



HOW EXPERIENCE UPSETS TEACHINGS IN FARMING

(Written Specially for The Bulletin) We old farmers are apt to smile rather superciliously at what we call "book farming"...

While I can't quite agree with that doctrine in all that it implies as well as all it says, I own up to a good deal of sympathy with its defenders...

They usually think they do know these things rather better than a specialist stranger with a test tube and a roll of litmus paper...

For instance: Ever since I was "knee-high-to-grasshoppers" I've heard from one veteran after another that "quack grass won't grow on poor land"...

Well, it happens that right in the geographical middle of my garden was gravel bed. Some ancient stream had deposited it there untold ages ago, and the

subsequent slow erosion from the neighboring hills had not brought down silt and soil enough to bury it. It was just about leveled with the surrounding soil...

Well, when cultivating time came we invariably met some quack grass struggling to get a foot hold among these beans...

Two years ago this summer, the area had been in, as it had for the preceding twenty years. The next spring I was unable to plow it or get it plowed...

up several clumps; he dug around in the gravel in search of any trace of manure or fertilizer I might have superciliously applied...

The professors with their test tubes and their litmus paper may be often wrong. Verily—and so may we "practical farmers"...

Modesty in one's estimate of one's own wisdom is as desirable a virtue among farmers as among scientists. There are very, very few things even on this tiny globe we call the earth which we really know...

By all means, take the assertions of the professors with salt; with as big a flavoring of salt as you please. At the same time, don't forget that you and your experience are just about as likely to be mistaken as they and their theories...

Thus I get two blessings out of the quack which for many years I have fought with bitter enmity. First, it gives me a useful addition to my hay-mow; second it suggests a highly moral lesson not only for you but for me, too...

THE FARMER.

1,000 HENS AT STORRS LAY MORE IN 8TH WEEK

In the thirty-sixth week of the egg laying contest at Storrs the 1,000 hens seemed to take a new lease of life by producing 131 eggs more than last week...

The honors for the week go to the Leghorns and the Rocks with the majority of the honors going to the White Leghorns. A pen of White Leghorns owned by Elenorauch and DeWinter...

Woodliff Lake, N. J., both tied for second place with a total of 55 eggs each. A pen of White Leghorns entered by Geo. B. Ferris from Grand Rapids, Mich., was in third place with a yield of 54 eggs...

The four leading pens in each of the principal breeds are as follows:

- Plymouth Rocks: Harry G. Culver (Barred) West-hampton Beach, L. I., 1519; W. H. B. Kent (Barred), Cascoville, N. Y., 1439; Purdue University (Barred), Lafayette, Ind., 1378; Ontario Agricultural College (Barred) Guelph, Ont., 1373.

White Leghorns: Frank P. Matteson, Davidsville, R. I., 1573; Woodbridge Orchards, Woodbridge, Conn., 1573; Walter Bradbury, Tottington, England, 1442; Clemens J. Diemand, New Britain, Conn., 1584.

Rhode Island Reds: The Orchards, South Hadley, Mass., 1421; John W. Lohelle, Ballouville, Conn., 1341; F. H. Sampson, Springfield, Mass., 1314; F. C. Chapin, Longmeadow, Mass., 1306.

Hollywood Farm, Hollywood, Wash., 1448; J. Frank, Boscawen, Conn., 1423; Goshen Poultry Club, Goshen, Conn., 1416; L. E. Ingoldby, Coopersville, N. Y., 1255.

Given Surprise Party: A pleasant surprise party was tendered Miss Pearl Tatum of the Bermuda Isles Wednesday afternoon by Miss Agnes Kilroy at her home on School street. Games, music, and songs were enjoyed and refreshments served.

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Head Of Mexican Rebels



Francisco Leon de La Barra, who according to a manifesto issued by rebel Mexican leaders, has been named as provisional president.

When the haymakers came to do my haying for me, I showed them this patch, and they showed it. There can't be a half acre of it, all told, yet they draw from it a big two-horse load of dry hay...

Then another side of the matter showed up in my mind. Here was the poorest bit of soil in a hundred acres. And was the dictum of the accumulated farm wisdom of a hundred years that quack would not grow on poor soil...

Do you wonder that the strain on my orthodoxy was severe? That I began to feel a secret doubt as to the all-wisdom of even the "practical farmers" who surrounded me?

This summer another even ranker growth of quack overpreads that gravel-bed. It promised even a bigger yield of hay. I haven't seen anywhere in a radius of ten miles a carefully seeded meadow which shows any even or thicker or taller growth...

I'd really like to know the how and because of it; the why and the wherefore. But the most interesting experience of the season consists in taking one after another of the wise old farmers who neighbor me and who have spent years in teaching me that "quack-grass won't grow on poor soil"...

They've known that bit of land all their lives. They know quack-grass when they see it, too. Their comments are varied and usually characteristic. The most common one is, in effect, "I wouldn't have believed it if I hadn't seen it with my own eyes"...

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