



Woodchucks, crows, skunks and sparrows increase in number as the country becomes more thickly settled.

It takes just as much of the fertility of the soil to grow and mature a lot of weeds as it does to grow a crop of useful vegetables or grain.

The crops of a dry season when not too dry are always far more satisfactory than those of a moderately wet season, quality better, less waste in harvesting.

The enormous crops of strawberries raised in North Carolina on the coast have extended the season of cheap strawberries for all the large northern cities nearly one month.

The specific gravity of wood varies more than one would think, a cubic foot of white cedar weighing only twenty-eight pounds when dry and a cubic foot of lignum vitae 83 1/2 pounds.

One of the most profitable industries of the western farm today is the growing of hogs. A ten-month-old pig which now sells for over \$20 will not cost the producer over \$10, if it does that.

The actual losses sustained on any farm where coits are raised by turning them into the pasture fenced with barbed wire will amount in two years to more than enough to fence the pasture with woven wire.

We never could see why it is that the blackberry will grow wild where it is not wanted and will not grow and do well when one tries to make it grow in the garden. The blackberry has a good deal of meanness about it anyhow.

Dry seasons and scant crops result in the storing of much plant food in the fields ready for use when the rains come and make the crop. All the so-called waste arid lands of the west are very rich in stores of plant food and only need a water supply to make them very productive.

The average cost in the state of Illinois of raising a bushel of corn as determined from an exhaustive line of experiments was found to be 16 cents. When corn thus raised commands 50 cents a bushel, it is easy to see why good corn land is that state readily sells for \$100 per acre and upward.

Fifty cents' worth of rape seed sown with the acre of barley will furnish nearly three months' feed for and fatten for market ten medium sized sheep, or it will keep ten shotes nicely for three months. One thus gets two crops in one year and finely fertilizes the land for next season's crops besides.

It looks to us to be a pretty mean sort of thing to give a sitting hen goose eggs to hatch. If old Biddy has any feelings at all, how must she regard the fraud practiced upon her as she tries to feed and train the ungrateful goslings? Any self-respecting hen is justified in striking under such circumstances. Duck eggs are bad enough.

A very few years ago the stock growers were howling about the meat trust and wanted an official investigation because prices were so low. Now the stock grower is very quiet, while the consumer is roaring at the prices he must pay for his sirloin steak. The law of supply and demand in its silent and irresistible work never pleases all classes.

A friend of ours who has quite a large grove of matured red cedar trees derives a considerable income every spring by selling the little cedar trees which come up by the hundreds in his timber lot, the cedar seeds being carried there by the birds and finding under the shade of these deciduous trees just exactly the best conditions for germination and development.

The west had to take care of nearly a foot of water on the levee during the month of May. There was a general filling up of rivers, lakes, wells, cisterns, springs, swamps, such an all round soaking up as the territory covered has not experienced for years. As a timely agricultural topic, ditching and drainage have crowded that of conserving soil moisture to the rear.

A cyclonic storm in early May swept into its folds a host of migrating birds during the night, and they were blown hither and thither against buildings, wires and fences and were picked up by the hundred the next morning—grobesks, orioles, vireos, flycatchers, tanagers, wood thrushes and scores of other varieties. The keen bird instinct is not always equal to the perils which beset our little feathered friends.

If your dog seems out of sorts, take no chances with him. Shut him up at once or kill him.

The war of the weeds is on or should be. Ten young weeds are more easily killed than one old one.

The year 1857 was so wet all through the west that it came about that corn was worth \$1 per bushel and hay only \$1.50 per ton.

Grass is the greatest crop for years all through the west and northwest, and if all flesh is grass we ought to have cheaper meats before many months.

Crows are becoming a great nuisance in some parts of the west. A thousand of them were shot in one day recently by a party of 100 sportsmen in an Illinois county.

Largely because of the fatal barbed wire fence three horses have to be raised to secure one perfectly sound animal to supply the large markets. There is a great waste along this line.

The output of genuine olive oil from the California orchards is about 5,500 barrels, but before this product reaches the consumer the amount is largely increased by contamination with the cotton fields of the south.

The skim milk from the farm separator is conceded to be worth twice as much for food for the calves and the pigs as the milk from the creamery separator. This is a fact which is bound to grow in importance.

The American people can well afford to sit down on the glucose, oleomargarine and cottonseed oil type of progress, which, like the weeds in a corn field, threatens to destroy the unadulterated and genuine products of the country.

The last census shows that there has been a gain of 22 per cent in population and only a gain of 4 per cent in milk cows. With her steer calf no longer competing with her in the dairy business, it is evident that there is a great prospect ahead for old Bossy.

Nearly all counties in all northern states now have their farmers' mutual insurance companies. These organizations, almost without exception, give reliable insurance at actual cost and afford the very best sort of insurance available for the farmer.

The cauliflower is a difficult vegetable to grow with us. Of fifty planted we will only get a few good heads. Inferior seed and too much hot weather during the growing season seem to be the cause. One needs the moist, cool climate of England to produce this vegetable at its best.

The one fruit which most seldom disappoints the grower is the strawberry. It will do well on almost any soil if furnished enough moisture and fertilizer. If people generally would pay more attention to the strawberry and less to some of the other fruits which so often fail them, it would be well.

Japan would hardly look at American flour in 1888, using only 1,200 pounds all told, but last year she took over 50,000,000 pounds. Breechcloths and chopsticks have made way for pants, plug hats and baking powder biscuits, and more than any other people are the Japanese today adopting the American type of civilization.

The birds seem to have a way of limiting the size of the families which they rear. For instance, if six young robins were hatched in a nest before they were full fledged the nest would be too small to hold them, and the surplus, probably the weaker ones, would be tumbled out and the number limited to three or at most four birds which would make a fly of it.

The fertilizing of land by feeding off the crop grown where it was produced is but little practiced in this country and its value but little realized. In other lands, England particularly, the feeding off of the turnip, clover, vetch, trefoil and cinquefoil crops by sheep is a prime factor in maintaining the fertility of the fields so fed. The use of portable fencing makes the work of doing this easy, especially so with sheep and hogs.

A discouraging and disappointing fact is announced by the scientists. It is now asserted that the old stockyards smell, the pregnant odor of summer common to depot stockyards and feging yards which has usually been abated by boards of health on the ground of its being a menace to the public health, is in no sense unhealthful or a source of danger to the health of the community—just simply unpleasant, that's all. But, then, unpleasant things will sometimes irritate men and move them to action just as quickly as would dangerous things.

The best things always seem to have the most enemies. Here is the rose, for instance, which is beset with slugs, aphids, spiders, mildew and lots of other pests, while a burdock will grow un-cared for and immune from all enemies. Here is the apple, the nice sorts, borer, blight, codling moth and canker-worm and what not to fret its life out, while a wild crab will grow by the roadside untouched and fruitful. The beetles will clean out a Hubbard squash vine and let a pumpkin vine alone, and no bug that we ever knew would touch purslane, quack grass or cocklebur. There is evidently a sort of community of interest between the mean things of this world.

THE NEW WAY. A friend wishes us to explain why, if the methods used and prices charged by the so called beef trust are unfair and extortionate, the retail butchers do not resort to buy meat of the combine and instead buy and slaughter their own cattle, sheep and hogs and be independent. An answer to this question opens up the most pregnant and live issue in America today. In criticizing special results in special lines of business the average man is apt to overlook the fact of the radical and unpreventable change which is taking place in the foundation principles underlying our entire system of business and commerce. Little by little every manufacturer has come to realize the fact that there are wonderful economies connected with centralization and combination, and as the law which moves all business along those lines offering the least resistance is as irresistible in its operation as is the law of gravitation it comes that the methods of doing business are being revolutionized. The meat business is only one example, but in its operation well illustrates the revolution which is taking place. The facts are that the savings and economies connected with the killing and dressing of the meats of the country at two or three central points are so great that the small concern which would be rid of the evils now so loudly complained of finds itself handicapped at every point. When the fact is understood that the running expenses and profits of the big packing houses are provided for almost wholly from what is realized out of the offal of the animal slaughtered, and as the small concern is prevented in a score of ways from such utilization of byproducts, it is easy to see what an advantage the big houses have. Then the further fact that the animals killed by such concerns are inspected by government experts and the meat properly cured before being placed on the block, giving the consumer a better quality of meat, is a big argument in favor of the combine houses. If the present legal contention shall settle how much of the profits growing out of the economies of the centralized system of slaughtering and dressing the meats of the country belong to the retail butcher and the consumer, it will be more than we look for. The same question is seeking solution on the fuel, transportation, illumination problems—in fact, with nearly all manufacturing interests of whatever kind or name. Competition sought and found a remedy in co-operation, this co-operative effort breeds trusts and combines, the trust is easily tyrannical, and tyranny the American people will not endure, and there you have it all in a nutshell. "Quo Vadis?"

THE "WATER WITCH." Here is an inquiry as to the practical use of the "water witch" in the location of underground water supplies. We are aware that some extraordinary claims are made for this method of locating water; but, nevertheless, we believe the whole business is a harmless fake, the outgrowth of a latent element of superstition incident to an ancestry which burned witches, ducked scolding wives, regulated seedtime and the weaning of coits, calves and babies by the changes of the moon and which today prevents many from beginning a journey or an important piece of work on Friday and puts a ban on hotel room No. 13 or that number at a dinner party. The "water witch," like the weather prophet, will of course be right a part of the time, and, as with the prophet, the successful predictions are alone noted. Modern progress and development in all lines are distinctively marked by an entire absence of signs, superstitions, legends and all the mysteries which swarmed around the ignorance of the past. It is cool, exact, utterly unromantic and scientific, and the "witch of the water" will have to go with all the other witches, fairies and superstitions of a past age. As well give a beringed and dirty gypsy wench a quarter to tell your fortune.

JUST A COMMON BOY. Sixteen years ago there was just an ordinary common sort of boy attending the public schools of a town in a western state. He was only fairly good in his studies, undersized and no athlete and fond of mechanics. His parents were poor, and when he graduated he took up farmwork with his father for two years, in the meantime reading a good deal about mechanical and engineering lines. He then took a three years' course at the agricultural college of the state to fit himself as a mechanical engineer. While doing this he invented and patented a very valuable invention, and when he left college he had no trouble in commanding all the capital he needed to engage in the manufacture of his invention. Today at twenty-eight years of age he is at the head and manager of a manufacturing plant employing 100 men and will soon become a very rich man. This is no fairy story, but just a fact.

SHORTSIGHTED. The attempt to drain a tract of 15,000 acres of swamp land in a western state—and which was almost worthless and which when drained would bring \$60 per acre—met with the most bitter and senseless opposition from many of the landowners through whose farms the proposed ditch would have to pass. Fortunately the laws of the state were so framed that the rights of the owners of the swamp lands are fully protected, and the ditch will be dug in spite of the protests.

Slouch City Shopmen Strike. Slouch City, June 17.—Sixty machinists, boiler-makers and helpers in the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad shops in this city walked out yesterday because the company would not grant their demands for an increase of wages of 20 cents per day.

FIRE BOSSES STAY IN PITS

Efforts to Bring Them Out Not a Complete Success.

STRIKERS CLAIM HALF ARE IDLE

Teamsters Sympathize With Miners. Militia Will Be Withdrawn From Pawtucket When Tranquillity Is Restored—Cars Operated.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., June 17.—The sixth week of the anthracite coal miners' strike began yesterday without a ripple to disturb the calmness of the situation. Rain fell nearly all day, which helped to keep the more than 150,000 idle men and boys indoors. Several reports of assault on working men and Coal and Iron policemen were received here from different sections of the region, but no one was seriously injured. It was expected that Monday would witness the refusal of a large number of fire bosses and other mine bosses to go to work but the best information obtainable shows that the number of men who quit was not large. However, President Mitchell and other labor leaders claim that nearly half of the men who were at work on Saturday refused to go into the collieries Monday.

Casper Clark of Toledo, president of the International Team Drivers' association, came in for some attention by labor leaders. He submitted to an interview in which he said his organization would do all it could to help the striking miners.

MILITIA NOT WITHDRAWN.

Troops Will Remain Until Pawtucket Is Once More Orderly Town.

Pawtucket, R. I., June 17.—When, in the opinion of ten prominent citizens, including Mayor Fitzgerald and Chief of Police Rice, tranquillity has been restored in place of mob rule, the militia ordered here last Thursday by Governor Kimball in connection with the street car strike will be withdrawn. This conclusion was reached at a meeting between Governor Kimball and fifty business men yesterday. With the exception of three cases of stone-throwing, the day was quiet. Cars were operated on all local lines during the day, but were withdrawn at night.

Armed Strikers Marching.

Roanoke, Va., June 17.—Information was received from the coal fields that the armed marchers have disbanded and given up their arms. A number of miners who are returning from the coal fields reached here last night. They report a very serious state of affairs around Simmons creek and Goodwill mines, on the West Virginia side. They state that about 500 armed strikers were marching from that section toward North Fork to demand that the union men now at work quit. They also say the strikers have taken charge of the Goodwill and Simmons creek mines and have announced their determination not to allow the miners to resume.

Strikes May Delay Construction Work

St. Paul, June 17.—The strikes in Pennsylvania promise seriously to interfere with construction work on the Chicago Great Western railroad. President A. B. Steckey is authority for the statement that within ten days it may be necessary to call off the crews on the big Des Moines viaduct, owing to the inability to procure steel for the big work. The viaduct is the key to the new Omaha and Sioux City lines and no Great Western trains can enter either city until it is completed.

Injunction Cases Postponed.

Chicago, June 17.—There has been a postponement of the joint hearing before Judges Grosscup and Phillips of the federal injunction cases, in which several roads were restrained from granting rebates to favored shippers or secretly giving them lower rates. The hearing, on which depends the vacation of the restraining orders or their being made perpetual, is to be some time next fall.

Glove Workers Strike.

Chicago, June 17.—At a meeting of glove workers yesterday a wage scale for the eighteen glove factories in Chicago was adopted. It was also agreed to demand free power and immediate unionizing of all the plants. Should the manufacturers decline to accede a general strike, it is said, will follow. Six plants are already tied up, making idle more than 900 employees.

Illinois Democrats Meet.

Springfield, Ill., June 17.—Whether or not the Kansas City platform is to be reaffirmed and who will be the chairman of the next state central committee are the only causes of possible friction in the Democratic convention which meets today and it is not likely that either will bring about much of a fight.

Linemen Win Their Strike.

Chicago, June 17.—The strike of the telephone linemen against the Chicago Telephone company is ended and the 550 men on strike since Oct. 8 of last year will return to work today. Their wages will be increased, the union is recognized and no work will be done on holidays.

Slouch City Shopmen Strike. Slouch City, June 17.—Sixty machinists, boiler-makers and helpers in the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad shops in this city walked out yesterday because the company would not grant their demands for an increase of wages of 20 cents per day.

KIDNAPED CHILD RESTORED.

Woman in Black Who Kidnaped the Boy Is, However, Still a Mystery.

New York, June 17.—Abe Lowenstein, Jr., four years old, who was kidnaped from his home in Newark, on May 27, by a "woman in black," has been restored to his parents.

More than 5,000 persons, who thronged the streets leading to the police station, shouted themselves hoarse. Then the father, clasping the child in his arms, headed a great procession, which marched to the Lowenstein home.

Abe disappeared while viewing a circus parade in company with his brother. The latter said a young woman dressed in black had taken Abe in her arms and held him above the crowd to see the paraders. A few moments later the woman and child disappeared. No trace of the boy was found until a few days ago, when a lad answering his description was found in the streets of Paterson and sent to the almshouse. His identification ensued.

OPEN IDAHO RESERVATION.

Miners and Homeseekers Gather at Pocatello to Make Run for Land.

Pocatello, Ida., June 17.—The Fort Hall reservation will be opened to settlement at noon today. There are some 2,000 miners and homeseekers in Pocatello ready to make the run and probably as many more are at various points along the outer boundaries of the reservation. The Indian police have put several hundred "sooners" off the reservation, and some dozen who persisted in returning were taken to the agency at Ross Fork and locked up.

The race to the land office at Blackfoot, from twenty-five to forty miles from the land, will be exciting. A special train will run from McCammon, but a number of the prospective settlers purpose to make the race on horseback and expect to beat the train from McCammon to Blackfoot, a distance of forty-five miles.

Fire Panic at St. Louis.

St. Louis, June 17.—Terrorized by smoke and heat from the burning St. Louis riding academy and boarding stable, at Locust street and Channing avenue, 300 girls and 100 men employed in the Friedman Bros. shoe factory, just west of the stable, in panic sought egress by fire escape and elevator. Through the fall of the elevator and in crowding down the fire escape several persons were slightly injured. The fire completely gutted the stable and burned five valuable horses, causing a loss of \$50,000.

Storm in Georgia.

Columbus, Ga., June 17.—A terrific wind, rain and electric storm did considerable damage at Richland. J. M. Hurley, a prominent peach merchant, was instantly killed by lightning while standing under a shed. His wife was severely shocked. Five store buildings were unroofed and the stocks badly damaged. The new school dormitory, the negro academy, the Methodist church, the new Christian church and several residences were blown to the ground. The peach crop suffered greatly.

Wife Beater Killed.

Maryville, Mo., June 17.—George Arbuthnot, employed on John S. Biddy's cattle ranch in Atchison county, was shot and killed by Daniel Watson, foreman of the middle ranch. Arbuthnot had been beating his wife and ranch hands who interfered were driven away at the point of a revolver. Watson, on returning to the ranch, took the woman's part, and on Arbuthnot drawing a revolver, Watson emptied two barrels of a shotgun into him.

Train Plunges Into Ditch.

Barre, Vt., June 17.—In addition to property damage caused by a cloud-burst over this section late last night, five railroad men lost their lives by a freight train on the Central Vermont railroad running into a washout at Middlesex. The Winooski river rose to spring freshet heights and several bridges were washed away. The dead include the conductor, engineer and fireman and two brakemen.

Mother Kills Six Children.

Hazelhurst, Miss., June 17.—News has been received here of one of the most terrible tragedies ever enacted in this section of Mississippi, as a result of which the six children of Louis Westrop, a farmer living near Brandywine, were killed while their mother, who is charged with having killed them in a fit of temporary insanity, lies seriously wounded from a bullet fired by herself.

For the Release of Spalding.

Chicago, June 17.—Argument in support of the petition for the issuance of a habeas corpus writ for the release of Charles Warren Spalding, president of the defunct Globe Savings bank and defaulting treasurer of the University of Illinois, from the penitentiary, was begun before Judge Dunne yesterday. Attorney W. G. Anderson spoke for an hour urging that the writ be granted.

A. O. U. W. Elects Officers.

Portland, Ore., June 17.—The Grand Recorders' association of the Ancient Order of United Workmen elected the following officers for the ensuing year: President, C. T. Spencer, California; vice president, Francis Buellson, Minnesota; secretary-treasurer, H. W. Meyers, Missouri.

Populist Named for Congress.

Fort Scott, Kan., June 17.—In joint convention the Democrats and Populists of the Second district last night nominated Noah L. Bowman (Pop.) for congress.

DAY SET FOR FINAL VOTE

House to Dispose of Philippine Bill on June 26.

LONDON DOCK CHARGE BILL

Opposition Collapses and Senate Passes the Measure—Cullom and Kittredge Urge Panama Route for Isthmian Canal.

Washington, June 17.—The house yesterday transacted some miscellaneous business under suspension of the rules. It included the adoption of resolutions appropriating \$25,000 for the preparation of plans for a memorial in this city to Abraham Lincoln, \$50,000 toward the erection of a monument to the prison ship martyrs who died off Brooklyn as a result of the cruelties to which they were subjected by the British during the revolutionary war, and \$10,000 for the erection of a monument at Fredericksburg, Va., to the memory of General Hugh Mercer, who was killed during the revolutionary war. The resolution adopted yesterday was to carry out an authorization made for this purpose in 1777 by the continental congress.

A resolution providing for a final vote on the Philippine civil government bill on June 26 was adopted.

Two bills were passed to amend the general pension laws, one to provide for the restoration to the pension rolls of the widows of soldiers who subsequently married and were again widowed, and to increase the pension of those who have lost a limb or were totally disabled in the military or naval service. The latter bill also carried an important provision to increase the pension of a soldier under the dependent act of 1890 from \$12 to \$30 per month when such pensioner requires frequent attendance.

CULLOM URGES PANAMA ROUTE.

Kittredge Attacks Nicaragua Plan as Lacking in Definiteness.

Washington, June 17.—After a discussion extending over parts of several days, the senate yesterday passed what is popularly known as the London dock charges bill. The opposition to the measure practically collapsed and it was passed without division. Consideration then was continued of the isthmian canal project, Cullom (Ill.) and Kittredge (S. D.) delivering speeches in advocacy of the Panama route; the former based his argument principally on the report of the isthmian commission recommending that route, asserting that he was satisfied that a good title to the property could be obtained. Kittredge not only strongly favored the Panama route, but also attacked the Nicaragua plan as lacking in definiteness. He pointed out that Costa Rica was constitutionally unable to grant the necessary concessions to the United States and said if the Nicaragua route were selected it probably would be a long time before work could be begun, even if it ever could be.

Just before adjournment a spirited discussion was precipitated over a motion by Proctor (Vt.) to agree to a conference with the house on the army appropriation bill. Several weeks ago the senate was affected by a message from the house refusing to submit to conference certain senate amendments to the bill. The opposition to Proctor's motion was so vigorous that finally he was forced to withdraw it for the present.

BEEF SUGAR MEN ARE FIRM.

Nineteen Republican Senators Oppose Cuban Reciprocity.

Washington, June 17.—The beef sugar men who oppose Cuban reciprocity show no disposition to weaken. They held a conference last night and again pledged themselves to stand solidly against the senate bill. They say as a result of that conference that there are no fewer than nineteen Republican senators who will announce in the caucus, if one is held, that they will vote against the bill for a reduction of the tariff. There are some who are willing to vote for the house bill with the Morris amendment included, but others say they will do so if pressed to that extremity. They continue to strongly oppose the rebate proposition as a compromise, and they claim their compact is firmer than ever before.

Meets Death in Sioux River.

Sioux City, June 17.—W. W. Hawley, a widower aged forty-three, was drowned late last night while boating in the Sioux river within the city limits with his two sons aged sixteen and fifteen. The boat capsized and the boys were rescued.

Kodol Dyspepsia Cure

Digests what you eat. This preparation contains all of the digestants and digests all kinds of food. It gives instant relief and never fails to cure. It allows you to eat all the food you want. The most sensitive stomachs can take it. By its use many thousands of dyspeptics have been cured after everything else failed. It is unequalled for the stomach. Children with weak stomachs thrive on it.

Cures all stomach troubles. Prepared only by E. C. DeWitt & Co., Chicago. Each 41c. bottle contains 2 1/2 times the old size.