

NOLES MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt

The hen needs grit to succeed as well as man.

It's not the lazy hen that fills the egg basket.

Clean milking and milking clean are not exactly the same, but they are both essential to profitable dairying.

It is not so much overproduction which lowers prices sometimes as it is underdistribution.

An ounce of changed diet with the sheep is worth more than a pound of medicine.

Training has much to do with the making of the good dairy cow, and the training should begin back with the sire and the dam.

Sheep won't thrive on poor food and raise a good fleece any more than the farm horse can do a good day's work on half rations.

We speak of the poultry business. Business is it? Then it won't run itself any more than any other business. Attention is essential to success in any line.

Too much water in the soil is a serious handicap to many an orchard, and the trouble can be easily corrected by laying tile between each row of trees.

Many turkey growers retain the small, immature turkeys because unfit for market and then breed from them the next spring. This results in weakened stock, which is more liable to disease.

One farmer who has tried it and says it works cured a kicking cow by passing a small rope in front of the udder and tying it back of the hip joints. No harm to try it if you have a kicking cow.

The farmer ought to take an inventory every year just as the business man does. The winter time is the convenient season for this work. Find out where you stand. Let cold, hard fact tell you how you did last year. Don't guess at it.

An Ohio reader tells how he cleaned out a field badly infested with sasafra. His plan was to cut them off with a grubbing hoe at the top when the ground was frozen hard and then in the spring turned in the cattle, which finished up what was started.

Get a microscope and examine clover and other seeds you expect to sow next season. Know whether there is dodder and other noxious weed seeds in the mixture. A little study and practice makes one quite proficient in judging the quality of a lot of seed.

Method of feeding has much to do with the value of the feed itself. Skim milk if sprayed into steamed hay or straw or ground feed is worth as much as 25 cents per 100 pounds for feeding calves and hogs, but without such treatment it is not worth more than ten cents per 100 pounds.

Milking machines operated by electricity are to be installed by the Nebraska university dairy department, and if the experiment proves successful it is probable that many dairy farmers throughout the state will adopt the method. Interurban trolley wires will be the source of the electrical current for the work.

Blackhead in turkeys is simply liver trouble, and therefore a germ disease and contagious. The primary cause of the disease is said to be the overtaxing of the digestive organs with grain feed as a result of insect life being scarce, a diet which is essential to the keeping of turkeys in healthy condition.

The Percheron Horse society of France has offered to the Ohio Agricultural college a trophy which will probably be a bronze figure of a Percheron. This is to be competed for annually by the students taking instruction in horse judging at the university, the one showing the greatest proficiency to have his name inscribed on the base of trophy.

The eleventh annual poultry, pigeon and pet stock show will be held in Chicago January 23 to 30, 1907. It is under the management of the National Poultry and Breeders' association. Fred L. Kinnam, 325 Dearborn street, Chicago, is secretary, and all information in regard to exhibits, premiums, etc., can be secured from him.

W. A. Henry, dean of Wisconsin Agricultural college, reports two young men who are preachers as among the students in the college taking the short course. They came to the agricultural college because their pastorates are in rural districts and they desired to become well informed on agricultural subjects so as to be able to help their parishioners. This is an index of the growing interest in agriculture.

MENACE TO ALL

Giant Mail Order Concerns Are Sapping Country of Its Wealth.

SMALLER TOWNS CRUSHED

By Assailing in the Centralization of Wealth, Patrons of These Institutions Contribute to Their Own Injury.

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Every year millions upon millions of dollars find their way from the towns, villages and rural districts of the country to the coffers of the mail order houses in the cities, and go to the building of enormous institutions in the centers of population. Naturally, the sources from which the contributions are made suffer accordingly.

Figures ever tell a better story than words. Here are figures which tell a story so stupendous that its full significance cannot be grasped in a moment, but the mere sight of which are awe inspiring:

In the year 1905 two mail order houses, located in Chicago, did a business amounting in round numbers to \$30,000,000. In the year 1904 these same concerns did a business of about \$22,000,000, a gain of \$8,000,000 or nearly 30 per cent. in a single year being thus exhibited.

These figures represent the sale last year of one dollar's worth of merchandise for every man, woman and child in the country by two catalogue houses alone, and those operating from the same central point. Domains more of varying size and importance are operating all over the country from coast

to coast and from border to border. A fact not generally known is that hundreds of conogans throughout the country which now are doing business through the regular trade channels are awaiting only a parcel post law to unclose literature, already prepared in many instances, which would project them into the mail order field, and this does not take into account the hundreds and perhaps thousands of entirely new mail order concerns which inevitably would spring into existence under such friendly auspices.

The two Chicago institutions referred to, already occupying immense buildings, found themselves cramped for room. One of them expended not less than \$1,000,000, and probably more, for a new home. The other lately has secured a new location and also will expend at least \$1,000,000 for an immense new building.

Anyone who will reflect even casually on the subject must become impressed that the influence of the mail order business is toward the centralization of wealth, and how enormous a part it is playing in this direction will be understood from a second glance at the figures which have been given above.

It is due to himself that every patron of the mail order house should inquire honestly of himself what the final outcome is to be if the mail order business continues to make the great strides which have marked its progress during the last half decade.

It is useless to repeat the well worn argument of the mail order concern that they are selling goods enough more cheaply than the merchants in the regular channels of trade to leave their customers more money than ever to devote to home enterprises and institutions. The fallacy of this statement has been proved over and over again by actual and minute comparisons of goods, as to their quality and price. To refute it finally and indisputably by a simpler and more direct method it is necessary only to ask the reliable business men of any of the smaller communities to show the evidence from their books and accounts as to the loss of the mail order habit is doing their communities.

It is a truth as old as the hills and as certain as the rising and setting of the sun that no country or section of a country can prosper unless the people as a whole shall be prosperous. Such general prosperity as may exist cannot be retained if the institutions of the already larger and wealthier communities are to continue to be built up by contributions that should be spent at home from the thousands of smaller communities.

The need of the country, a desperate need upon which the welfare of the individual depends, is for the upbuilding and continued progress of the smaller communities, so that the wealth of the country may be distributed over the entire country, and not congested and controlled in large

amounts in a comparative few centers of population.

Therefore, the man who sends away from his own community money which he might have spent at home and prevented a fair profit to the home merchant to be retained there for the benefit of the community, is injuring his community, and thereby the prospects for his own future prosperity.

In a large number of instances he is doing more than this. Unwittingly, or unthinkingly, perhaps, he is violating his own principles of right and justice, for, at the expense of his own community, he is needlessly contributing profits to the capitalistic combinations which he continuously cries out are menacing the country.

The mail order giants direct their energies particularly toward the people of the smaller towns and the agricultural districts. In hundreds of thousands of the homes of these the catalogue of the mail order house is as regularly received as the home paper. The man on the farm last year sent a very large portion of eighty millions of dollars to two of these institutions, in one community, alone.

In all sincerity we ask: Admitting, purely for the sake of the argument, that the farmer or the resident of the small community can save a few dollars on some of his purchases, or even that he could do so on all of them, can he afford to continue to impoverish his own community, upon which his own prosperity, the very value of his land depends?

If he will ask himself this question and consider it soberly and fairly in all of its phases, including the many which cannot be touched upon within the limits of a single article, we think his answer must be that he cannot.

The wonderful productivity of this country has been sufficient to overcome the various adverse economic influences which have existed during the period of years in which the mail order business has accomplished its



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greatest growth. Everyone has been "getting along pretty well." While the increasing flow of golden millions from their source in the land of the country to the already great centers of money and population has held back the growth of the smaller communities, it has not yet occasioned a great disaster. The test will come with the first shock of "hard times," a condition which no country over has been able to escape at recurring intervals. When this time arrives those communities which have best conserved and husbanded their resources.

JOHN E. POTTS.

Historic Toy.

In Independence hall at Philadelphia there is preserved among notable revolutionary relics a quaint little doll dressed in the fashion of Louis XVI. Long before there was a United States this pretty Parisienne found her way over sea, carrying with her into William Penn's woodland a little of the folly and fashion of the old world, for she was not only a plaything, but the fashion plate of her time.

Can you picture to yourself the countless multitude of dolls that has followed in her way? In the last six months, for instance, Paris sent over to New York toys worth \$18,519,119, and over half of that sum was represented by dolls.

In recent years France has lost a little of her supremacy in the toy market. She can no longer compete with Germany in homey toys—the trifles that are sold for a song; but in playthings of a finer sort she still holds her own. Not without effort, however. The local authorities of Paris offer tempting rewards for the invention of new toys.—Vance Thompson, in *Everybody's*.

The Puzzle Solved.

Some time ago a merchant in Marblehead, Mass., was discovered in his store at a very late hour, and in replying to inquiries, he said: "My confidence is being misused. 'What is going on?' 'Why, I'm looking over the books, but they seem to be all right.' 'Have you counted your cash?' 'Yes; and it is correct to a dollar.' 'Looked over your bank book?' 'I have; and it is satisfactory. That's the puzzle, you see. He's slipped, and I can't make out what for.' 'Been home since noon?' 'No.' 'Perhaps he's eloped with your wife.' 'He hurried home, and found this to be the case.'

Wife—'Why do you always sit at the piano, David? You know you can't play a note!' David—'Neither can anyone else, while I am here!'

Shoveling Gold in a Siberian Mine.

The above picture was made at the Tretitz mines, which are the most important and richest of the whole district. Women are largely employed in the mine and on the surface works. It was curious to watch them hard at work shoveling up the rich ore as it came from the shaft as though it were so much coal or rubble," writes a correspondent. "Wages are ridiculously low as compared with what is paid in other mining camps I have visited—2 shillings a day for miners and general laborers, while women and boys get even less. Yet there is always an abundance of labor to be got at these rates. The Tretitz district is nothing more nor less than a huge gold-producing industrial center and presents a startling contrast to the dreary vista of endless forest or steppe one has to traverse to reach it. "The ore is crushed by what is known as Chilean mills." No convicts are employed in these mines.

FARM LAWS ATTRACTIVE.

INVESTORS PARTIAL TO AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY.

Life Insurance Companies and Banks Favorable to This Class of Securities—Few Mortgages Foreclosed.

Chicago.—The attractiveness of farm loans in the middle west is having a decided effect on Chicago capital, according to bankers and brokers. Considerable activity is manifesting itself in this direction, and many of the leading life insurance companies are acquiring first mortgages on farms in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Colorado, Minnesota, the Dakotas and the country adjacent.

The present holdings of the insurance companies considerably exceed \$300,000,000 in these securities. Farm mortgages in the country mentioned net five, five and one-half and six per cent. They are limited, as a rule, to

productive farms, and are made on a basis of 40 per cent. of the land value, closely appraised, and not including the value of improvements. Bankers point to the remarkably few foreclosures of farm mortgages in this section. The number scarcely exceeds one-tenth of one per cent.

As compared with other investments based on lands in cities, the bankers of the middle west favor the well-placed farm loans, which, they declare, contain every element of attractiveness. A farm loan is regarded as a quick asset, whereas the contrary was true not much more than a decade ago.

Many trust companies now include a separate department for the purchase and sale of farm loans. Chicago has a number of firms dealing in them, and it is estimated that close to \$15,000,000 in such securities is held by Chicago investors. A large increase in this class of investment is predicted.

Statistics show that the value of Missouri real estate, for example, is

increased from \$1,000,000,000 in 1900 to \$2,000,000,000 in 1905. (Ohio) real estate is estimated at \$200,000,000.

Missouri has \$200,000,000 invested in live stock, \$120,000,000 in farm improvements, \$50,000,000 in manufacturing machinery and \$20,000,000 in railroads.

Oklahoma is a land of homes. Out of 27,000 families in 1900, more than 60,000 owned their homes. The people are engaged chiefly in agriculture. The cash value of the farms is estimated at \$223,000,000. The 1906 crop crop amounted to 125,000,000 bushels, representing \$37,500,000. The cotton crop has a value of \$15,000,000. More than 27,000,000 bushels of wheat was harvested in 1906, and 23,000 tons of broom corn cut. Fruit of all kinds is raised in abundance.

Farm lands in Oklahoma range from \$10 to \$25 an acre, or an average of about \$20.

PREACHES BRAND NEW RELIGION

New Yorker Plans to Establish Comrade Kingdom on Earth.

New York.—John Augustus Wall has promulgated the newest of new religions. Mr. Wall formerly lived in Valley Stream, L. I. His new religion was launched at the Berkeley lyceum amid the applause of 100 enthusiasts.

To prove that his religion is really brand new Mr. Wall sent forth a circular calling the meeting in which the names of Jesus and Moses, Mohammed and Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln, Roosevelt and Emerson, Edwina Marchant and Elbert Hubbard, Ella Wheeler Wilcox and Darwin, Husley and Falco, Ingersoll and Bryan, Hughes, Hearst and Britahan are coupled. The circular reads in part:

"Do you believe in Moses, Jesus, Mohammed, et al. (as above stated)? Are you an atheist, infidel, moralist, spiritualist, Jew, Christian, or ethical culturist?"

"Are you living in a secluded furnished room, a palace, a tenement, or a brown stone residence?"

"Are you married, single, young or old, rich or poor?"

"Do you believe in the new thought, Christian Science, or just the old way that mother and father taught?"

Mr. Wall explained to his audience that the church is to be known as the National Church, and that through it he hopes to establish a comrade kingdom.

A branch of the church will be established in every assembly district. Among things the new prophet hopes to accomplish is the establishment of department stores, hotels, bowling alleys, laundries, insurance companies, and skating rinks in connection with each branch.

PRODUCTS OF THE MINES.

Country's Output for the Year 1905 Worth \$1,823,377,127.

Washington.—A most interesting chapter in the volume entitled "Mineral Resources of the United States, 1905," published by the United States geological survey, is that which contains a summary of the mineral production of the United States during that year.

In 1905, for the seventh time, the total value of the country's mineral production exceeded the enormous sum of \$1,000,000,000. The exact figures for 1905 are \$1,823,377,127, as compared with \$1,350,583,554 in 1904.

As heretofore, iron and coal are the most important mineral products. The value of the iron in 1905 was \$232,456,000; the value of the coal, \$476,754,943. The fuels increased from \$694,943,226 in 1904 to \$662,477,317 in 1905, a gain of \$18,455,901, or 2.67 per cent. Anthracite coal showed an increase in value of \$3,904,800 from \$128,974,020 in 1904 to \$131,177,900 in 1905. The increase in value of the bituminous coal output over 1904 was \$29,499,942, a combined increase in value of coal of \$32,384,842 in 1905, or 7.3 per cent.

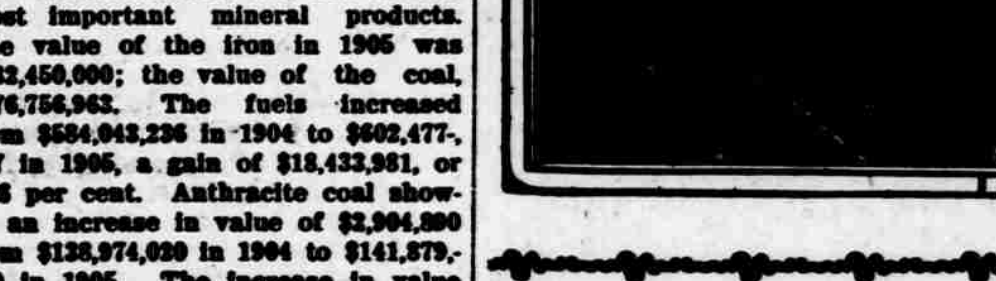
The gain of \$22,992,573 in the total value of the mineral production is due to gains in both metallic and non-metallic products, the metallic products showing an increase from \$61,606,950 in 1904, to \$702,453,108 in 1905, a gain of \$201,356,158, and the non-metallic products showing an increase from \$355,323,604 in 1904 to \$383,049,019 in 1905, a gain of \$27,725,415. To these products should be added unspecified products, including molybdenum, bismuth, tungsten and other mineral products, valued at \$409,900, making the total mineral production for 1905 of \$1,823,377,127.

Besides the usual table and summary of quantities and values of the country's mineral output by products, the volume contains this year, for the first time a summary, in tabulated form, of the value of the mineral products by states.

Sometimes.

It sometimes happens that the black sheep of the family turns out to be the whitest one of the bunch. This is always the case in books and dramas.

Harem of the Shah at Teheran.



Infant Death Rate Reduced.

Novel Scheme of an Englishman Lessens Mortality.

London.—Alderman Benjamin Broadbent, M. D., the retiring mayor of Huddersfield, England, has just announced the result of the two years' test of his novel scheme for the prevention of infant mortality in his native part of the borough—Longwood.

On taking office as chief magistrate, two years ago, Alderman Broadbent offered five dollars to the parents of each child born during the period of his mayoralty that reached the age of 12 months.

Instructions to mothers—some of which were suggested by the princess of Wales—were sent out, and the mothers were visited by voluntary women visitors, who reported progress.

The Huddersfield rate of infantile mortality had averaged 139 for ten years, and in Longwood itself the average for ten years was 122.

In Mayor Broadbent's two years 112 babies received the promissory note card for five dollars. Of that number

106 had actually received the gift, he had offered. Out of the five left four had died and one had been removed from the district and he did not know whether the child still lived or not.

If he counted only the four deaths the figures were 35 per 1,000, and if he counted the missing baby as dead the figures were 44. These figures compared very strikingly with the previous figures of 123 per 1,000 for Longwood and the average of 139 in the whole town of Huddersfield.

The experiment has reduced the death rate to much less than half. His own estimate of the result was that it was astounding. For exactly 12 months—from October 9, 1905, to October 9, 1906—not one of the babies on his list died under the age of one year. The babies belonged to all classes and there was no selection, some living in places hardly better than slums.

Very great general interest has been taken in Alderman Broadbent's experiment and inquiries, including one from President Roosevelt, have been received from municipalities all over the world.

Whist is Sinful Says a Champion.

Woman Steps Sermon to Renounce Game in Which She Excels.

Des Moines, Ia.—Before a congregation of nearly a thousand persons, and while the preacher was in the midst of his sermon, Mrs. A. B. Sims, a society woman and holder of the national woman's whist championship, arose in the University Church, Christ and denounced card playing as a sin.

Mrs. Sims is one of the most prominent women of the city. For many years she has been an active member of women's clubs which affect whist and other card games. Two years ago Mrs. Sims won the first prize for women in the whist tournament held at Cleveland. Last year at St. Louis she won the national woman's championship.

It is said that recent evangelized meetings held in the city are responsible for the change in Mrs. Sims' ideas. She attended all of these meetings, which lasted for three weeks, and since that time has come to the conclusion that all card games are wrong.

During the service Mrs. Sims impulsively stood up and renounced card games forever.

Her friends in the congregation, who knew of her pride in her whist triumphs, gasped in amazement. She had told no one of her intentions.

Gets a Million; Quits School.

New Haven, Conn.—Having inherited \$1,000,000, Mariette Grouse, 22 years of age, until recently a Yale student, has founded a corporation to publish a national magazine to be known as the Journal of American History. Grouse was studying mechanical engineering at the Sheffield Scientific school, but, becoming enthusiastic over his work as manager of the Yale Scientific Monthly, he decided to go into the publishing business.

Remember that care killed a cat, and the man who has no more than nine lives can't afford to worry.

NEW POST OFFICE FOR LONDON.

Will Be Finest Building of Kind in World When Completed.

London.—The plans for building a new post office in this city on the site of the ancient Christ hospital in the Strand have just been completed, and the building, which is to be one of the most magnificent in the metropolis, will be made of armored cement, not a brick or a single piece of stone entering in its composition.

The grounds to be utilized cover a surface of two and one-half acres, and the whole of the enterprise is in the direct charge of the treasury. Already workmen have started to excavate the grounds for the foundations, which will be laid at a depth of 30 feet, and which will probably be the cause of many engineering complications because below the level of the Thames river.

When finished the building will be the best specimen of cement construction in the world, over the chimneys, stairways, partitions and light walls having to be cast in monolith.