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LOCATION OF SHADE TREES CAUSES A LOSS IN FERTILITY

In the Blue Grass Regions, Says Expert of the Department of Agriculture.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23.—Perhaps one of the greatest sources of loss of fertility from pasture soils in the blue grass region results from the poor location of shade trees and brush, according to the author of "The Grazing Industry of the Bluegrass Region," a bulletin recently published by the United States department of agriculture. Trees and brush, he states, should always be set on the higher portions of the field, and not along the banks of running streams, as is often the case. With good grass, the animals do not graze more than one-third of the time; the rest of the time is spent lying down or standing in the shade fighting flies. Hence, much of the manure that is made does not get back directly on the land that produced the grass. If the manure produced while the animals are not grazing is deposited on the tops of the hills, its beneficial effects on the grass may be noted for several rods down the hillsides. It is easy to believe that if one-half to two-thirds of the manure is lost from pasture fields and none is added, the crops must gradually deteriorate.

No System. Where animals are kept continually agriculture, the writer finds, that maintaining the fertility of the soil better than grazing. Where beef cattle or sheep are grazed, all of the resulting manure is left on the pastures, and the land is further enriched if the animals are given additional feed during the winter. This is usually not the case on dairy farms, where the cattle spend much of the time in yards or stables. This return of the manure directly to the soil is particularly important in the grazing regions where the profits are not sufficiently large to justify the liberal use of commercial fertilizers on pasture land. The effect of manure on bluegrass is shown by the fact that feeding hay or corn fodder on the poorest spots of a pasture is a very effective means of improving the stand of grass. At the same time the increasing use of silage and, in some parts, dry feeding methods during the winter, may make it necessary for the grazer to take special measures for maintaining his pasture.

Getting a Sod. While the ordinary practice is to clear additions to the pasture fields and allow the bluegrass to come in itself this is a slow process. Where the land is level enough to plow and prepare a seed bed, it is possible to permit much more grazing the first two or three years and to get a permanent sod more quickly by seeding a mixture of grasses, such as orchard grass, redtop, red or alsike clover, tall oat-grass, or timothy, along with the bluegrass. Bluegrass and white clover will eventually crowd out the most of the other grasses, although orchard grass will persist for many years, thereby adding to the early spring and late fall grazing.

The Virginia agricultural experiment station has demonstrated that fairly close grazing will keep a bluegrass sod in better condition than light grazing, as the latter practice allows the grass and weeds an opportunity to seed. Cleaning up a field at the close of the grazing period seems to have a similar effect. The tramping of the field by stock, unless the land is so wet that it cuts up badly, is also beneficial. It must be remembered that the soil of an old turf tends to become too loose, and the case in England it was found that rolling the old pasture fields was the most effective method of eradicating moss.

A field that is neither mown or grazed will never form a desirable turf, but, on the other hand, overgrazing may destroy the plants. There is, however, very little overgrazing in the bluegrass region and there is no greater danger of not keeping sufficient stock on the pasture. Overgrazed fields have the appearance of neglected lawns. Closely clipped bluegrass on a fertile soil makes such a dense turf that most weeds have difficulty in invading it. When the grass is allowed to go to seed, the turf is weakened and more open places occur in it. It is pointed out also that while there is a greater bulk of forage produced when the grass is allowed to mature the young grass has a much higher nutritive value, which offsets the deficiency in yield. In fattening cattle, the nutritive value of the bluegrass, especially the protein content, which may vary considerably, is a highly important factor.

Care of Pastures. Very little labor is necessary to keep a good pasture in first class condition. All loose stones and rubbish that are removed give that much more space for grass plants to grow. All brush or trees not needed for shade or other purposes should be cut or denuded by girdling. In addition to the above suggestions, all tall-growing weeds should be mown at least once a year, preferably just before they form seed. It is a common practice in central Kentucky and in some other sections of the bluegrass region to mow the weeds. This is done with a mowing machine if the fields are sufficiently smooth; otherwise, by a man with a scythe. The difference in the appearance of fields in localities where weed mowing is practiced and where it is not is very striking. Mowing will usually hold in check most of the common weeds, such as ragweed, oxeye daisy, thistles and briars. A few sheep on cattle pastures have been found very efficient in keeping down troublesome weeds.

Danger of Hawkweed. There recently has been introduced into southwestern Virginia a weed that gives promise of being more damaging to pastures than anything that has heretofore appeared. It is the field hawkweed (Hieracium pratense), a low-growing plant, somewhat resembling narrow-leaved plantain, but the stems and leaves are hairy. It spreads by underground stems and forms a dense mat, which crowds out most other plants. The flowers are bright yellow, borne on naked, upright stalks eight to twenty inches high. This weed, along with other closely related species, has already damaged the pastures of New York and New England greatly. It could now be eradicated from the bluegrass region if the farmers would attack it before it is distributed further.

Hawkweed may be destroyed by chopping it out with a hoe or mattock. If this method is used, care should be exercised to get all the rootstocks in the upper inch or two of the soil and destroy them. Another method, which seems to be about the best that can be suggested at the present time, is to spray the plants on a clear day with a solution of ordinary salt. Three pounds of salt to one gallon of water is the proportion that has given the best results. Every patch treated should be inspected occasionally, as it may require two or three sprayings to kill the hawkweed. If the weed is in small patches, which is the way it usually starts, a man equipped with a knapsack sprayer can cover a large area in a day. The spraying may be done at any time, but it is easier to find the plant when it is in bloom. The showy yellow flowers are very conspicuous and may be seen and recognized for a considerable distance.

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ROMANCE IS DUE IN FRANCE AT WAR'S END

With the Abolition of the Marriage Contract and Dowry by That Country.

PARIS, Sept. 23.—A sort of official matrimonial agency is the latest expedient proposed by Eugene Brioux, of the French academy to relieve the anticipated dearth of husbands after the war. There were 1,878,265 single men and 1,664,665 single women above the age of 25 in France before the war, according to the latest complete statistics. From the age of 30 up the number of unmarried was about equal between the two sexes with a million each.

A considerable number of happy households could have been organized out of these vast resources, M. Brioux thinks, had there been greater facilities for bringing eligible parties together. They should in the future, he thinks be all registered at their respective town halls.

A more significant suggestion, also due to M. Brioux, is the abolition of the marriage contract and the dowry—the great barrier to the marriage of the girl without a fortune. Some believe a romantic period is to set in in which the dowry will get lost in a great flood of spontaneous and genuine sentiment.

NORTHVIEW WATER CONSUMERS All water consumers are hereby notified to install water meters by October 1, 1916. Unless meters are installed water will be turned off. By order of the Council of the town of North View. A. L. MATTHEW, Mayor.

FEARING FIANCE WOULD DIE IN WAR, KILLS SELF

UTICA, N. Y., Sept. 23.—Fearing her fiance would never return to her from the European war, Mary Ellante, 24 years old, drowned herself in the Erie canal here.

The young woman had attended a party in her neighborhood the night before and it is believed the gaily of the young couples produced an opposite effect in her mind. She returned to her home after the party broke up in a dejected mood.

Two weeks ago she received her last letter from her sweetheart in the trenches. The letter brought the information that he had been wounded, though not seriously. From that date she apparently lost interest in life.

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JUDGE ROBINSON VISITS SCENES OF CHILDHOOD

Entered the Old Cobbler Shop Where His Father Labored Years Ago.

PHILIPPI, Sept. 23.—On the eve of opening his regular speaking itinerary arranged by his campaign managers, Judge Ira E. Robinson chugged into this town in an automobile, disappeared for a couple of hours and passed through here again on his return to Clarksburg. It was Sunday last and there had been much speculation among the townspeople since as to what occasioned the hurried visit of this distinguished West Virginian who is now big in the public eye. Their curiosity has at last been gratified and there is apparent relief among them.

Visits Graves. Judge Robinson came here to visit the graves of his parents in the cemetery at Taylor's Drain Methodist Episcopal church, five miles distant; his boyhood home nearby, and the little one-room shop which sets off to one side from the house and nearer to the road. It was here in this diminutive log building now covered with weatherboarding as is also the old log wing of the house, that William Robinson, the cobbler, sat at his bench and made boots and shoes for the people of the country side. He was an expert and drew patronage on that account for the county seat. In those times men wore boots, and took pride in having the best footwear that expert hands could make. The lawyers and the leading men of Phillippi were clients of "Uncle Billy" Robinson.

The cobbler of Taylor's Drain was also a farmer and he tilled 150 acres, most of them fine grazing land, profitably. But above everything else he was a philosopher, and his quaint, homely sayings are repeated to this day in Barbour county. He was of strong character, a church man of strict rectitude, and an omnivorous reader. The little old shoe shop has been kept just as he left it when he

loned oil lamps, shedding sufficient light on the pages to enable the pious eyes of the preacher to read accurately the sacred word to his devout little flock.

Turning the stained pages of the beloved old Book, Judge Robinson read with interest this writing on the front fly-leaf: "For thirty-five years this Bible has occupied this sacred place. May it continue as a lamp to guide the young of this community. David's confidence expressed in the twenty-third Psalm may be realized by us of this date and generation. Let us believe St. John, chapter 3, verse 16, and manifest our belief by our life and work."

The signature affixed to this was that of Charles W. Robinson, a brother of the man who was visiting boyhood scenes and refreshing memories of other years long, who is a prominent and highly esteemed citizen of Fairmont. In a hymn book in a nearby bench, the visitor found a favorite of his youth: "Faith of our fathers! Living still in spite of dungeon, fire and sword; O, how our hearts beat high with joy, whenever we hear that glorious word." The tune that goes with the aged hymn isn't much as hymns go, nor as Judge Robinson tried to render it, but what is seemed to lack to the cynical outsider and companion of the shoe-maker's son of Taylor's Drain in respect to that, was more than made up by the earnest reverence in the tones attempted, and by the impressive sentiment which occasioned this visit to the quiet solitudes of the country side.

Mystery Solved. That's the clearing up of the mystery of Judge Robinson's flight through Phillippi on last Sunday. It has been his custom for years to visit annually the old family place, and the graves of his revered ancestors neatly kept up by devoted children and grandchildren, within the shadow of the little Methodist "meeting house" on Taylor's Drain.

manifestation of an attempt to circumscribe or restrict this statutory right of selection. On the contrary, an intention is apparent to leave its exercise by the proper tribunal free and unfettered by any limitation whatsoever. The petitioners and voters evidently knew of the existence of the two roads between the points named. They also knew both highways were not, and only one of them was intended to be benefited by the contemplated improvement. Some one must supply the omission, that one necessarily being the tribunal to that end empowered by statute. This objection, therefore, is untenable.

The fourth and last irregularity concerns the character of the material to be used in the improvement of the roads specified. While the language used may perhaps engender some doubt when cursorily read, except a careful examination will lead to the conclusion that the voters clearly understood and intended to consent to the use of concrete in the reconstruction of such roads. The language employed by the petitioners, so far as now pertinent, and carried into the order of the county court, prays that "the proceeds arising from the sale of the bonds shall be used for the sale of the following named roads in such manner as is prescribed by law, the roads to be improved by the proceeds of said bonds being as follows, to-wit: "A fifteen foot concrete road beginning at the Maryland line just west of Hutton and extending to and through the town of Terra Alta and thence to and through the town of Albright to the Pleasant district line; a fourteen foot concrete road beginning at the Union district line on the Aurora pike," etc. It is contended that the word "concrete" is a part of the description of the road, and not a specification of the material to be used. But none of the roads were concrete roads. The evident intent of the voters was to make them such. In its order calling for the proceeds, the county court provided that the proceeds derived from the sale of the bonds should be used in making permanent improvements on the roads specified in the petition and to the extent therein set forth, "by the use of concrete and such other materials as are required to complete the work in the manner prescribed by law." It is directed that the vote be taken upon the election, the assessment of the taxes, and the disposition of the proceeds to be derived therefrom. The voters doubtless understood, when voting their consent so to be taxed, that the material to be used in making the public improvements authorized by the petition was concrete and such other material as was necessary to build concrete roads. They expressed a willingness to be taxed for that character of road building material, and none other. It cannot reasonably be said they contemplated the substitution therefor of water-bound macadam, although perhaps less expensive than that to which they assented. Doubtless these petitioners had in mind the use of the same material, as evidently did the county court when granting their prayer and

WOMAN ELECTROCUTED BY AN ELECTRIC IRON

CLEVELAND, O., Sept. 23.—Standing on a damp basement floor while using an electric iron, Mrs. Augusta Tichorowski was electrocuted. From an investigation by the police it is thought the woman tried to adjust the plug at the base of the iron without shutting off the current. While doing this her hand evidently came in contact with the live end of the wire plug and the current passed through her body into the damp floor. Her two children ran frightened for aid. When neighbors arrived they found Mrs. Tichorowski unconscious, her hand clutching the plug end of the cord.

MAN, 60, ADOPTS AS DAUGHTER WOMAN, 49

MIDDLETOWN, N. Y., Sept. 23.—Surrogate Sweeney, of Orange county, has granted the petition of Charles N. Stevens, 60, for the adoption as his daughter, of Marie Halstead, 49, for the last two years his housekeeper. Under the order her name has been changed from Marie Halstead to Marie Stevens. Stevens is a well-to-do real estate broker, whose wife died several years ago.

MUST USE MATERIALS THE VOTERS VOTE FOR

Such is Decision of Supreme Court in Preston County Good Roads Case.

Brown v County Court. Preston County; deuces reversed, demurrer to bill overruled; cause remanded. Lynch, Judge.

Syllabus.

1. The county court is without authority to substitute one type of road construction material not authorized by an election had pursuant to section five, chapter eight, act second extra session, 1915 (Barnes' code, 1916, chapter 43, section 56a25a), for another type of material expressly submitted to the qualified voters of the district affected and approved by them at an election held and conducted therein, under said statute, for that purpose.

2. When at an election so held and conducted the voters authorize a bond issue for the improvement of a road between certain designated points connected by two roads virtually of the same general character and length, neither of them being specifically mentioned in the petition or order of submission, the county court is vested with ample authority to determine which road it will undertake to improve by the expenditure of the proceeds of such authorized bond issue.

3. When two statutes of different dates purport to cover the whole of the same subject matter, the later one when plainly showing it was intended to have that effect, works a repeal of the other by implication, and becomes a substitute therefor, although it does not purport to amend and reenact the prior statute but repeals all act inconsistent therewith.

From a decree sustaining defendant's demurrer to and dismissing the bill, alleging irregularities in the submission of a proposed bond issue and tax levy upon the real and personal property of Portland district, Preston county, for the improvement of public roads therein, upon the petition of the requisite number of taxpayers within the district, and praying an injunction inhibiting defendant from further proceedings in the matter of such improvement, the plaintiff Brown obtained this appeal.

The vital errors, if errors at all, relate to the manner of the submission of the proposed bond issue. It is contended the notice of the election should have been published in two newspapers of opposite politics and general circulation within the territory affected. There are two statutes applicable to such proceedings: section seven, chapter nine, acts, 1908, relied on by plaintiff, and section five, chapter eight, acts, second extra session 1915, relied on by defendant. The first statute requires publication in the man-

ner urged by appellant; the second, "in one or more newspapers of general circulation if published within the county or district affected," and with which defendant complied. Although the later act does not purport to amend and re-enact the prior one, it does so by implication. It embraces the same subject matter, and contains the usual general provision that all acts and parts of acts inconsistent therewith are hereby repealed. Hence, the last statute controls. Besides, it does not appear from any pleading that there is more than one newspaper published or of general circulation in Portland district, as required in section five.