

LACK OF GOOD FARMING METHODS NOTED BY SHAW

Fargo Forum: Prof. Thos. Shaw, who is one member of the committee to decide the farm awards offered by J. J. Hill, wrote from Grand Forks to the St. Paul Pioneer Press as follows: Pursuing their duties in the J. J. Hill prize farm contest, the judges spent the last week in the Red River valley, but on the Dakota side. The six northern counties are pitted against each other, and the contestants number eighteen. Only half the number have been visited and among them are strong competitors. The men who win out in this section of Dakota indeed will have to have good farms. Where so many are good, the nicest discrimination is necessary in making the awards.

The general farming on the Dakota side is much the same as on the Minnesota side of the Red river, with the difference that on the Dakota side there is less low land. Nearly the whole country is given up to the growing of grain chiefly wheat, oats, barley and flax. Along with the grain are grown the complements, French weed, wild mustard, the Canada thistle and the sow thistle.

I had hoped to find cleaner farming on the Dakota side, but it would be unsafe to affirm that the difference in this respect is material.

The harvesting of the crop in the Red river valley is about completed. The damp weather during the week has delayed it, or the cutting would be practically done. The shocks stand well on the ground. Judged by the shocks, the crop would be called a bumper crop in all the valley. It cannot be placed higher than to call it a good crop. I am now satisfied that the story of the threshing will be disappointing. The wheat is more or less shrunken. The grain ripened too quickly. The great heat struck it at a critical time, and a result the yield of wheat in North Dakota will be lowered by many millions of bushels. Such is the hazard that attends exclusive grain growing.

Such a system of farming is wrong. The unfortunate thing is that they know it is wrong and yet they do not change. The power of habit in farming is no less potent than the power of habit in other things. What the farmer has done he wants to do. The man who has robbed the soil for two decades wants to do it for three, and if he can't continue to do so in Dakota he goes to the Canadian northwest and there begins anew the same kind of farming. Some of the farmers are growing timothy and wisely, to put humus in the soil, but timothy is a land robber. Some are summer fallowing in the hope of renewing their land, but the bare fallow is a land robber. And some are changing from wheat to oats, and oats to barley in the hope of rearing their lands, but all these are land robbers.

The Dakota lands are in the condition of a horse that is beginning to weaken from loss of blood and in or-

der to cure him the "vets" open another vein.

I have said the system of farming is wrong; that it is radically wrong I say so again, it is wrong; and though all Dakota should stand on the other side, I would still say it is all wrong. But all Dakota does not stand on the other side. Some of the farmers are building up their land. They are growing live stock in considerable numbers. They are building fences and laying down pastures, and they are valiantly fighting against weeds. We found but little clover during the week, for the reason that it has not been sown, but quite a number of farmers sowed several acres last spring. We were glad to find a small field of alfalfa near Grafton. Though sowed last spring, it had been cut once the present summer, and is doing well. Some of the farmers are growing alfalfa vigorously there can be no doubt that the proper bacteria for growing it is in the land. It will be a great day for North Dakota when these two great soil builders, clover and alfalfa, come to be generally grown.

We found also a happy confirmation of the correctness of our view as to the best way to fight Canada thistles. A contestant near Grafton is carrying on a war of extermination against weeds. A few patches of thistles are on his farm. It is his practice to plow them down in June. Then he plows the land shallow at intervals of ten or twelve days during all the growing season. He says that in this way he destroys them root and branch in one season. Even though the thistle patches should be in a grain field he goes right in with the plow and buries the thistles. All around this man are fields scattered with thistles, mustard and French weed, and yet he is keeping those weeds practically away from his place. Such a man ought to get a medal from the state. In his neighborhood he is truly a burning and a shining light.

In eastern North Dakota many of the roads are well made. They are nicely rounded up with the grader and are made straight and properly sloping. If more attention were given to mowing the roadsides the roads in summer would be an attractive feature. But even where the roadsides are mown, usually a little strip is left uncut along the fence, where there is a fence, which is unsightly. It would seem as though mowing with the scythe were a lost art in North Dakota.

Up near the Canadian boundary we saw fodder corn fully eight feet high. In several other places we saw corn that promises to mature. It was of such large varieties as the North-western Dent, the Minnesota King, and the Mercer Flint. We visited one farm that had on it 250 acres of corn, all of which would be fed to the cattle kept on the farm. It will be a glad day for North Dakota when corn

comes to be grown more or less on every farm. In the cities we heard no little conversation at the hotels over dogs. We would judge from what we heard that the dog industry in North Dakota is about as flourishing as in Minnesota. We heard much more about dogs than cows. We did hear one man say, however, that he wished the people would sell their dogs and invest the money in dairy cows, and when said "amen" to his wish. A family of dogs means a flourishing sheep industry. We did not see many sheep, but the small flocks we did see looked well. It was the universal testimony of those who had them that they were good property. Wolves gave some trouble but fox hounds had been found useful in hunting down the wolves.

OUT OF THE ORDINARY. Cattle Bitten by Mad Coyotes Develop Hydrophobia and Die.

Denver, Colo., Aug. 31.—"I have just encountered one of the oddest and most unusual cases which has ever come under my observation," said Dr. Charles G. Lamb yesterday. "I was called to the ranch of a prominent stock raiser in Yuma county last week to investigate a strange disease from which his cattle were gradually dying. The animals would suddenly become very vicious, chasing the other cattle, attacking the boys on the ranch, one of whom was almost killed, and charging madly on the dogs, chickens or any other live thing about the place. When tied to a post they would attack the post and butt against it until they died."

"The owner had lost eleven steers that way, in bunches of two and three, when I arrived, and there was one old steer suffering from the strange malady. The symptoms had completely baffled the rancher and his men, and their only explanation was that the animals must have gone crazy through eating some sort of poisonous food. Upon examination of the steer they had in the corral I found that the animal had hydrophobia. Further investigation showed that the steers had been bitten by mad coyotes, who frequently get hydrophobia at this time of the year. The men recalled having seen coyotes chasing the cattle."

"While we were all asleep in the ranch house, after I had diagnosed the trouble, the old steer broke out of the corral and began charging the hogs, goring them and tossing them in every direction. We had to take a Winchester and shoot the steer to stop his mad career."

RAIDED A RANCH. American Estate Near Cienfuegos Complains to State Department.

Associated Press Cable to The Evening Times.

Washington, Aug. 31.—According to a dispatch received at the state department today from one of the American owners of the Constancia estate, near Cienfuegos, the Cuban insurgents raided this property four days ago, taking a number of horses. The state department did not make public the name of the American who sent the dispatch. This is the first protest received from Americans against molestation of their interests. Mr. Sleeper, the American charge at Havana, was cabled to demand of the Cuban government adequate protection for the Constancia estate and all American property similarly situated.

CLOCK WEIGHS A TON

Timepiece Built by Detroit Man Weighs Ton—Represents Fifteen Years' Work.

Special to The Evening Times. Detroit, Mich., Aug. 31.—When Old Father Time passes Louis Meier's jewelry store and workshop at the boulevard and Gratiot avenue, he must pause a moment in his flight to look at the ingenious way in which the clockmaker keeps track of the old person's movements. There are clocks by the thousands in Detroit ticking out information as to Time's whereabouts at different moments of the day, but they do only for Detroit. The clock that Louis Meier built follows the time around the world, to the moon, and to well nigh everything with which time has to do.

When you get through with the clock you wonder which is the more noticeable, the clockmaker or his massive machine, but in order to understand the man you must look at his work.

Back of the jewelry store is the workshop, where the clock was built and where it now stands. On all sides of the workshop are benches with tools of various sizes. The bench on the side nearest the clock looks as if it held blacksmith's tools, and afterwards you learn that, as Meier constructed every piece of the clock himself, and as some of the machinery is necessarily heavy, the works required more than those smaller tools which points are used with the aid of a microscope. Meier doesn't refer to the massive clock's "inside" as machinery, however, but he shows you the "heart" and other parts for which he has his own name.

In the first place, the clock stands thirteen feet high and weighs over a ton, or, to be accurate, 2,500 pounds. So high is it that some of the craftsmen had to be left off until it could be moved out of the workshop. So large are parts of its machinery that a hole had to be cut in the floor before the work could be completed with any degree of ease.

The clock represents the thought and work of fifteen years. Meier's people will tell you that the clockmaker has awakened from his sleep many a morning at 1 or 2 o'clock and has worked out an idea that came to him from—well, the only way Meier can indicate where he gets his ideas is to swing his arms upward in the air.

Meier has had one passion, and that is to make a perfect and complete clock. He made a clock that became famous at the Paris exposition. He built the only tower clock ever built in Detroit—the clock in St. Anthony's tower, but he wasn't satisfied. After fifteen years, he says, "I will never build another clock. Two clocks make up a lifetime's work."

Begin at the top. There is the moon in the same phase as it appears in the sky that moment. The opaque side that does not catch the sun at this time of the month is dark, and the purest kind of moonlight glows from a small quarter. The illumination within is of electricity, but the glass that gives the moonlight is the result of many months of search and experiment in getting glass of the proper shade and consistency.

Twelve Smaller Dials. Then comes the large plate glass

dial, black around, with gold lettering. Around its edge are twelve smaller dials, giving the time of day in Paris, Berlin, London, Rome, Peking, St. Petersburg, Manila, Washington, San Francisco, Philadelphia, St. Louis, New York. While this is not a new idea, it has a new attachment, each dial showing whether the time registered means morning, afternoon, or night in the cities named. Of course, the year, month and day are also given.

Beneath all this is a twelve inch globe, which follows as accurately as science can make it the diurnal movement of the earth. As you watch night come down in Detroit, you can see day dawn across the Pacific, sunset at the Golden Gate, and another day breaking over Siberia, China and Australia. Just as certainly as the sun moves so does this globe move, and, for a moment it is as if one had taken his station between the moon and the earth and was watching the mystery of day merge into the mystery of night.

The clock is built to withstand any change in temperature, the mercury pendulum being adjusted to compensate expansion and contraction.

Outside of all the mechanical contrivances the clock itself is a marvel of beauty and planning.

"How much would you take for it?" Meier was asked.

"I couldn't set a price on it if John D. Rockefeller asked me."

"Ten thousand dollars?"

"I worked on it fifteen years. One clock like that is enough for a lifetime."

"THIS IS MY 33rd BIRTHDAY"

Galusha A. Grow.

Hon. Galusha A. Grow, who first entered congress in 1851 and was speaker of the house during the civil war, was born Aug. 31, 1823, in Eastford, Conn. His political career is practically without parallel in American annals. He entered the house in 1851, the youngest member of the 32d congress, re-entered the house as congressman-at-large from the state of Pennsylvania after an absence of 31 years, and left the 57th congress the oldest member of the body. At the election of 1890, in which he was chosen congressman from Pennsylvania, he carried a plurality of 297,446 was the largest ever given in any state of the Union to any candidate for office.

Mr. Grow entered congress as a democrat, but when the Missouri compromise was repealed he permanently broke with his old party associates and became the congressional leader of the newly-formed republican party. During his single term as Speaker Mr. Grow presided over three sessions of the House. It is not, however, upon his record as speaker that Mr. Grow looks back as the most important chapter in his public career, for he has a right to be considered as the author of the Homestead act, which went into operation Jan. 1, 1862. From 1871 to 1876 Mr. Grow was president of the International and Great Northern Railway company of Texas. President Hayes offered him the mission to Russia in 1878, which he declined. Since he left congress Mr. Grow has lived in comfortable retirement at his home in Glenwood, Pennsylvania.

When a man is requested to foot a bill it always hurts his dignity worse than it hurts his corns.

Railroad News

The Southern Pacific road is building some all-steel passenger coaches with concrete floors at its San Francisco shops.

Hiram G. Pearce, general freight agent of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Railroad company, has been promoted to the position of freight traffic manager. He will assume the duties of his new post Sept. 1.

President E. H. Harriman notified the San Francisco officers of the South Pacific yesterday that the work on the extension of the Cananea, Yaqui River and Pacific railway from Alamos, Mexico, through Mazatlan and down to Tepic and San Marcos would soon be completed.

In recognition of faithful service the Santa Fe has voluntarily increased the pay of its telegraph operators. The advance amounts to about \$45,000 annually and affects more than 1,000 men. Some of the individual increases amount to \$10 a month, and the president of Santa Fe scale is said to be a very liberal one.

General agents of the trans-Atlantic steamship lines met in Chicago yesterday and considered the provision of the Hepburn law which prohibits the exchange of commissions between railroad and steamship companies. According to a statement given out at the close of the meeting, no plans were perfected for taking care of future business.

The Central Passenger association met and readjusted interstate fares in its territory to conform to the regulations of the Ohio 2-cent fare law. Hitherto the 2-cent law has not been considered in interstate business, but on account of the agitation instigated by traveling salesmen, who suffered some inconvenience, a readjustment was granted. Hereafter the 2-cent rate will form the basis rate on interstate business.

H. M. PEARCE PROMOTED.

General Freight Agent is Made Freight Traffic Manager of Omaha Road.

Hiram G. Pearce, general freight agent of the Omaha road, has been promoted by Second Vice President James T. Clark to the position of freight traffic manager. Mr. Pearce will assume the duties of his new post September 1. Hereafter the 2-cent rate will form the basis rate on interstate business.

Freight traffic manager is a newly created office. Mr. Pearce will relieve Mr. Clark of some important duties which have heretofore devolved upon him as traffic manager of the road.

Mr. Pearce will be succeeded as general freight agent by Edgar A. Ober, now president of the Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing company. This concern has its office at Chicago and plant at Duluth. Mr. Ober is an old employee of the Omaha road.

BEAM RIDER KILLED.

Bismarck, N. D., Aug. 31.—A man supposed to be W. S. Ranney of Columbus, Ohio, was killed by a Soo train in this city Wednesday. The manner of his death is not exactly known, but it is supposed he was riding on the break-beam, and being benumbed with cold was thrown off when the air was applied at a coal dock. His right arm and both legs were cut off and when found he was giving his last gasps. Papers on his body indicate that he was lived from Chicago to Pierre, S. D., to work for the North Western railroad.

FUNERAL OF VICTIMS

Of G. N. Wreck Held Yesterday —Sholtz Remains Held at Great Falls.

Associated Press to The Evening Times. Sank Center, Minn., Aug. 31.—The funeral of William J. Brown, the brakeman who was killed in the wreck on the Nelhart line Sunday, was held Wednesday afternoon from the residence at 409 Eighth avenue S., under the auspices of the Odd Fellows and Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, of which orders deceased was a member. John Brown, a brother of the deceased, arrived from Redwood, Minn., the former home of deceased, in time to attend the funeral.

The remains of Charles Sholtz will be held at Undertaker McAllister's until definite word is received from his sister at Euclid, Minn., who has been heard from and is trying to get communication with the father of deceased.

The remains of Frank E. Prewett were shipped to Chehalis, Wash., on the morning's train to Shelby, accompanied by S. H. Miller, a friend of the deceased, who was with him at the time of the wreck and escaped with slight bruises.

PRICED HIGH.

Minneapolis, Aug. 31.—Five thousand dollars handed over by C. G. Bosch, the prominent master and barley merchant of Davenport, Iowa, works a new high record for Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce membership. Mr. Bosch found \$4,925 the nominal figure when he applied for admission to the chamber, quotations having risen on four successive transfers from \$4,925 to \$4,700 to \$4,750 to \$4,925. Nothing under \$5,000 that would draw another offer, and Mr. Bosch, who is a believer in Minneapolis generally, and especially in its future as a barley market, paid the price, and said it was worth the money to be able to do business here.

There are a few of the original \$25 membership certificates still in existence. P. A. Rogers, publisher of the Market Record, has one. There are a number that cost the holders \$100, \$200 or \$300. When the chamber was organized, twenty-five years ago, many who put \$25 into a membership felt that they were throwing away the money, yet even the finest of Minneapolis real estate can scarcely show an equally good record in price enhancement.

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