

American Agriculture Indebted To Abraham Lincoln More Than To Any Other of Our Presidents

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

ATALL man in rusty black arose from his chair on a flag-draped platform and made his way awkwardly to the speaker's stand. He seemed ill at ease as he gazed on the weathered faces of the crowd before him.

Then he began to speak. Almost at once his self-consciousness vanished. His sorrowful, deep-set eyes lighted up. His voice warmed. His hearers leaned forward to catch each word.

"No other human occupation," he said, "opens so wide a field for the profitable and agreeable combination of labor with cultivated thought as agriculture. Every blade of grass is a study; and to produce two where there was but one is both a profit and a pleasure. And not grass alone, but soils, seeds and seasons; saving crops, diseases of crops and what will prevent and cure them; hogs, horses and cattle; trees, shrubs, fruits, plants and flowers—each is a world of study within itself."

The speaker was Abraham Lincoln. The time was September 30, 1859. The place was the agricultural fair held by the Wisconsin State Agricultural society at Milwaukee.

Most Americans remember Lincoln as our first martyred President, as the Great Emancipator, as the statesman whose principles have stirred men everywhere. Few, perhaps, realize what a profound influence Lincoln and his administration left on the agriculture of the United States. Yet all his life he was a close student of farming. He knew its needs and foresaw the possibilities of its advancement as few men have done before or since. And it was as a nationally recognized representative of the farmer and the small town democracy he knew so well that he was invited to address that meeting in Milwaukee.

These things considered, it is not surprising that in the anguish of the Civil war that threatened the nation's existence, Lincoln found time to promote the cause of agriculture and give it an impetus that is felt down to this day.

Boyhood on a Farm.

Abe's early boyhood was spent on a farm of 30 acres near Knob creek, about 10 miles northeast of his birthplace at Hodgenville, Ky. Because of the hills and gullies only 14 acres could be cultivated.

In the fall of 1816 the Lincoln family moved again—this time across the Ohio river into the heavily timbered wilderness of southern Indiana. Here they established themselves on a knoll surrounded by marshy, malaria-ridden fields. There was no drinking water within a mile. Although Thomas Lincoln acquired an option on 160 acres to be paid for in installments at \$2 an acre, he completed payments on only half of this land. The elder Lincoln continued to vary his farming and hunting by doing occasional jobs of carpentry. In 1824, after the family had been in Indiana seven years, the cultivated area of the farm totaled only 17 acres.

Thus young Lincoln as a boy of 15 was hired out to the neighbors to plow, hoe corn, split rails and make fences. He also worked as a ferryman on the Ohio river. For this work his father received \$6 a month. During the hog-packing season, however, he received an additional 31 cents a day.

Once more the Lincolns pushed westward. This time it was early in the spring of 1830 and the family trekked to the bluffs along the Sangamon river in Macon county, Illinois. Reaching majority soon afterward, Abraham Lincoln bade farewell to his family and began life for himself. Although he left farm work behind as a career, Lincoln never ceased to interest himself in agriculture. As a surveyor, as postmaster and storekeeper at New Salem, as a lawyer riding the court circuit around Illinois, as a congressman and as President he

continued to be a student of farming and farm improvement.

When Lincoln entered the White House, farming was being carried on much the same as it had been in the past half-century. Man and horse power were still the main reliance on the average farm, although an impressive start had been made toward mechanization and improvement of farm implements. It took about as long to plow a field, plant a crop and cultivate it as it had taken in Revolutionary war days. This was particularly true of the newer areas of settlement.

The reaper had been invented about 30 years before, but its use was by no means universal. The steel plow had been introduced in the late 1830s and had helped speed the opening of the newly settled West. The science of soil chemistry was even more recent. Although experiments in plant feeding in Europe led to the establishment of the modern fertilizer in this country in 1850, production amounted to only 20,000 tons in 1860. Today American farmers use nearly 8,000,000 tons annually.

Aids to Agriculture.

Soon after his inauguration, Lincoln began throwing the weight of his influence behind measures that would strengthen



JUSTIN S. MORRILL

the position of agriculture and promote its future growth. This was sound strategy in view of the impending Civil war. Within a year three bills of outstanding significance had been passed. These were the Act Establishing the United States Department of Agriculture, the Homestead act, and the Land Grant College act. Agriculture today owes a debt to the administration which sponsored these acts. The progress it has achieved in the past 75 years would never have been possible without them.

As early as his first message to congress in December, 1861, Lincoln pointed out the necessity for a department of agriculture. "Agriculture, confessedly the largest interest of the nation," he declared, "has not a department, nor a bureau, but a clerkship only assigned to it in this government."

"While it is fortunate that this great interest is so independent in its nature as not to have demanded or extorted more from the government, I respectfully ask congress to consider whether something more could be voluntarily given with general advantage."

The Act Establishing the Department of Agriculture was the result, and in his second annual message the President was able to report:

"To carry out the provisions of the Act of Congress of May 15th last, I have caused the Department of Agriculture of the United States to be organized. The Commissioner informs me that within the period of a few months, this department has established an extensive system of correspondence

and exchanges both at home and abroad which promise to effect highly beneficial results in the development of a current knowledge of recent improvements of agriculture, in the introduction of new products, and in the collection of the agricultural statistics of the different states. Also it will be prepared to distribute, largely, seeds, cereals, plants and cuttings, and has already published and liberally diffused much valuable information in anticipation of a more elaborate report which will in due time be furnished, embracing some valuable tests in chemical science now in progress in the laboratory."

Lincoln closed his statement with the hope that the department would "realize at not too distant a day all the fondest anticipations of its most sanguine friends and become the fruitful source of advantages to all our people."

How prophetic was this hope is a matter of history. Although the department was not represented in the cabinet with a secretary until 1889, it proved its worth immediately. Today every farm home feels its benefits. County agents everywhere assist farmers in improving their farm methods, testing their soil to determine its plant food needs, advising them on how to increase the productivity of their holdings.

The Homestead Act.

Another milestone in agricultural development was the Homestead act, signed by President Lincoln on May 20, 1862. During the course of its operation nearly 250,000,000 acres of public domain have been thrown open to private farm ownership.

Instead of requiring the payment of \$1.25 or more per acre, the Homestead act gave 160 acres free to every settler who would live on it for five years. Settlers rushed into the new lands, and while the Civil war was still in progress 2,500,000 acres were thus given away. This created more than 15,000 farms of 160 acres each. New railroads were built to link the western farm lands with the eastern markets. The new crops helped feed the Union armies, furnish fibers and raw materials to factories, and provided an exportable surplus which built a profitable trade with Europe.

Most important step in aiding the cause of scientific agriculture was the Morrill act, or Land Grant College act, named for Justin S. Morrill, representative in congress and afterwards senator from Vermont. Signed by President Lincoln on July 2, 1862, this law gave to each state as many times 30,000 acres of public land as it had senators and representatives. This land was to provide funds for the establishment and support of a "college of agriculture and mechanical arts."

The far-flung system of agricultural colleges in every state of the Union today owes its existence to this act. These colleges are a powerful factor in discovering new facts concerning the soil, its needs, crop and live stock improvement and better farming methods. Not only do these colleges educate young men to apply these facts and methods in actual farm work, but agronomists and soil scientists are continually carrying on experiments with crops, soils and fertilizers in their states. As a result of their work, the average farmer can have the benefit of expert and practical advice in preparing his soil for profitable crop production. Many of these colleges provide recommendations for fertilizer grades best adapted to the needs of a farmer's soils and crops after a test has established the necessity for nitrogen, phosphorus and potash.

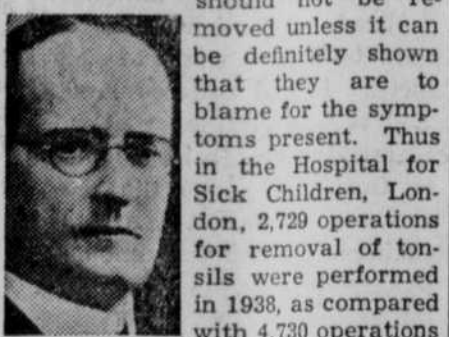
"Lincoln's contributions to the development of agriculture," said an official of the Middle West Soil Improvement committee recently, "stand as such a monument to his greatness as any of his other achievements during his presidency. It was astounding that under the stress of war and destruction he could have sponsored and supported measures that would have such epochal consequences to our development."

Tonsil Removal Doesn't Always Prevent Colds

By DR. JAMES W. BARTON
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

WHEN a youngster has frequent colds, parents may feel that removal of the tonsils might prevent these colds. Experience has amply proven that the removal of tonsils does not prevent colds except in some cases where the cold always begins with a sore throat.

There is present throughout the world today a feeling that tonsils should not be removed unless it can be definitely shown that they are to blame for the symptoms present.



Dr. Barton

In discussing the removal of tonsils and adenoids, Sir Lancelot Barrington-Ward at the Royal Society of Medicine, said that the tonsil was in his experience much the more dangerous element. The structure of the tonsil allowed organisms to remain dormant or quiet, but nevertheless active, leading to chronic general poisoning or the system or flare-up into acute inflammation from time to time.

Adenoids, on the other hand, acted simply as an obstruction to the breathing or by a low grade infection causing inflammation of the ear or the glands in the neck.

Size Not Important.

In discussing tonsils it was stated that large tonsils might not be septic (pouring poison into the blood stream) and septic tonsils might not be large. Mere size is not important unless it is causing obstruction.

How can it be known that a tonsil or tonsils are septic? The appearance doesn't tell much, but if there are certain noticeable conditions the physician usually decides to have the tonsils removed.

1. Repeated attacks of tonsillitis which can only be stopped by removing the tonsils.
2. Chronic or persistent enlargement of the upper deep gland of the neck, without enlargement of the other glands, always means infection of the tonsils.
3. Middle ear diseases followed by mastoid infection and deafness is due to infection from tonsil and adenoid in most cases.

Infected tonsils should be removed when there is a history of rheumatism accompanied by heart disease or chorea-St. Vitus' dance.

Facts Regarding Angina Pectoris

ANGINA pectoris—breast pang not only frightens the patient but frightens the entire family, as these "heart attacks" are distressing to endure and even to watch. There is a strangling, vise-like pain in the chest over the heart or under the breast bone which is brought on by physical effort (exercise) or emotional disturbance. It lasts but a short time, during which the patient stands in whatever position he happens to be in at the time and as he stands he has the feeling that if he makes the slightest move it may be his last.

Angina pectoris is often caused by the heart muscle (the muscle which pumps the blood from the heart to all parts of the body) not receiving enough blood from the little blood vessels which supply the heart muscle with blood from the general supply as it circulates throughout the body. Naturally, if the heart muscle does not get enough pure blood it cannot work, that is, pump the blood from the heart to all parts of the body, and so no movement is made by the patient to until the heart muscle do any work until it gets a little more pure blood into it with which to continue work.

These attacks of angina pectoris are really "life savers" because the individual learns what is likely to bring on an attack—heavy work, excitement, a fit of anger or other emotional disturbance—and so by living carefully he is enabled to live a useful and often a long life.

Most angina patients carry little pearls (thin glass tubes) of amyl nitrite, that can be easily broken in a handkerchief and inhaled, which soon ends the attack.

QUESTION BOX

Q.—Please suggest another treatment other than Whitfield's ointment for athlete's foot.

A.—The symptoms are those of athlete's foot—ringworm of the feet—as your physician has pointed out. It is called eczematoid ringworm of the feet. Whitfield's ointment half strength is considered excellent treatment. The dusting powder prescribed by your physician is likely sodium thiosulphate 1 part to 4 parts boracic acid.

Children's Clothes Come First On 1941 Spring Sewing Program

By CHERIE NICHOLAS



MOTHERS attention!

With the coming of spring, every little girl wants a smart new dress to wear. So it's high time for mothers to lay plans for the annual sewing campaign. It is none too early to start investigating the smart new pastel plaids, the denims, shantung and challis that are favorites for juvenile fashions this spring. You will be surprised how little really lovely materials cost. For a dollar, or even less, it is possible to buy 2½ yards or more of good-looking rayon challis. With a modern sewing machine, just a few hours are needed to produce an attractive sailor dress or a plaid bolero dress or a smart princess style, exactly suited to daughter's personality.

Even if the budget is slim and you haven't had experience at sewing, there is no excuse for making daughter do without good-looking clothes. You can learn to do a professional job of dressmaking by spending just a few afternoons at your local sewing center.

Nowadays, even the couturier finishes are easy for beginners to handle, because modern sewing machine attachments make pleating, ruffling, tucking, cording and applique, besides the dozens of other "neat tricks" they perform.

Certain to win the heart of every young "miss" is the favorite bolero suit-dress in cotton plaid with separate tuck-in blouse as shown to the left in the picture. The plaid, the all-round pleated skirt and the cute felt derby hat with a little red feather have a look about them that will delight the heart of a child. You can get inexpensive washable plaids that look like fine wool weave, or, if

you prefer, there are handsome 100-per cent wool clan plaids to be had at little additional cost. Plaidingham is smart, too.

The advantage of a two-piece dress of this type is that different blouses can be worn with it, also the separate bolero gives it the efficiency of a jacket suit. The Peter Pan collar and front closing on the blouse are embellished with inch-wide ruffles, done in a jiffy with the ruffer gadget on your machine. The very crisp pleats in the skirt take a mere matter of minutes to make with the pleater attachment. All the other deft finishes, such as the curving edges of the bolero front, is the unerring work of the little edge stitcher.

See the newest version of the ever-beloved sailor dress illustrated to the right in the group. Use navy flannel or serge or try ordinary blue denim for this dress; and you will henceforth be singing the praises of this sturdy good-looking material. The important-looking red embroidered anchor insignia on the long bishop sleeve is made with a darning stitch and transfer pattern right. You can easily monogram daughter's blouses, scarfs and "nightsies" and pajama sets on the sewing machine, to the utter delight of your child. A separate white pique collar is enhanced with eighth-inch-wide braid, attached with the blind-stitch braider gadget in no time at all.

A perfect princess dress of challis (centered in the group) is buttoned all the way down the front with tiny buttons and buttonholes, easily made with the buttonhole attachment on the machine. Cunningly tipped patch pockets are perched high on the dress lending both an ornamental and useful note. Spun rayon prints or the new printed jerseys make up satisfactorily in the simple princess frocks.

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Glamour Jewels



Tales of the jewelry treasures that are sojourning in America at present sound like fairy stories for grown-ups. Many aristocratic refugees from Europe brought vast fortunes in diamonds to this country. At the moment we have with us the opals of Queen Victoria, the emerald that Napoleon gave to Marie Louise (now set in a diamond necklace), and a brooch made for Franz Josef of Austria to present to his precious "Kathi." Pictured here-with is a Russian, hand-painted fan set in diamond-studded sticks, which was the nuptial gift of a grand duchess. The diamond bracelet and ring worn on the outside of the glove in the continental manner is of modern design. The formal white satin gown shows an embroidered pattern of gold thread and brilliants.

American Gloves

Wash Beautifully

American-made gloves, doeskins, suedes and mochas wash beautifully, and here's the way it is done—exactly the way our manufacturers of leather gloves tell everyone to wash them.

Make a bowlful of good thick suds with lukewarm water and a pure mild soap or soap cakes, being sure that every bit of the flakes is dissolved. Then putting on the gloves, wash them just as though you were washing your hands. Next rinse them in clear lukewarm water and then make another bowlful of lighter suds for the final time. If they happen to be glace-finished gloves, cape-skin or pigskin, the final rinse should be clear, cool water instead of soapy water.

Rolling and coaxingly pushing the gloves off your hands, put them in a turkish towel, pressing out the excess moisture. Then stretch out the fingers a bit, blow in the gloves and lay them on a turkish towel to dry—never on a radiator or other hot surface. Just before they are dry, finger press them, working the leather, especially inside the gloves, with your fingers so as to make it soft and pliable.

And that's all there is to it! You can even wash your colored gloves if the leathers have been tanned in this country. Put a teaspoon of vinegar in each basin of water as this helps keep the color. Some of the color may bleed out, but if your gloves are not badly soiled, so that you can wash them quickly, the amount of color that comes out won't make any difference and it will not be streaked.

Just one warning! Don't ever rub soap on your gloves. And don't use a brush on soiled spots as this roughs the leather.

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THIS jiffy knit jerkin and matching beanie, such practical assets, are quickly made in German-town yarn. Pattern 2695 contains directions for knitted hat and jerkin in sizes 12-14 and 16-18; illustrations of them and stitches; materials required.

Send 15 cents in coins for this pattern to The Sewing Circle Needlecraft Dept., 82 Eighth Ave., New York, N. Y. Send order to:

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Pull the Trigger on Lazy Bowels, and Comfort Stomach, too

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First Step in Progress

Discontent is the first step in the progress of a man or a nation.—Oscar Wilde.

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