

INDEPENDENCE DAY



PHOTO BY FRANK FOURNIER.

IS A GALA DAY IN MANY LANDS

Numerous Nationalities Join With the United States in the Celebration of Their Independence.

THE Fourth of July is here again, with the usual round of festivities, beginning with the morning rain that threatens to spoil the day, but never does, and ending with the glorious fireworks at night, write Frederic J. Haskin in the Chicago Daily News. Nor are the orator and the greased pig conspicuous by their absence. This is an old, old story here at home, but how our Independence day is celebrated abroad, in many different lands, is a story that is seldom told.

Wherever Americans go they take their Fourth of July with them. It is not too much to say that the strange folk among whom we carry our national custom soon learn to watch for the day with a great deal more interest than they do the holidays of the other countries, their own holidays excepted, of course. Even under this head, however, our day competes with their own time honored jollifications for the simple reason that many of the countries have no "Independence day" of their own.

Foreigners Are Friendly.

Most foreigners are utterly indifferent to the comings and goings of other nations, they who should be their brothers, or else they exhibit only contempt for everything that does not conform to their own peculiar way of doing things. This is not so of the American Fourth of July. They all seem to have for our great event of the year a feeling that varies from kindly tolerance to spontaneous enthusiasm.

This is interesting in the light of the fact that so many other lands have their own independence days. With the possible exception of France's, however, they attract no attention outside of their own country. Norway has two Independence days, May 17 and June 5. The French date is July 14, which commemorates the fall of the Bastille in their great revolution. Other independence days are:

Brazil, September 7; Mexico, September 16; Uruguay, May 25; Chile, September 18; Colombia, July 20; Haiti, January 1; Cuba, February 24. The Cubans also look to our Independence day as theirs in a sense, since we are the givers and guardians of their liberty. July 20, the day on which Colombia makes merry, is the birthday of Gen. Simon Bolivar, the Venezuelan, who freed Venezuela, New Granada, Peru and Bolivia from the yoke of Spain.

Bolivar united Venezuela and New Granada under the name of Colombia, of which nation he was president for nine years, until his death in 1830. Bolivia was a new state carved out of what had been royalist Peru and so named in honor of Bolivar, who was also its president. His birthday serves as an additional national festival in Venezuela, Peru and Bolivia and is generally observed in a more or less official way all over Central and South America.

Fourth Marked in China.

Perhaps China is the foreign country where the American Fourth of July is more generally observed than anywhere else abroad. In the cosmopolitan city of Shanghai our natal day is the cause of an international fête. A big reception is held by our

consul general, and the American judge for China, who ranks next to the American minister at Peking, and other prominent American residents, keep open house for all their friends, regardless of nationality. An oration is delivered as a rule, the Stars and Stripes fly in all parts of the foreign settlement and the city generally is in a gala mood. A program of sports and a dress parade by the Shanghai volunteer corps, composed of British, Germans, Americans, etc., help to make the day lively and the good old fireworks are not omitted.

For several years it has been the custom in some treaty ports of China for the British and Americans jointly to celebrate the Fourth of July. This may sound strange to ears that are not cosmopolitan. And in a commercial sense it really is unusual, for if there is any nation upon whose advancement in the far East the entrenched Briton looks with misgivings it is the American. Nevertheless, there always are enough liberal minds on both sides to bring about a mutual rejoicing. In these celebrations the Americans acknowledge England as their mother and the British express their unbounded pleasure over the wonderful progress and mighty growth of Britannia's lusty offspring.

Since China became a republic the Chinese people themselves have developed a keen curiosity over "Mellon man's" merrymaking. They know that their government came to them from this country, through students who were educated in our colleges and taught the true spirit of democracy. An exceedingly graceful compliment was paid to America and Americans last Fourth of July in Peking, by President Yuan Shih Kai, who drove personally to the American legation to congratulate the American representative, E. T. Williams, on the birth of the nation and to lay stress upon the debt China owes the United States for her fast friendship and good example in the past. In several cities leading Chinese requested the privilege of participating in the American fête.

In the Philippine islands the Fourth of July passes off without much variation from the way we observe it here at home. All the time-honored forms

YOUNG AMERICA



FREEDOM.

Here is the forest now,
As on that old July
When first our fathers took the vow,
The bluebird, stained with earth and sky,
Shouts from a blowing bough
In green, aerial freedom, wild and high,
And now, as then, the bobolink
Out on the uncertain brink
Of the swaying maple swings,
Loosing his song out link by golden link,
While over the wood his proclamation
rings,
A darling boast that would unkingdom
kings!

Even so the wild birds sang on bough and
wall
That day the bell of Independence Hall
Thundered upon the world the word of
man,
The word of God uttered when the world
began—
That day when liberty began to be
And mighty hopes were out on land and
sea,
But Freedom calls her conscripts, now as
then;

It is an endless battle to be free,
As the old dangers lessen from the skies
New dangers rise.
Down the long centuries eternally,
Again, again will rise Thermopylae;
Again, again, a new Leonidas
Must hold for God the imperiled pass,
As the long ages run
New Lexington will rise on Lexington
And many a valorous Warren fall
Upon the imperiled wall.

Man is the conscript of an endless quest
A long divine adventure without rest,
A holy war, a battle yet unwon
When he shall climb beyond the burnt
out sun,
Each hard-earned freedom withers to a
bond;
Freedom forever is beyond—beyond!

—Edwin Markham in *The Independent*.

of entertainment and amusement are observed, but this in itself is a remarkable fact, for the natives take part in the festivities with gusto. A baseball game between an American and a Filipino team is generally a feature, and it is crowding the cockpit off the boards. Drills by Filipino scout and constabulary start many a program, and in the provinces the native governor gives a reception and dance to the American and prominent Spanish and Filipino residents of his provincial capital.

Typical American parades, given color by Filipino participation, are held in Manila, Iloilo, Cebu, Albay, Zamboanga and even in the small towns. In Manila everything in the way of refreshments and amusements is free to all children, whether they be Americans, Filipinos, Europeans, Chinese, Japanese, Indians or whatnot. In Manila the day is not complete without a special band concert on the Luneta in the evening by the famous constabulary band, composed of eighty skillful native musicians, who have been trained by an American negro from Boston, until they are recognized as one of the best bands in the world. They made special trips from Manila to play at the inauguration of Presidents Roosevelt and Taft. To our Filipino wards, "cuatro de Julio" is a great festa.

"Open House" Abroad.

Wherever an American minister, consul or any other official representative has his abode abroad, there will be found open house on July 4. As a rule, a reception, followed perhaps by a dance or a concert, make up the day's formalities. In London, Paris and Berlin the celebrations are quite elaborate.

In far western Canada, where there is a big sprinkling of Americans, the day is made a great deal of. In the mining province of British Columbia the town of Rossland was for years more American than Canadian. During the Yankee reign it was natural that all tracks should be cleared for the Fourth, and rock drilling contests, the miners' favorite, furnished plenty of excitement. In Alaska, Indian water sports and feats of daring, log rolling contests in the water, and dog races are the principal numbers on the program.

FOR BETTER ROADS

MILEAGE OF OUR GOOD ROADS

Department of Agriculture Gathering Information to Serve as Basis for Estimating Value.

The United States department of agriculture is now gathering information which, when complete, should not only give the total mileage of public roads in the United States and their cost, but should serve as a basis for estimating the relative value of the different kinds of highways. Some 15,000 sets of inquiry blanks have already been distributed through the state highway commissions, and some of these are now beginning to come back to the department. Each set consists of four cards.

Of these the first asks for information on the mileage of different classes of roads in the county to which it is sent. The mileage does not include, of course, streets in cities and towns. The roads are divided into ten classes as follows: Brick paved, concrete, macadam with the addition of some substance such as asphalt, oil, or tar,



Macadam Road Treated With Asphalt Binder.

plain macadam, gravel, shell, other hard surfaced roads, sand and clay mixture properly graded and drained, ordinary earth roads properly constructed, and, finally, unimproved roads.

The second card asks for information in regard to the tax rate for the roads and the amount of work and money expended on them.

The third blank is concerned with the names of local road officials, and the fourth with facts in regard to the bond issues and the indebtedness of the counties for their road systems.

As there are approximately 3,000 counties in the United States, in many of which the mileage has never even been estimated, it is hardly probable that this preliminary survey will be exact. The department, however, will be able to detect any excessively inaccurate reports for the road mileage per square mile of territory does not vary excessively. Except in desert or undeveloped country less than half a mile of public road to every square mile of territory is rare, while, in the most thickly populated rural sections the maximum is no more than two and one-half or three miles. Thus, in France, there is an average for the entire country of 1.76 to a square mile. In Italy, however, this has fallen to .86, possibly on account of the mountainous character of much of the peninsula and of Sicily and Sardinia.

In America the average is approximately 80 miles, which, in view of the fact that much of the country is sparsely settled seems unduly high. An explanation, however, is to be found in the fact that in many states the law provides that each section line shall be a public road. Thus, for example, there are in the state of Iowa alone more than 104,000 miles of legal highways, manifestly a much larger mileage than is required by traffic.

When the information in regard to the existing roads which the department is now seeking is complete, it is the intention to continue the inquiry year after year in order to ascertain the durability and economy of the various kinds of highways. The data thus collected should be useful to road engineers all over the country and it is hoped that county agents and others interested in improvement of agriculture will do their best to facilitate the collection of the desired information.

Shortens the Distance.

There is nothing that shortens the distance between the farm and the market as much as good roads. It's the greatest economy the farmers can have.

Wide Tires to Stay.

The wide-tired wagon has come to stay. On our common earth roads and in the field a 50 per cent more load can be pulled on a wide-tired wagon than on one with narrow tires; then, again, the wide tires help in packing the road, while the narrow tires make the ruts.

Should Not Grumble.

The dairyman, whose products are particularly perishable, should be the last man on earth to grumble about paying money for road improvement.

THINNING FRUIT AFTER "JUNE DROP"



Pruning Peach Trees in Allegheny Mountain Orchard.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

In the minds of some peach growers, to teach the thinning of the fruit is to teach heresy. The thing most desired by them is the biggest peach crop possible. Then the heavier the "set" of fruit the better, and the last consideration is to pick off any of it until it is picked for market. This is their philosophy.

The matter of thinning the fruit on heavily loaded peach trees should require no special argument to establish the wisdom of the practice, but the reasons for thinning may be briefly set forth in the present connection. The fact is widely recognized that most varieties of peaches, as well as other fruits, for that matter, under favorable conditions often set much more fruit than the tree can possibly develop to a good degree of perfection for commercial purposes. The inherent natural purpose of the tree is to perpetuate its kind. To this end, left to itself, its tendency is to develop the largest possible number of seeds, with each seed possessing the potential possibility of a new tree.

The grower's aim is for the tree to produce the largest possible amount of fruit that can attain the highest commercial standard. The inherent effort of the tree and the object desired by the grower impose, or at least tend to impose, incompatible requirements. The development of a great number of seeds is a tree-exhausting process. This is opposed to the development of large fruit. To meet his ends in this respect the grower has recourse to thinning the fruit.

There is perhaps no operation in the production of peaches which requires keener judgment in order to reap its full benefits than does thinning the fruit. However, no fixed rules for it can be given. It is commonly advised to thin so that the fruits will not be nearer together than four to six inches. This direction is quite generally applicable, yet it may have several important modifications under different conditions. The strength of the tree, the fertility of the soil, and especially the soil moisture are all coordinate factors governing this operation. These factors, together with the size of the crop, or, in other words, the number of fruits allowed to develop on the tree, govern very largely the size and perfection of the individual fruits, except as fungous diseases and insects may affect them.

Obviously, a vigorous tree growing under favorable conditions as to moisture, plant food, etc., can develop a larger number of fruits to good size than can a weak tree, or even the same tree when there is a marked deficiency either in the supply of moisture or of plant food.

The skill of the grower is shown in his ability to adjust the size of the crop on his trees to the varying seasonal conditions. While he is powerless, of course, to add more fruit, it is quite within his power to reduce the number of fruits on the trees if the

season becomes very dry as it progresses. Thus the grower should aim to control the size of the individual fruits by thinning and by tillage and pruning.

It is sometimes argued that the expense of thinning makes it prohibitive. But this is fallacious. While it may cost a relatively large amount per tree, it is the experience of the best growers that, as a rule, actually more high grade fruit is produced on a tree which bears only a moderate crop than on one which is heavily overloaded, and the average fruit on the tree with a moderate crop is of better grade than the best fruit on an overloaded tree.

Another factor is commonly overlooked when the cost of thinning is considered. The operation should be done after the "June drop"—which usually occurs from a month to six weeks after the blossoming period, when the imperfectly fertilized and other weakly developed embryo fruits drop off—and before the pits begin to harden. After the "June drop" is over there is but very little dropping of the peaches. Hence, practically all of the fruit which remains then will be on the trees at harvest time. It will have to be picked then, anyway. It is a fair assumption that it will cost no more and probably considerably less to pick a portion of the crop in June or July and drop the fruit on the ground than it will to pick it later and put it in a basket, where much of it will have to be handled over several times in grading and packing and then finally large quantities discarded as culls because the fruits are so small. Moreover, the fruit on an overloaded tree will sometimes ripen less uniformly than on a tree that has a moderate crop.

It has already been stated that the development of the pits is an exhaustive process. Therefore, the limiting of the number of fruits tends to conserve the vitality of the tree. A large portion of the flesh of the peach is water; hence, if the soil is well supplied with moisture the development of the edible portion of the fruit makes a relatively light demand on the strength of the tree.

The United States department of agriculture, Washington, will send interested fruit growers, free of charge, its farmers' bulletin (No. 632) on "Growing Peaches" which gives in detail much information on the pruning of trees, renewal of tops, thinning, interplanted crops and special practices.

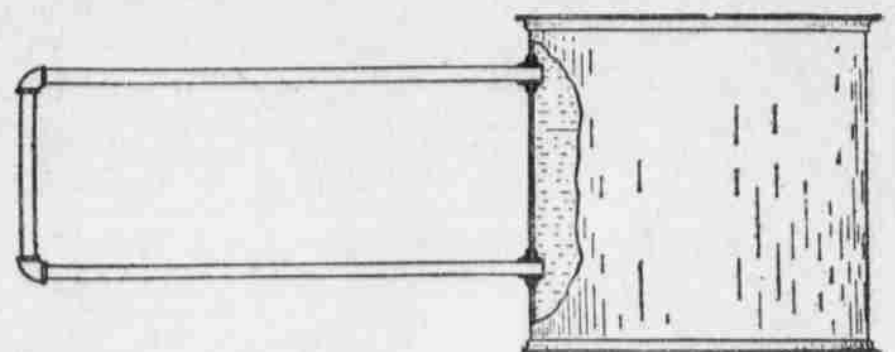
Cut Out Raspberry Canes.

Keep raspberry canes pinched off as they reach a height of four feet. This is easily done, and makes them grow outside shoots on which berries will grow the next spring.

Conserve Moisture.

If the weather turns dry, cultivate the truck patch often, keeping an inch of the top soil as fine as possible. This will prevent evaporation and conserve the moisture in the soil.

PROLONG THE LIFE OF FENCE POSTS



Tank Made of 14-Gauge Sheet Iron, Used for Applying Oil to Timbers.

(By E. G. CHEYNEY.)

The rotting of timber is caused by the work of fungi, very minute living organisms, which get into the crevices of the wood. The fungi feed on certain substances in the wood and cause it to break down or rot. Like all other living organisms these fungi require heat, air, and moisture, in addition to their food supply. If the soil contains the right amount of air and moisture for the best growth of fungi, the decay of fence posts is rapid, but in very dry soil the decay is slow. Hence the life of a post depends somewhat on the kind of soil in which it is set, and the success of any preservative treatment depends on the degree to which it excludes air and moisture as well as its effectiveness in poisoning the wood.

Thorough seasoning, or drying, is the cheapest method of lengthening the life of wood and is a necessary preliminary to any further treatment. "Wood preservation" has recently come to mean, to the general public, the use of creosote, either as an external application or forced into the tissues of the wood. Treatment with creosote, though considered a new thing in this country, has been used in England and France for a long time, especially with railroad ties. Treating companies there guarantee treated beech ties for 15 years service, when, untreated, they would not last two years. Even in this country there are millions of ties, poles and posts treated every year. Their durability is thereby increased two, three and sometimes ten fold.