Farm Department

HOW TO OBTAIN FARMERS' INSTITUTES

The Board of Directors of the North Dakota Farmers' Institutes have organized the season's work under the superintendency of Frank Sanford. In the plans for this year's work, two types of meetings have been provided for. First, the regular Farmers' Institute corps consisting of two men and a woman. This corps of Institute workers will be available for the various towns in the state. Second, plans have been completed to hold one day meetings at points in the country remote from towns, thus bringing the work of the Farmers' Institutes to those parts of the state where farmers cannot easily attend the Institutes held in town.

The first type of Institute, that for the towns, will be charged for at the rate of $15. for a one day session and $25. for a two day session. The small state appropriation makes this charge necessary in order to meet the increasing demands for Institutes. The town in which the Institute is held is expected to furnish a hall, properly heated and lighted, and to distribute and handle the advertising which will be forwarded them through the Farmers' Institute. No charge will be made for the meetings served by a single speaker in districts remote from the railroad. The community in which the meeting is held will, however, be expected to meet the livery expense of going to and from the railroad station.

Mr. Sanford has engaged well known farmers as speakers. Several have been with previous Farmers' Institutes, and include Byron Bobb of Hayknes, J. E. Eastgate, Larimore, John Christianson, New Salem, L. A. Larson, Tunbridge, W. R. Lanxon, and others. The women to be employed for the institutes have not yet been selected. In addition, members of the North Dakota Experiment Station staff and of the Agricultural College faculty may be called upon for presentation of certain special subjects.

Towns desiring Institutes should make application at an early date to the Superintendent of Farmers' Institutes, Agricultural College, North Dakota.

STICK TO THE FARM

With winter coming on, and the crops safely harvested and stowed away, many young men of the farms will be casting longing eyes toward the great cities.

They would leave the green fields and their pleasures and seek the glare of the electric lights and the allurements of the great white way.

They would taste of the greater life.

And therein lurks the most haunting peril that confronts our country today, for the nation is dependent upon the farmer.

Our population is increasing by leaps and bounds, and millions of additional mouths must be fed each and every year.

From the soil of the farms must come the produce which sustains life and body for the countless thousands who throng the cities.

And year by year young men of the country are leaving the farms to seek their fortunes in the human bee hives.

And each one who forsakes the farm reduces the producing capacity of the country, although our constantly increasing population calls for greater farm production.

Young men of brains are needed on the farm. Their presence there means much to their country—a thousand times more than they realize.

The city offers but one chance in a hundred for success, for every large city is already over populated, and for every job worth the having there are many applicants.

Today, as we write this article, every city in the country is groaning under the burden of its unemployed. Many hundreds of thousands of people are without bread and wholly dependent upon charity. That is the condition of the great cities today—a condition which should not appeal to any intelligent young man from the farm.

The farm offers the young man a life of honor, and of peace, and of plenty.

The glare of the electric light offers him all that he should not have.

Young men of wisdom should stick to the farm.

Fools have no wisdom to lose.

BANKERS AND FARMERS

Bankers are trying to get in closer touch with the farmer, and their efforts are bound to produce results profitable to both. This paper, again and again, has urged a closer cooperation between banker and farmer, and the cry has been echoed all over the country. The Missouri Bankers' Association is making a first definite step in cooperating with the state board of agriculture and other organizations to organize rural associations in every county in the state for the purpose of working up sentiment for good roads, farm advisers, better schools and more scientific methods of agriculture. Men will represent the bankers' association in each county, and will be charged with the duty of organizing the county association. The state board of agriculture then steps in, and will send speakers and workers to aid. The railroads will also lend assistance. The new movement is the dawn of the era of rock roads and the death knell of the little backwoods schoolhouse on the hill.

PRESERVING SEASON

There's the fragrance of the orient
through all the house to-day,
The spicy smell of cinnamon, cloves,
nutmeg, and bay,
And it mingles with the perfume of
the peaches and the plums;
Do you recognize this fragrance—
when preserving season comes?

There are baskets heaped with apples;
heaped with damson plums and
pears;
Jelly glasses by the dozen; Mason jars
long stored down stairs,
Have been washed in boiling water,
and now stand in gleaming rows
And neatly written labels soon their
contents will disclose.

Blackberry jams and melon pickles,
brandied peaches, apple jell,
Preserved pears (last season's winner)
and quince marmalade as well;
All the sunshine of the summer for
the winter time put by;
All the orchard's golden sweetness
ripened under azure sky.

Like the squirrels of the forest women
folks are full of thrift
When Queen Nature in her beauty
pours before us gift on gift,
And I seem to read a promise in the
kettle's frothy foam
That the summer time will linger in
the heart and in the home.

WILLIE'S ESSAY ON THE HEAD

The human head is located at one end of the body and the feet at the other. The head can be told from the feet by shaking. If the thing you are shaking is empty and rattles it is a head, if it don't rattle it is feet.

Men's heads is held onto their shoulders by Adam's apples, while wimmins' is united to their shoulders by swan-like necks, that show the marks of the pin feathers awl too plane.

The front of the head is a face, and the back is a body of nothing, entirely surrounded by hair—sometimes. When a man is bald it is hard to tell which is the front and which is the back, but an intelligent person can always tell in this manner: The front is full of holes, while the back is not.

Faces is useful for many things. They can be used as a garden for growing whiskers, back-grounds for paintings, incomes for barbers, blocks for setting under hats, mirrors for reflecting emotions, and patterns for valentines. They can also be used, when they are of the female variety, for littering up the covers of magazines.

Heads is divided into many kinds, among them being swelled head, pumpkin head, egg head, head of Navagashun, sore head, barrel head, and head of the class, of which I know very little.

Of course, every candidate is sure of an overwhelming victory at the polls. But then even a yellow dog may delude himself into thinking he is a bloodhound.

FREE TRADE WITH A HANDICAP

Congressman E. J. Hill (of Connecticut,—"As I understand it, the common expression of 'a tax for revenue with incidental protection' is meaningless. There is no such thing as 'incidental protection,' for if the tax laid on imported merchandise is less than the difference in the cost of production of the like article here and elsewhere, it means, so far as the general requirements of the country for that article are concerned, that it will come from the cheapest producing point, which means the transfer of the industry to foreign countries; and yet, after all, strictly applied, a tariff for revenue only, would compel the placing of the tax upon such things only, as did not enter into competition with any domestic industry.

As between such a tax and English free-trade my preference would be emphatically for the English system. For example, suppose that a duty was placed on tin, or rubber, or raw silk, or tropical woods, all of which are now imported free and are manufactured into finished products here and are sent broadcast over the whole world, if a tariff for revenue was placed upon these articles, how would it be possible for us to maintain an export trade in competition with the other nations of the world where these things are not dutiable?

I can reach but one conclusion, therefore, that the choice of the American people must ultimately be made between a protective tariff which will care for and preserve our home industries, or the English free-trade system, and that a tariff for revenue only, as set forth by Democratic doctrine, is nothing more or less than free-trade with a handicap."

HINTS FOR MAIL ORDER HOUSES

In his annual address before the Iowa Retail Merchants' Association at Dubuque last week, President J. H. Schaefer took a decided stand against the mail order houses which he naturally holds are a positive and growing menace to Iowa business houses, and it is just as true of every state as Iowa. These houses, he declared, are taking much business out of the state, while they fail to pay a single dollar in taxes into the state. Among other things, Mr. Schaefer said:

"As I see it, there are two most important duties for our association to take up the coming year. I feel that to tax the mail order and other houses, who are annually sending $20,000,000 worth of merchandise into our state and not paying one penny taxes for the privilege of doing this amount of business. I feel that this is a great injustice, as these goods are delivered over our streets by transfer companies, wearing out the pavement for which we have paid; never giving one cent to the up-building of our schools, churches or public institutions of any kind. No attention is paid to the education of our children, simply grabbing the dollars out of our state without paying one dollar for the privilege. If this work was taken up earnestly and intelligently by each state in the union, I am sure we could change this method of doing business. To accomplish this and other legislative matter, I feel that the association should be active in the Iowa business council which was established in Des Moines last year, the council comprising all the retail organizations of the state. Working upon this one proposition and the building up of this council are in my opinion, the two important things to accomplish the coming year."

PARAGRAPHS BY THE MAN WHO KNOWS IT ALL

The first charts and maps were made by the Phoenicians as early as the sixth century, B. C.

The famous Charter House school in London was founded in 1611. Among its early alumnae are Addison, Steele, John Wesley and Thackeary.

The Hudson Bay company was organized in 1670.

The Jordan river is about 100 miles long.

The first baseball club in America was the Knickerbocker, founded in New York in 1845.

A noted preacher says this war was caused by devils. Center shot, old boy; now tell us who will end it.

Written For Graphic Readers By G. E. Conkey

CARE of POULTRY

COOLING AND PACKING MARKET POULTRY

In our last article we treated on the dressing of poultry for market—a very important subject. However, it is forced to share honors with the subjects forming the base of this article, for poultry that is packed too soon or packed improperly, never reaches the market in a desirable condition, regardless of how well fattened or how carefully it has been dressed.

Many persons have the idea that the best thing to do is to ship the birds as soon after being killed as possible, while, in fact, nothing can be more hurtful to their sale.

After a Turkey has been dressed, it should be removed to a cool place where it can hang for at least ten to twelve hours. It should never be dipped in water or be allowed to touch anything else while the animal heat is leaving the body.

Chickens, Ducks and Geese should be immersed in a tub of water as soon as all the feathers have been removed and allowed to remain therein for an hour or two. This will plump them and, in the case of the chicken, will make it look bright and clean by removing the scruff.

After they have remained in the water some time they should be hung up in the same manner as the Turkey where they can drain thoroughly, which will require from six to ten hours.

Points to be Remembered

Never plump a Turkey.

Always plump a Chicken, Duck or Goose.

Allow them to hang until every muscle is rigidly set.

Never allow them to touch each other or anything that will prevent the free action of the air around them.

Never pack as long as one drop of water remains on them.

Never pack until all animal heat has disappeared.

When the birds have become thoroughly cooled, grade them, placing all second or third quality stuff by itself. Then give all your attention to the packing. Attractive appearance is half the battle when the time comes to sell and the cases, or barrels, must be packed carefully, if you wish to insure safe transportation.

Never pack straw or hay between the birds; this is important . A fat man once said, after having slept upon a spring bed instead of a mattress, that—"It had designs on him that were worse than useless,—they were downright hurtful." So it is with poultry—every straw leaves its mark and, when removed from the barrel, their appearance is hurt and therefore their value.

The best way is to spread a bunch of clean straw or hay evenly over the bottom of the box or barrel, over this a layer of strong paper, then start to pack. Fill every available space, protecting the tender skin wherever possible and when the package is full, spread another sheet of paper over the top of the poultry and some straw between it and the lid.

See that the package is strong, well packed and securely closed, and you need have no fear of the way the stock will carry.

A barrel is generally preferable if you can fill it full, for it is easier to pack and contains much less waste space than a box, and is also much easier to handle.

In warm weather always ship by express. In cold—the freights may be used, providing you allow plenty of time for delivery when you are desirous of reaching the city in time for a certain market.

Of course, different markets require birds finished in different ways. For instance, a bird drawn and with its head and feet removed is demanded in Pittsburgh, while the same bird in Philadelphia would sell at several cents per pound less than the ruling market price.

Therefore, a study of the demands of your market must be made, but after you have this information, you can top the market prices by watching the little things and by mastering the methods of dressing, cooling and packing described in these articles.

Have it said of you that your shipments always "top the market."

BLUE LAW SURVIVALS

Before making new laws for a community, legislators should first repeal a few of the old laws still standing on the books even of the more enlightened cities and towns. In Cincinnatti, for instance, a policeman or magistrate could make excellent records, either in arrests or convictions, merely by enforcing local laws that still exist. Under the law a policeman can arrest "every juggler who juggles on Sunday, every black-face minstrel who minstrels, and every girl who poses for living pictures on the Sabbath day. He can also summon the patrol wagon for the man who engages in a balloon ascension, or plays ball on Sunday. The penalty for any of the above offenses, committed after due warning, is a fine of not more than $100 or a jail sentence of not more than six months, or both.

It is unlawful, moreover, to do any kind of work on Sunday, to hunt, fish, or shoot firearms. Another law imposes a fine of $1.00 for indulging in profane language on the Lord's day. It is illegal, also to "drive a horse, mule, filly, mare, colt, jackass, jennet, or other animal, faster than six miles an hour within certain limits. Under a statute never repealed, it is unlawful to "exhibit any puppet show, wire-dancing, or tumbling, juggling or sleight-of-hand" for money.

Is it any wonder that Americans are sometimes accused of having little respect for law? Such statutes almost tempt a person suffering from excess of animal spirits to take him out and smash them individually and collectively, just to see what happens.

The United States at the End of The War

New York Commercial: It is well for congress and the business men of this country to think and make plans for the days that will follow the end of this war, but no reason exists for getting into a blue funk over them. Tariff changes and the nature of commercial treaties will be determined by the result of the war. Overwhelming victory for either side would keep more trade doors open than would a drawn battle.

In the United States the discussion is confined to talk of trade war and highly protective and discriminatory tariffs which are to injure us by excluding our products from foreign markets while making this country a dumping ground for others. According to some, Americans will be as helpless as new-born babes when the exhausted nations of Europe resume the practice of the arts of peace.

Who will have the sinews of trade war when this conflict ends? At the present rate the United States will have all the money in sight and will stand in the position of creditor to the rest of the world.

It will take capital to push trade in all quarters of the globe. If we have the money and the credit, what is to stop us from keeping far ahead of the rest in the race for open markets? It will be our fault if we do not hold our place in the sun. Now is the time to secure trade openings in all neutral markets. After the war we will be in a position to lend money and dictate terms to Europe. An alarmist predicts that we will be shut out from the British empire by a tariff wall. That is nonsense. Canada can hardly raise her tariff wall any higher without diminishing her revenues from customs duties and we now climb over it without trouble in spite of its discrimination in favor of the mother country. Owing to our wealth and property our markets will be the most valuable and most eagerly sought of any. Taking that in connection with our accumulation of money and credits, it is easily seen that we and not war-worn Europe will be in a position to dictate terms if it comes to a trade war after peace is restored.

Statesmanship of the highest order will be needed. We must help others so that they may be able to buy from us. We must trade with the rest of the world on fair terms, but we will be in a position to exact fair terms from others. England, France and Germany will solicit our trade. They will not be strong enough to wage a trade war against us. Onlookers usually have the best of it. England's foreign trade made more progress in the five years following the Franco-Prussian war than in any other similar period in her history. Our position will be much better when this war is over than England's was in 1871.

THE OPEN FIRE

At the risk of seeming to exaggerate, we wish to lay down this bold generalization: an open fire is properly as much a part of education for the young and enjoyment for the middle-aged and old as books or music or travel. What reward is sweeter, after a day of hard work, plus a substantial dinner, than the pipe you smoke before that mystic window that looks alike into the past and the future? Some of the lessons of the open fireplace are obvious. Fire burns, for instance. Some of the other lessons, that seem obvious to us to-day, were very far from that when we first enjoyed the friendly blaze and asked father what made the wood burn, and why the fire sometimes spat at us, and what were sparks, and why did the smoke go up the chimney, and a thousand questions more. Sitting before an open fire induces several admirable states of mind: variously it stimulates the imagination, pasifies the nerves, induces reverie, and—puts one to sleep. Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe, in one of her "House and Home Papers" of just fifty years ago, speaks of the Crowfields' blazing wood fire as their "household altar," "whose wholesome, hearty crackle is the truest household inspiration." Another celebrated American author having held that the open fireplace is "an altar of patriotism," Mrs. Stowe put the question:

Would our Revolutionary fathers have gone barefooted and bleeding over snows to defend air-tight stoves and cooking ranges? I trow not. It was the memory of the great open kitchen fire, with its backlog and fire stick of cordwood, its roaring, hilarious voice of invitation, its dancing tongues of flame, that called to them through the snows of that dreadful winter to keep up their courage, that made their hearts warm and bright with a thousand reflected memories.

A home without an open fire is almost as unreal as a home without children. That is why we are sometimes blue nowadays and our natural optimism fails us—for that city apartment of ours is not of the $15,000-a-year duplex variety, and it has no open fireplaces—Colliers.

Strange some of our American millionaires have not paid a fortune or two for that horse that threw a king!

We are some hustlers in this office. We can make out a receipt for that dollar you owe us in less than a minute's time.

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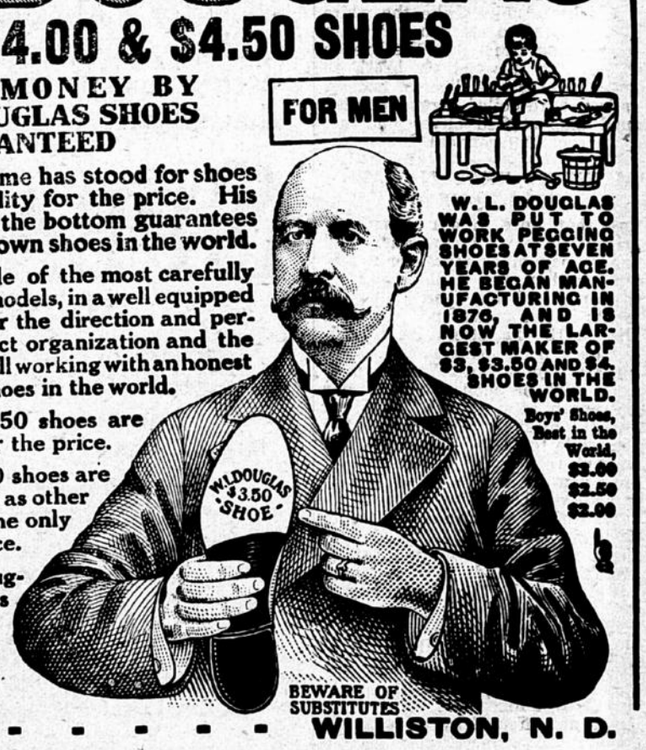

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