

FARMERS BATTLE LOSSES FROM EROSION BY BUILDING TERRACES ACROSS FIELDS

Amount of Plant Food and Soil Carried Away Is Astounding

By NEA Service

Ames, Ia.—Three trillion pounds of soil, carrying at least 126,000,-000,000 pounds of plant food, worth more than \$2,000,000,000—that is the amount robbed from fields and pastures of the United States each year by soil erosion, according to a report of the United States department of agriculture.

This loss is 21 times the annual loss in fertilizing elements removed by growth of plants and crops.

In many states enormous acreages have been abandoned because of loss of top soil and fertility and because of formation of ditches que to soil washing. In Iowa alone approximately 200,000 out of its 21 million acres of tillable land are idle because of depleted soil fertility and erosion.

As a result of this condition many farmers are becoming interested in terracing as a means of checking soil washing. Many of them, especially in southern Iowa where erosion is most serious, are building their own terraces. Several have bought terracing machines.

More than 100 terracing demon-strations have been held on Iowa farms at the request of owners by extension agricultural engineers

from Iowa State college. These

fields average 15 or 20 acres each. One of the largest is a rield of 125 acres on the farm of Perry Matthews near Mt. Pleasant. Mathews was so anxious to have his entire field terraced after seeing the results on neighboring farms that he bought a terracing machine and rented another to work at the same time the extension engineer had the demonstration terracer at

the farm. Terraces are built either with reg-ular terracing machines or with road graders. They consist of a broad flat ridge from 8 to 15 feet wide running around a hill, across a slope in such a way that they carry off water slowly and harmlessly during rains. The shallow water channel formed on the slope just above the ridge, which is 12 inches high after it settles, has a drop of four to six inches each 100 linear feet.

Terraces Easy to Build Arthur B. Hollingsworth, near Mt. Pleasant, was one of the first farmers in his community to build terraces. He constructed them at a low cost by building a homemade "A" shaped machine from old oak planks and the piade of an old grader which provided the cutting

Soon after the terraces were built an eight-inch rain fell. The water was carried off slowly and harmlessly and no sediment or top soil was noticed at the outlets at the edge of the field.

Terraces can be farmed over without serious trouble or inconvenience, according to Hollingsworth. It is much better to have a gently sloping terrace, he says, that to have ditches cut through the field and manure and fertilizer dumped into the fence rows and nearby ditches. Terraces also help hold soil moisture as well as top

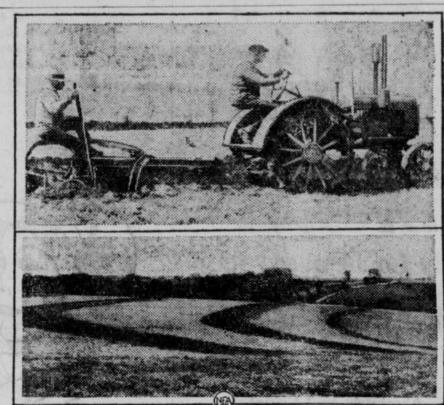
To aid in solving soil problems county soil improvement associations have been organized. One is in Monroe, Mahaska, Wapello and Appanoose counties and another in Wayne, Decatur, Marion and Lucas

Each of these associations has a

New Transmission May Mean Change in Autos

Mexico, Mo .- (UP)-A new era has dawned in the automobile industry, a Mexico garageman was convinced following trials of an autemobile transmission he has patented.

Bruce Ridgeway, the inventor, recently made a trial trip in his touring car, in which the device has been installed, and has organized a company for its manufacture and sale. The transmission, according to Ridgeway, auto-



Cutting terraces on the farm of David Savage, in Henry county, Iowa, above. Below, an Iowa farm terraced to prevent soil erosion by heavy rainfalls.

field agent trained in soil manage- | manure, fertilizers, lime and ment who works with members legumes, tree planting, crop rotamuch as a county agent works with tions and other soil management practices are emphasized and demmembers of his farm bureau. Not only terracing but use of onstrated on fields of the members.

Farm Champ in Training



Like champion pugilists, Lucile Gates, declared the champion farm girl of America at the Los Angeles County Fair at Pomona, in 1930, has gone into training to defend her title in a championship "bout" to be staged during the 1931 fair in September. She can milk, churn, drive a tractor and perform many other farm tasks.

129 DEAD IN STREETS Londaon - (UP) - A total of 129

persons, 85 of whom were men, 30 matically gears the car to higher or lower speed in accordance with road pull.

Ridgeway's trial run, made through the streets of Mexico, was faintly reminiscent of the early days of automobiles, crowds of curious following him.

Radio Chair Warmers

Is Club of Invalids

Lima, Ohio - (UP) - James Lisk, 35 years old, an invalid and an amateur wireless operator, is president of a most unique organization. Its title is "The Chair

women and 14 children, were found dead in the city streets here during January and February.

Warmers' club," a world wide association of shortwave operators all of whom are invalids

Every day the 50 or more members exchange greetings over the air. As president, Lisk is a claimant of the wold's record for amateur long-distance wireless communication with every part of the world except Asia. He established connections with the Byrd Antare tic expedition several times.

A Fitting Remark. From Passing Show. "This suit was made in London." "Where were you at the time?"

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Find Builders' Secrets

in Cupola of Pantheon

which with the Colosseum is the and Brazil. most important of Rome's monuments, claim they have discovered the secret of the building methods of the ancient Romans in flinging the vast arches of the dome up from the already high building on which it rests. The discoveries are of extreme importance from a technical point of view, it is said, for Michelangelo himself, who built the dome of Saint Peter's, admitted that he was baffled by the dome of the Pantheon, and previous to Michelangelo, Brunsellesciu, builder of the dome of the Florence cathedral, made careful measurements and studies of the Pantheon dome in preparation for his Florence labors, but was never able to solve the mystery of how the old Roman architects worked.

Advice

"Keeping money in a teapot, hey?"

"Boy, put your money to work." "I dunno how." "Get it a job in a bank."

of kindly acts in this world. Give are looking for?" hem that much credit.

South American Bird

region along the Brazil-Venezuelan

South America. been seen alive by but few travelers. is described by Mr. Holt as "a most gorgeous creature, orange or flame colored, with a double crest, and to my mind the most beautiful bird in the world." The beauty is concentrated in the male, for in few bird species is there a more striking contrast between the resplendent cock and the very drab and demure female. In size the Cock-of-the-Rock is between a robin and crow.

Hua, on the Brazil-Venezuela border, Mr. Holt's party found monkeys so numerous that the meat of the animals was made a regular item on their menu. They also shot curas-

The Cock-of-the-Rock was found from the Rio Maturaca to the foot-Guiana, where it culminates in Mount Architects who have been repair- Roraimas common point in the bouning the cupola of the Pantheon, daries of Venezueia, British Guiana

> Heard at a Party "Separated, have Ley? And it "Which I have noticed, my dear, often ends in divorce at firs slight." I

Thing of Rare Beauty

The obtaining of six specimens of "the most beautiful bird in the world" -the Cock-of-the-Rock-in a remote border, has been reported to the National Geographic society by Ernest G. Holt, leader of an expedition which has been collecting natural history material for the society in

The remarkable bird, which has

Around their camp at Salto do sows or bush turkeys.

ifter the camp was moved eastward hills of the Serra Imeri, a long, tortuous and little-known range of mountains that extends under various names to the frontier of British

was a case of love at first sight."

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remains moist throughout the shave. Soap 25c. Ointment 25c. and 50c. Talcum 25c. Shaving Cream 35c. Proprietors: Potter Drug & Chemical Corporation, Malden, Mass. Try the new Cuticura Shaving Cream.

In the Files

The boss eyed the stenographer

with a cold eye. "Young lady," said he, "that filing and de women at las'." cabinet is supposed to be very exact.

"I'm looking for my lun

Now It Can Be Told

"Ah tells yuh, Mose, Ah done found out de diffunce 'tween de men

"Say what yuh please, it's dis There are hypocri's who do a lot How is it you can't find what you way: A man'll gib \$2 foh a \$1 thing dat he want, an' a woman'll gib \$1 foh a \$2 thing dat she don' want."

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