

THE LACLEDE BLADE

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A. J. CAYWOOD.

Friday, May 25, 1917

What's Doing In Washington

Exports to the four German gateways—Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden—for the first nine months of the current fiscal year, ended March, were \$23,000,000 in excess of the record for the same period of the fiscal year and nearly \$100,000,000 in excess of the normal nine months period of 1913. That \$100,000,000 excess diverted to our Allies would have been of great assistance to them as it consisted, in the main, of food products. There seems to be no good reason why we should be solicitous for the stomachs of the Scandinavians and the Dutch so long as they persist in giving "aid and comfort" to our enemies, the Germans.

It is probable that Joe Leiter's distinguished brother-in-law, Lord Curzon, now a member of the British government, will not agree with Joe in his opinion that Col. Roosevelt should not take an American division to France. Both French and English are anxious to have American co-operation in the trenches at the earliest possible moment. There are military and moral result to be derived from American participation in the war; and it is axiomatic in warfare that moral and military advantages should be seized upon and utilized at the earliest opportunity. The Colonel presents such an opportunity. Our allies ask for it. Why should jealously be permitted to stand in the way?

Kinder judgments attend Joseph B. Foraker in death than followed him in life. He retired from the senate under an unjust imputation that he had mingled his senatorial position with his activity as a lawyer. There was no truth in it; but the charge came at a period when to have been employed in any capacity by the Standard Oil Company was to receive the implication of illegality. The years have brought a better knowledge, which while it did not benefit Senator Foraker politically, has nevertheless had a good effect upon the habit of hasty judgment of which he was a victim.

Without waiting for action by congress, Secretary Lansing has instituted a censorship of news from the State Department which clamps down a lid far stronger than any which is to be found at any foreign office in Europe. Not only are under officials of the state department forbidden to talk to any newspapermen about any matter, however insignificant of the fact or detail, but any of them who utters a word upon on which a criticism of the administration's war policy may be based will be instantly dismissed. The prevailing atmosphere in Washington just now is not conducive to the development of freedom. It is small wonder that when a senator met a congressman the other day and said, "How are you?" the congressman replied, "I would like to tell you, but the censorship forbids it."

Late Potatoes Will Be Profitable

With the recent high prices of vegetables it seems very probable that late potatoes will be a profitable crop. Ordinarily the yield is too low but with a price of more than a dollar a bushel a very low yield per acre will return a profit.

Lack of seed is the one serious obstacle but with the arrival of new seed from the south and southwest this may be satisfactorily met, according to Dr. J. C. Whitten of the Missouri college of agriculture. Also there is still a small quantity of northern grown seed in storage.

If southern seed are used, they should be spread out one deep in the shade of a tree, on the north side of a building or in some other diffused light where it is not too warm, until they have turned slightly green and the sprouts have just started to grow. This breaks the rest period and if it is not done, they might not grow until next spring.

If northern stored seed is used the same method may be used to test for frosted seed. In this case discard all potatoes which do not sprout satisfactorily. Planting may be done at any time between the middle of May and the middle of June.

By The Boot Straps

Germany is bankrupt, declares the New York Sun. She has been financially lifting herself by her own bootstraps since the war began. Subscriptions to her new loans are paid with the certificates of participation in her old loans. Her financiers admit that her debt can never be paid except through victory and a colossal indemnity.

In the field Germany is losing. No victory has been recorded to her credit in months. Perhaps the allies are paying dear for the ground they are gaining in Picardy and Artois, but the fact that they are steadily gaining it shows deterioration in German morale and fighting power. Her allies are in the same exhausted state. The Turks in Mesopotamia are merely delaying extinction by steady retreat. The Austrians are doing nothing but resting on their arms and debating a separate peace.

Good Advice To Pass On

Just before the election a circular letter was sent out by the liquor interests of Helena, Mont., urging the voters to consult the treasurer's office and the municipal records and inform themselves upon the great increase in taxes that would result in the event the city lost the license money through prohibition. Many voters acted on the advice given, and discovered some amazingly interesting facts which the liquorites did not intend they should find. They learned that for every dollar of license money received by the city the saloon cost the taxpayers \$3.43, and that while the county's share of the license money for the year was \$76,881, the annual cost of the saloons to the taxpayers was \$264,093 or an annual loss of \$187,212.

How To Increase Poultry Output

C. T. Patterson, director of the Missouri Experiment Station, has issued a bulletin which estimates poultry production and output in Missouri can be increased from \$60,000,000 to \$70,000,000 annually if poultry growers guard against losses which occur in various ways. If half the losses from the following sources could be avoided the poultry product gain would be \$10,000,000 annually in Missouri.

Patterson warns against: Feeding males after the breeding season, keeping old and unprofitable hens, insufficient water supply, lack of lime for shell making, time lost by broody hens, eggs spoiled by broody hens, marketing poultry without fattening, selling chicks too small, eggs cracked in nests without straw in the bottom, chickens drowned in water basins, lack of shade, keeping eggs in warm place, lice, mites, etc., and rats.

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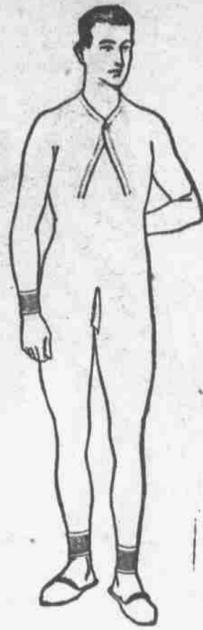
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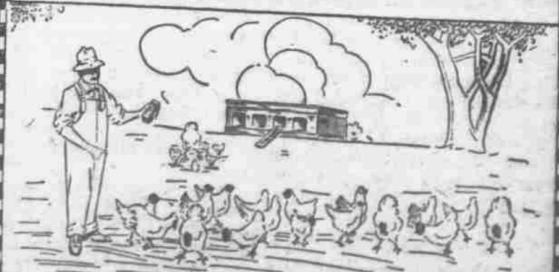
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