HAIL TO THE FARMER

Wonder of the Age, Says Professor W. G. Johnson.

BILLIONS PRODUCED FROM THE SOIL

Crops of Two Years Worth More Than Yield of Gold In Four Hundred Years, Says American Agriculturist's Managing Editor—Claims Yankee Husbandman Is Real Dictator of World of Commerce.

Professor W. G. Johnson, managing editor of the American Agriculturist, who wrote the following article on the wonderful achievements of the American farmer for the New York Herald's annual financial review, says:

"Our American farmer is the wonder of the age. Wall street trembled when he announced the value of his products for 1905 at $6,415,000,000. Railroad officials shook because of their inability to hand to him a bill of lading in 1904, but when he asked for rolling stock to transport his crops at the close of the last harvest they were unable to speak. He requested cars for 2,708,000,000 bushels of corn, 740,000,000 bushels of wheat, 1,000,000,000 bushels of oats, 35,000,000 bushels of rye, 150,000,000 bushels of barley, 30,000,000 bushels of flaxseed, 250,000,000 bushels of potatoes, 28,000,000 barrels of apples, 3,000,000 bushels of onions, 910,000 bushels of cranberries, 650,000,000 pounds of rice, 280,000 tons beet sugar, 11,000,000 bales of cotton, 58,000,000 tons of hay, 42,000,000 pounds of broom corn and 156,000,000 pounds of tobacco.

"In addition the farmer asks for transportation of milk, butter and cheese from 17,570,000 cows, which products alone he estimates will be worth in 1906 more than $665,000,000. He values his cows at $482,000,000, to say nothing of the 43,700,000 other cattle, worth in round numbers $663,000,000. Just to make the figures even up, he says, add another $1,500,000,000 for horses and mules and cast your eye over 47,400,000 sheep and swine in the barns and fields. As the general freight agent starts away, scratching his head, the farmer says provision must be made for handling and shipping 1,800,000,000 dozen of eggs during the next twelve months.

"When he closed the year 1904 the American farmer announced the value of his products at $4,900,000,000. The general public was amazed at these unthinkable figures, but when he comes forth at the close of another season with an aggregate of over $1,500,000,000 more than the marvelous record of 1904 we wonder what sort of a man the farmer really is. All other classes of producers sink into insignificance when compared with him.

"All the gold mineral in the world in the last 400 years could not purchase the farm crops of the last two years.

"Farm crops for 1905 are worth more than the value of the manufactures of five years ago, not counting the materials used. They represent several times the gross earnings of all the railroads in the United States.

"An occupation that produces such bewildering figures is deserving of more than passing attention. A few years ago the man who tills the 6,000,000 farms in the United States was called a 'hayseed' or 'Rube.' Today he stands head and shoulders above his fellow coworkers in other vocations, but we never hear him speak disrespectfully of any one. He is the master of the situation. Wall street consults him and measures the successes of the year by the contents of the farmers' granaries.

"The man behind the plow has delivered his goods for 1905 and bids everybody a happy New Year. His granaries are bulging to overflowing, his cellars are packed and his larder is stored with the necessities of life. He asks alms from no man. He feeds the world, reserving first enough for himself and family. No one dare deny the fact that the prosperity and welfare of the United States are intimately associated with the wonderful achievements of the American farmer. He has pushed ahead, keeping pace with the times. In ten years, from 1890 to 1900, he increased the value of his products nearly 93 per cent, but the most marvelous advances have been made during the last five years.

"From products valued at $3,742,000,000 in 1899 he advanced to $4,480,000,000 in 1903 and $4,900,000,000 one year later. It is by no means admitted that these figures represent the full value of the farm products. Besides the value of his products the real estate values of the farms have increased over 33 per cent in five years.

"During the last few years the American farmer has accumulated larger sums of money than ever before. In many sections his deposits have been so generous that the rate of interest was forced down. Alert to these conditions, the farmer has now larger sums in permanent investment than ever before. He has shown his capacity as a financier; he is founding many rural banks, a movement of no unstable character.

"For the first time in the banking history of the south there are deposits in excess of $1,000,000,000. The man with one hand on the plow keeps the other on the combination of the vault containing his cash or securities. What the future has in store for the American farmer no man can tell, but one thing is sure—he never turns back. He goes straight ahead, and nothing can change his belief that his is not the best and safest of all vocations. He is no longer a tiller, but a supreme master of the soil.

"Farmhouses are connected with telephones as never before. Isolation is a thing of the past. Modern equipment and furnishings make his home the best in the world. His children are offered improved opportunities for education; the rural delivery brings to his door daily literature of the highest class; he is a ravenous reader. As his power to purchase increases his approaches the most comfortable and happy ideal American home.

"In the production of these immense crops the farmer faced peculiar conditions. His fields were not always covered with sunshine and his pathway was not strewn with roses. The early part of the season was beset with many adverse circumstances that tried the iron heart of the sturdy plowman. However, this extraordinary harvest was not so much due to meteorological conditions as to the skill, energy and scientific methods pursued by the farmers themselves. There is no place in the world where agricultural practices have reached so high a scale of development as in the United States.

"The American farmer has not been handicapped by the traditions of centuries as have the farmers of the old world. He has been steadily hoeing his own row. With the help of the government and state experts at the agricultural colleges and experiment stations and the dissemination of scientific knowledge and the exchange of practical experiences through the agricultural press the farmers have advanced more rapidly in technical, specific and practical knowledge than any other class. A generation ago a season no more favorable than that experienced in 1905, from a meteorological standpoint, would have resulted in only a moderate crop yield, far short of the present magnificent showing.

"Although nature was by no means in a generous mood the past season, our farmers have wrested from her results that would have been impossible, even under the most favored conditions, in the days of their sires or grandsires."

FOOTBALL AT CAPITAL.

Forty Acre Field In Potomac Park, Washington, Being Constructed.

President Roosevelt's interest in football is likely to work out a fine public improvement which may have a bearing on future army and navy games, says a Washington special to the New York Times. The dissatisfaction with the facilities of the last game at Princeton has accentuated the need of a large football field in Washington, and the idea urged on Colonel Bromwell by the president last fall of making such a field in the Potomac park is now being worked out. Where is now a wide expanse of water may some day be the amphitheater for the games between the West Pointers and the "middies" from Annapolis. A huge steam dredge is at work pouring sand into the space near the pretty park at the Washington approach to the new Pennsylvania railway bridge, and it is promised that by next fall the scheme will be completed.

The whole field contains forty acres, and it will be laid off and beautified, roads constructed and provision made for grand stands and all the needed conveniences for a large gathering of people. Sand, mud and gravel from the bottom of the Potomac is being pumped upon the low grounds through a long line of piping, and the water is then allowed to run off, leaving the solid material behind. Next spring these grounds will be laid off for football, baseball, tennis and other athletic games. The Pennsylvania railroad will build a fine local station near this part of the Potomac park. The place is already accessible by several electric railroads. It is an ideal spot for such a purpose, the view off over the Potomac and the hills of Arlington being one of noted beauty.

CARNEGIE'S EARLY MEMORIES

Steel King Yearns For Old Melon Patches Along the Ohio.

Andrew Carnegie has tender memories of the days of his boyhood, and his heart is yearning for the old melon patches along the Ohio, says a dispatch from East Liverpool, O. In a recent letter to George C. Simms of East Liverpool he says:

"I am delighted to hear from you that the library is a decided success and greatly appreciated.

"You are quite right. For several years my two week holiday each year was spent with my dear uncle, Squire Morris. Rowing on the Ohio and excursions to the melon patches on the other side of the river were chief sources of joy, as I remember, to me and my cousins and the boys who accompanied me.

"Passing through East Liverpool recently I was impressed with the great changes that have taken place, especially with the bridge across the river, and I think a second is contemplated. How the melon patches must suffer now—so easy of access. Wish I were a boy again among them."

Paris Exposition For 1916.

In spite of the fact that the last Paris exposition was not a financial success and the statement that there would not be another "show" for many years, it now appears, according to Le Figaro of Paris, that a parliamentary committee has quietly planned one for 1916. The committee has been directed to draw up another report on the subject. Under the old scheme of expositions originated in 1855 the next exposition should be held after an interval of eleven years, or in 1911.

Scarcity of Teachers.

Several schools in Nevada have been compelled to close because the trustees have found it impossible to secure teachers. Almost as soon as they arrive and take charge they resign and marry.

THE PARLIAMENTARY WHIP.

He Is an Important Official and Gets a Good Salary.

When private affairs or other matters make it impossible for our lawmakers to attend to their duties in house or senate a "pair" is made out with a member of the opposition and filed with the clerk. This acts to preserve the balance of the majority, since one vote from each side is taken away. The matter is entirely one of personal arrangement, and the clerk's only duty is to record the fact.

In parliament there is an official to prepare these pairs and to act as "whip" for his party, the place carrying with it a salary of $10,000 as patronage secretary.

The parliamentary whip is something more than an arranger of pairs, however, for his chief duty lies in seeing that all members of his party are present when there is likely to be a need of their vote, and for this purpose he sends out through his assistants notices in which the importance of the events to come is shown by the number of the underscored lines used.

A one line whip, wherein the subject of the debate and other information are underscored but once, is not regarded as being particularly pressing, but a two line whip commands attention, and a three line whip means that the recipient who absents himself is liable to find himself in disfavor with his party. Four lines are used only in announcing great events, and no one who receives the occasional five line whip would think of remaining away unless ill in bed.

In parliament pairing is a matter arranged by the whips of the opposing parties and not by those who seek to escape their duties. At times there are humorous mistakes made as each seeks to pair off some one who would in any event remain away. The most notable case was one wherein a man abed with a broken leg was paired with a member who had just died, each whip gloating over his cleverness until the facts came to light.

WINDS AND DRAFTS.

The Former Are Beneficial, but the Latter Are Dangerous.

By a draft is meant the currents of air in an inclosed space. Our forefathers attributed nearly all the evils that beset them to drafts, and they would not have slept in uncurtained beds for anything. Of course their windows and doors were shaky, and houses stood far apart, so drafts were nearly inevitable. But the modern scientific world tries to deny drafts altogether and calls them winds, which are harmless and even healthy to a certain degree.

Any one who cares to find out the difference between a wind and a draft can do so in any apartment which has windows on different sides of the house. Let him open a window on a windy day on the side of the house toward which the wind blows. The air which comes in is quite harmless if the person exposed to it be dressed in warm clothes, and little children may take the air in a room thus ventilated. But let him open a window past which the wind blows, and it will be found that the air in the room is moved by a number of currents, all of which strive to reach the opening. It is the passing wind which sucks up the air in the room and draws it out, and this causes the room to have what is called a draft.

The effect upon sensitive persons is immediately felt, like the forerunner of pain to come. A draft will always be felt as colder than the wind. Very dangerous drafts are those that are produced in railway cars by the rapid motion of the train. It is not wind that gets into the carriages, but the air of the car which is sucked out. A lighted match held to the chink of the window will prove this, as the flame will be drawn toward the window, not blown from it.

"The Bridge" Born of Sorrow.

"My poem entitled 'The Bridge,'" said Longfellow, "was written in sorrow, which made me feel for the loneliness of others. I was a widower at the time, and I used sometimes to go over the bridge to Boston evenings to meet friends and return near midnight by the same way. The way was silent, save here and there a belated footstep. The sea rose or fell among the wooden piers, and there was a great furnace on the Brighton hills whose red light was reflected by the waves. It was on such a late, solitary walk that the spirit of the poem came upon me. The bridge has been greatly altered, but the place of it is the same."

English Cookery.

French cookery came from Italy, but long before France attained any distinction English cooking was spoken of as the best in Europe. After the reign of Henry VIII. soups and fish fell into general disuse, and larger quantities of meat occupied their place. "In the reign of James II. cookery had fallen to its lowest depth. It revived a little in the reigns of Anne and George I., degenerated again in the reigns of George II. and III., until at last English cooking was little better than that of the ancient Britons."—London Telegraph.

He Wasn't Acrobatic.

Miss Prue Dent—Papa says you are improvident and that he will never consent to my marrying a man that is unable to make both ends meet. Orrville Harduppe—Well, I'm afraid I shall never be able to do so. I'm no contortionist. Good evening.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

The wise man is he who asks a great deal of advice and takes a very little of it.

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