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Home Classes in the Open Country Devised by Agricultural Colleges.

A plan whereby 10 or more farmers or farm women can form home classes in agriculture or domestic science and receive the textbooks, lectures, lantern slides, laboratory and cooking equipment necessary to conduct them has been devised by the department of agriculture in cooperation with agricultural colleges of certain states.

The object of the plan is to make accessible at home, to men and women who have not the time or means to attend the regular courses at the colleges, practical short courses in agriculture and home management specially adapted to their districts. These courses which will consist of 15 to 20 lectures, will consume five or more weeks, can be arranged to suit the spare time and convenience of each group of people.

The courses to be offered at first are poultry raising, fruit growing, soils, cheese manufacturing, dairying, butter making and farm bookkeeping; and for the women especially, courses in the preparation cooking and use of vegetable and cereal foods.

The department will supply lectures and lantern slides covering these subjects, and the states which have agreed to cooperate in the plan will lend to each group laboratory and cooking apparatus valued at \$100 and a reference library. The textbooks and lectures will be made so complete that each group can safely appoint one of its members as study leader to direct the work of the course.

When a group has decided to take up the work, the state which cooperates sends an agent with the department's representative to organize a sample class and assist the leader whom they elect in laying out the work and in showing the best methods of procedure. The classes commonly are held from 8 to 12 in the morning and from 1 to 4 in the afternoon, two or three days each week. The sessions are not held every day, so that the members will have time to attend to their farm duties in between the sessions, as well as before and after the instruction period. The classes meet commonly at the most convenient farmhouse. During the morning hours, textbook work is done. In the afternoon laboratory work is conducted, and the women who have elected to take the domestic science courses have practical lessons in cooking.

As soon as a class is established, the state organizer withdraws to start a class in some other district. The work thereafter is left in charge of the leader, who receives assistance by mail from the college or the department in carrying on the work.

As there is no regularly paid instructor, classes can be carried on all over the state as rapidly as the college organizer can visit the group and as quickly as the laboratory sets supplied by the college become available.

The local leader will preside during the reading of the lectures and references, for which full texts and lantern slides are supplied by the department. He will also be responsible for the laboratory equipment. Every one who completes the course will receive a certificate from the state college.

Not all of the states have yet agreed to cooperate in this plan. Last winter experiments along these lines were carried out successfully in Pennsylvania, and this has stimulated an interest in the method in other states. In one of the Pennsylvania classes more men applied than could be accommodated, and all of the 20 men and 15 women who began the course completed it. Pennsylvania is now arranging for classes, while Massachusetts, Michigan, Vermont and Florida expect to take up the work. Other states,

such as Maine, New York, New Jersey and Delaware, have signified their willingness to cooperate. Ordinarily a college in a state usually applies to the department seeking its cooperation when sufficient interest has been shown in the plan in several communities where 10 or more people have sought the instruction. For financial reasons certain colleges are not so able to engage in the work as are others.

The advantages claimed for the new home courses with local leaders and laboratory equipment over the ordinary correspondence courses finish it.

Studying in a group, with laboratory work and a leader, seems to stimulate the interest and add a social feature which lead the members of the group to follow the work conscientiously and complete it.

Experiments with free correspondence courses show that while many individuals gain advantage from them, many others, because the material is furnished free, do not feel the same obligation to complete them as they do when they pay a substantial sum of money for the instruction.

Hill Selection as Preventative for Certain Potato Diseases.

(By H. L. Rees, Plant Pathologist)

The prevalence of certain potato diseases, especially black leg, in Western Washington this year again brings to mind the absolute necessity for hill selection in order to successfully control some of our most destructive potato diseases.

The bacteria causing black leg live over the winter in diseased tubers and resume activities when these are planted. Since it is only seldom that these bacteria show any external evidence on the tubers of their presence, and also since seed treatment will not kill the bacteria on the inside of the tuber, and since spraying is absolutely valueless, hill selection becomes necessary. If the disease is present in any degree the tops wilt and die and the stem becomes blackened and shriveled at the ground. Consequently all hills affected with black leg can be easily and quickly detected by examination while the tops of the healthy plants are still green.

Dry rot is caused by a fungus which lives over both in the soil and in tubers. (See Mon. Bul. Vol. I, No. 6, p. 13.) Like the black leg this disease cannot be controlled by spraying or seed treatment, nor is its presence in the tuber always apparent. Consequently, rotation and hill selection becomes necessary. Both late blight and Rhizoctonia may be partly controlled by hill selection and rotation.

Many growers have sent in specimens of potato plants affected with black leg and have stated that they do not understand its presence, since the seed potatoes which they bought were guaranteed to be free from disease. The presence of black leg can mean but one thing, and that is that the seed potatoes were diseased. The Station Pathologist last spring examined specimens of seed potatoes offered for sale to growers of western Washington, and at no time did he ever find any which did not show evidences of disease, regardless of the fact that they were guaranteed to be free from disease. Since these conditions exist the hill selection of potatoes for seed becomes absolutely necessary for the prevention and control of potato diseases. Horticulturally hill selection is also necessary for a maximum yield of marketable potatoes.

Select the hills from which to procure seed while the tops of the

TO THE FARMERS OF WHATCOM COUNTY.

The business men of Lynden wish to extend a cordial invitation for you to make it YOUR town this fall—even to a greater extent than you have ever done. In this modern age, co-operation is the key-note of all success, and there is not and never shall be a successful community where there is not co-operation. You need our help and we need yours.

Decide right now to make Lynden your trading point this summer and fall. You can find better lines of merchandise nowhere, and nowhere will you find business men more appreciative of your patronage. The lines we handle MUST be the best—we could afford to sell no other kind. We are located here among you, where you know us and we know you—our homes are here, our money is invested here, and nothing but honest dealing that will increase our trade would be prudent for us. Every sale we make must be satisfactory, and if you will give us a chance, we will prove it to you that we want it to be so.

When you come to town, call on us, even though you are not buying at the time. If you are not acquainted with us, call and let us become acquainted. Come in Saturday, and the next Saturday; come in on the special holidays of the year; if you have a child to send to school next year, send him or her to our schools. Come in to our churches if you have none near your home. Community interest is the life of every community, and the welfare and progress of this one is of great importance to you and to us. We hope that those of you who read The Tribune also read the advertisements. They are direct messages from our business houses to you, and we should like to have you consider them as much as if we were speaking to you, face to face. We are trying to make this a banner year for Lynden, and you will profit in the effort as much as anyone. At least favor our merchants by inspecting their lines before buying elsewhere. If you find what you want you may rest assured it will be the best that can be had for the money asked, and in buying here, you can see what you are paying for and take the purchase home with you.

In closing, we hope you will accept this message in the spirit it is written—for mutual benefit, only. We do not know that such a general invitation was ever extended before, but this one will show you that we are at least willing to go to no small expense to show you that our town appreciates your business. Come in often, now, and when you are in, make your presence known. Join us in an effort to make Lynden a bigger, better, livelier town, and everyone in this section will be the better off for it.

Yours to serve,

THE BUSINESS MEN OF LYNDEN.

healthy plants are still green. If this is put off until digging time the tops will be dead and it will be impossible to distinguish the healthy from the diseased hills. Avoid all plants showing any abnormal or diseased tops. Select several times as many hills as will be necessary for some which you select will not give the yield and size which you desire. Use this method each year and plant nothing except hill selected tubers.

Town and Country Interests.

The importance of realizing that a common interest exists between the city and country, between farmer and merchant, is emphasized by a writer in the Northwest Farmer, who says:

It is time to get away from the moss-grown idea that there is a necessary antagonism between the town or city and the farm. Too many people still hold to the idea that the life and work of the farmer are separate from that of the man in the city. This sentiment comes to the surface occasionally, as it did recently in a high school debate in Michigan, where the subject was, "Resolved, that farming is more essential to life than manufacturing." To such a question there is, of course, only the answer that both of them are indispensable. So much has been said and written warning the young people of the farm to stay away from the city that in some cases a prejudice has grown up which is not justified. In the last few years an increasing propor-

tion of the students in agricultural colleges have been town and city boys, and the astonishing thing has been that many of these boys have gone out into the country and have become successful farmers of the very best type. Such a demonstration as the recent good roads day in Illinois, where the interests of townspeople and farmers were merged for the common good, points to a more desirable condition in the future. The manufacturer and the merchant are as important in their places as the farmer is in his place. The thing most necessary is to hitch all of these interests together for the benefit of the whole people.

A TRIBUTE TO THE COW.

Little do we realize the debt we owe the cow. During the ages of savagery and barbarism we find her early ancestors natives of the forests of the Old World. When the bright rays of civilization penetrated the darkness of that early period and man took up the march of progress he called on the cow and she came forth from her seclusion and proclaimed her willingness to share in the efforts that ultimately developed a great nation. For over two thousand years she has shown her allegiance to man. Sharing alike in his prosperity and adversity, responding nobly to all that was done for her, her development has made her an idol of the people in her native land.

Columbus recognized her merits for she came with him on his sec-

ond voyage to America in 1493, and from that time to the present day she has been a potent factor in making this, our own country, the greatest Nation with the highest type of womanhood and manhood the world has ever known. Her sons helped till the soil for our ancestors and moved the products of the farm to market. They went with man into the dense forests of the new world, cleared them for homes and made cultivation possible for the coming generation, and as the march of emigration turned westward, they moved the belongings of the pioneer across the sun-scorched plain and over the great mountain ranges to the new home beyond. The cow is truly man's greatest benefactor. Wind, hail, floods, and drought may come and destroy our crops and banish our hopes, but what is left the cow manufactures into the most nourishing and life-sustaining food, and is sure not life itself to the thousands of little ones stranded upon the barren bosoms and hollow hearts of a modern motherhood? We love her for her docility, her beauty and her usefulness. Her loyalty has never been weakened, and should misfortune overtake us as we become bowed down with the weight of years we know that in the cow we have a friend who was never known to falter. God bless the cow! We little realize the debt we owe her. —Eugene Bennett, Missouri Dairy Commissioner.

When pressing woolen goods cover with sheet of brown paper in place of cloth. No lint will be the result.

Hog Raising on Logged-off Land.

"The problem of the average man of small means who purchases a tract of logged-off land is to get the land producing some crop or product that he can sell for cash," says W. A. Linklater, superintendent of the experiment station at Puyallup, Washington. "Few such are in a position to entirely clear a large per cent of their land, since it would cost from \$100 to \$200 per acre in cash or labor to do so. Left uncleared the land has small producing value even for pasture, since it becomes overgrown with small brush, fern and other plants that most live stock will not eat."

"With a team and hand labor and without a stump puller or dynamite most land can be cleared of all but the largest stumps at a cost of \$30 to \$40 per acre and sometimes for less. In this partially cleared state the land can usually be put under a fairly satisfactory state of cultivation, and a variety of crops grown, or it can be seeded to clover and grasses for hay."

"Hog raising on such partially cleared land seems practical. Right here it should be stated that making pork in this section wholly or entirely on bought feed is seldom profitable. To get maximum profits the hog raiser must produce most if not all of the hog's feed."

"Hogs can be raised very readily and profitably in association with dairying, but even where skim milk and other dairy by-products are not available for hog feeding, pigs can be successfully raised if provided with succulent feed and grain. Hogs do very poorly on coarse feed of any kind, that is, feed containing a high per cent of fibre. Grain feeds such as oats and bran should never be fed to hogs and particularly to young pigs. Coarse forage such as cereals 10 inches high and more, clover that has become dry and woody and similar crops will not even prove a maintenance feed for hogs. Hogs do well, however, on fresh growing tender pasturage of almost any kind, such as rye, wheat, oats, clover, alfalfa, etc. Brood sows, when nursing pigs, need a liberal grain ration in addition to good green forage. The young pigs for at least a few weeks after weaning can most profitably be fed from one to three pounds of grain daily according to their age and size. A mixture by weight of finely ground barley and peas, four parts each, and disester tankage or meat meal one part fed as a thin slop will prove a good pig ration. Rape, since it starts off more rapidly than kale and matures more quickly, is a promising hog forage crop to supplement clover pasture beginning about July 1. Field peas or field peas and beardless barley mixed make prime crops for hogging off. The hogs are tuned on as soon as the crop is three parts ripe and stocker hogs can be finished for market in this way."

Diseases caused the swine breeders of Washington to lose 5,700 hogs, valued at \$72,000 last year, according to a report which has just been issued by the National Department of Agriculture. This is an average death rate of 20 per 1,000 head. During 1912 the ratio was 22 per 1,000. The latest Census Reports, which are dated January 1, 1914, show that there are 284,000 head of hogs in Washington and that they are valued at \$3,607,000, or \$12.70 per head. The farmers of the entire nation last year lost 7,004,800 head of hogs from disease. Their total value was \$75,000,000.

There should be a social and an industrial survey of every community. The pastor, the teacher and the school and church officials are they who should make such a survey.

Swat the fly!

Nations of the World Will Pledge Friendship to America at Vast Panama-Pacific International Exposition



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How a Portion of the Main Group of Exhibit Palaces at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition Looks Ten Months Before the Gates Open

THIS view, taken from the roof of the completed Palace of Education and Social Economy, shows nearly fifty acres under roof. Along the bay shore, beginning at the left, are the Palaces of Food Products, Agriculture, Transportation and Mines. In the distance is the completed Palace of Machinery, covering about nine acres, in which exhibits are now being installed. To the right are the Palaces of Liberal Arts, Manufactures and Varied Industries. In the left background is the Golden Gate. The photograph was taken during the latter part of March, and great progress has been made since that time. The picture was selected because it shows the vastness of the building operations.