

Farmers' Educational and Co-Operative Union of America

Matters of Especial Moment to the Progressive Agriculturist

Let not the sun go down upon thy mistakes. Intolerance wins neither friends nor success. "Dollar vision" is the enemy of real co-operation. One can't set the world on fire by shooting hot air. Flattery may be nice but its purpose is questionable. Honesty as a "policy" only is unprofitable business. The discouraged man always has the hardest row to hoe. Go after the dollars, the pennies will come tagging along. It's the top dollar that puts the cream into the cream check. Law suits are dear at any price. Avoid them if at the expense of your own dignity. Instead of worrying over past mistakes, brace up and resolve to do better in the future. Don't expect to have a bright and happy home without good books, music and friends. You will be much happier if you don't try to get even with the man who has injured you. We are all inclined to consider a man a fine fellow if he is a good listener to our hot air. You have heard much about the high cost of living but what about the high cost of being a sport? It is an old axiom, that it is hard for an empty sack to stand straight; but still harder for a lazy man to succeed as a farmer. We have come to the conclusion that a man who has got a bad heart doesn't need medicine—he needs religion or a good beating. Every "sure thing" has a string tied to it somewhere, and some tricky person at the other end of the string is bound to jerk as soon as the innocent party grabs for it. The most efficient school is the school in which the farmers and their wives take a keen interest. The teacher deserves co-operation and should have it if you want the best results.

GIVE PREFERENCE TO COTTON

Many Ways in Which Merchants and Others Can Help Greatest Industry in United States.

One of the great flouring mills has adopted the policy of using cotton bags for its flour wherever the trade can be induced to accept them. This should be perfectly easy, except in certain foreign lands where the people, for some reason, prefer jute bags. American merchants can help the greatest industry in the United States by pushing on the market the beautiful table and bed clothes made of cotton. They are fully the equal of linen in appearance and in serviceableness. Cotton wrapping twine has been adopted by the government departments at Washington, instead of the hemp and jute fibers. For all purposes for which cotton is adapted in price and quality, cotton should be given the preference. "Buy a bale" is a good slogan, but the millions who can buy only a tiny fraction of a bale may do so by giving preference to cotton where possible. By so doing they will serve the nation's greatest and most depressed industry—and save money.

CAREFUL PLANS FOR FARMING

System May Be Mapped Out That Will Cover Considerable Period of Time—Means Success.

The successful business man is not a mere opportunist. He makes careful plans, constructs a careful system, which may cover a long period of years. Circumstances may arise which cause him to alter his plans in details, but rarely in the larger outlines. Like any other sort of business, highly successful farming requires careful planning. A system may be worked out that will cover a considerable period of time. To make no plans beyond a single season is to invite loss and possibly even disaster. The successful farmer lays plans for cropping systems, crop rotations, the raising of live stock, the improvement of his property, advertising, and numerous other matters. With this as a basis, he moves confidently into the future. Conditions may necessitate alterations in details, but the plans if properly laid will remain in large measure the same and will lead to increasing success.

Distance for Planting.

Currents and roseberries, three to four feet apart. Raspberries and blackberries, three to five by four to seven feet apart. Strawberries for field culture, one to two by three to four feet apart. Strawberries, garden culture, one to two feet apart.

Profitable Farm Building.

There is probably no farm building that pays a better profit dollar for dollar than the shed that keeps machinery from the weather.

Peanuts for Forage.

Experiments recently completed by the department of agriculture show that peanuts can be profitably used as forage for cattle in the south Atlantic states where they grow so abundantly. Animals display an almost human fondness for peanuts and thrive on them.—Missouri Stockman.

Substitute for Alfalfa.

When properly handled sweet clover makes a very good substitute for alfalfa or clover hay, its nutritive value being about the same.

Testing the Eggs.

After eggs have been in the incubator for a week, they should be tested to see if they contain a developing germ. Hold a lighted lamp or candle behind each egg. An infertile egg will be found to be absolutely clear, while a fertile egg will have a dark spot in the center. Infertile eggs should be taken away and fresh eggs, carefully dated, put in their places.

Birds Destroy Boll Weevil.

Sixty-four birds are known to be enemies of the cotton boll weevil.

FAILURES IN CO-OPERATION

Invariably Traced to Bad Management or Graft, or Both—General System is Approaching.

In the United States there are a large number of co-operative associations. Not all of them have succeeded by any means but where there has been a failure it invariably can be traced to bad management, or graft, or both. We do not have however, anything approaching a general system of co-operation in this country, but in my judgment we are evolving toward that condition, writes T. A. McNeal in Farmers Mail and Breeze. The fact that the competitive system, if it can be called a system, is wasteful, uneconomic, brutal and finally leads to the destroying of the government, war and finally anarchy, is gradually permeating the minds even of men who have themselves profited most from the system. When a Guggenheim declares that "every worker is entitled to a job and that the government should see that he gets it," with a good deal more along the same line it would seem that new light is dawning. I do not look for general co-operation to be brought about by a sudden revolution. It will come about gradually, spreading until it covers the entire nation. It will not then be one system but a large number of systems working together in harmony. There will be national co-operation, concerning matters that are naturally and properly national. The railroads for example, will be owned by the nation. There will be a system of banks owned and operated by the government to facilitate the exchange of commodities. There will be government warehouses in which commodities that are not easily perishable will be stored. There will be public works to develop such resources as are national in character, such as the building of interstate railroads; the improving of navigable rivers; the developing of the waterpower of such rivers. There will be state co-operation along lines that may be determined properly to come within the jurisdiction of states. Such I think would be the constructing of wagon roads, for example. There will be co-operation in the lesser municipalities such as cities, towns, counties and townships concerning matters that are local in their character and which can be better managed in a local way than by either the nation or the state. All these co-operative units will work together harmoniously but to a large degree independently, each within its own proper sphere, just as there are in the universe an infinite number of systems, each perfect within itself but all moving together in perfect harmony.

FARMERS IN GOOD POSITION

Somebody Must Raise Food Products to Supply European Nations—Demand for Necessities.

The farmers of this country should take courage, no matter how general the effect of the great war. The position of the American farmer is the most secure of all the classes. He is at least sure of a living, with shelter and plenty to eat, says American Cultivator. No other large class can be sure of that much, but there is more than merely security for the farmers. While the rest of the world's producers are fighting and consuming food products, somebody must raise more food, and nowhere else in the world is there such a great area of the best of food-producing land, under intelligent management and worked with modern machinery. Under the spur of high prices the soil of our farms could be made to produce far more than at present. The crop of most farms could be doubled if the price of the product looked attractive. It seems quite certain that the necessities of life will go higher in price, not only for this year, but for the next. The farmers of Europe who are now in the armies will hardly be able to do much with the crop for next year. There will surely be a great difficulty in maintaining the food supply of the populous nations of Europe. There may be difficulty in securing means of shipment, and it may be hard for the buyers to find the cash, but these needs will have to be met by the people of Europe. Both those at war and those at peace must be fed. Our exporters are not very likely to sell anything unless paid for in advance. Several of the nations that are usually the chief customers in food products will be likely to control the sea, and thus allow free shipment of food, at least to their own ports. It will be a time when the demand will be for the necessities rather than the luxuries. There will be, perhaps, less money, both at home and abroad, to spend for fruit and garden truck, but the demand will be enormous for such staples as grain, flour, meats and potatoes, and even for the less needful food articles like butter, cheese and eggs.

May Become Cannibals.

In early spring young chicks confined closely to brooders, the Leghorns particularly, may become cannibals and take to eating each other. Free range is the best cure. Watch for the ringleader and when you find which one starts the trouble cut the ends off his bill, cutting one part a little shorter than the other, so that when the bill is closed a small opening can be seen.

Pullet Sports Four Legs.

This Variety of Fowl Would Furnish Plenty of Drumsticks for Big Family Dinners. Bristol, Pa.—Probably the only chicken in all the world that can kick with both hind legs at the same time that it scratches its ear with the toes of one of its forefeet is a Plymouth Rock pullet owned by Joseph H. Vansant, antiquarian and chicken champion of this borough. It is a

CANADIAN CONTINGENT TO THE FRONT



Second battalion of Canadian light infantry of the First brigade leaving Salisbury Plain for the front.

BAD BOYS WIN V. C.

Village Terrors Are Now Claimed as Heroes.

Show Remarkable Nerve in the Face of Great Danger and Are Awarded Highest Honor in British Service.

London.—Here's the story of two "bad boys" who made good in the great European war. Formerly the despair of their parents and teachers, Driver Job Henry Drain, Thirty-seventh battery, Royal Field Artillery, and Lance Corporal William Fuller of the Royal Welsh regiment are now popular heroes and the pride of the towns of which they were once considered the disgrace. For the "bad boys" of Barking and Swansea have won the little bronze crosses which enable them to place the letters V. C. after their names, and which put them on the roll of England's greatest heroes for all time. Barking, in Essex, and Swansea, in Wales, are far apart and Drain and Fuller may never meet, but their stories are sufficiently similar to tell together. Drain is the son of a Barking laborer, and as a boy he never made any pretense about wishing to rise in the world. He hated school and played truant so often he was placed in the Walthamstow truant school. Job thrived exceedingly on the regular life at the reform farm, and curiously enough took readily to the physical and military drill, a part of the curriculum. He was a clean-built, well-set-up youth of sixteen when three years ago he was told that he must choose a career and leave his place of detention. He elected to join the army and entered the Royal Field Artillery as a "boy." He was eighteen and a half when the great war broke out, and his battery was one of the first in the field, having moved to France with the Irish division. At Mons and during the famous retreat Drain did his duty and looked after his pair of gun horses in fine style, but it was at Le Cateau that he had the opportunity of showing that bad boys at school were not necessarily incorrigible. There his battery got into a tight corner, and it seemed certain that the guns must be captured by the advancing Germans. Guns are the apple of an artilleryman's eye, and the officers called for volunteers to save them. Most of the gunners had been killed, but with a comrade, Driver Frederick Luke, the "Bad Boy of Barking" dashed through a hail of bullets and hitching up his teams, brought back three guns in succession. Before the two heroes got the third gun away the German infantry were within a hundred yards, but the "worst boy in

FRENCH GUN ON RAILS



One of the huge guns of the French artillery, mounted on a carriage specially constructed for transportation by rail, is seen here being discharged. This gun is trained on some German trenches about two miles away.

PULLET SPORTS FOUR LEGS

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GLEFT BY AIR DART

Man Transfixed by a Shot From Teuton Aviator.

Steel Arrow Goes From Head to Foot, Killing Man Instantly—Dogs Scurry for Shelter When They Hear Cannon.

By A. R. DECKER. Correspondent of the Chicago News. Pont-a-Mousson, France.—Beautifully clear and crisp winter weather brought out the French and German aviators today. The first to appear was a German air craft from Metz. It was a brand new biplane with broad spreading wings and shining armor. The big yellow bird flew nearly overhead and dropped something which gleamed white for an instant and then disappeared from view. I waited tensely for the explosion, which failed to come. The aviator departed in the direction of Ste. Genevieve. Afterward I learned that he had dropped a card with a message that the kaiser sent salutations to Pont-a-Mousson on his birthday and that later he would endeavor to send more substantial greetings in the form of shells. The aviator of the kaiser kept his word. This afternoon the German battery in the quarry at Norroy bombarded the town and shells fell near the railroad station, on the boulevard and at the gas works. When the first shell raced in, leaving a trail of high pitched noise, I was standing at the corner of the main cross street where some dogs were prowling about. The first dull boom of the cannon sent them running like mad into a neighboring hallway. Most of the people also sought shelter until the storm of flying steel had passed. Heavy cannonading was heard in the east, along the Saille river, all the afternoon, and, to follow it more closely, I walked up and down the bank of the Moselle from the sentinel at one end of the town to the sentinel at the other end, who mark the limits of my liberty. Suddenly I heard a purring noise coming from a northerly direction and, looking up, I saw coming swiftly toward me a German aeroplane, which might have been the same that came earlier in the day. I watched it with my glasses, and as he had done in the morning the aviator now dropped something which gleamed for an instant in the sunshine before it was lost to view. Later I learned the object the flyer had dropped was a steel arrow which transfixed a man from head to foot,

CAT CHAPERON FOR CHICKS

Watches Over Them Daily With Mother's Care Till They Go to Roost.

Jefferson City, Mo.—A cat that cares for a brood of chickens is the property of Mrs. John P. Gordon, wife of the state auditor. The cat attracted the attention of neighbors some time ago by its peculiar conduct. At first it was thought it was following the chickens around to kill one for a meal. This idea was soon dissipated when day after day the performance was repeated. Then it was observed that the cat attached itself to a brood of late "fryers," now about half grown. It watches over this bunch of chickens with apparent motherly solicitude, follows them about all day and never leaves them until they go to roost for the night. Then the cat returns to the Gordon residence and conducts herself, so far as known, during the night just as any other respectable feline. This story is vouched for by all the Gordon neighbors. Donates Sleeping Quarters to Troops. Plymouth, England.—Mrs. Waldorf Astor, who is living at Plymouth, has given all the men in two Scotch regiments encamped there cottages in which to sleep. killing him instantly. The victim was a civilian. He was the twenty-first killed in Pont-a-Mousson by German and French aeroplanes, shells and stray bullets. HOT COFFEE FOR SOLDIERS. A French housewife has opened a little coffee house along one of the routes of march and serves hot coffee and tea to the soldiers. She has named her little inn "The Hearty Welcome." SPINSTERS BECKON IN VAIN. Monument of Oregon Bachelor Bears Unique Expression of His Enduring Aversion to Matrimony. Myrtle Point, Ore.—"To an independent, good-looking bachelor, who in his younger days preferred to live a single life rather than get married and be ruled by a petticoat boss through this life and perhaps in eternity." A granite monument bearing this unique epitaph and surmounted by the rather heroic effigy of a bachelor standing on one side of the River Jordan, with three old maids on the other, beckoning him to cross, marks the grave of F. B. Waite, an eccentric resident of Myrtle Point, who died recently at an advanced age. In his will Waite left explicit directions for the heaving of the monument, and the inscription it should bear.

WELL-TRAINED HEN.

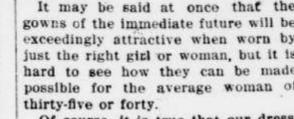
Canton, N. J.—To save herself a walk to the barn, Mrs. Ray S. Turner has taught one of her hens to fly into the kitchen and lay an egg there.

NOT FOR THE STOUT

SHORT, FULL SKIRTS ADAPTED FOR SLIM FIGURES.

Average Woman of Middle Age Will Find it Hard to Wear the Coming Styles—One of the New Picture Hats.

Although the outline of the moment cannot be said to be "early Victorian," because of the generous dimensions of the waist, it is yet true that from the waist down the newest outline recalls the quaint fashions which were in vogue when the great Queen Victoria was a young girl. There is the same very short, and very full skirt and—more often than not—the same shapeless coat which opens in front over a little lace or tulle chemise. It may be said at once that the gowns of the immediate future will be exceedingly attractive when worn by just the right girl or woman, but it is hard to see how they can be made possible for the average woman of thirty-five or forty. Of course, it is true that our dress-makers are clever at arranging and altering existing styles to suit individual forms, but at the same time the fact remains that a very short, full skirt can never look really well on a stout figure. The illustration shows one of the new picture hats made of white velvet. The flat brim is double and the trimmings consist of a quaint cockade made of black moire ribbon and sable. This model has been carried out in dark blue mirror velvet and also in a heavy make of black satin. The important point is that the trimming should be quite small, but uncoming.



Worth model afternoon gown. Skirt is of blue taffeta with red flowers, very full skirt, shirred; dark blue satin waist and band around skirt. Hat is Napoleonic shape from Worth, color of the roses in the skirt, with cerise velvet trimming. Parasol is of dark blue silk.

DESIGNED FOR THE EVENING

Customer's Triumph Made Manifest in Selection of Colors for This Charming Gown.

The evening gown shown in the drawing would have been striking whatever colors had been chosen for its design, but developed in black and white it has acquired distinction. The graceful fall of lace over the shoulder

LAST WORD IN RIBBON STYLES

Matters of Importance Which Women Will Do Well to Keep in the Memory.

Watch out for velvet ribbons. They are to be used very freely this spring and summer for dress trimmings. Also be on the lookout for taffeta ribbons in narrow styles not over an inch and one-half wide with corded edges and rather thin texture. These will be broadly used and especially smart in the new colorings. In the millinery field, the vogue for ribbon trimmings will follow that which now exists for vegetable trimmings. Plaided effects will enter as well as satin ribbons in black and black and white effects. It is possible for hat trimmings to become very dependent upon ribbon trimmings this season. The band and streamer styles are indicated as well as brim facings of ribbons. Bengaline and voile ribbons are also on the tapis. Embroideries of narrow velvet ribbon and soutache braids will be smart trimmings for cloth, muslin and silk dresses.

NOT HARD TO CLEAN HATS

Little Need to Despair When Matter of Renovation Becomes a Pressing Necessity.

A quick and effective way to clean white felt hats is to make a paste of flour and gasoline, rub it into the hat and hang it in the air. When dry it will look just like new, with all dust and finger marks gone. To clean white plumes, take one quart of gasoline and divide it into

COMMENT ON SPRING STYLES

Designs Vary Greatly From Those That Have Been Popular During the Winter Months.

The new spring dresses represent change in silhouette, crispness of materials and novelty in designs. As the season advances the skirts are growing wider and wider, having already reached the three-and-one-half-yard width. The normal and the high waist line are both seen. Coat dresses include military effects, bolero jackets and various Dutch, Russian and peasant effects, suggesting the coat in the bodice of the dress. Taffeta and faille constitute many smart models with boleros braided in gold, silver or in matching soutache. Flounces, ruffles and even draperies are used. When the skirt does not reach below the ankles, the waist line is shortened. With longer skirts the normal waist line is used. In addition to full circular skirts there are gored, box-plaited, accordion-plaited and side-plaited skirts. Vari-

Taffeta Petticoats.

For the first time in several seasons the taffeta petticoat is again fashionable. Now that the distended dresses are becoming the vogue, the demand for the taffeta petticoat must follow. By way of compromise, the taffeta flounces are used on petticoats of the softer silks. Usually each combination of materials are made in matching colors, as it is undesirable to call attention to the difference in the texture of the fabric.

AFTERNOON MODEL



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