

FARM ORCHARD AND GARDEN BY F.ETRIGG REGISTER ROCKFORD, ILL. CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED

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A QUERY ABOUT SOUTH DAKOTA.

A reader of these notes, a young tenant farmer living near Hettick, Ill., writes asking about farm lands in the vicinity of Pierre, S. D., especially as to their adaptability to growing corn and if this can be counted on as a sure crop.

In order to clear up some confusion which may exist in the minds of a few Selectors and the Regenerated Swedish Selectors are two distinct varieties. The former has been grown in the northern states for a number of years, is thoroughly acclimated and is rated by the department of agriculture as being one of the best varieties grown in this country, if not the best.

Considering the expense connected with the laying of a system of tile, from \$10 to \$12 per acre for the work done, it is well to have the work done in the very best possible manner, including the surveying and laying out of the system, the establishing of the proper grades, the selection of good tile and the laying of them carefully and evenly.

An Illinois farmer who evidently mixes some brains with his work and incidentally makes some observations on his own account has suggested the possibility of putting to a new use a system of drainage which was put in the ground primarily for the purpose of removing surplus water.

The difference in cost between a brick or wooden house or other structure of like character is said by those who have made a careful study of the subject to be the cost of paint on the latter. Considering the fact that wood must be painted frequently to properly protect it from the action of the elements and the likelihood of rot and decay the brick structure would seem to be by far the most economical in the course of a long period of years.

Readers who may be interested in changing their location and have been more or less interested in reports of cheap farms for sale in some of the New England states would do well to write to the States Land and Improvement Company of Oneida, N. Y., for its descriptive bulletin of farms which are for sale in three or four of the central counties of the Empire State.

Mr. Henry Wallace, editor of a leading western agricultural magazine and a member of the country life commission, who has taken some pains to look into a number of western irrigation projects carefully, sounds a word of warning that it would be well for all prospective purchasers of land in the vicinity of such enterprises to take into account—namely, that before investing the settler should have an absolute guarantee that the land he buys, supposedly under ditch, is so located that he can get water on it at those seasons of the year when water will be most needed.

There is little wonder that sections where alfalfa can be grown are thriving in an agricultural way. One Mississippi valley farmer whose location is none too favorable for growing this legume had a five acre patch the past year, from which he secured three cuttings averaging a ton and a half per acre to the cutting. He places the value of the twenty-one odd tons of hay from this patch at \$300, while he hopes to still further increase the value of the hay by grinding it into alfalfa meal. This is an agricultural crop if there ever was one.

The total production of rice in the United States for the year was 21,890,000 bushels from 655,000 acres, valued at \$16,081,000. In 1919 the acreage was 627,000, the yield 18,738,000 bushels and the cash value of the crop \$10,081,000.

Considering the way fax pulls on the soil, it should be a source of satisfaction that the area sown to this cereal during 1919 was 185,000 acres less than in the year preceding. However, because of better prices the crop gave a return of \$30,577,000 against \$24,713,000 for 1917.

The increased prosperity of the southern states during the past fifty years is quite accurately gauged by the production of cotton, its leading agricultural crop. In the year 1890 the cotton crop of the south was 4,000,700 bales and the price 1 1/2 cents per pound, the highest up to that time. In the year 1917 the crop totaled 13,550,700 bales, the price ranging from 10.70 to 13.55 cents per pound.

The verdict of those who have had a good deal of experience with tilling is that the installing of such a system will not only make a wet soil drier, but also by drying it make it warmer and therefore better adapted for the raising of crops. It also seems well agreed that the presence of a system of tile on high lands by increasing the absorptive power of the soil tends to lessen the surface washing and gullying of hill slopes. Thus, viewed from most every standpoint, the laying of tile seems to result in definite benefit.

The annual loss from insect and rodent pests in the United States annually is placed at about \$800,000,000. The first pest largely and the second to quite an extent are held in check as much as they are by the bird life of the country. Keeping the above facts in mind, it is with a feeling of humiliation that one learns that the National Association of Audubon Societies of America, whose chief business it is to spread the good gospel of bird protection, last year received but the paltry sum of \$24,000 with which to prosecute its most valuable and far-reaching work.

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Land Fraudulently Acquired. Information of a startling character of alleged wholesale and astounding frauds upon the public lands has come into the possession of Secretary of the Interior Garfield through special agents in the field. The serious allegation is made that approximately \$110,000,000 worth of land in states principally west of the Mississippi river has been fraudulently acquired within the past two years by corporations and individuals.

Value of the Nile. The Nile is one of the longest rivers in the world, but it is not especially valuable as a navigable stream. It's chief benefit to the country is from the immense deposits of mud carried down in the annual floods and which have made the region overflowed one of the most fertile in the world.

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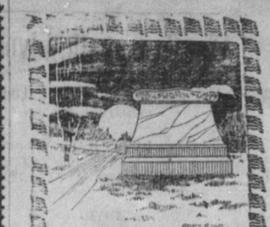
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