

The River Press

Published every Wednesday Morning by the River Press Publishing Company.

MONTANA AGRICULTURE

Montana grain has once more demonstrated its superiority. In another world-wide contest the blue ribbon has come to the product of Montana fields.

Montana has been winning medals and ribbons in these contests for a good many years. When Judge Bickford was the director of the Montana part of the Columbian exposition in Chicago, Missoula county captured first honors in the agricultural world.

The news startled some of the easterners and they began to study their geographies. But they obtained little satisfaction there. Then Marcus Daly began to send his famous racing colts from the Bitter Root, back to the great tracks of the east.

And, upon the walls at the Daly farm, there used to hang, along with the trophies of renowned turf triumphs, medals and certificates which attested to the victories won at agricultural fairs by the forage grown upon the bench lands of that great farm.

Such was the pioneering in agricultural competition, which attracted to Montana the attention of the farming world. It has been followed by the splendid triumphs of Yellowstone and Park and other counties of the east side of the range.

Just the other night, in The Missoulian office, Secretary Blettenstein of the Montana state fair said: "Montana oats are at a disadvantage because these judges will not believe that the grain has not been clipped and scoured, it is so bright and full."

So Montana is commanding attention, wherever there are farmers. So the agriculture of this state is coming into eminence as a contributing factor in its prosperity. It is the beginning of a march of development that will amaze the world.—The Missoulian.

GOOD ROADS LEGISLATION

According to advices from Washington, the western states will receive a comparatively small part of the \$25,000,000 good roads fund provided for in the Shackleford bill, unless amendments defeated in the house are restored by the senate.

Two general plans of good roads legislation have been submitted to congress for consideration. What is known as the Shackleford bill proposes the appropriation and apportionment of \$25,000,000 a year among the states on the basis of population and mileage of rural and star routes.

Careful computation shows that the Shackleford plan is most favorable to eastern states, because dense population has resulted in the establishment of more rural routes in the east than in the west and the east therefore enjoys the double advantage of population and mail routes.

The Bourne plan, which makes area and total road mileage factors in determining the allowance for good roads work, is decidedly more favorable to the west and, as a matter of fact, the western states would receive more money annually under the \$20,000,000 found proposed by the Bourne plan than they would receive out of the \$25,000,000 Shackleford plan.

Montana, for instance, would re-

ceive each year \$344,000 under the Bourne plan and only \$160,000 under the Shackleford bill.

California, under the Bourne plan, would receive each year \$718,000, whereas under the Shackleford plan the allowance would be cut to \$505,000.

It is evident from these figures that if congress is to adopt one of the two plans now under consideration, the interests of the west will be best served by bringing about the adoption of the Bourne plan, for not only would that plan give to each of the western states a much larger allowance than it would receive under the Shackleford bill, but it would also provide for a billion-dollar bond issue, thus providing a fund upon which the states might draw if they were so disposed and draw up to the percentage given in the foregoing table.

The Shackleford plan, by taking population and post roads as the sole factors in determining the allotment of good roads funds to the several states, emphasizes the advantage in favor of the thickly-settled regions. The Bourne plan, by making area and total road mileage factors, counterbalances the population and assessed valuation of the congested states and, in Senator Bourne's opinion, provides a more equitable basis of apportionment.

BETTER FARM METHODS

The house agricultural extension bill, popularly known as the Lever bill, passed by the senate without a dissenting vote, may easily take place in history as the most important constructive legislation of the American congress since the homestead act.

The measure is of peculiar interest to Chicago because it originated here with Howard H. Gross and other prominent and public-spirited citizens organized as the National Soil Fertility league, says the Inter-Ocean. This group of leading and thinking citizens and their associates say that the root cause of that high cost of living which has become so oppressive of late years is that under a variety of influences the fertility of our soil is not advancing as it should—its even relatively declining, as it always does when countries cease to be "new" unless proper corrective measures are taken.

The high cost of living is essentially the high cost of food. And the cost of food is relatively high because American farms are not as productive as they might be. The Lever bill is an effort toward scientific education of farmers on a scale of unprecedented magnitude and liberality.

The means are provided by an unconditional appropriation of \$10,000 a year to each state, with further appropriations of \$600,000 the first year and increasing \$600,000 each year until a total of \$4,800,000 a year is reached, conditioned on the states providing equal sums for the educational purposes of the act. Of what is hoped for by Mr. Gross says:

"Most authorities agree that when this plan is in full operation, say, ten or fifteen years hence, it will more than double the output of the farms. It will reduce the cost of production and increase the farmer's net income and at the same time give the people a more abundant and cheaper food supply. If a farmer raises a sixty bushel crop of corn on forty acres instead of a forty bushel crop on sixty acres he would have the same amount of corn and the cost would be materially less. If the gain in crop value should be only 20 per cent it would produce annually a sum twice the combined capital of all the national banks."

The real way to reduce permanently the cost of living is to increase food production in such manner as will leave the producer relatively as well or better off. It cannot be done by reducing the farmers' profits and giving him less incentive. It can be done only by increasing the efficiency of each man and each acre. This is what the Lever bill promises a systematic effort to do by approved educational methods.

Observations by Luke McLuke

A family tree isn't any proof that your family has been out of the trees any longer than the other fellow's family.

After a man has been married a while he realizes that a lawyer does not know anything about the art of cross examination.

When you can't bribe a man to do a fool thing you can always dare him and he'll do it for nothing.

Every man believes that if other people were as charitable as he is, there would be no poor.

I don't see why Diogenes had to hunt so long to find an honest man. Just ask the first man you meet and he'll admit that he is the party.

You would imagine they could save a little money on dry goods these days. But a two-yard hobbie costs just as much as a 20-yard hoop skirt used to.

Methuselah never heard of germs and he never slept on a porch, but somehow or other the durned ignoramus managed to live through it.

The meanest man we know of put a lead dollar in his pocket the other night, knowing his wife would cop it. She nearly got into trouble trying to pass it, but she daren't say a word to friend husband.

The women are getting so wise that a man has a hard time digging up excuses. The latest is to blame the blond hair on your vest to the fact that you were playing with a slyke terrier when you were down town.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

ACCEPT VILLA STORY

Mexican Leader Says Execution of Benton Was Deserved

Washington, Feb. 24.—A cabinet meeting afforded President Wilson an opportunity today to talk over with his official advisers the latest advices about the execution of William S. Benton, the British subject at Juarez, by General Villa, the Mexican leader.

Much interest was manifested in the published interview with General Villa at Chihuahua in which he recited again the story of what he alleges was an attempt on his life by Benton. Though some doubt as to the manner in which Benton was killed may exist in official circles, unless positive evidence is presented controverting Villa's claim, it is certain the American government will not reject his story.

One direct effect on the incident, it is admitted generally here, will be a manifestation of some kind by the United States to the constitutionalists that foreigners must be given ample protection. It is suggested in some quarters that the American government may seek to reach an understanding with Villa, through consular officers, whereby the constitutionalists will agree to not take summary action with respect to any foreigners until he has previously notified the Washington officials.

Denounced Automobile Lobby

Washington, Feb. 24.—Trans-continental highways proposed by the American Automobile association were characterized today as "lanes over which the members of this high-browed, joy-riding association may strut," by Representative Shackelford of Missouri, attacking what he called the "editorial canning factory," maintained by the organization to promote the measures it favored.

With funds the association collected from its 451 subordinate automobile clubs and the like, Mr. Shackelford declared a "nefarious lobby" was maintained in Washington, and the essential "long green," was counted on to fight the re-election of opponents of motor bills. He read a letter from the president of the association to a member in Kansas City, Mo., urging that support be withdrawn from the Shackelford \$25,000,000 good roads bill now before the senate, having passed the house. The measure provides for dirt roads in rural free delivery districts.

Consumers Pay Too Much

Chicago, Feb. 24.—The plan announced some months ago for a system to be established by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad company for gathering up the produce of Oklahoma farmers and distributing it to consumers has not yet culminated in anything definite, but the officials of that road are still at work on the problem. The contrast between the price the farmer receives and the price the consumer pays is startling.

"When, for instance, the housewife buys a package of oatmeal for twenty-five cents she is getting about three cents' worth of oatmeal, the rest being fancy package, advertising, the middleman's profit, and the cost of delivery at the door," said Mr. Rudley. "In the old days she used to go to the store, with a basket, and the grocer would take her oatmeal out of a barrel; but she now wants it put up in a sanitary package, with somebody's brand on it."

Banks Join Reserve System

Washington, Feb. 24.—The new federal reserve system will begin business with a membership of at least 7,500 banks. This was apparent last night when at the close of the last day on which national banks could signify their intention of accepting the terms of the currency law, less than 50 of the 7,493 national banks of the country had failed to respond favorably.

More than enough state institutions had applied for membership to bring the total to 7,500. Most of the institutions that have not come into the system are comparatively small and it is estimated that 97 per cent of all the capital and resources in the present national bank system is represented by those whose applications are filed.

Stole Tableware At Free Feed

San Francisco, Feb. 24.—San Francisco closed its municipal dining room today and hereafter no more free meals will be served the unemployed. The reason for the action was that the city's emergency appropriation of \$30,000 is exhausted.

More than 2000 men lined up today in a pouring rain for the final free breakfast, and a detail of police was on hand to prevent the petty pilfering of tableware. Many suspected of carrying away utensils were searched and a quantity of knives, forks and tin mugs was yielded. No attempt was made by the police to take away whole loaves or half eaten loaves which some of the men concealed beneath their coats.

Chicago Women Vote

Chicago, Feb. 24.—Women voters of Chicago cast their ballot today at the primary election for the nomination of aldermanic candidates. As candidates, as voters and as election officers they played an important part in the election, the first in this city since the passage of the equal suffrage act by the last legislature.

will oppose Alderman "Bathhouse" John J. Coughlin, for election. Election officials predicted that from 50,000 to 75,000 of the 158,000 registered women voters would vote.

Hill Predicts Prosperity

Washington, Feb. 25.—James J. Hill talked with President Wilson today about business conditions and said afterward that the outlook for prosperity was bright.

Mr. Hill was mentioned recently as a probable selection for the federal reserve board, but administration officials said today he was not being considered in that connection.

Found Dead in Snowdrift

Poughkeepsie, N. Y., Feb. 26.—Frank Casey, a chauffeur who waded that he could walk three miles an hour through the deep snow, from his home to Vincent Astor's villa at Rhinebeck, was found frozen to death last night in a snow drift. He had gone half the distance when he was overcome by the intense cold.

Montana's Proud Record

Bozeman, Feb. 24.—With 37 states and Canada competing with the classic exhibits ever shown at the show Montana walked away with fully one-third of the sweepstake prizes, according to Prof. Alfred Atkinson of the State college, who has returned from Dallas, Tex., and the sixth annual corn exposition.

Montana won 28 sweepstakes, 12 of them world prizes and 16 United States prizes. Canada, according to Mr. Atkinson, came down strong after oats, wheat and barley awards, only to be shoved back by Montana, whose farmers and exhibitors won the awards on barley and wheat, the United States award on oats and possibly the germination test on oats.

This latter will be announced in a few days when the agricultural department of the United States government has completed the test.

Have Faith in Our Country

The Chase National, one of New York's oldest and most prominent banks, whose officers have been influential in the financial world, has sent to its patrons the following "Patriotic Creed:"

We believe in our country, the United States of America. We believe in her constitution, her laws, her institutions and the principles for which she stands. We believe in her future—the past is secure. We believe in her vast resources, her great possibilities—yes, more, her wonderful certainties.

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We believe that what are termed "times of business depression" are but periods of preparation for greater and more pronounced commercial success.

And we believe that in our country are being worked out great problems, the solution of which will be for the benefit of all mankind.

Montana Neglects Opportunities

If it were not for Montana, and the fact there is no canning factory in this state, there would not now be twenty-three canning factories in operation at the present time within a radius of twenty miles of Ogden, Utah.

Why should Montana not raise more vegetables and provide some more of its canned goods consumption, says E. A. Shewe, general agent of the Short Line, as he pointed out to the Butte Post some figures on the importation of fresh vegetables and canned goods to Butte and Montana from the south.

During the past year at least 500 cars—and probably far more—of fresh vegetables, dried fruit and canned goods were imported into Butte from California. This would represent 30,000,000 pounds. During the past three months 100 cars, or 6,000,000 pounds of canned goods arrived through the Butte gateway for Butte and other Montana points from Utah alone, over the Oregon Short Line. During December there came 40 cars of fresh vegetables to Butte.

Pointed Paragraphs

A man's outcome usually depends upon his income. Often a woman mistakes audacity in a man for bravery. Too much credit is more dangerous than too much money. Just so it is pie the small boy does not care what kind it is.

A woman is bound to have her way, even if it is a roundabout way. A man must suffer before he can sympathize with other sufferers. When May weds December she sees only the silver lining of the cloud. And a girl whose face is her fortune is seldom able to support a husband. Singers are the only people who are able to hold a note for a long time. There's mighty little fun in being the kind of a fellow that can't see the point of a joke on himself. There is no place like home—and a married man is glad of it when his wife is cleaning house. Many a good man lives and dies in the bachelor class because no widow pities him enough to show him the error of his ways.

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