

THE REVIEW'S SPECIAL FARM NEWS DEPARTMENT

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Editor

Live News About Crawford County Farms and Farmers

HE REMEMBERS SOME THINGS

The other day we wanted a little picnic—just for our health, at the ranch on the Ridge, and we prepared for it by buying a piece of bacon for which we paid \$2.25. And that reminded us about twenty-seven years ago next November we bought two pigs or shoats of the late Jerry Donovan for \$2.25. After Jerry had received his pay he pointed to a little one that he called a runt and said, "If you want that one, take him along too." So we had three pigs and they cost us two hundred and twenty-five cents. This reminded Farmer John Leary of a still better one: He said, "Last week I sold a half a load of corn for \$55.20. One time, about a quarter of a century ago I sold 300 bushels of corn in Waverly for \$45."

We can tell as good one. When a boy in the year 1876 we farmed in Adair county, Iowa. We worked like a nigger and raised fifty acres of corn. We spent the winter hauling off that corn to Creston, eighteen miles distant, and got the big sum of 10 to 12 cents for it. We could not afford to hire a corn sheller so had to haul it in the car with snow drifted roads and mud at other times; 25 to 30 bushels made a big load. Three dollars was about what our load of corn would bring. Sometimes we made a little extra. There was a store in Nevilleville, an inland village, and we got a job hauling goods for seven cents per hundred and took it in trade. The haul was fourteen miles, but oftentimes we had more than enough hauling back to pay for a sack of flour. This best raising and hauling corn to buy it. We sold hogs those times for \$2.10 per hundred. When hogs touched three cents every fellow thought that he would get rich right off. Another thing is that we paid six dollars per ton for coal and instead of burning coal a great many burned corn. Some did even better than this. A few miles west on the Nodaway river there was a considerable belt of timber. Some of this belonged to speculators and it was amazing how quick the timber disappeared from such land. We never used any fuel in this way, but we did buy timber on the ground and cut it off ourselves. This made much cheaper fuel than coal at the price it was then. Of course a fellow would not starve to death raising corn and hogs and cattle but he had to live without any of the things that one thinks that they have. We never had any bread and butter and meat, but no nicknacks for sugar did not enter but little into most households of the farmers in those days.—Paolo Alto Reporter.

No doubt many of our readers who have passed the farm of W. Prater, along the Lincoln highway about one quarter of a mile west of West Side, have admired those fine large buildings on the same. There are only forty acres in this farm, but Mr. Prater has sixty acres a little farther away. The residence was built two years ago. It is 35x28, but owing to its location looks larger. It would attract attention in most any city. It is modern throughout and one of the best looking farm homes in the county. An up to date hog house 24x40 was also built two years ago. A barn has been in the making for some time and is not yet completed. It is the type of barn I expect to see built in the county in the future. It houses under one roof most of the live stock on the farm and also contains room for hay and grain. In the basement horse and cow barn will be the latest improvements such as litter carrier and feed carrier. It has cement floor and a cement feeding trough which runs along in front of the two rows of stalls. There is room for eighteen head of cows. A partition and sliding doors will separate the cow from the horse barn. There are two large double stalls for the horses and a small room for the cream separator and power room. No doubt a milking machine will be installed a little later. The cream is now shipped to the Denison candy kitchen. On the front of the barn is a silo 12x30. A pit eight feet deep, was also included in the silo. The bottom of the same is on the level with the floor of the basement barn and an opening at the bottom of the same, connected with the barn, makes it easy to get the ensilage into the barn. On the second floor are the grain bins and hay mow. The mow also extends over the grain bins. The King system of ventilation has been used. This draws the foul air from the stables in the basement up to and through the four cupolas in the roof. The barn has a gable roof and the building is very pleasant to look upon. It is 36x50. It is certainly a sizeable barn for so small a farm. There is a gravel pit on the farm which has enabled Mr. Prater to procure this material much cheaper than most farmers have to pay for the same. All of the concrete work on the farm, and there is much of it, has been done by Mr. Prater and his boys. Speaking of the boys, Clarence, is a hog fancier. He has started in the raising of pure bred Durocs. He has five brood sows and a lot of spring stock that are looking very good. The brood sows would do credit to many a herd belonging to men who have been breeding them for years. Another boy, Leslie, is a "chicken crank." He has a flock of Brown Leghorns that would be hard to fault. A modern chicken house, 20x24, was built last year and the foundation has been completed for another, 12x16. I almost forgot to mention that a garage was also built this year. It is 16x24.

I had a nice little chat with R. T. White on the farm two miles west of

West Side. He is feeding sixty head of cattle and also has 150 head of spring pigs. He has been raising high grade Chester Whites for some time and recently purchased a registered male from a Buena Vista county breeder. He, too, has more soft corn than he likes, but is sorting it. The soft corn is run through an ensilage cutter and fed to his cattle. I believe he will find this a profitable way to use the soft corn. I know a man who did this two years ago and he told me he got good results. He is a big feeder and had two silos on his farm, but he erected a temporary silo, built of 2x6 lumber, in which this soft corn was stored. If you want more information from the gentleman, his name is Mr. J. B. Frances, and his address is Storm Lake, Iowa. He owns 400 acres of Buena Vista soil and feeds several cars of stock yearly. Recently Wallace's Farmer sent a man to interview Mr. Frances and among other things the interview which appeared in that farm journal said: "The silo proved so effective—he has two, each 200 bushels of ordinary field corn, that one year he bought a silo exclusively for soft corn. It was the year when soft corn was so plentiful and when it was almost impossible to get sound corn at a fair price. He bought a small sized silo, erected it temporarily and announced himself as being in the market for soft corn. Neighbor brought in a load of soft corn which they could not keep—load after load. Whenever a load came in, he cranked the gas engine and started a cutter, which delivered the corn into the silo. About a barrel of water was added to each load of corn. In this way Mr. Frances utilized for winter feeding silo 2,000 bushels of neighborhood soft corn. The soft ear corn silage was fed with judgment as grain, and it kept finely until June, at which time it was all fed out. It did not produce the same gain as sound corn would have produced, but it met the emergency in an efficient way, and convinced Mr. Frances that the silo is the logical destination for a soft corn crop."

Adolph Eggert, of Denison, has been out on the farm assisting his son, Wm., during corn picking time. When I called last week Friday he had a large cottonwood tree on the ground and was trying to chop it into fire wood by the assistance of an ax and about a dozen wedges. He threatened to haul the remainder of the tree away and drop it in the creek when I told him I was not looking. If you have ever tried to chop a cottonwood, about two feet in diameter, you will not blame him if he does it. Mr. Eggert enjoys these trips out in the country. It is sort of a recreation for him to get out on the old farm, don overalls and do the work he knew how to do in the days of long ago. There is a great fascination to farm work and we believe it would be beneficial to all of the retired farmers if they would occasionally go to the farm for a few days now and then, if they do not work too hard. It is the same with the retired newspaper men, they like to visit the printing press occasionally for a few minutes to smell the ink and see if the old office towel is still standing in the corner.

Ida Grove Pioneer: A committee from the Ida County Bankers Improvement association appeared this week before the county supervisors and obtained permission to use a room at the court house as an office for a county agent under the Federal Farm Emergency act. Further action on the matter will be taken at a meeting of the bankers at Arthur Thursday of this week. Under the new law, the government will pay a county agent's salary to the amount of \$2,500, provided a county organization is formed and local expenses guaranteed.

There are those who argue that the soft corn, of which there is considerable in this county, is really a blessing for it will force the feeding of more live stock. There would have been the strongest temptation to ship out the corn this winter if it had been of good grade on account of the high prices and the chances the farmer takes who feeds live stock, but if the corn will not grade, there is every likelihood that it will be fed. Already several farmers who did not intend to feed have shipped in live stock for this purpose.

John Nickelson, the manager of the Shotwell Manufacturing company, at Ida Grove, has investigated the condition of the crop of pop corn around that vicinity and states he didn't find one crib of good sound pop corn that was examined; he also states that a pop corn concern at Sioux City had bought a bunch of pop corn around Schaller for \$2.25 and when the first few loads were delivered they refused to accept any more and made a settlement of \$1.40 for the pop corn already brought to town.

Carroll Herald: One farmer in Pleasant Valley township has met the problem of labor here for husking corn. He has employed two of his neighbor's girls who are working in the field, with good results. The girls are cribbing nearly as much corn per day as the average man, and are not getting as much pay as men are asking. He says why a girl should not get as much as we are not going to argue.

The barn on the farm of Wm. Gottsch, two and a half miles west of West Side, was blown down by a wind storm that visited that section last summer. He is now rebuilding. A horse barn, 40x52, and a cattle barn, 32x52, are being built.

When I called at the farm home, the

farmer's wife came out to the car to greet me, and I was invited to "come right into the house," and was given the most comfortable chair in the home. Little Willie was sent to the corn field to announce my coming to the father, for the good wife said, "I know you must be very tired, walking around through the corn fields, climbing fences and walking over the fall plowing, looking for the farmers, so you may gather farm news for the thousands of readers of your newspaper." I assured the lady that it was only a pleasure, not work, to exhale the odors of the open country and travel over this wonderful, beautiful and incalculably interesting earth. Time passed swiftly and soon the good natured farmer's face appeared at the door. After the usual greetings he informed me that he had prepared for my coming by making out a list of recent building improvements made and others to be made, also interesting information about his crops and live stock. He said both he and his wife were interested in my department, in fact it was the first read in the newspaper each week. Thought the Review was the best county newspaper in the state of Iowa, and wanted to pay another year's subscription in advance. The farmer's wife then announced that she had prepared a lunch for "father" and "Gray" and would I come right along with "father" and make myself at home? After a hasty glance at the delicious lunch I was about to be seated at the table when the six o'clock whistle blew. Oh pshaw, why don't dreams come true?

Food Administrator Hoover is reported from Washington to have under consideration plans for setting aside Thanksgiving day as a day of fasting instead of feasting as is the American custom. Of course fasting in this case will not mean total abstinence from food, but the suggestion has no contentment for the groaning tables which usually mark the day in the American household. It has been declared that no person need go hungry that day, but that instead of food, which is only tasted and the balance wasted, the diet list include only the articles of any other Thursday. Such an observance, it is declared, would not only be appropriate in view of food conservation measures, but would be historically accurate because originally Thanksgiving was observed as a fast day.

As I hear and read of the shortage of fuel in the county, and drive through the timber land, and see hundreds of cords of dead and down wood going to waste, I wonder why some one don't get busy and secure some of this wood. Not only the dead wood should be gathered, but there are hundreds of trees growing too close, which should be removed and converted into fuel. I noticed considerable wood being cut in the timber land near Deloit and also in the extreme southwest corner of the county. The dead and down wood is being cut up and piled where they are standing too close, it would bring into use more pasture land as well as helping out on the fuel bill. There is almost enough wood going to waste in the county right now to supply the needs of most of the county all winter. The county fuel commission would do well to investigate this matter.

Woodbine Twiner: The county is full of soft corn. As the farmers get into their fields in an endeavor to gather the crop the situation develops much worse than had been feared. The problem now is how to save the crop. But few fields are in good condition and the trouble seems to be that even as late as the present date the soft corn is not drying out on the stalk, but shows an inclination to rot in the field. There is a fair yield as to number of bushels per acre, but the quality is the poorest of any crop grown in years, with the possible exception of two years ago.

John Gohlmsen is having a set of new buildings built on the unimproved land he purchased late last summer about one and a half miles southwest of Aspinwall, on the Manning-Manilla highway, which is one of the best roads in the county. The foundations for all the buildings were completed last week when I called and the double corn crib, which is 28x32, was about two-thirds completed. The residence, a bungalow, will be 28x36; barn, 28x56; hog house, 20x40; garage, 20x40; chicken house, 14x32. Henry Theden is the contractor.

Laurens Sun: B. L. Allen shipped in eight cars of hogs last week. He bought them in the neighborhood of Brawley, Calif. Ora Crummer, an old-time Pocahontas county boy, helped him gather them up. As a whole they are said to be a fine lot of hogs. Mr. Allen has scattered them out to his various farms where no doubt they will become very profitable receptacles for some of his soft corn.

Dunlap Reporter: E. S. Miles, living just west of Iowa, has disposed of 29,000 pounds of honey taken from 310 stands of bees. Most of it was shipped to Chicago. This honey, at the present retail price of 18 cents per pound, will sell for \$5,220. It would seem that Mr. Miles would be paid by sitting under a tree in the shade, during the hot weather, and letting his bees do the work.

Here is a Christmas suggestion: Better drop a letter to your friends and let them know you intend to send them a present. Think how sorry they would feel if they receive a present from you and did not send you one. In exchanging Christmas gifts there

is nothing like a cheerful loser. There should be more joy in giving a box of good cigars than in receiving a forty-nine cent necktie.

A farmer living about three miles northwest of West Side has twenty mighty fine young turkeys, and he asked me if I thought he could sell them in Denison. Yes, that's what I told him.

It is a profound truth, that no road to competence is smoother than that which starts from the purchase of well chosen real estate. In call of ordinary income should neglect to invest a portion of his earnings in land. The young man who makes a payment on a piece of property, and assumes further payments, will not throw his money away foolishly. A liability of that kind teaches a man to save, gives him a standing in the community, awakens civic pride in his bosom, and makes him a better citizen. More than sixty years ago the relatives of John Hunt of New York tried to have him declared insane because he had paid \$2,400 for a bit of New York real estate. The other day the same piece of property sold for \$1,825,000. Real estate in the right location is an ideal investment. It cannot be destroyed, burned, lost or stolen. And it will increase more rapidly than money in almost any other form. The young man who puts his money into real estate, instead of squandering it in "having a good time," is laying a foundation for success.

L. F. Mesenbrink owns a 240 acre farm three miles east of Denison. Yes, I know he owns other farms, but this is the one, the home place, I am now writing about. He decided to stop up a bit and has reserved eighty acres of the land for his own use and will rent the remainder to one of his boys. He has a dandy dwelling now being built upon this land and other buildings will follow. The new home is strictly modern throughout. It will have electric lights, hard and soft water and a heating plant. The building is 26x28, two stories high with a full basement. The basement will have a laundry room, vegetable cellar and faro room. On the first floor will be a living room, dining room, kitchen, bedroom and a wardrobe room. Up stairs will be divided into three bedrooms and a bath and toilet room. A large porch has been built along the front of building and also one at the rear. It faces the east.

Last week Tuesday I visited the farm of J. W. Heiden, about three and a half miles southeast of Denison. I found Mr. Heiden and his two sons out in the corn field. They expected to have the corn all picked by the last of the week. Walter was wearing a straw hat and working in his shirt. Think of it! I guess Iowa is some winter resort. This was November 6th. California newspapers please copy. Mr. Heiden informed me he intended to move to Denison this week. This will give his daughter better school advantages. The two boys, Carl and Walter, will step into the "old man's" shoes and operate the farm. The farm is a 200-acre farm, well improved.

There are 75 head of Hampshire swine and 66 head of cattle on the farm. It is operated as a combination stock and grain farm, which, in my mind, is the ideal Iowa farm.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune: Many a good farmer may find it necessary to solve the labor problem by farming eighty acres where he has been trying to farm a quarter section and depend on employing the necessary labor when needed. There are hundreds and thousands of instances where farmers have found that they could make just as much clear money in a year off an eighty acre farm or a quarter section farm as they had been trying to farm a quarter section or a half section, by applying the same labor on the smaller farm which had been used on the larger farm.

G. W. Slater has material on the ground for improvements to be made to the barn on the old homestead four miles southwest of Vail. The present size of the barn is 32x44 with a shed part attached on the south end, 20x32. An addition, 8x4, will be made to the barn and the interior all rearranged. A litter carrier will be installed and other improvements made. On the land adjacent to the road, and a short distance to the west, a fine residence was built two years ago, and this is where Mr. and Mrs. Slater reside. This summer a Delco light plant was installed, also a water system which permits pumping fresh water direct from the well. I noticed an electric washing machine in the basement, also faro table. Mr. Slater has a very nice home. Just before I left G. W. gave me about a bushel of black walnuts, which had been gathered on the farm. I believe I got rattled and forgot my manners, for I don't recollect thanking him for the nuts. I take this method of doing so now.

O'Connor Bros., of Denison, own a section farm about four miles east of Denison and the Chas. Johnson family are operating the same. Three hundred and twenty acres were planted to corn this year and the corn will average along with the best raised in the county this year. A corn picking machine has been purchased and I expect by this time it is doing its bit in that big corn field. There are many cattle fed and raised on this farm yearly, which helps keep up the fertility of the soil. Right now there are 45 cows, 32 steers and heifers and 96 head of young stuff. The Johnson family will move to the 320 acre farm, one and a half miles west of Kenwood, which was purchased last summer.

Along about supper time last week Thursday I called at the farm of Thomas Mehan in section thirty-four, Hayes township, and had a pleasant chat with W. M. Murphy who operates this farm. Bar corn was being cut for the cattle in the feed lot. On looking over the cattle in the lot I found some very good stuff. They are Short-horn cattle and that breed always looks good to me. I received an invitation to remain for supper and accepted the same. I certainly enjoyed the home cooking. No one who has

(Continued on Page Seven)

YOU SHOULD VISIT THE International Live Stock Exposition and Horse Fair, Chicago December 1-8 This year it will feature better economic production of food for the nation. It has been designated by the United States Food Administration as the "Food Training Camp" of the United States. It will show you how to breed and feed more economically; how to produce more stock, of better quality and earlier maturity and at less expense.

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