

In the Field of Agriculture

AN OBJECT LESSON IN GOOD FARMING

In an interesting circular under the title of "Bread From Stones," Dr. Cyril G. Hopkins, chief of agronomy and chemistry of the University of Illinois agricultural experiment station, tells the story of the reclamation by scientific methods of a southern Illinois farm, which he purchased at a cost of less than \$20 an acre in November, 1903. It comprised 300 acres of poor gray prairie land (the commonest type of soil in about twenty counties in that part of the state) and a few acres of timber land. It was christened "Poorland Farm" by those who knew of its impoverished condition, and the name finally adopted as the farm name.

In 1913 a 40-acre field of this farm produced 1,320 bushels of wheat. This particular forty acres was bought at \$15 an acre. It had been agriculturally abandoned for five years prior to 1904, and was covered with a scant growth of red sorrel, poverty grass and weeds.

During the subsequent ten years, this field has been cropped with a six-year rotation, including one year each of corn, oats (or cowpeas), and wheat, and three years of meadow and pasture with clover and timothy. A fairly good stand of volunteer clover appeared with the oats in 1911 and this was allowed to produce a crop of clover hay in 1912, wheat being seeded in the fall of that

year for the 1913 crop.

During the ten years, about four ton per acre of ground limestone and two tons per acre of fine-ground raw rock phosphate have been applied to thirty-seven acres of this field. Two applications have been made of each material; the phosphate was plowed down for the corn crops of 1904 and 1910, and the limestone was applied in the fall and winter of 1904-5 and after the ground was plowed for the wheat in the fall of 1912.

The entire 40-acre field was covered with one uniform application of six loads per acre of farm manure, a 50-bushel spreader being used for the purpose.

A six-rod strip extending entirely across the field (80 rods) received the same application of manure and the same rotation of crops as the remaining 37 acres, but no phosphate was applied to this strip, and no limestone was applied to it until the fall of 1912, when the regular application (about 2 tons per acre) was made to one-half (3 rods) of the 6-rod strip.

Only 39 acres of this field were seeded to wheat in the fall of 1912, a lane having been fenced off on one side, and the 1,320 bushels were produced from the 39 acres. The actual yields were as follows:

One and one-half acres with farm manure alone produced 11 1/2 bushels per acre; 1 1/2 acres with farm manure and one application of ground

limestone produced 15 bushels per acre; 36 acres with farm manure and two applications of ground limestone and two of fine-ground phosphate produced 35 1/2 bushels per acre.

Dr. Hopkins says that "Poorland Farm" is in no sense an experiment station, and neither is it a "show" farm. No high-priced or artificial commercial fertilizers are used. The farm is operated solely from the economic standpoint, and the results secured show conclusively that intelligent permanent soil improvement on land that must or will be farmed is both the safest and most profitable investment open to the farmer and the land owner.

The average annual cost for the limestone and phosphate spread on the field was \$1.75 per acre, and this average annual investment resulted in the increase of 24 bushels of wheat per acre in 1913. Thus, it may be said, that the previous applications of these two natural rocks, or stones, brought about the production in 1913 of 864 bushels of wheat, an amount sufficient to furnish a year's supply of bread for more than a hundred people.

TESTING SEED CORN

The testing of each ear that will be used for seed is not such a difficult task, and may be accomplished much more easily than imagined. This is done by securing a box about 30 inches square and 3 or 4 inches deep, filling the box full of sand. Then drive nails or tacks 2 1-2 inches apart all the way around the edges of the box and over these nails stretch a string back and forth so as to mark the box off in 2 1-2 inch squares. The squares are then numbered on the edge of the box. The ears of corn to be tested are then laid on the floor, if no rack is available, numbered, and ten kernels removed from various parts of the ear. They are placed in the same point downward so as to be about 1-2 inch below the surface. A very good method of numbering the ears is to pin bits of paper to the butts of the ears. This can be done very easily with ordinary pins. The kernels from ear No. 1 are now put in square No. 1, ear No. 2 in square No. 2, etc. The box of sand containing the corn is then thoroughly saturated with water at about blood heat, covered with old sacks or carpet, and placed near the stove or open fire, where it is moistened down daily to hasten germination. The temperature should be kept between 75 and 90 degrees if possible.

HOW TO RAISE EARLY POTATOES

Irish potatoes on the early market always bring fancy prices, anywhere from \$3 to \$5 per barrel. As to getting them early, at least a few weeks earlier than the majority of growers, a Virginia farmer gives an interesting experience in a current issue of the Farm Life:

"The first thing of importance is the proper kind of soil. It should be of a medium light, sandy nature, neither too stiff nor too light, in a fairly good state of fertilization. Land which raises good cabbage will raise good potatoes, I have found. Experience has taught me that there is no use to expect a large crop of potatoes from poor, unfertile soil, no matter how large an amount of fertilizer we may use. An ideal place for a patch is an old garden spot that

SEEDS
Reliable and Full of Life
SPECIAL OFFER
Made to build New Business. A trial will make you our permanent customer

PRIZE COLLECTION Radish, 17 Varieties, worth 15c; Lettuce, 2 kinds, worth 15c; Tomatoes, 11 the finest, worth 20c; Turnip, 1 splendid, worth 10c; Onion, 8 best varieties, worth 15c; 10 Spring Flowering Nulbs, worth 25c—65 varieties in all; worth \$1.00.

GUARANTEED TO PLEASE.
Write today; mention this paper.

SEND 10 CENTS
to cover postage and packing and receive this valuable collection of seeds postage, etc. together with my big instructive, beautiful Seed and Plant Book, tells all about Buckbee's "Full of Life" Seeds, Plants, etc.

H.W. BUCKBEE
Rockford Seed Farms
Farm 66 Rockford, Ill.

Currie's Seeds
yield liberal crops under normal conditions. They are tested for vitality and purity before being sold. For nearly 40 years we have supported "worth-while" seeds.

Try These Sure
to become acquainted. One packet each of Giant Head Lettuce, Finest Mixed Sweet Peas, Prize Head Lettuce and Twenty-Day Radish. Each collection comes in a "coupon" envelope worth 25c with future orders. A total 45c value, **POSTPAID FOR ONLY 10c**

FREE Descriptive Catalog
lists all that is good in vegetable, field and flower seeds, bulbs, plants, etc. Fully illustrated. Copy free on request. Secure yours today.

Currie Bros. Co.
321 Broadway
Milwaukee
Wis.

Hogs Like It Best

D. W. Jenkins, Monroe, Neb., writing about his crop of Hog Pasture Mixture, says: "When the pasture was at its best the hogs would stay in the pasture instead of coming for corn. The mixture proved to be just the thing in the right place. No farmer can make a mistake by sowing it."

GRISWOLD'S "Ready Quick" Hog Pasture Mixture
produces in the hot or dry summer when other pastures are short and feed is scarce. Can be planted in summer for fall feeding. Great for stock of all kinds. Grows quickly—produces big tonnage of fine green fodder when it is needed most. Write today for prices also free book of Garden and Field Seeds.

GRISWOLD SEED COMPANY
242 So. 10th St., Lincoln, Neb.

DAKOTA SEED CORN
BEATS THE WORLD
Grown in the Great Missouri Valley. 5 sample packets 10c; 10 ppa d. Circular describing free.

L. N. CRILL SEED CO.
ELK POINT SOUTH DAKOTA

In the past 27 years we have satisfied thousands of customers with our "Seeds and Trees that Grow."

Our seeds will comply with the laws of any State. Our new, 1914 Garden Book is now ready—well illustrated. Get a copy. It will serve to help you plan your garden this year. We will send you a copy free, on request, either in English or German.

GERMAN NURSERIES & SEED HOUSE
492 GERMAN BLDG. (Curt Sonderregger) BEATRICE, NEB.

CHILDS' GIANT SUMMER COSMOS
is positively the most superb and beautiful garden flower known. Blooms profusely from June to Nov., each plant producing thousands of flowers, larger and more exquisite than the fall Cosmos, white, blue, pink, rose, crimson, etc. Thrives anywhere—finest cut flower for vases, etc. Mailed for 10 cts. per plant, including 5 other leading Novelties free for trial, viz.: **Crego Pink**, largest and finest of all Asters.

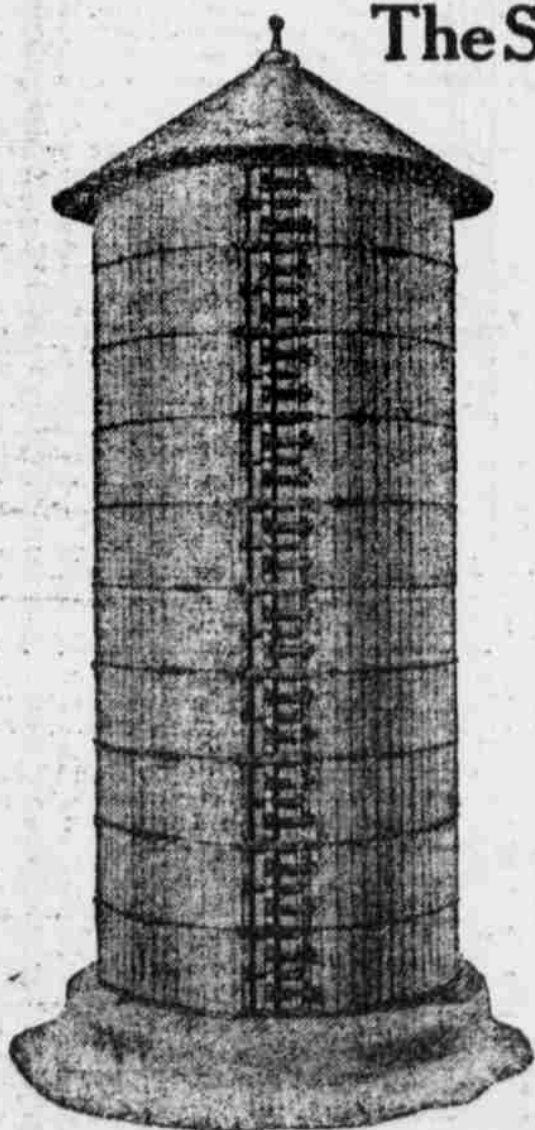
Pansy, Orchid-td., superb new orchid colors.
Primrose, New Giant White.
Petunia, Brilliant Beauty.
Snowball Tomato, new (white).

All these 5c leading Seed Novelties for only 10 cts., together with Notes on Culture, Catalogue, Floral Hints, etc. **Our Big Catalogue of Flower and Veg. Seeds, Bulbs, Plants and rare new Fruits free to all who apply.** We are the largest growers in the world of Gladiolus, Cannas, Dahlias, Lilies, Iris, etc., and our stocks are best and cheapest.

JOHN LEWIS CHILDS, Floral Park, N. Y.

The Hinge-Door Silo

The Silo That Gives Perfect Satisfaction



The Hinge-Door Silo keeps silage in best condition—hinge doors always closed—keeps your silo air tight, like a bottle; prevents silage from freezing in winter and drying out in summer. Doors open and close easier than barn doors. Can't sag, stick or freeze in. It is the best silo and is made from the best material.

Write Today for Our Silo Book—Mailed Free

Features Hinge-Door and Lansing Silos
Also famous Silberzahn Cutter

Address nearest branch, Dept. A

Woods Bros. Silo & Mfg. Co.

General Office: Lincoln, Nebraska

Lansing, Mich.
East St. Louis, Ill.
Maryville, Mo.
Lexington, Ky.
Minneapolis, Minn.

BRANCHES:
Atlanta, Ga.
Jackson, Miss.
Topeka, Kan.
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Denver, Colo.
Spokane, Wash.
West Bend, Wis.
Crosset, Ark.
Charlotte, N. C.