

Home Town Helps

WHERE GERMAN CITIES EXCEL

Count von Bernstorff Tells of the Public Spirit Which Has Brought Them Advantages.

Count von Bernstorff, German ambassador to the United States, recently spoke before the Women's Civic League of Baltimore on "Government of German Cities."

The usual form of government in a German city, he said, was a council, which elected an ober burgemeister and two assistant burgemeisters, or city managers. The position of the first was practically a life position if he were satisfactory, although he was re-elected at long intervals.

Speaking of the old city of Frankfurt, County Bernstorff described how it had grown. Streets, he said, are not laid out by private enterprise, but by the action of the city council. The council also regulates buildings in the various sections of the town and forbids that there shall be more than a certain proportion of the land built upon, so that there may be sufficient open spaces.

Within the last ten years, he declared, Frankfurt had expended more than \$50,000,000 in the purchase of land in the city and outside of it, so that at present the city owns 16,650 acres, 3,800 of which are outside of the city limits. Owning this land, the city regulates its growth as seems best, builds model homes for workmen, constructs parks and playgrounds, and builds schools, colleges, museums and the like.

"The workmen's insurance laws," said the speaker, "have had a great influence on the German cities in getting a strong impetus which led to the creation of many useful municipal institutions."

Lepzig, he said, was devoting some of the land held by the city for building suitable homes for the poor, and the insurance companies were making loans for building workmen's cottages.

SIGNPOSTS ADORN THE ROAD

Real Works of Art Are Those to Be Found Along the Principal Highways in Silesia.

American sign painters and advertisers using outdoor publicity may find a lesson in the artistic signs along the public highways of Silesia. In one, a peasant, pipe in his mouth, leaning on his scythe, gives direction and dis-



Carved Signposts on Silesian Highway.

tance to the next town; in the other, a schoolboy, pointing, shows the way to the famous hot springs of Warmbrunn. Little objection could be urged against such signposts even by the most insistent advocates of billboard abolition.—Popular Mechanics.

Street Trees in Minneapolis

An official report on street trees in Minneapolis shows the following records: Street trees replanted, 232; number planted fall of 1911 and spring of 1912, 2,104; general planting done on 4,370 trees; permits issued for planting, 627; for tree planting, 229. Surely this is a record to be proud of and presents a strong contrast to the record of Los Angeles during the same period, where absolutely nothing was done. It is also pathetic to contemplate the fact that this inaction is still to be "the order of the day."

Almost Invisible Microbes

The smallest things are the microbes that are found in the earth, the air, water and our bodies. So tiny are some rod-like microbes that it would take 10,000,000, placed end to end, to reach a yard, while 100,000,000 would only cover a nickel, and it would take 640,000,000,000 to make a solid cubic inch. Microbes if nourished will multiply more than a millionfold an hour. A single grain of earth will contain from 1,000 to 300,000 microbes. Without them we would have neither health nor disease.

Plan \$6,000,000 Park

Plans for the transformation of an enormous coast of 14,000-acre Palos Verdes ranch, overlooking Los Angeles harbor and the Catalina channel, into one of the most magnificent residential parks in the nation for American millionaires, are being made. Frank A. Vanderbilt of the National City Bank of New York and his associates recently purchased the tract for \$1,750,000 for this purpose. The plans as they now stand promise to involve an expenditure of \$6,000,000.

WASHING DAY ADVICE

HOW TIME MAY BE SAVED AND GOOD RESULTS ACHIEVED.

Housewife of Experience Tells of Her Methods, Which Seem to Be Worth Copying—Considers Wringer Absolute Necessity.

My method of washing is so easy, and at the same time so effective, that I wish to pass it on for the benefit of others.

I fill my washing machine with water cool enough to bear my hands in, and add one and one-half cups of good washing powder.

After carefully sorting the clothes, I first put in the least soiled, and turn the machine until they are clean; then with the wringer attached to the machine, I wring out all except those with the soiled spots, which I leave in to go through another washing.

I then proceed with the next lot, and so on until all are done, adding a little boiling water from time to time if the wash is a large one.

And nice pieces, such as fine lingerie, or gingham likely to be faded by the powder, I do by hand with a good soap.

After the dirt has all been removed I draw off the water and rinse the machine, then fill it with clean water to which is added bluing, and beginning with the first clothes washed, I rinse them by running the machine as for washing them, and wring them out.

My clothes are as clean and white as if I had soaked, boiled and washed them through a half dozen waters, as I used to do.

In these days of efficiency women should use all the labor-saving devices possible. Never try to do without a wringer.

Add a pinch of sugar to water in which veils are washed, to give body to the otherwise flimsy veil.—Exchange.

Flapjacks and Pancakes

A friend asks the difference between flapjacks and pancakes. A recipe for each is given for comparison and use. The flapjacks require one quart of boiling milk to which add two cups corn meal, one tablespoon butter and one teaspoon sugar. Cover and set away over night. In the morning add two egg yolks, one scant cup flour and teaspoon salt, one teaspoon baking powder, which should be well stirred in. Just before cooking on the griddle or pan add the beaten whites of two eggs mixed in lightly. A good pancake recipe is: One egg beaten light, a pinch of salt added, one quart of sour milk, enough flour to make a stiff batter, with one heaping teaspoon soda sifted in flour.

Tomatoes, Carolina Style

A dozen large, sound, ripe tomatoes. Cut out from the top of each an inch round piece and scoop out all the seeds and liquid. Cook a pint of Carolina rice in a quart of veal broth (made from bones), salted, and half a minced green pepper added. When it has boiled 15 minutes add four ounces of oil or butter, mingle well and then let it stand where it will steam for about ten minutes. Then fill the tomatoes, put on the covers, arrange in a baking pan, sprinkle over with oil or butter, and bake half an hour in a moderately hot oven. Dish up and pour a little sauce around it and serve.

Spanish Cream

Soak for half an hour a quarter of a box of gelatine in a pint of milk. Then put it on the fire in a double boiler; beat the yolks of two eggs and half a cup of sugar together, and when the milk is boiling stir the eggs in; cook until it begins to thicken. Beat the whites of the eggs very light and stir into the mixture when it is taken off the fire; flavor with two teaspoons of vanilla, and pour into the mold to firm. The mold must be first dipped in cold water, and the whites of eggs beaten thoroughly well into the custard.

Pickled Sweet Apples

For pickling the apples may be pared, quartered and cored, as for canning, or pared and the core removed with a sharp knife, leaving the apple in its original shape, or they may be cut in halves and the core taken out. Cook in a syrup made of a quart of vinegar and three and a half pounds of sugar, flavored with an ounce of cinnamon buds. The syrup will be sufficient for seven pounds of apples if the fruit is at all juicy. Boil slowly until a silver fork will easily penetrate the fruit.

To Keep Needles Bright

Do your sewing needles get rusty, and are you always having to cast them out of your needle book because they are rough and useless? Probably your needle book is to blame and not your needles. It is a mistake to use flannel as leaves in your book. Sulphur in the flannel rusts the steel. Use leaves of linen or cambric and you will have bright needles.

Creamed Lima Beans

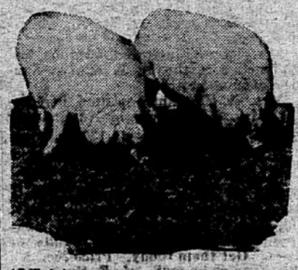
If dried lima beans soak over night, boil in a little salted water until tender, cook down all the water, or if in a hurry drain. Add a cup of cream, a little butter and pepper and salt, simmer a few minutes and serve.

Preparing Potatoes

Potatoes, particularly after they have passed their first youth, are much more pored and less in taste water over night. Not only are the potatoes improved, but time is saved in preparing breakfast.

PRACTICAL TALKS BY GOVERNMENT FARM EXPERTS

No. VIII.—Bookkeeping on Farm—Profitable Production of Hogs.



(Official News Summary of Up to Date Matters Compiled by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

THE department of agriculture in putting out a system of farm bookkeeping emphasizes the importance of the farmer conducting his farm on a businesslike basis. Farming is a business, the same as banking or running a department store, the department states. It is a business which involves the production and sale of several kinds of products.

The problem of the farmer is to meet conditions on his own farm in a way which gives him the greatest net return for his labor and the use of his capital. He should receive interest on his capital as well as wages for his labor; but, owing to the lack of proper records, few farmers know what wages they actually receive. There is reason to believe that the majority of the six and a half million farmers of the country are really living on the interest of their investments rather than on the profits of their farms.

Farm bookkeeping does not require that the account be kept in a particular form or upon a certain side of the page, but it is a logical selection and arrangement of farm data to permit correct interpretation. The difficulties of farm bookkeeping are generally overestimated. Complex forms and methods do not always mean successful farm accounting, for sometimes a few pages of well selected records are of more practical value than volumes of figures. Inasmuch as the farm business and the home are practically inseparable, personal and household accounts are needed to balance the books. Both of these accounts are best handled by grouping the items as much as possible.

A complete inventory is the first and most important step in starting the accounts. The determination of proper values is a matter of good judgment, aided by a study of current market prices. The cash transactions on a farm may be kept in several ways, but entering the items directly in their respective accounts appears to be one of the most satisfactory methods.

A thorough understanding of what constitutes farm receipts and expenses is necessary; otherwise the profit of the farm is seldom figured correctly. A farm is a combination of enterprises, and a study of each enterprise in its relation to the others is of the utmost importance. What may be a profitable crop to grow, often an unprofitable one. Records of the separate farm enterprises will show the facts in each case.

Labor distribution records are seldom kept by farmers, yet such records are in many respects equally as important as the cash account. A good cash balance is often the result of the efficient use of farm labor.

Crops which are grown for a profit may be being fed to a poor class of live stock, thus the profit turned into a loss. Live stock records, although not so easy to keep as those on crops, are often more useful to the farmer. It is poor policy to lose by injudicious feeding the profits on the crops grown. Live stock production records are a guide to the qualities of animals kept.

Good accounts are within the reach of every farmer. The few minutes regularly spent on these will yield larger returns than an equal amount of time devoted to farm work, provided proper use is made of the information the records contain.

Good Country Roads Pay

The direct effect that changing bad roads into good roads has upon land value and the general economic welfare of a community is shown in several concrete illustrations gathered by the United States department of agriculture. The department has issued a statement on the subject, based upon a mass of information gathered by the office of public roads, which is making a special study of the economic effect of road improvement in the country. According to data gathered, where good roads replace bad ones, the value of farm lands bordering on the roads increase to such an extent that the cost of road improvement is equalled, if not exceeded. The general land values as well as farm values show marked advances following the improvement of roads.

As the roads in no way affect soil fertility or quality of the farm, advances are due essentially to the decrease in the cost of hauling produce to market or shipping point. Farms

are now regarded as plants for the business of farming, and any reduction in their profits through unnecessarily heavy costs for hauling on bad roads naturally reduces their capitalization into values. With reduced costs for hauling profits are increased, with the result that the farm plant shows satisfactory earnings on a higher capital value.

The automobile also has begun to be an important factor in increasing rural values where good roads are introduced. Immigration is particularly marked where road conditions are favorable. In fact, the figures of the department seem to indicate that good roads indirectly increase the demand for rural property, and the price of farm land, like that of any commodity, is ruled by the relations between demand and supply.

Creamery Industry

The creamery industry of the country has developed to such an extent that in most dairy sections competition has become so keen that creamery operators, in order to be successful, must use every means within their power to keep their operating expenses at a minimum and also market their products to the best possible advantage. Opportunities for increasing the revenues of creameries are sometimes overlooked and wasteful practices are often permitted. However, reports to the department of agriculture show an improved condition in the creameries.

The department recommends that the products of the creamery be utilized to better advantage. If creamery managers will do this and also undertake some side lines that will use spare labor and labor, the creameries will be placed on a better paying basis by reducing the operating expenses. The sale of sweet cream and the manufacture of ice cream are among the suggestions offered by the department to increase the output of dairies.

It is stated that in some sections of the country the sale of sweet cream has proved satisfactory and profitable. It not only has enabled creameries to market their cream most economically, but has been a means of improving the quality of the product generally. The method usually employed by creameries in selling sweet cream is to grade the milk or cream in the receiving room. If the whole milk is received it is at once run through a separator and the cream secured, having a definite amount of fat. If farm separated cream is received and it does not contain the required amount of fat, it is re-separated in order to bring it to the standard required.

Cans used for shipping sweet cream must be perfectly clean if a fine quality of cream is to be furnished. The cans should be washed and steamed immediately after the cream has been removed from them and before any portion is allowed to dry or harden on the can or become decomposed. After the cans have reached the creamery they should be rinsed and sterilized with live steam, then drained and cooled before again used. If care is exercised in grading, pasteurizing and cooling the cream it may be shipped for considerable distances and with reasonable care remain in good condition for a week or more.

A great many creameries have successfully undertaken the manufacture of ice cream as a side line. The enormous increase in the consumption of ice cream, together with the fact that it is now generally on sale in the small towns as well as in the large ones, has opened new fields for its manufacture.

Profit in Hogs

"To produce pork profitably hogs must be fed and grazed on permanent pastures and crops particularly planted for them," is the advice of the experts of the farmers' co-operative branch of the Bureau of plant industry, United States department of agriculture. "Seldom is the growing of hogs for slaughter a source of profit unless proper grazing and feeding methods are followed."

In the spring, summer and fall there are many crops for growing hogs, but during the winter the crops to select



A WELL FED HOG.

from are limited. On almost every farm the production and keeping of hogs in winter are expensive and generally not profitable, for the good reason that large quantities of green crops, more winter grazing is needed, for which many crops are adapted, the most reliable being, however, rape, oats, wheat and barley.

For grazing purposes these crops should be sown on especially well drained and prepared land that is rich or that has received a liberal application of manure. Good winter pasture does not thrive except on the best drained lands. Other lands are entirely too cold and lacking in air for winter plant growth.

The seeding should be heavy to insure a thorough stand. The young plants will grow slowly in the winter, and many plants will be needed to furnish plenty of pasturing. Crimson clover will do well with rape, rye, oats, wheat and barley and will mean an improvement on the land.

POULTRY

SELECTION OF RIGHT BREED

Leghorns, Minorcas and Other Small Fowls Are Best for Eggs—Americans for General Purpose

Do you want poultry for meat producers? Do you want poultry for egg producers? Or do you want poultry which will combine as well as possible the production of both meat and eggs? The answer to this question, says the Oklahoma Farmer, will help greatly in your selection, for if you desire a meat breed, selection should be made from the Asiatic or Cornish, or perhaps an Asiatic-American first cross. If this cross is used the crossing should not



Brown Leghorn Rooster.

be carried beyond the first generation, and it is rarely advisable at all.

If you want egg production, you may select from the Leghorns, Minorcas, Anconas, Campines, Buttercups, and other of the smaller breeds. However, in the majority of cases the general purpose fowl will be found best adapted to the farmer who wishes to keep a few chickens as a side line. For this purpose the American breeds, such as the Plymouth Rocks, the Wyandottes, the Reds, etc., and the English breeds particularly the Orpingtons, are about equally adaptable.

Does your market have any preference as to the color of the skin of the dressed fowl? Many markets do, and will pay enough more so that it pays to cater to this choice. If the market prefers a yellow skin, the Orpingtons and Langshans will be eliminated at the outset, for they have white skins. On the contrary, if the market wishes a white skin, you cannot use the Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, or Reds.

Does your market have a preference as to the color of the eggs? In some cases this market preference takes the form of a premium of five to eight cents per dozen more for eggs of the preferred color. It is always advisable, to give the markets what they call for and will pay for, so, if your market has a particular desire as to the color of the egg, select your breed accordingly.

POULTRY NOTES

Tag your shipments.

Straw and hay make good nesting material.

Always test the fresh chicks or nest eggs before setting.

The yolk of the egg should be thicker than the white.

The most profitable periods for fattening is about four weeks.

Use insect powder freely to exterminate lice when necessary.

Broody hens should be moved to the permanent sitting nest at night.

The machine should be operated according to the manufacturer's directions.

Our American breeds fatten very readily, making them ideal market poultry.

To get eggs avoid over-feeding, but do not starve. Give plenty of milk if you have it.

Eggs saved for hatching purposes should not be subjected to high or low temperatures.

Given proper care and attention, the hen is the most valuable incubator for the farmer.

Overfeeding of green cut bone is apt to cause leg troubles, diarrhoea, bowel complaints and worms.

The incubator should be located in a room where the temperature does not vary much during the day or night.

A good many chick hatches are given a bad start by feeding too soon. Let them wait 24 to 48 hours. That's nature's way.

The beginner finds many stumbling blocks in the artificial methods, but experience soon shows the trick of how easily to step over them.

HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT

INCREASED VALUE OF LANDS

Advance is Due Essentially to Decreased Cost of Hauling Different Farm Products to Market.

It is a matter of common observation that, when any community has passed from a condition dominated by bad roads to a condition which is characterized by good roads, land values in that community advance. It is plain that no system of good roads can directly improve the soil fertility or the quality of farms. It is equally true that good roads can and do directly improve the site value, or the value which accrues to the farm by



A Southern Road Before Improvement.

virtue of its situation with respect to markets, schools, and towns, and the accessibility of these.

In dealing with this matter of increased farm values from a strictly economic standpoint, it has been pointed out and it is worth remembering that where farms have advanced in value the advance is due essentially to decreased hauling costs. The advance in farm values, in other words, measures partly the increased value of the farm as a plant for the business of farming. That increment of value which is due to those things that are described as social advantages or improved social conditions has no numerical measure.

When his road is improved the landowner appreciates the improvement and frequently sets an increased value upon his land. It is difficult, however, to analyze the entire increment of value which follows good roads. There is no doubt that the cost of good roads is met by some form of taxation, which, in many instances, causes the land owners to add to the selling price of their land that amount which they estimate the good road has cost them in taxes.

This process is more distinctly observed in city property transfers, where direct assessments for sewers, sidewalks, and pavements are invariably added to the original cost of the property. The important point that is becoming more and more understood by land owners is that good roads require a considerable investment of capital, and furthermore that such an investment is a paying one. Here are a few instances of actual conditions which have been observed in various parts of the country.

In Lee county, Virginia, a farmer owned 100 acres between Ben Hur and Jonesville, which he offered to sell for \$1,800. Two or three years ago this road was improved, and although that farmer fought the improvement, he has since refused \$3,000 for his farm. Along this same road a tract of 188 acres was supposed to have been sold for \$5,000. The purchaser refused the contract and the owner threatened to sue him. After the road improvement, and without any improvements upon the land the seller refused to sell to the original purchaser for \$2,000.

In Jackson county, Alabama, the price of a good farm has advanced 50 per cent since the road was improved. The same farm, which was sold for \$1,000 before the road was improved, is now sold for \$1,500.



The Same Road After Improvement.

was from \$6 to \$15 per acre. The last census gives the value of Jackson county farm lands as \$9.79, and the selling price is now from \$15 to \$25 per acre.

The price of farm land, like that of any other commodity, is ruled by the relation between supply and demand. When the price of farm land advances it measures a readjustment between the supply and the demand. This readjustment, in some cases, is sharp and immediate. One method of increased values is becoming more evident from year to year; that is, immigration into the rural districts where road conditions are favorable especially is this true with regard to owners of automobiles. There are repeated instances of this kind in New England and those states which have been active in improving their roads.

Farmers' investigations.

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