The Assassination of President Lincoln.

ON April 14 just thirty-three years will have passed since President Lincoln was shot down in Ford's Theater, Washington, by John Wilkes Booth. The excitement all over the United States to-day, caused by the war scare, brings to mind the thrill of horror and excitement that passed over the country thirty-three years ago, when, just as the minds of the people had become settled after four years of war, the country was startled by the announcement of Lincoln's assassination.

Announcements had been made in Washington papers that President Lincoln and Gen. Grant, accompanied by their wives, would visit Ford's Theater (now a pension office) on the evening of April 14.

Gen. Grant found it necessary to visit Burlington, N. J., on that memorable 14th of April, and he accordingly sent to President Lincoln a note of regret at his inability to accompany him to the theater that evening, leaving Washington on the 6 p. m. train.

To Schuyler Colfax, then Speaker of the House, the President extended an invitation to attend the theater as late as 8:15 p. m., for it was not until then that the President's party left the White House. President Lincoln manifested a curious reluctance to going, but stated that the papers had advertised that himself and Gen. Grant would both attend, and, since Gen. Grant had left Washington, he did not want to have the audience disappointed, as the people would expect to see at least one of them.

The theater was crowded. The box reserved for the presidential party was the double box forming the second tier on the right-hand side of the stage. The front of the box was decorated with flags and in the center, on the outside, hung an engraving of Washington.

As the Grants had declined an invitation to attend, Mrs. Lincoln invited, in their stead, Miss Harris, daughter of Senator Ira Harris, and Maj. Henry R. Rathbone, the Senator's stepson.

The play presented was the original version of Tom Taylor's "Our American Cousin," as it was always given before the late E. A. Sothern's changes in it, afterwards made to elaborate his still remembered character of Lord Dundreary.

The assassin, Booth, familiar with the theater, visited the box about 9 p. m., looking in for a last survey of the various positions of its occupants. It was supposed, at the time, that it was due to a mistake or the exercise of an impertinent curiosity. Unknown to the presidential party, Booth had, during the day, bored a hole through the door of the box for observation or perhaps to fire through.

JOHN WILKES BOOTH.

At 10 p. m. Booth again entered the box, quietly holding a pistol in one hand and a knife, or dirk, in the other. Maj. Rathbone rose and asked this intruder his business. Booth rushed past the Major without making a reply and, placing his pistol close to the President's head, actually in contact with it, fired, and instantly sprang upon the cushioned baluster of the box, when he made a backward plunge with his knife, aimed at the face or breast of Mr. Lincoln. Maj. Rathbone, springing forward to protect the President, received the stab in his arm.

It was towards the latter part of the play. Perfect stillness reigned throughout the house. The audience listened to the dialogue between Florence Trenchard and May Meredith, when the pistol shot rang through the theater. It was apparently fired behind the scenes on the right of the stage, and it was accepted by the audience as an introduction to some new passage, several of which had been interpolated in the early part of the play.

THE SURRATT HOUSE.
It was here that the assassination was planned.

Booth had been noted as a leaper, having become habituated to sensational leaps in his repertoire of characters. He leaped nine feet down on the stage, but his spur caught in the flag decorating the front of the presidential box and as he reached the stage he fell, recovering himself in a wonderful way, though his leg was broken. He bounded across the stage, pushing past Miss Laura Keene, who stood near the prompter's desk, striking her on the hand with his own, still holding the dagger. As he crossed the stage Booth cried out, dramatically, "Sic semper tyrannis!" and "I have done it!" Once through the side scenes Booth quickly escaped by the rear door of the theater, where a horse awaited him, its bridle held by an employe of the theater whom Booth rewarded with a kick, his agony from his broken leg being intense.

Meanwhile the shrieks of Mrs. Lincoln made clear to the audience the nature of the horrible crime that had just been perpetrated. Pandemonium reigned. Women cried, men hollowed and children screamed. Miss Laura Keene advanced to the footlights and called out: "For God's sake, have presence of mind! Keep your places and all will be well!"

Miss Harris called to Miss Keene to bring some water, which the actress did, and afterwards accompanied Mrs. Lincoln to the house opposite, to which the unconscious President was at once removed. It was found that he had been shot through the head, above the back of the temporal bone, and that some of the brain was oozing out and that death was inevitable.

Within a comparatively short time the terrible news had spread all over Washington, and by midnight every member of the cabinet, except Seward, whose own life was attempted, had gathered at the bedside of their dying chief. Mrs. Lincoln was present, prostrated with grief, and other members of the family, Senator Sumner, Speaker Colfax, military officials of the War Department, several generals and physicians, the latter including Surgeon General Barnes, who had from the first assisted Dr. Stone, the President's family physician.

President Lincoln never recovered consciousness. As day dawned his pulse failed and a look of perfect peace overspread his features. At 7:22 a. m. he ceased to breathe. Rev. Dr. Gurley knelt down and prayed and Secretary Stanton broke the silence which followed with the remark: "Now he belongs to the ages."

The South lost, in Lincoln, one who would have proved to be its best friend, as is, perhaps, now realized. In a letter written to Gen. Van Alen on the last day of his life, Lincoln wrote words that strike the keynote of his character. In it he said:

"I thank you for the assurance you give me that I shall be supported by conservative men like yourself in the efforts I may make to restore the Union so as to make it, to use your language, a union of hearts and hands as well as of States."

Over all the members of that presidential theater party a black and awful fate hung menacingly.

The fate of the assassin, John Wilkes Booth, is too well known for repetition—shot down like a dog, as he was, in a burning barn.

Many have not followed the end of others indirectly associated with the tragedy. The stricken widow of the martyred President passed the balance of her days in melancholia and madness. Of the guests who were with her in the box that night, one slew the other and ended his own life a maniac.

By a curious coincidence, even Sergt. Boston Corbett, who shot Booth in the barn, became insane and was afterwards confined in a Kansas asylum.

THE DEATH BED OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

VALENTINES OUT OF DATE.

Original Verse, Flowers or Candy Are Now the Proper Gifts.

Valentines are out of date. That is the edict of society. When the 14th of February comes around now the proper caper is to write to your lady fair a few choice stanzas of valentine verse, or, in case of your inability to construct proper rhyme, send around a few bunches of violets or sweet roses or a nice box of candy—a heart shaped box preferred, of course—all tied up with pretty silk ribbons. The flowers and the candy may not last as long as the poetry, but the flowers will be prettier, the candy will taste better and both will be more appreciated.

When it is said that valentines are out of date the statement has to be made, of course, with some reservation. They are out of date as gifts between fashionable adults, but among children they are popular still. Every little lad and lassie watches for the postman on the morning of St. Valentine's day, of course, and is disappointed if the mail brings no love message, no little embossed and painted Cupid. What is meant by the statement that valentines are out of date is that the day of the three-story, fussed and fuzzy, hand-painted, lint and nonsense creation, over which young ladies used to go into ecstasies of delight and young men used to go into bankruptcy, has long been passed. The custom of sending that sort of remembrance is as dead as the custom of New Year's calling. It was never a sensible custom anyway, for no young man felt really repaid in putting a week's salary into a gift to a young lady when, because of the mystery and secrecy that have to be observed in sending valentines, he could not accompany it with his card. It was altogether too discouraging to have his hated rival get the credit for sending a sentimental lot of poetry all done up in fluffy expensiveness for which he had cheerfully emptied his pockets and "gone broke." Valentines of that sort have had their day and belong now to the sweetly remembered past.

Lincoln's Fondness for Grant.

An amusing and possibly instructive anecdote, in which Lincoln and Grant figure, and showing the latter's estimate of cavalry, is related by Mr. William O. Stoddard, for some time one of the former's private secretaries. The general had not long been in command of the Army of the Potomac, when one day Mr. Stoddard asked Lincoln's opinion of him. "Grant," replied the President, "is the first general I've had. He's the general!" Remembering the high esteem in which McClellan, Burnside, Hooker and Meade had been held, Mr. Stoddard asked Lincoln to explain, and this is what he said:

"You see, when any of the rest set out on a campaign they'd look over matters and pick out some one thing they were short of and they knew I couldn't give 'em, and tell me they couldn't hope to win unless they had it; and it was most generally cavalry. Now, when Grant took hold, I was waiting to see what his pet impossibility would be, and I reckoned it would be cavalry, as a matter of course, for we hadn't horses enough to mount even what men we had. There were 15,000 or thereabouts up near Harper's Ferry, and no horses to put them on. Well, the other day, just as I expected, Grant sent to me for those very men; but what he wanted to know was whether he could disband 'em or turn 'em into infantry! He doesn't ask me to do impossibilities for him, and he's the first general I've had that didn't."—Pittsburg Dispatch.

PRAYER TO ST. VALENTINE.

Hearts or dollars? ah, to which
Should my maiden heart incline?
To be loved or to be rich?
Tell me, good St. Valentine.

Should I scorn the shining gold?
Is a heart a richer mine?
Here I'm waiting to be told—
Tell me, good St. Valentine.

The Wrong Kind, Though.

"That carpenter says he hasn't had any work for over two months."

"Guess he doesn't want to work, then. Why, every time I take up a paper I see a whole list of 'Boarders Wanted.'"—Philadelphia Bulletin.

He laughs best who laughs whenever he feels like it, and never at any other time.

AROUND A BIG STATE

INTERESTING ITEMS OF LATE IOWA NEWS.

Saloons Reopen Under Stay of Judgment—Good Strike of Coal—Seven Business Buildings Burn at Fayette—Burglars Dynamite a Safe.

The State Supreme Court has granted a stay of judgment and a motion for a rehearing in the saloon case recently decided by which the saloons of the greater part of the State were closed. All the saloons in Des Moines opened up again and are running full blast. There is some talk of seizures by the temperance people, who hold that the motion for a rehearing does not authorize the saloons to open again. The saloon men base their motion for rehearing on the grounds that the petitions were obtained according to law, and they had no method of knowing that they were not sufficient. The temperance people are much wrought up over the matter.

Coal Found in Woodbury County.

A four-foot vein of coal of a quality that experts declare is equal to Hocking Valley and Virginia splint, has been discovered near Luton. It was struck in drilling a well on a ranch owned by Capt. Gilbert A. Smith of Chicago. The vein apparently is four feet thick, but its width has not been determined. Examinations are being made to determine this. The deposit is geologically on the same level with the veins at Jackson, Neb., which have proved to be valuable and are rapidly being developed. Never before has more than a four-inch outcropping of coal been discovered in Woodbury County.

Big Fire at Fayette.

At 1 o'clock the other morning fire was discovered in the bicycle shop of George Hoover at Fayette. There being no fire engine or water works in the city, the fire soon got beyond control. The entire block, consisting of the following buildings and their contents, was completely destroyed: James Bros., grocery store; Doughty & Hall, meat market; M. A. Waddles, restaurant; Dr. Dorman, dental parlor and residence; Drs. McLean & Parker's office; George Hoover, bicycle shop. The total loss is estimated at $25,000, well covered by insurance.

A Buzz Saw Fatality.

Lantz Evans, a retired farmer living in South Brooklyn, met with a fatal accident. He was sawing wood with a buzz saw when he fell against the saw, cutting both arms entirely off and the left leg so badly that it had to be amputated. He has since died.

Burglars Use Dynamite.

Burglars dynamited the bank vault at Waucoma, but failed to reach the contents of the safe. The building is badly wrecked. No clue to the perpetrators.

Brief State Happenings.

A new gas plant is planned for at Muscatine.

An agricultural fair is still being talked of at Creston.

A saloon petition is being circulated in Kossuth County.

A circus with a stock company has been organized at Creston.

Ten bales of skunk pelts were shipped from Washington last week.

Fire in the Temple block at Clinton caused a loss of about $4,000.

The President has nominated W. H. Burdick postmaster at Postville.

Col. S. D. Adams, the first Mayor of Creston, is dead at the age of 68.

Dick Palmer, arrested for stealing a horse at Madrid, has pleaded guilty.

Prominent citizens of Franklin County have been sued for omitted taxes aggregating $38,533.

Davenport is watching the light company at that place, seeing that it is keeping its contracts.

The articles of incorporation for the Muscatine, Tipton and Northern Railway Company have been filed.

A minister's name has been found on the saloon petition in Des Moines, but it is believed to be a forgery.

The B., C. R. & N. round house at Iowa City is almost completed and the company is using it for the reception of engines.

One span of the Great Western railway bridge, south of Des Moines, was destroyed by fire, supposed to be the work of tramps.

Two new passenger trains are to be added on the B. & W. and the B. & N. W. Railroad between Oskaloosa and Burlington.

Asa Wise, a well-known citizen of Toledo and a pioneer, died suddenly of apoplexy, just after coming in from visiting a neighbor's.

One of the school buildings at Washington was discovered to be on fire, but the flames were extinguished before much damage was done.

John P. Carroll Keenan of New York, the comedian in Hogan's Alley company, was stricken with paralysis at Burlington and died, aged 44.

W. V. Smith and Miss Mary Smith, both of Iowa Falls, eloped from their homes and got married, as they were unable to gain parental consent.

Rev. T. Sumner Martin, for the past four years pastor of the Christian Church at Mason City, has resigned to accept a call from an Omaha congregation.

Chemical analysis just completed at Keokuk shows a large quantity of strychnine in the stomach of William Hill of Memphis, Mo., who died in convulsions in a saloon there.

Following the explosion of a gasoline stove, the home of Levi Shettel at Marshalltown was destroyed by fire and a 22-year-old son was so severely burned that he died a few hours later.

Homer Jumps, a Northwestern bridge man, fell off a bridge near Marshalltown and was severely bruised.

A family named Schrumm, at Tilton, is affected with trichina, and chances for the recovery of some of the members are slim.

Jake Pfeiffer has served notice on the city of Dubuque that he will sue for $5,000 damages for injuries sustained by falling on an icy sidewalk.

Charles Drenshaw, a colored miner of Des Moines, was assaulted by a bar man in a saloon with a poker, and suffered a broken arm and bruised head.

There were five deaths of veterans in the soldiers' home at Marshalltown within a week.

Municipal ownership of electric light plant and water works is being talked of at Tama.

The veteran Tippecanoe prize banner has been awarded to the Republicans of Monona County.

Will Garvin, a 16-year-old Marshalltown lad, was shot in the hand while playing with a revolver that "was not loaded."

The general store of H. G. Naber at Kamrar has been attached by creditors and the stock is now in the hands of the sheriff.

Chris Nissen, aged 50, of Clinton, was killed by a limb of a tree falling on him and crushing his skull.

According to the figures, Marshalltown considers that the death rate there is smaller than for the past four years.

The farmers in the vicinity of Bancroft are organizing a company to operate a lumber yard on the co-operative plan.

There promises to be a lively scramble for coal lands across the river from Davenport, and several interests are already optioning.

Sam Holmes of Linnville lost nine head of hogs by throwing them some water in which clothes saturated with embalming fluid had been washed.

A sawmill is projected at Atlantic.

The Catholic fair at Dougherty cleared $897.23.

Tama County taxes for collection this year are $198,000.

F. W. Smith has been appointed postmaster at Iveyville.

An athletic association has been organized at Iowa Falls.

A strange disease has appeared among the cattle around Chapin.

The new $5,000 Christian Church at Albion has been dedicated.

The postoffice at Stella has been discontinued; mail to Waukon.

The contract has been let for a $65,000 grain elevator at Davenport.

A creamery has been organized at York, with a capital of $4,500.

Enthusiastic cyclists of Atlantic will organize a cross country club.

The chances are good for a silverware factory being located at Davenport.

The Methodist Church at Spencer will build a new parsonage in the spring.

Kossuth did more road grading last year than any other county in the State.

The mortgage on the Grand Opera House at Burlington has been foreclosed.

Alonzo Steele dropped dead near his home in Grinnell. He was 83 years of age.

Dr. W. C. Sanders has been appointed a pension examining surgeon at Mason City.

A company is to be organized at Clear Lake for the purpose of building a race track.

The authorities at Chariton made a raid on a gambling den and made five arrests.

Dr. A. L. Armsbury has been appointed a pension examining surgeon at Rock Rapids.

The State executive council has appointed a new board of State mine examiners.

Company I of the Third regiment of the I. N. G. has been reorganized at Bedford.

The Center Grove school, near Dubuque, has been closed on account of diphtheria.

Rev. Martin of Mason City has received a call from the First Christian Church of Omaha.

Stephen Fielman has been appointed postmaster at New Vienna, vice J. Keeper, resigned.

Burglars entered the store of C. A. Rhine at Eldon and carried off goods valued at $100.

One hundred and seventy-three marriage licenses were issued in Jefferson County last year.

T. J. Stafford of Audubon has been convicted of arson and given fifteen months in the penitentiary.

Buchanan County real estate is on the boom and prices of farm land range from $45 to $50 per acre.

Because of poor health Ed Walker of Norwood committed suicide by hanging himself in the barn.

The Ringgold County Farmers' institute held a highly successful two days' session at Kellerton.

A long-lost heir of a New Yorker has been found in the person of Mrs. R. C. Jackson of Donelson.

The smallpox quarantine at Youngstown has been raised, it beingg believed that all danger is past.

The Supreme Court has decided that all estates valued at over $1,000 are subject to inheritance tax.

The Citizens' Savings Bank of Hanlontown has filed articles of incorporation. Its capital is $10,000.

Col. S. D. Swan, the first Mayor of Creston, died at his home there, after years of suffering from cancer.

J. J. Caldwell, a farmer living near Cedar Rapids, had his nose almost torn from his face by a vicious horse.

Harvey B. Sullivan, wanted at Clear Lake for forgery, is under arrest at New Prague, Minn., on a similar charge.

Frank M. Moore, a well-to-do bachelor of Leon, committed suicide while despondent over a bad real estate transaction.

Burglars entered the hardware store of G. H. Thorley at Atlantic and secured a quantity of cutlery, besides some cash.

James Frazer, an old gentleman living at Honey Creek, was run down by a Northwestern fast mail and instantly killed.

Ed Pillow, a colored man, was perhaps fatally injured by being shot in a drunken brawl in the Whitechapel district in Des Moines.

New Hartford had building improvements to the amount of $31,000 during the past year and more is promised for this year.

As yet no trace has been found of Minetta Washburn, the 14-year-old girl of Muscatine who disappeared from her home Jan. 16.

The late W. S. Benton of Minneapolis left a bequest to Anamosa for books for a library, provided the town erects a suitable building.

From various points in the State come reports of farmers plowing in January, which is furthermore stated to be without precedent.

The New Sharon Fair Association denies that it will not give a fair this year. The dates of Sept. 11, 12 and 13 have been claimed.

The W. C. T. U. of Des Moines are canvassing that city with a petition to present to the Legislature, asking for a woman's reformatory.

A stranger who was stopping at a Havelock hotel was ordered to leave town because he persisted in getting drunk and creating disturbances.

Twenty-five passengers in a Des Moines street car were witnesses to the drowning of a 15-year-old lad, who broke through the ice while skating.

The new railroad between Clinton and Davenport is meeting with great success.

The town of Hartley now has a fine deep well, with a sufficient supply of water.

Mrs. R. A. Neal of Jefferson has been allowed $400 for injuries sustained by reason of an imperfect sidewalk.

The body of an unknown boy about 18 years of age was found in the river at Des Moines. He broke through the ice while skating.

The W. C. T. U. of Swaledale has raised a fund of $400 which will be used to prosecute and convict men who sell liquor unlawfully in Swaledale and Pleasant Valley townships.

The fire loss on the big wholesale grocery stock of Biklen, Winzer & Co., at Burlington, has been adjusted. They were allowed $84,500 over and above the salvage.

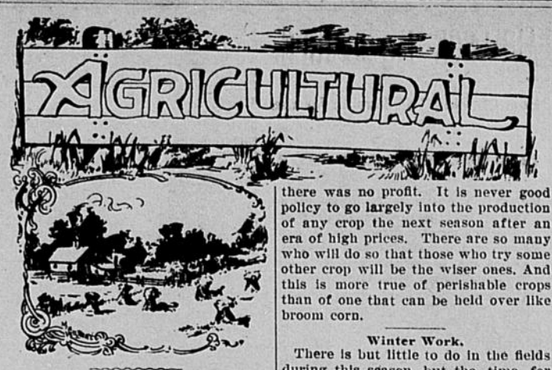
The sheriff of Blackhawk County has been engaged in making raids at Gilbertville and Washburn on places where liquor was illicitly sold. Quite a quantity of contraband was found.

Peter Dressen, a farmer, fell from his wagon near Davenport and was supposed to have been intoxicated. He was picked up and put in a barn. In the morning he was found frozen dead with his skull fractured. The coroner is investigating.

The postmaster at East Dubuque received a letter from an unknown party containing ten cents which the writer said was to pay for a watermelon stolen from the postmaster in 1849.

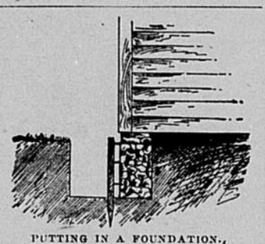
Moulton, the new division point of the Wabash between Des Moines and St. Louis, is boasting of a boom in real estate circles. The new road is helping the city to a wonderful extent.

Letha Jackson, the Steamboat Rock school teacher, has won her case in the Supreme Court. It was fought through all the courts to the highest tribunal and she was victor. She was discharged for punishing a pupil and began action for reinstatement.



Foundation Under a Building.

It is often desired to put a tight foundation under a barn or other structure, already built. This is a difficult matter, particularly if the building is close to the ground. The foundation should extend down below the frost line. How shall the ditch be dug under the edge of the barn? The illustration, from the New England Farmer, shows an excellent plan. Dig a trench close to the barn, and then dig in under the barn to the required distance to accommodate the foundation stones. Exactly under the edge of the barn, at the bottom of the wide trench, drive stakes and put down a rough board. Now fill in behind the board with loose stones, put on another old board and continue to fill in the loose stones until they stand level with the surface of the ground. The part of the trench outside the boards can now be filled in with earth, packing it down solidly, leaving the old boards where they are. The flat stones above the ground can then be put in and cemented. Perhaps they can be put in more conveniently before filling in the outside trench.

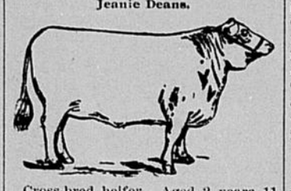


PUTTING IN A FOUNDATION.

Rented Farms.

There seems to be a lack of system in renting farms in this country. The owner seems to expect that the tenant will make no improvement to land or buildings, and to recompense himself for the expected deterioration he charges a high rent, and to pay this the tenant must take everything that he can from it, and expend neither money nor labor in making any permanent improvement. In this way the rented farm soon becomes a rundown farm, and after a few changes of tenants is likely to be an abandoned farm. It would be well if some one would study the system of farm leasing in Great Britain, where certain improvements are to be made each year by the tenant and certain others by the landlord, and where the farm is kept improving, while, in many cases, generation after generation has lived in the same place, paying about the same rent as they would have to pay as interest, taxes and repairs if they were owners of the farm. When landlord and tenant are each trying to "skin" the other, it usually results in skinning the farm.

Jeanie Deans.



Cross-bred heifer. Aged 2 years 11 months 2 weeks 2 days. Bred by Charles Kemp, Auchencrieve, Huntly. Property of the Earl of Rosebery, K. G., Dalmeny. Champion of the Scottish National, 28th, November, 1899. Aberdeen-Angus sire, Shorthorn dam. Weight, 16 cwt. 42 lb.

The Wheat Harvest.

We scarcely realize that the wheat harvest lasts the year through, yet such is the case. In January they are harvesting it in Australia and in Argentine. Through February and March they will be busy in the East Indies and in Upper Egypt. April will find them busy at it in the wheat belts of Asia Minor, India, Persia and in Mexica. One might finish in Mexico in time to help his neighbors in Texas or Florida in May, but he could scarcely reach Japan or northern Africa in time to do much. From June to September he could, and many do, work northward within the limits of the United States, and even into Manitoba. Peru and southern Africa harvest it in November, and Burmah in December. So says a writer in one of our magazines.

Profit in the Cow.

There is a large difference in the profits on cows, even when the same kinds of foods are given. The majority of dairymen are well satisfied with a cow that will give as much as ten quarts of milk a day for 300 days, and, allowing fifteen quarts of milk for each pound of butter, she would produce 3,000 quarts of milk and 200 pounds of butter. Many cows do not approach such yields of milk and butter, but there are cows which give twice as much milk as the quantity mentioned and also produce twice as much butter. The profit is therefore large, because the greater the yield of an animal the smaller the cost proportionately.

Farm Accounts.

January is the month to begin with farm accounts. It is just as important for a farmer to keep books as for a merchant to do so, so he will not be able to estimate the profit or loss at the end of the year unless he knows how much has been expended and for what purpose. By keeping accounts the farmer will be more interested in the market reports and become better informed. He should charge himself with articles consumed on the farm and also keep an account against each animal.

Growing Broom Corn.

Waldo F. Brown in the Prairie Farmer gives good advice to farmers in saying that they should not begin the growing of broom corn unless they can arrange to grow quite a quantity and hold it for from one to three years for a rise when the price is low. He predicts that when the crop for 1900 is ready for market the price will be below the cost of production. He has known it to sell for $300 one year and $40 the next, and at the latter price there was no profit. It is never good policy to go largely into the production of any crop the next season after an era of high prices. There are so many who will do so that those who try some other crop will be the wiser ones. And this is more true of perishable crops than of one that can be held over like broom corn.

Winter Work.

There is but little to do in the fields during this season, but the time for planting corn will soon arrive, while such garden crops as onions and peas go into the ground very early. If the weather permits the manure should be hauled and spread on the ground before spring, and the application of fertilizer should not be delayed, especially if potash is to be applied. It is better to put fertilizer on the strawberry, raspberry and blackberry locations while the ground is cold than to delay, as to apply too late may cause injury in some cases. This is the time for using crude petroleum on fruit trees as a remedy for the San Jose scale, and grapes, raspberries and blackberries should be given attention while the weather is cold. Sometimes the spring opens early, and it will then be too late to cut back the grape vines. The old canes of blackberries should always be removed in winter. The manure heaps should now be worked over so as to get the materials in as fine condition as possible. Well-rotted manure gives more immediate benefit to plants than does coarse litter, and the winter is the season for preparing it.

Preventing Freezing in Cellars.

There are times when it seems almost impossible to prevent vegetables from freezing in the cellar. Of course, having doors and windows tight and a banking around the walls on the cold sides does much to prevent this, but when that "coldest day since we can remember" comes unexpectedly, as it does so many times, the chances are that many are not well prepared for it. A small oil stove, or even one or two lanterns, lighted and burning, will do much to give a warmer temperature, and one or two tubs of water put down there will do nearly as much. The first throw off an active heat and the water a latent heat. Not until the water is frozen will anything else freeze there. Set the stove or lanterns on the bottom of the cellar, as heat rises, and see that they cannot set fire to anything.

Foul Seeds.

Tests made of seeds by the United States Department of Agriculture show, among other results, that a lot of fox-tail seed from Germany was only 16.5 per cent pure. It cost 35 cents a pound and was adulterated with seed worth only 10 cents. Of many seeds purchased in the open market, a sample of orchard grass was found to be 53 per cent bad; a batch of redtop clover, 73 per cent; a lot of crimson clover, 98 per cent bad, and some Hungarian brome grass that failed to germinate at all. It is to be hoped that this investigation will improve the quality offered on the market.

Destruction of Birds.

There is a complete failure of the olive crop in Southern Italy and in Sicily this season, owing to the ravages of the oil fly, which appeared in unusual numbers on account of the prolonged drouth of last summer and fall. The loss to the provinces of Bari and Lecce alone is estimated at 60,000,000 lire, or $12,000,000. There will be a corresponding scarcity of oil, of course. The country people are having their eyes opened to the consequences of the wholesale destruction of insect-devouring song birds.

Whitewashing Peach Trees.

Those who have peach trees will do well to remember that in Missouri they have decided that spraying peach trees two or three times during the winter is an efficient protection for them against the early starting of the buds, and killing afterward by frosts. Use a thin whitewash and cover trunk, branch and twigs, and refiew when the weather had washed it off. They say that it makes the fruit but little, if any, later, but makes a sure crop of it, which is what peach growers most want.

Shade Trees.

It is not the lack of means that some farmers fail to ornament their farms with trees, evergreens and paint. It costs but a small sum to plant evergreens to serve as wind brakes, and they very much beautify a home when placed along the roads. Even around the barnyard, evergreens are useful and are superior to fences on the dividing lines of farms. Cattle in the fields, both in summer and winter, will seek shade and protection, and these and evergreens will serve them admirably.

Value of Reputation.

It is just as necessary for a farmer to "get a reputation" as for the merchant to get to the top with a certain line of goods. When the farmer makes a specialty of butter, eggs or any other article, he should seek to introduce the goods himself. It may not be encouraging at first, but his products will in time become known.

Dairy Suggestions.

In the winter keep the cow warm and dry.

Never use rusty cans under any consideration.

Don't keep a hard-milking cow, if you value your time.

Always milk as quickly as possible, and do it with clean, dry hands.

Cream should be taken off the milk while it is still sweet, if possible.

Clean, bright food, in sufficient variety, is what is needed for the dairy.

Two or three degrees of temperature will make a great difference in churning.

Be on friendly terms with the calves from the very first. Talk to them and pet them.

Never disturb milk when cream is rising or the butter globules will sink never to rise again.

The good-looking, round-bodied cow is never a good one. The best dairy cow is hardly pretty.

Whenever a cow drinks water that you would not drink yourself she is robbing you of profits.

The cow can have no better food than shredded corn fodder, if it is good fodder, or ensilage.

First rinse cans in cold water, then wash them in warm water, then scald with boiling water and dry.

A cow is both a machine and a very sensitive, delicate organism. Do not make the mistake of supposing that she is simply an inanimate machine.—Western Plowman.

IOWA LEGISLATURE.

The House committee on schools and text books on Thursday reported favorably on the bill providing that teachers in sub-districts shall be appointed by the board of directors instead of by the township officials. There has been considerable objection to the present system of appointing teachers in sub-districts. The argument for a different method is that the township officials in many cases are not competent to judge a teacher's ability, and that the examination should be made by those who have direct charge of other educational matters in the district. A matter of State importance which has been introduced in the House by Representative Hazelton of Pottawattamie is the bill providing for a change in the Iowa paving law. A recent decision from Judge Eichelberger at Ottumwa held the Iowa paving law to be unconstitutional, in that the paving tax is assessed per front foot without regard to property value or the benefits accruing to the owner from such paving. The Hazelton bill provides that property shall be assessed for paving according to the property value and paving benefits.

Nine Republicans and twelve Democrats combined in the Senate Friday morning to defeat the confirmation of the appointment of Col. H. H. Rood to be a member of the State board of control to succeed William Larrabee. Two Democrats voted with twenty-six Republicans in favor of confirmation, but it required thirty-four votes, so the nomination was rejected. A bill to raise the Governor's salary to $5,000 was favorably reported in the House.

As a result of the defeat of H. H. Rood for confirmation by the Senate as a member of the Board of Control, a bill was introduced on Saturday by Representative Sweet to make the offices elective by a joint convention of the House and Senate. The Senate passed the bill extending the 10-mill tax for building purposes for the State University five years. The Senate also concurred in the House resolution to elect ten trustees for the State educational institutions. A bill was introduced in the House authorizing city councils to prescribe regulations for the maintenance and construction of street car lines, and to regulate their fares.

The following bills have been introduced in the Senate:

By Emmert—To amend section 2583, relating to the compensation of the Secretary of State board of medical examiners. It provides that he shall be paid $600 annually.

By Craig (by request)—Providing that a life insurance company having on deposit with another State securities similar to those required to be deposited in Iowa may be credited with them in Iowa by making a proper showing.

By Hazelton—To amend section 1630 of the code relating to the county road fund, and chapter 11, title 5, relating to taxation.

By Garst—To amend section 298 of the code relating to the pay of deputy clerks.

By Hazelton—To legalize the library tax in Council Bluffs in 1898 and 1899.

By Townsend—To amend section 2831 of the code relating to county text book uniformity.

By Hazelton—To grant additional powers to cities.

By Young—Relating to the disposition of bodies for medical purposes.

By Griswold—For an appropriation of $39,800 for the Independence asylum.

By Griswold—Relating to nominations of candidates for office.

By Alexander—To regulate the administration of trusts by State and savings banks and trust companies organized under the laws of Iowa.

By Hazelton—To amend section 777 of the code relating to temporary sidewalks. It provides that brick or stone sidewalks may be ordered on temporary grades. At present only plank walks may be ordered on temporary grades.

By Bachman—To repeal section 1389 of the code.

By Hazelton—To amend section 851 of the code relating to park commissioners and boards of public works. It makes the city treasurer treasurer of the park commission, providing that the funds shall be kept separately and drawn on order of the commission.

By Craig (by request)—To permit life insurance companies to loan on their policies to the amount of the surrender value of each policy.

By Hazelton—To amend section 5040 relating to offenses against the public peace.

By Craig of Butler—Authorizing supervisors and township trustees to purchase or condemn lands for gravel pits and stone quarries for use of roads and highways.

By Hayward—To amend section 495 of the code relative to the compensation of county recorders.

By McArthur—Relative to the publication of extracts from the laws of the State.

By Ball—To amend section 41 of the code relating to amendments of the code and statutes.

By Fitzpatrick—To amend section 2978 relating to the extent of a homestead.

By Cheshire—Appropriating $10,000 for the Benedict Home, Des Moines.

By Nolan—To authorize the appointment of interpreters for deaf litigants in court and in cases of insanity among deaf persons.

In the House the following bills have been introduced:

By Santee—Relating to compensation of county recorders.

By Stewart—Relating to the election precincts in school elections.

By McCurdy—To make an appropriation for the hospital for the insane at Independence.

By Barringer—To legalize the incorporation of the town of Rodman.

By Blakemore—To legalize incorporation of the town of Azelston.

By Barkley—To provide for the placing of an Iowa flag at the tomb of Gen. U. S. Grant.

By Stuckslager—To provide for the erection of monuments at the places occupied by Iowa volunteers at the battle of Shiloh, Tenn.

By Myers—To legalize the resolutions and proceedings of the mayor and council of the incorporated town of Milford.

By Prentis—To amend section 24, chapter 18, of the acts of the Twenty-seventh general assembly, in regard to the appointment of superintendents for the insane.

By Dows—To amend section 1333 of the code, relative to taxing insurance companies. Insurance committee.

By Black—For the relief of James T. Ward, claims committee.

By Carr—For the relief of G. W. Knote on account of property destroyed by soldiers at Camp McKinley.

By Dunham of Delaware—To regulate the sale and require the redemption of passenger tickets by common carriers.

By Elker of Decatur—To admit Miss Abbie Godfrey of Lamoni, Iowa, to the Soldiers' home at Marshalltown.

By McAleer—To provide for the education of the deaf and dumb children of eastern Iowa.

By Barringer—To amend section 2540, of chapter 15 of the code, in relation to fishing; what permitted.

By Stratton (by request)—To provide security to the public against errors, omissions and defects in abstracts of title to real estate, and the use of abstracts in evidence.

By Lyman—To amend section 1850 of the code with reference to investments by savings banks. Banks and banking committee.

By Kendall—A bill to require mine foremen, pit bosses and hoisting engineers to submit to examinations and hold certificates of competency.

By Prentis—To provide for the bonding of abstractors of title.

By Jones—Relating to the inspection of petroleum products.