

Agriculturist

Edited By
Professor C. A. Stebbins



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT—MILEN DEMPSTER, TOOL COMPANY; ALBERT TUPPER, STREET COMMISSIONER; ALBERT BECKER.

Back to the Farm

Professor Benson of the department of agriculture tells an interesting story about the revolution that has taken place in some parts of the country in the attitude of country boys and girls toward the farm. In the spring of 1907 he began an experiment to show the result of teaching something about agriculture to scholars in the rural schools.

"In March, 1907," says Prof. Benson in an address delivered before a committee of the Council of Grain Exchanges, "I sent out a circular to thirty-four schools in one county in Iowa asking the teacher these questions:

"How many boys above the fifth grade in your school expect to be farmers when grown to manhood?"

"How many of the girls expect when grown to womanhood to have anything to do with the farm home and rural life?"

"Out of a total of 164 boys enrolled in the 34 rural schools above the fifth grade, 157 said: 'We will have nothing to do with farming in any shape or form; we will be doctors, lawyers, preachers, statesmen, presidents of the United States, anything but farmers.'

"Only seven of them had the nerve to say that they would be farmers or have something to do with farming when grown up into manhood. When I received that report I was so interested in those seven boys that I made a special trip out to the schools where they were located and made some personal inquiries as to why under the sun they had decided to become farmers.

"Two of these boys had been associated pretty closely with P. G. Holden and M. L. Bowman. They had heard Mr. Bowman lecture on corn. They heard Professor Holden. There was one boy that had actually gone down to Ames and had taken the first short course that was given there. There were three whose fathers had been in short courses or farmers' institutes and had got the spirit in some way. Then the other one—I am unable to this day to account for the index of his life.

"Now this would not be interesting unless I give you the results obtained last spring (1910). There was then a total enrollment of 174 boys in these same thirty-four schools. I sent out to them the same letter and the same questions, with the same precautions, and got the following report:

"Out of 174 boys 162 had changed their minds or had decided that they would be farmers or have something to do with directing of farms, and not only there but somewhere else. And still 12 of them persisted in not having anything to do with farming. One, I remember, was to be a rural school teacher, and two or three of the others were going to be merchants, one a banker, and so on.

"One of the chief reasons for the changes that had been made was that I saw to it after getting the first report that every teacher in those 34 schools should get to work at once and teach by correlation, by general lessons and by class study the elements and rudiments of agriculture and home economics, and I succeeded that very year in getting 31 out of 34 to work.

"Then the girls; we must not leave the girl question out of this. In those 34 schools there were 174 girls enrolled. On the first census we have 163 girls who did not wish to remain on the farm and 11 who would stay on the farm. Well, that is a rather disastrous condition of affairs. But at the close of three years' work along this line in these same schools out of a total enrollment of 178 girls 161 of them said: 'We will have something to do with the direction of the farm home,' and seventeen of them still persisted in going to the city."—New York Sun.

How I Planted My Seeds

KENDRICK BELL,

Berkeley, Le Conte School

The first thing I did after I dug up and raked off my garden was to make my trenches in which to plant my seeds. After my seeds were planted I watered my plot thoroughly. I planted my seeds so deeply that they were long in coming up. All my seeds came up finely except my lettuce, but I think it will grow all right. My plants are all very small yet, but they seem to be growing very fast.

In Far Away Imperial

CLARENCE REHER,
Imperial

The boys and girls of the Keystone school, Imperial district, have adopted the constitution printed in the Junior Agriculturist. They have elected Willie Stone president, Ethel Reher vice president, Clarence Reher secretary and Oscar Reher treasurer.

EDITORIAL

What best thing have you done this month, this week, today? Do you know the great difference between a man of success and a man of failure? One sees and does the best things as a boy, the other wastes his time on matters that do not count.

It is a small accomplishment to grow a radish, to have a garden, but it is a feat to be proud of to grow the best radish, to have the best garden. After all, so many are lagging behind that it is quite easy to be the best in some ways, if not in all. Just think a little more and work a little harder, and the best garden is yours. If you are asked to clean a path, clean it well; if you drive a stake, drive it straight. Whatever task is set you, do your best.

We feel quite sure that the Junior gardener who is conscientious, thinks most and works hardest, and who therefore grows the best radish, is going to make the best man, for he will ever be dissatisfied with anything not the best. He will not only do his best, but will look for the best. He will read the best books, he will look at the best pictures, he will select good companions. Such a boy will make the man that he wishes to be. If a girl wishes to be a good woman she must do these things, too. Boys and girls, it is the good man and the good woman that do most and that are loved most.

Two years ago in May, during the graduation exercises held in the Greek theater, Berkeley, President Wheeler announced to the thousands of people assembled that he wished to grant honorary diplomas to members of the first class of the university. As each man came forward to receive his honors he was cheered by the people according to the amount of good he had done. Finally, as one old man rose and came forward, the whole audience rose, the men doffed their hats and the applause was very great. This man was not only a good man, but he used his power in doing good for his people. Men recognize the intellect of a great lawyer, they applaud the power of a great doctor, but they reverence goodness in a strong man which causes him to help his neighbor.

What best thing will you do this coming month, this coming week, today? Do not wait until the New Year, but try something at once and keep it up.

Junior Gardening Club of Durant School

JANNETTE McCREA,
1624 Liaden Street, Oakland

At last we have started to plant. We have very fine soil. We love to work in our garden. Mr. Dumber gave us a big piece of land. Each child has a plot of his own. We thank you very much for your seeds. We are fond of every seed and every morning, noon and recess we work at our gardens.

I have carrots, lettuce, parsley, onions, spinach, sweetpeas, poppies and sweet alyssum in my garden. We did not have the seeds Friday, so we had to plant them this Thursday. The girls took envelopes and cut them small for the seeds. They worked very hard. I expect the seeds to be up next Thursday. Then we will be happier than ever.

Osmosis

INA WRIGHT,

Paso Robles, Paso Robles Public School,
Age 12 Years

In The Junior Call I saw where one person had done an experiment in osmosis. We did it in a different way. We took a jar and filled it nearly full of water. We took two walnut shells and filled them both with sugar. On one we put paraffine all over the bottom of the shell. The other we left just as it was when the sugar was put in it. The result was that in the one without the paraffine on it the water had come in through the pores and there was a sweet liquid in it. The other one was as dry as could be. The paraffine had stopped up the pores, so the water could not get through. All seeds are made porous so that water can get into the little germ.

How Our Club Was Started

CLARENCE MITCHELL,
Berkeley, Leconte School, Low Fifth Grade

About two months ago Mr. Stebbins came and gave us a lecture on gardening. He told us about the junior agricultural clubs that had been started in different parts of California. Mr. Imrie, our principal, asked us if we would like to join. We were very glad to do so and in about a week we had our officers chosen. We elected Thomas Patton president, Charlie Short vice president, Allan Hargear secretary and Helen Maher treasurer. We each received a junior agricultural button and Mr. Stebbins gave us seeds to start our gardens with. Some of us receive the Junior Agriculturist. We are all glad we joined.

My Garden Last Term

HAZEL MORSE,
Berkeley, Le Conte School

In my garden I had flowers and vegetables. I planted them in straight rows. When we watered the garden we dug trenches between our rows. This was to let the water get to the roots. These trenches had to be covered over so that the water could not evaporate so quickly. My partner, Helene Sleep, and I had in our garden parsley, lettuce, peas, carrots, onions and poppies. Every Thursday and Friday in vacation we came to water and gather our things.

at Dinner

a vegetable can be made brought to light, and if those who had poohpoohed the work being carnations, snapdragons, flag lilies, geraniums, rosebushes, smilax, lilacs and marigolds.

Can you tell me how to take care of carnations and make them bloom and how to keep the red spider off of plants? Thanking you, Yours truly,
MISS N. VICKERS, Fresno.

Principal of the Niles school, work of the class and exhibited. Interesting talk of the things being done and endeavors of the boys was followed by Professor Stebbins of the University of California who lucidly outlined the work along similar lines in the Zeidler of the Union high school. He dwelt on the importance of the agreement and the bearing it on the development of the child.

They were the assembled for their vegetable dinner will be held at the institution.

My Garden

BROWNIE,
Berkeley

I started our garden last year. It was lacking sand. The soil was not so good. I put some sand in it and I put a great deal in it. I found that sandy soil is best for lettuce and not for other things.

A COMMUNICATION

Dear sir: I am very much interested in the "Junior Agriculturist" and would like to receive it regularly.

In my garden at home I have carnations, snapdragons, flag lilies, geraniums, rosebushes, smilax, lilacs and marigolds.

Can you tell me how to take care of carnations and make them bloom and how to keep the red spider off of plants? Thanking you, Yours truly,
MISS N. VICKERS, Fresno.

What We Did With Our Vegetables and Flowers Last Summer

HELEN MAHER,

Le Conte School, Berkeley

Last summer we had gardens, but the school term ended when the things were getting ripe, so the children that wanted to come to the school grounds during the summer to work in their gardens. The children who had gardens in Alameda county gave a vegetable luncheon to the teachers in July. We sent them flowers. One day we sent up a basket of vegetables to Mr. Bunker, our superintendent. The rest we took home. They were pretty gardens. Mrs. Payden was our gardening teacher last term.

How to Have a Good Garden

CARL BUCHELE

You must first clear the ground of rubbish. When that is done it must be staked out so that it will not be cracked or uneven. It must be spaded very finely, so that the ground is in good condition. Then it must be raked to break lumps in it and make it level. The rows must be evenly laid out and the seeds planted not too thick. You must cover the seeds very well, so that they are warm. When the seeds come up and the weeds begin to grow you must weed your garden and water it. The seeds must have moisture or they will not grow.

PLANT YOUR SEEDS NOW

Are you going to enter the sweet pea contest, announcement of which was made in last week's Junior Call? If you are, now is the time to get busy. Plant your seeds right away. See The Junior Call of December 9 for announcement. Further particulars will follow shortly. Prizes will be awarded from the following score card:

	Points.
For freshness and good color.....	6
For number of flowers to stem (four).....	4
For length of stem (approximately 18 inches).....	4
For arrangement of flowers on the stem.....	4
For size of bloom—approximate width of standard, 1 3/4; Spencers, 1 1/4; for others.....	4
For color blending.....	2
Total.....	24