guests and general background for the affair.

So Bob Dougan, E. F. Ackerman and Joe Annin, as a committee, told Representative Garrett that either the wedding would be solemnly attended or the world would go without the news of the lobby investigation. And Mr. Garrett, with the most gracious manner possible, announced that a wedding took precedence over a lobby hearing, and all went as happy as a marriage bell. The committee adjourned in time to let young Ackerman try on his silk gloves, and no one suffered for a lack of news.

NEW MAYOR OF NEW YORK CITY

Adolph Kline, who has become mayor of New York, was the Republican alderman from the Fifty-first district in Brooklyn, is fifty-five years old and a native of Sussex county, New Jersey. He is the son of Margaret and Anthony Busby Kline. He is of Scotch-Irish strain on his mother's side, while his father was German.

Colonel Kline became president of the board of aldermen July 7, 1913, automatically succeeding John Purroy Mitchell, former head of that body, who became collector of the port by appointment of President Wilson to succeed William Loeb.

Mr. Kline was vice-chairman of the aldermanic board from January 1, 1912, until the date of his succession to the presidency of the board. As a member of the aldermanic board he has served on many important committees.

Mr. Kline attended private and public schools at Andover and Newton, N. J. In 1877 he entered the employ of W. C. Peet & Co., New York city, where he continued until 1886.

Colonel Kline was nominated in 1902 for sheriff of Kings county on the Republican ticket. Though defeated, he ran about 5,000 votes ahead of the head of the ticket.

In the following year he was elected to represent the Fifty-first district in the board of aldermen for the term of 1904-5. He was returned for the period of 1906-7.

On January 1, 1908, he was appointed assistant appraiser of merchandise for the port of New York by President Roosevelt, an office which he held until his resignation, July 1, 1911. In November, 1911, he was again elected to represent the Fifty-first aldermanic district for the term of 1912-3. He was elected vice-chairman by the fusion members.

