

IDEA FOR FARMERS.

THE CO-OPERATIVE COLONY OF ROCKWELL, IOWA.

Nearly Six Hundred Farmers Combined Twelve Years Ago—Plain Business, with No Philosophy, Creed, Politics Nor Factions.

Co-operative living without community life; active practice in buying in the cheapest market and selling in the highest; without a common religion, common politics or daily association—all the elements that control "the new idea for farmers," as comprised in a model co-operative colony at Rockwell, Iowa. Here 600 farmers combined twelve years ago, eliminating all middlemen, starting out on the basis of



plain business, with no philosophy, creed, politics nor factions, and their scheme is described as a success.

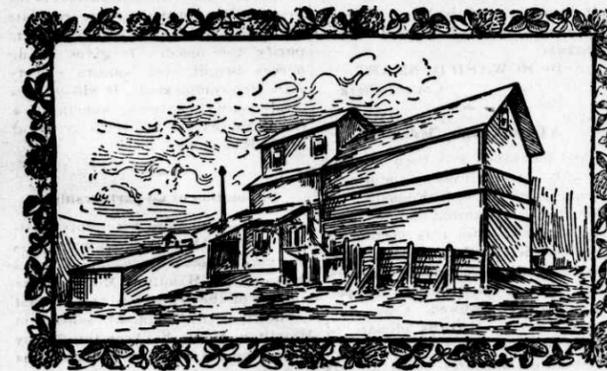
Rockwell is eleven miles south of Mason City, on the Iowa Central Railroad. Twelve years ago the community now centering there adopted a basic principle of co-operation not following "trust" lines. The association was not conducted for profit, but the cardinal doctrine of the society was this: The middleman is always an instrument of injustice toward the buyer and the seller. The character of the competition of the association with the private stores in Rockwell has been such that the population of the town



THE CO-OPERATIVE OFFICE.

has doubled since 1888, and the business last year aggregated nearly \$400,000. The association now controls two grain elevators, a lumber yard and a supply house of paint, oils, salt, fish and other commodities. How all this prosperity has been brought about is an interesting story. A strong sentiment that has been enunciated by an active member well covers the theme: "The only tie that binds us together is that of financial need. We have nothing else in common. Aside from financial need, each farmer in our association walks his own way."

Rockwell has a population of 1,000. A farming community of several thou-



THE ROCKWELL ELEVATOR.

sands surrounds it. The village was once Lynn Grove. The soil is fat and rich; corn is produced in abundance; also wheat, rye, oats and timothy. Hogs thrive in the region, as do beef cattle, and many fine horses are bred. The community is made up of Germans, Irish, some Americans, some Scotch, no Scandinavians. There is a school-house every two miles in the country, and weekly and daily newspapers are liberally taken. Works on communism, socialism, community life or social democracy are not found in the homes or the store places. Rockwell is practical, and common sense has made it so.

Twelve years ago the farmers in and about Rockwell decided to become merchants and grain dealers. At that time two brothers owned the main store of the town, charged what prices they liked, and had a practical monopoly on trade, such as exists in hundreds of country towns. The farmers protested against the rates current, but the merchants pointed to the long railroad

haul, to the capitalist jobbers of the big cities. A fight was started to battle the wrong use of money and power with the right use of money and power. The farmers of Rockwell incorporated under the title of the Farmers' Incorporated Co-operative Society. The limit on the capital stock was not less than \$1,000, and no more than \$25,000, the shares being \$10 each. No member was allowed to own more than ten shares, and had only one vote in the conduct of affairs. Only "practical farmers" were admitted. A business agent was appointed, and the start made to put in store such goods as were wanted. The manufacturing companies objected to allowing a community to buy at wholesale and sell at the same prices. The result was that the association turned farther away from home trade centers until they found concerns that would sell to them. Each farmer reports the amount of his sales on

honor, and pays a certain percentage that enables the liquidation of association expenses. When the company has a surplus of profits the same runs at a 6 per cent. interest rate. In 1889 the expenses of the society were \$6,007, of which \$2,002 was paid to the business agent and his clerks. In permanent improvements \$1,236 was invested. The same year the liabilities of the society amounted to \$10,677.55, and the assets to \$22,181, represented by lumber, grain and seeds, elevator property and cash. In 1897 the assets exceeded the liabilities by \$6,459. Nearly half a million bushels of grain were handled, the volume of business generally reaching up to nearly \$300,000.

To demonstrate how business may be done, it is stated that the association sees to it that the lowest shipping rates are secured, that grain is sold only when the highest rate can be obtained, and that the home elevator charges and facilities are made so as to favor members always. In the store a member buys a sack of flour, for instance. He gets it for 95 cents, or at a profit to the society of 2 1/2 cents. If a non-society member buys it, he pays \$1.05. Outside of Rockwell it would cost him \$1.25. The illustration shows the effect co-operation has on Rockwell prices. If the society price of corn is 31 cents, and track agents offer 33 cents, the member selling at the latter figure turns in one-quarter of a cent to the association for every bushel sold.

According to recent reports, Rockwell is handling more grain than any interior point in Iowa. The people are prosperous, the motto of the society is "Honesty among ourselves, small profits and large sales." Nothing can destroy the society but individual dishonesty. As to expansion of their trade, members do not believe in it. They have an elevator capacity amounting to 65,000 bushels, a lumber yard, a fine office and good storage sheds. Their advice to communities is to imitate, not join the original body.

Thomas Chappell and R. H. Dickson were among the original incorporators of the association. J. H. Brown is its present President, and Frank Campbell the business agent. No saloon exists in the town, churches are plentiful, law and order is visible everywhere. There is no philosophizing, no theories—it is all cold-blooded, practical business. The main officers and directors receive no salary, and the dividends paid are given out in stock. A clean-posted ledger shows what a few hard-headed farmers can do in the matter of selling their products for an honest price, and buying their supplies at the lowest figure. Rockwell is an interest point for any practical co-operator to visit and study. Twelve years of success, without extermination of competition, mark the history of the little village—a place of peace and real, not political nor legislative, prosperity.

The only thing original about the average joke is the sin of stealing it.

HUGE FLOATING DRY DOCK.

Large Enough to Accommodate a Warship of 18,000 Tons.

There is now being constructed at Sparrow Point, Md., what will be the largest floating dry-dock in the world. It is being built for use by the Navy Department, and when completed will be towed to Algiers, La., a voyage of 2,000 miles. It will then be placed in position at the naval station there for the use of all vessels in service in the Caribbean and Mexican waters. The dock is being built in conformity with a plan to strengthen all the Southern naval stations, and to provide there facilities for the handling of the largest vessels in the United States navy.

While the contract capacity of the new dry dock is 15,000 tons, the real capacity is really considerably larger than this. As now estimated, a vessel displacing 18,000 tons can be successfully floated and supported by the dock, though it is probable that no effort will be made to place any ship of such dimensions within it. The work is really gigantic and outclasses that done on the old Havana dry dock in use during the Spanish war. The Havana dry dock, by the way, has passed out of the hands of the United States Government, and now belongs to the Government of Vera Cruz, to which it was sold. The feat of traveling from New York to Havana, which at the time was thought to be a very notable one, has been duplicated by a second trip from Havana to Vera Cruz and the practicability of the floating dry dock again demonstrated.

The new dry dock is to be built at the cost of \$810,000, and will be complete in every detail. It will consist of five pontoons, three of which compose the bottom and the other two the sides of the dock. The extreme length of the dock is 240 feet, while the extreme width is 126.

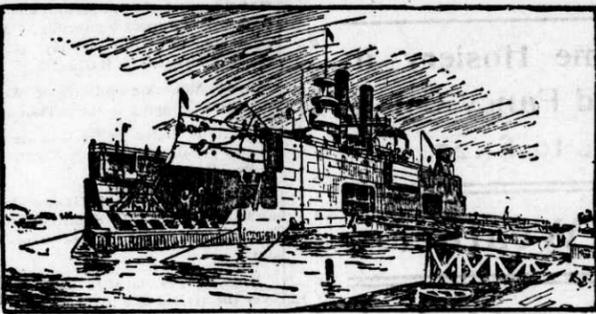
The dock is complete in itself, having its own engines, boilers and oper-

and this by looking only at his hair. They say that in Kentucky the hair is worn long behind, so long that it is caught over the ears, permitting the oft-repeated gesture of smoothing it with the fingers as the wearer talks to you. The ends are cut square, and the fashion requires a certain amount of pomade to keep it in place. This gloss is imperative. In Indiana, they claim, it is worn equally as long, but with the ends curled in about the neck almost touching the collar. Further West, across the Rockies, and in the southwest, especially in Texas—where barbers are scarce, or were scarce when the fashion was set—the hair is worn cowboy fashion, loose over the shoulders, the untrimmed ends flying in the winds. In the Eastern States, however, and along the whole Eastern border of the country, except in North Carolina where among the corncrackers it grows wild, the hair is cropped short, especially behind, where it is shingled evenly from the top of the head to the neck.

Hotel clerks add to this knowledge of the hair one of the wearer's shoes. It makes all the difference in the world whether they are square, pointed or round. Each fashion proclaims a district of its own. Patent leather shoes with extremely pointed toes belong to the South; while people from the North and West wear square toes and heavy shoes. These fashions, however, are due more to climatic conditions than to local tastes.—Harper's Bazar.

Population of British India.

The population of British India—that is, of the territories under direct British Government—was 198,860,000 in 1881, and had increased to 221,172,952 when the last census was taken in 1891. The population of the states which are governed by native rulers under the eye of the British representatives increased in those ten years from 54,032,908 to 66,050,470. The figures for 1891 show that of the total population 146,727,296 were males and



MAMMOTH DRYDOCK FOR THE NAVY.

ating machinery and complete quarters for its crew. It can be towed anywhere, is a salable property, and is altogether one of the most desirable acquisitions that have been made to the United States navy since the upbuilding of that navy began.

The arrangement by which the dock is operated is very ingenious. Each pontoon is fitted with forty water-tight compartments, with a drain pipe leading into them. These individual drain pipes then feed into a large drain pipe in either side. All these pipes are connected with pumps, which are operated by central engines at either side. When desired these engines can be made to run independently of each other upon separate compartments, or they can be made to individually operate them all. By this device all possibility of a general breakdown is almost removed, since in event of accident to one set of machines the other can be set in motion to do the entire work of the vessel.

When it is proposed to float a vessel the valves in the various compartments are opened. The dock, which floats at the draught of four feet, is then lowered with the onrush of water into the various compartments until it reaches the desired depth. By simply closing the valves the depth can be readily controlled, while if desired a vessel of thirty feet draught can be taken in.

The vessel is then floated in and carefully centered over the keel blocks on which it is expected to rest. The pumps are then started and slowly as the water is drawn out of the various compartments and discharged through the drain pipes the dock rises, lifting its great burden out of the water. As the vessel rises it is secured in its position until it finally reaches a height of four feet above water, permitting every part of it to be reached by the repair mechanics without difficulty.

One of the greatest advantages afforded by the new arrangement, however, is the ability to dock the dry dock itself by a simple device. This is accomplished by having the pontoons detachable so that one at a time each one can be raised out of the water and repaired. This is accomplished in this way: If it is desired to dock the middle pontoon the fastenings connecting it with the other pontoons are removed and it is allowed to float loosely. Water is then admitted to the end pontoons and side walls, and the middle pontoon floats up until a set of lugs on its bottom corresponds to the upper connecting lugs on the side walls. This brings the middle pontoon entirely out of water. The middle pontoon in turn has sufficient capacity to dock both end pontoons at once, and one of the side walls can be tilted out of water by filling the other one. By these various means the entire water surface of the dock is made accessible for repairs.

HAIR TELLS OF NATIVITY.

Results of Observation by Hotel Clerks and Commercial Travelers.

Commercial travelers, and no men it is said are better judges of character, claim that they can always tell to what part of the country a man belongs,

only 140,496,135 were females. British India covers 964,903 square miles and the Native States 595,167; but in the former the average number of persons living on every square mile is 229 and in the Native States it is only 111. The highest average is 471 per square mile in Bengal, and the next is 436 in the northwest provinces and Oude; while the lowest average in British India is 35 in Upper Burma—the native state of Cashmere falling still lower, to 31 per square mile. England had in the same year 540 people to the square mile, and Scotland 134.

Japanese Imitation.

The Japanese are almost universally condemned by writers for the imitation practiced by them of late years of Western literature, art, science and invention. And yet this imitation seems natural and right. Imagine, if possible, the nation of Japan leaping across the civilization of hundreds of years in half a century. Think of her emerging from the darkness of the middle ages and standing suddenly forth in the light of the nineteenth century. Would it not have been worse than madness for her to have said, "This new civilization is better than ours, yet we will not imitate it. We will retain our originality, and perhaps in ages to come we shall reach the enlightened state now enjoyed by the rest of the world."

But fortunately the Japanese did not say this, but gave themselves up to the acquisition of the wonderful stores of knowledge opened to them.—Lippincott's.

A Dry Niagara.

A few miles southeast of Syracuse, N. Y., in a cavity whose bottom is 220 feet below the surface of the adjacent upland, lies Jamesville lake, a body of water 500 feet in diameter and sixty feet in depth. Eastward from the lake extends a gorge through which flows Butternut creek. Professor Quereau of Syracuse says that in former times a river flowed here and that Jamesville lake is the pool that was formed under a great waterfall. Steep cliffs rise around it on three sides, and "all the features of a dry Niagara are here disclosed in great detail."

Harmonious Bicycle.

The latest thing "made in Germany" is a "harmonious bicycle." This terrible invention is constructed to grind out 500 tunes, and has been given the name of "Il Trovatore." The contrivance is fixed to the handle bar, is worked by the front wheel, and will play for an hour while the cyclist is pedaling at a speed of ten miles.

Hog that Weighs 1,524 Pounds.

T. M. Williams of Decatur, Ala., is said to own the largest hog in the world. It weighs 1,524 pounds, is 10 feet 2 inches in length and 4 1/2 feet high.

Spanish Bullfights.

The average number of horses killed in Spanish bull fights every year exceeds 5,000, while from 1,000 to 1,300 bulls are sacrificed.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS.

THIS IS THEIR DEPARTMENT OF THE PAPER.

Quaint Sayings and Cuts Doing of the Little Folks Everywhere, Gathered and Printed Here for All Other Little Ones to Read.

In St. Nicholas Governor Roosevelt of New York tells "What We Can Expect of the American Boy." Of course, he says, what we have a right to expect of the American boy is that he shall turn out to be a good American man. Now, the chances are strong that he won't be much of a man unless he is a good deal of a boy. He must not be a coward, or a weakling, a bully, a shirk, or a prig. He must work hard and play hard. He must be clean-minded and clean-lived, and able to hold his own under all circumstances and against all comers. It is only on these conditions that he will grow into the kind of American man of whom America can be really proud.

There are always in life countless tendencies for good and for evil, and each succeeding generation sees some of these tendencies strengthened and some weakened; nor is it by any means always, alas! that the tendencies for evil are weakened, and those for good strengthened. But during the last few decades there certainly have been some notable changes for good in boy life. The great growth in the love of athletic sports, for instance, while fraught with danger if it becomes one-sided and unhealthy, has beyond all question had an excellent effect in in-reared manliness. Forty or fifty years ago the writer on American morals was sure to deplore the effeminacy and luxury of young Americans who were born of rich parents. The boy who was well off then, especially in the big Eastern cities, lived too luxuriously, took to billiards as his chief innocent recreation, and felt small shame in his inability to take part in rough pastimes and field sports. Nowadays, whatever other faults the son of rich parents may tend to develop, he is at least forced by the opinion of all his associates of his own age to bear himself well in manly exercise, and to develop his body—and therefore, to a certain extent, his character—in the rough sports which call for pluck, endurance, and physical address.

The Little Boy's Lament.

Oh! why must I always be washed so clean
And scrubbed and drenched for Sunday,
When you know, very well, for you've always seen,
That I'm dirty again on Monday?

My eyes are filled with the lathery soap,
Which adorns my ears is dripping;
And my smarting eyes I can scarcely ope,
And my lips the suds are sipping.

It's down my neck and up my nose,
And to choke me you seem to be trying;
That I'll shut my mouth you need not suppose,
For how can I keep from crying?

You rub as hard as ever you can,
And your hands are hard, to my sorrow;
No woman shall wash me when I'm a man,
And I wish I was one to-morrow.



The Shortest Month.

Did you know that the month of September, in the calendars of English-speaking people, one year had only nineteen days? It was made by the change from the old style to the new style in reckoning time. Pope Gregory, you know, dropped ten days from the calendar in 1582 to make civil time and solar time agree, and further ordained that the closing year of a century, instead of being always a leap-year, as in the Julian calendar, should be so only when the number of the year was divisible by 400.

Now, England did not adopt the Gregorian calendar until 1752, and by that time there was a difference of eleven days, instead of ten, between that calendar and the Julian, the eleventh day having been dropped in the year 1700, which was not a leap-year under the new rule. The English almanacs for 1752, therefore, gave September nineteen days instead of thirty, thus making their time accord with the Gregorian.

Some Old Birds.

An observer mentions the instance of a raven that has lived 69 years; a pair of eagle owls, one of which is 67 and the other 53 years; a Bateleur eagle and a condor, in the Zoological Gardens at Amsterdam, aged 55 and 52; an imperial eagle of the age of 56, a golden eagle of 46 and a sea eagle of 42, and many birds of the age of 40 downward are also recorded.

Pigeons Form Telegraph Service.

There are several small islands on the Pacific Ocean that belong to England. A vessel was wrecked during a storm on one of these islands, and it

was necessary to get word to Auckland. Carrier pigeons were used. They carried the messages and brought return messages. This success led to the buying of a large flock of carrier pigeons, which were trained for the work on these islands. Each bird can carry four messages, each written on paper of a certain quality and size. When four messages are ready a bird is sent off. Each message costs either 12 or 25 cents. These pigeons are private property.

No Food or Water.

Eight hundred people live on one of the West India Islands, where there is no water nor food, nor towns nor villages. Anguilla is the name of the island, and the Government has to send food to the inhabitants every year to keep them from starving. The only water they have is tainted by the sea and not fit to drink.

Sacred Banyan Trees.

Among the numerous things considered sacred in India is the banyan tree, one of the fig genus, remarkable for its vast rooting branches. The horizontal branches send down shoots which take root when they reach the ground and enlarge into trunks, which, in their turn, send out branches.

Windows of Paper.

A kind of paper is made from seaweed which is so transparent that it may be used instead of glass for windows.

The Basque.

The difference between Basques and other Spaniards is striking, not only physically but mentally. The Basques are clean, quiet and business-like, not profuse in their speech, and they stick to a promise when this is once given. Other Spaniards think them morose, as they are people of few words, rather peevish when contradicted unnecessarily and only for talking's sake, and they will stand no nonsense. Whilst it is the universal custom in the surrounding Spanish provinces for every peasant, be it man, woman or child, to greet you with a polite phrase, the Basques pass by without any salutation. Instead of profuse recognition when meeting a former employer, and then, after typical Spanish fashion, inquiring after his own health and that of every member of his family, the Basques pass by without a word, the former business is over, but he has no objection to enter into a new contract. Whenever there is in a typical Spanish town an inn or hotel run by a Basque, that house is the one to make for; not only is it cleaner and more orderly, but ten to one the landlord will not mind going out of his way to help his guest.—Dr. Gadow, in Northern Spain.

Sentenced to Death Three Times.

A famous criminal in Denmark has had the unique experience of being sentenced to death three separate times. Such is the lenity of Danish law, or, rather, the indisposition of the ruling powers to proceed to extreme measures, that this notorious person, before he was tried for the third time on the capital charge, had already been reprieved twice and relegated to prison for a long term. It was in prison that he committed his third offense in murdering one of his jailers. He began his long career of crime at the age of 8, by setting fire to a farm house. In October, 1894, a criminal in Germany was found guilty of the murder of two women and attempts to murder others. Under the German law sentence is passed for each crime, and the prisoner in this case was consequently twice condemned to death on the capital offenses, and for the murderous assaults to fifteen years' penal servitude.

Crystal Island.

Crystal Island is one of the small isles of which such a large number are dotted about in the Pacific ocean. It received its name on account of its being one mass of beautiful crystallized carbonate of lime. One of the most remarkable features of the Pacific ocean, and one that distinguishes it from every other, is the vast assemblage of small islands with which, on the map, it appears to be crowded, particularly in the portion situated between the tropics. These islands are of three distinct forms—the coral, the crystal and the volcanic. Of these, the first formation greatly predominates, but the largest islands are of the last description. Of the crystal formation, Crystal Island is one of the few specimens known.

Barnabee's Unexpected Hit.

H. C. Barnabee of the Bostonians tells a story about a baby which made the hit of the evening at a certain performance of "Patience" in which he took part. "There was a young couple up in the gallery," he says, "and they had the baby contingent along. My thunderous tones repeating my lines, 'Where the dust of an earthy to-day is the earth of a dusty to-morrow,' awakened the baby and it began to cry loud and long. Then came my lines, 'It's a little thing of my own.' I made the most of them and the house caught on and yelled itself hoarse."

The Reason.

The reason why the unexpected happens so frequently is because people do not expect what they should.—Somerville Journal.

When She Cries.

We will have reached the heights of realism in literature when writers honestly describe the way the heroine looks when she cries.

Only a strong-minded man can read the persuasive advertisement of a patent medicine without being convinced that he needs a bottle of it.

Shoddy society is made of the social dregs thrown up by the waves of commercial convulsions.