What the Weather Forecast Is to the Farmer

Washington, D. C., Nov. 27.—Few city people reading the weather forecasts in their morning papers realize the importance a warning of rain, snow, frost, or high winds may have for the farmer, fruit grower, or stock raiser in the country. The message which causes the city man merely to debate whether he shall carry an umbrella or take his overcoat, when telegraphed to country points may be telephoned instantly from farmer to farmer as news of the greatest agricultural importance. Such a message over the phone may cause the entire country to become a scene of intensive activity. There is a rush to hay or grain yields to get in the crop or, in the spring, work like beavers covering young seedlings in the truck gardens with paper or other protection from frost, or preparing to build fires or light smudges in orchards. On ranches every available worker may be dispatched to herd in sheep or stock to protect them from storms. To them the message, which in the city may have foretold only slight personal discomfort, carries tidings of conditions which may mean heavy monetary losses to the unprepared farm or ranch.

On the other hand a forecast predicting good or hot weather for three or four days to come may send thousands of reapers into the field to take advantage of favorable weather, and, as if by magic, change the landscape from one of waving grain or grass into a scene of haycocks, or wheat sheaves.

The U. S. Weather Bureau has perfected special systems and facilities for obtaining and disseminating advance weather news adapted to the protection of growers of many special crops in different sections of the country. In connection with the weather reports received from its 200 stations and from 4500 other observation points the bureau has established a large number of special stations for observing crop weather conditions in the corn, wheat, cotton, sugar, rice and cattle raising districts. The object of this service is to furnish the growers of each of these crops throughout the summer with information that will enable them to handle the crops to best advantage. The corn and wheat region service covers, for example, the 15 principal grain States, in which it maintains 1 region center, 13 district centers, and 174 special stations, from which telegrams are received daily, and reports disseminated. Daily bulletins showing the temperature and rainfall at these stations are published at 18 different points and distributed to approximately 2775 different people. Similar services dealing with cotton weather conditions cover the 11 principal cotton States and consist of data gathered in 13 centers through 175 special stations. This service was extended during the spring of 1916 to the new cotton-growing district in Western Texas and other uncovered fields. The sugar and rice region service heretofore has supplied weather information to the rice growers of Texas and Louisiana and the sugar growers throughout the Southern States. It is expected that a special rice service will be inaugurated in Arkansas.

The special tobacco service is carried on in the States of Connecticut and Wisconsin through 2 centers and 14 stations. Extension is contemplated to give a more complete special tobacco service in important tobacco districts in Western Kentucky. The crop weather service is particularly important to alfalfa growers in all the Western States and special three or four-day forecasts are issued throughout the season to alfalfa harvesters. Temperature forecasts are issued in the same way in connection with the harvesting of alfalfa seed, which is dependent on weather conditions.

The special fruit region weather warning service, which forecasts particularly the coming of spring frosts, is of particular value in the intensive orcharding districts where the fruit growers have made preparations by means of smudging or heating or other means to protect their orchards from frost. This service consists of several separate branches. The cranberry service in Eastern Massachusetts and Southern Wisconsin has now been extended to the Shell Lake district of Northwestern Wisconsin. The orchard forecasts and warnings are principally for the benefit of fruit men in Ohio, Colorado, Utah, Washington, Oregon and California. This service has been expanded by the establishment of 7 new stations in the grape and peach-growing districts of Northern Ohio and by the detailing of trained men for special duty in the fruit district of the Hood River Valley, Oregon, and the Gunnison Valley, Colorado. These men study the local situation and give expert information to the fruit growers as to the temperatures to be expected and as to the probable need to light fires in their orchards.

Special rain and temperature forecasts for the sheepmen in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho were made by the district forecaster at Portland, Oregon, during the shearing and lambing season of 1916. It is estimated that there are more than 6,000,000 sheep in these States. As winter feeding is expensive, sheep are usually shorn and put on the ranges as early as possible. Early lambing is encouraged also. Before being shorn, if stormy and cold weather prevails, the sheep may succumb to fatigue and starvation, and after they are shorn it is necessary to keep them near natural or artificial protection for a short period if unfavorable conditions prevail. The forecasts enable proper precautions to be taken by anticipating these conditions, and also give information as to favorable weather conditions for several days in advance, so that sheep may be grazed further away from protection. During the spring of 1916 this information was telegraphed to 26 different points in these three States, and from them distributed by telephone to hundreds of sheepmen.

In addition to the sheep service, the Weather Bureau maintains special cattle range weather services with headquarters at Amarillo, Texas, and Roswel, New Mexico. Observations are made at 12 special stations and reports are received from 20 other points in the cattle range district of the Southwest. Daily bulletins are published giving stockmen the rainfall and temperature over the southwestern cattle ranges.

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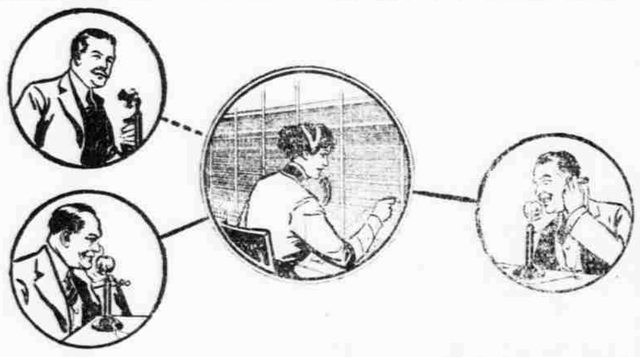

"The Line is Busy"

EIGHT billion and a half telephone calls were answered last year in the Bell system. It is not surprising that some telephones were found to be busy.

If it occurs frequently it it means that the party you wish to reach needs more telephones—or if on a party line, a direct line would help matters.

It's a mistake to think that, to save herself work, the operator teports the line busy when it is not; it's much more work for her to notify you that the line is busy than it is to give you the number.

Busy men have busy telephones. It is unavoidable that you may sometimes have to knock more than once at their telephone door.

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BEN F. MARSHALL DIES HERE AFTER 2-YEARS' ILLNESS

Tuberculosis is Fatal to Millionaire, Who Made a Fortune in Farm Land.

PHILANTHROPIST WAS SON OF POOR PARENTS

Got Start as Cattle Raiser and Became a Dispenser of Charity.

Ben F. Marshall, millionaire, philanthropist, and one of the biggest individual land owners in Southeast Missouri, died at his home, 312 Independence street, at 6 o'clock last night. His death was due to tuberculosis, from which he had suffered for more than two years, and which caused him to travel from the Atlantic to the Pacific in the hope of effecting a cure.

During the greater part of his illness, he was able to go where he pleased, but for the past month, he had been confined to his home and much of the time had been spent in bed.

His physician had informed the members of his family months ago that an early end was inevitable, and they were prepared for his demise at any time. During the past week, his condition had been critical, and on Thursday evening, he began to suffer from choking spells. Friday morning the members of his family were summoned to his bedside, following a sinking spell which foretold the end.

He rallied during the afternoon of Friday, however, and wrote a check for $200 as a gift to the local Elks lodge, of which he was a charter member. But that night, he suffered another smothering attack, which was followed by others at intervals during the night. His physicians announced yesterday morning that he could survive but a few hours. His condition grew weaker and weaker, and at 6:05, he expired.

The funeral will be held from the family residence on Independence street, at 1:30 Tuesday afternoon, Rev. Elmer Fields, a Methodist minister of St. Louis, and a close friend of Mr. Marshall, will conduct the services. Following the ceremony, the body will be taken to the station, where it will be placed on a special train, which will carry the family and his friends to Sikeston, where the body will be buried.

Members of the Masonic and Elks lodges, of which he was a member, will attend the funeral in a body. Masons from Sikeston, Cape Girardeau, Morley and other adjoining towns will be present.

"Ben Marshall," as he was familiarly called, had a remarkable record. He was born in Scott County on Feb. 10, 1867, a poor boy, but from the bosom of that county he made a million dollars. His fortune is now estimated at from $2,000,000 to $2,500,000, but the larger part was earned through investments in many enterprises.

He was born on a farm four miles north of Sikeston, one of the eight sons of John and Florence Marshall, who settled in Scott County in 1839 to grow up with the country. Young Ben was sent to the district school when there was nothing on the farm for him to do. Later he attended a high school in Sikeston, earning his board by working in a hardware store. He then went to Columbia, Mo., to work his way through the State University. His parents wished Ben success in his efforts, but their best wishes were all that they had to give him. John Marshall was a poor farmer, and all that he could produce on the farm was used up in supplying his large family with plenty to eat and wear.

Young Ben knew that he was the master of his future, and his success or failure depended upon his own efforts. He drew a mental chart of a goal he hoped to reach and then worked for it. When he left the university as poor as a church mouse, but with energy enough for two average men. He knew that to succeed he must work, and work hard, and he went to it. He obtained a job on a farm and saved his earnings, investing them in land.

Land in those days was plentiful and could be had for a song. He wanted it, because he believed there was money in it. Little by little he enlarged his holdings and eventually invested in a small herd of cattle. He added to his collection as rapidly as he could, and before many years, he found himself making money. He continued to invest in land and cattle, and by close attention and hard work, he joined the class of well-to-do farmers.

But he was not content. He wanted to own more land and more cattle and make more money. And he did. Finally his holdings became enormous, and his bank account grew in proportion. It was then that he turned his attention to other fields of endeavor. He organized one enterprise after another, and among them were a large mercantile establishment and a bank, which he controlled, if he did not own.

When his health failed a few years ago, he was a heavy stockholder in a long list of big institutions, but he never gave up his holdings in land. When he died he owned one tract of Scott County land of approximately 10,000 acres, and he was interested in other Southeast Missouri land.

Mr. Marshall was married in 1902 to Miss Florence Austin of Blodgett. To this union four children were born, but one died in infancy and a daughter died when six years of age. A son, Ben F., Jr., now a student at Christian Brothers College, in St. Louis, and a daughter, Mary Elizabeth, survive with his widow. His seven brothers are: James, Sterling, Isaac, Joseph C., Cyrus, Reece and John E. Marshall, who was twice in the State Senate.

The dead millionaire contributed much to charity, but he did not exploit his liberality. Although a Protestant, he made a large contribution to the Christian Brothers College, in St. Louis, when the fire destroyed the old institution.

A business man who had known Mr. Marshall for many years, went to him last spring to enlist his support in a new enterprise. "If I could induce you to invest $5000," Mr. Marshall was told, "I could make money for both of us."

"My health will not permit me to become actively affiliated with any new enterprises, where success or failure would rest upon my efforts. But if $5000 will make your undertaking a success, I shall gladly join you. I will let you have the sum with the understanding that if you succeed, you will reimburse me, and if you fail, we will still be friends."

Mr. Marshall then removed two check books from his pockets and wrote two checks, each for $2500, and drawn on different banks. "With these go my best wishes," said Mr. Marshall, which ended the discussion.

Mr. Marshall was interested in nearly every enterprise in this section of the State. He was president of the Marshall Land and Investment Co. of Blodgett, of which he owned the largest portion. He also headed the Blodgett Bank, of which he had been president for a number of years.

He was also the president of the Blodgett Mercantile Co., a concern with a capital of over $30,000. He also had large holdings in the Southeast Missouri Trust Co., and the Boyce Mercantile Co., at Morley. He held a large interest in the Marshall-Harrison Mercantile Co. at Morehouse. In fact, he was a stockholder in every financial undertaking in Southeast Missouri.

Two weeks before his death, Mr. Marshall signed a contract with the Missouri-Illinois Mausoleum Co., which is erecting a mausoleum at Sikeston. He secured for himself and members of his family ten crypts in the mausoleum that was to be erected in the spring. His contribution to this fund amounted to $2500. His body will be transferred from the gave to the mausoleum when the latter is completed.

B. F. MARSHAL TO BE BURIED IN SIKESTON

Body to be Taken to Scott County on Special Train After Funeral Here.

The funeral of Benjamin F. Marshall, who died last Saturday night, will be held at 1:30 o'clock this afternoon from the family residence at 312 Independence street. After a short service said by Rev. Elmer Peal, a Methodist minister of St. Louis, the body will be conveyed to the foot of Independence street, where a special train for Sikeston will be awaiting the casket and the funeral party. Members of the Elks will attend the funeral in a body and accompany the body to Sikeston, where it will be received by members of the Masonic lodges of Blodgett and Sikeston.

The burial will be in the Methodist Cemetery at Sikeston, but the interment will only be a temporary one, for the body will be transferred to the mausoleum that will be erected in Sikeston and in which Mr. Marshall bought family crypts shortly before his death. The seven brothers of the deceased and his wife and two children will follow the hearse in automobiles. The hearse will be preceded by an automobile loaded with flowers, presented by friends and fellow lodge members.

The special train is scheduled to leave at 2:30 o'clock. It will arrive an hour later, and the body will be taken immediately to the cemetery.

BRYAN G. PRATT IS PARDONED BY GOVERNOR MAJOR

of the witnesses who helped to convict him of bigamy, Bryan G. Pratt was yesterday pardoned by Governor

Upon the recommendations of most Major, after Harry E. Alexander, who prosecuted Pratt, had appeared before the executive and made an appeal for the prisoner's release,

Pratt had been under sentence for two years in the penitentiary since last November, when he was convicted of contracting a bigamous marriage with Miss Frieda McClatchey, a pretty Cape Girardeau girl. He induced his bride to go to Advance, Mo., where the ceremony was performed while Pratt lay in bed.

He had been confined to his room for several days before his marriage. Before he had fully recovered, Sam McClatchey, father of the bride, learned that the marriage was spurious and went to Advance and had the bridegroom arrested. When she was told that she had been duped by Pratt, she denounced him and offered to take the witness stand to bring about the conviction. She was one of the principal witnesses at the trial.

Mr. Alexander, highly elevated over the result of his mission, returned early this morning from Jefferson City, where he had gone Sunday. He said he had obtained the pardon on the strength of a letter which the defendant had found after his conviction. In this letter Pratt was informed that his first wife, who was living with her two small children in St. Louis, had obtained a divorce from him. It served as evidence that Pratt thought he was contracting a bona fide marriage when he married the second time.

The fact that those who prosecuted him signed the petition was evidence in itself that these parties thought that Pratt was innocent, Alexander said. These signatures, Mr. Alexander said, were a great aid to him in getting his client pardoned.

Pratt, who was in charge of a promotion scheme in Advance, married after a brief courtship. The parents of the bride were taken by surprise when they were informed by the bridegroom that the wedding had taken place. They forgave their daughter, however, only to hear that the new son-in-law still had another wife. The enraged father hurried to Advance and brought his daughter back on the day following the wedding.

Pratt was arrested and indicted for bigamy. A heart-breaking scene was enacted in the office of Prosecuting Attorney, where Pratt was confronted by two wives. He hugged and embraced his small child which he hardly knew, for it was only a few weeks old when he last saw it. Pratt had practically no defense to offer, excepting the fact that he had heard his first wife had been given a divorce by the Circuit Court in St. Louis. He had no evidence to substantiate this rumor.

Alexander was the prosecuting attorney in the case. He said this morning, that while he felt at heart that Pratt was not guilty of the charge, he felt that he should be convicted on the face of the evidence brought against him during the trial.

A move was started to get Pratt pardoned shortly after the trial, and Alexander was asked to join in this move. The fact that the girl with whom he was charged with having entered into a bigamous marriage was sustaining this plea for a pardon, Alexander said, was more evidence that Pratt was not guilty of a criminal intent, even though he had really violated the law. Miss McClatchey was one of the first to sign the petition.

The case had been appealed to the Supreme Court. After the pardon had been granted Alexander filed a motion with the Supreme Court to withdraw the appeal which, of course, will be granted.

The Elks will have an entertainment tonight to which the ladies are invited. Tomorrow night they will have their stag party at the lodge hall.

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MANY TALES OF WOE RELATED IN DIVORCE CASES

Women Accuse Mates of Cruelties, Desertion and Unfaithfulness.

ONE SAYS HUSBAND TOOK SHOT AT HER

Two Men, Who Ask Divorces, Tell Court Spouses Ran Away.

Gambling, abuse, association with other women, indifference, neglect and abandonment are some of the grounds on which the petitions for 18 divorce suits filed in the Common Pleas Court are based. Only in two instances are men the plaintiffs, and in both cases they allege desertion.

The largest number of divorces are asked on the grounds of ill treatment, cursing and abuse in the presence of children and strangers. In two instances gambling is given as the reason for the petition and in several instances the petitions are asked on the grounds of association with other women.

After 35 years of married life, Seaborn A. Hall, one of the men seeking a divorce, says he was married in 1881 and lived happily until a year ago, when she left him. He thinks this alleged desertion after a companionship of 35 years entitled him to a divorce.

Another long-termed marriage to be dissolved is that of Doc Goza and his wife, the petition for the divorce being filed by Mrs. Julia Goza. Her allegations are that her husband neglected her in preference to other women and thereby humiliated her and reflected gravely upon their social standing. A woman who is charged with wrecking the Goza home is named in the suit. The couple were married in 1883 and lived happily for more than a quarter of a century.

Two couple were still to be regarded newlyweds when their matrimonial troubles began. In the petition filed by J. P. Harr it is alleged that his wife, Pearl, left him 15 days after their marriage. They were married Aug. 15, 1915, and on Sept. 1, his wife left him, so the divorce petition reads. Harr further alleges that he tried to make up with his wife but failed. She left him without any apparent reasons, he says.

After two months of married life, Mrs. Amelia Green, relates in her petition, she was abandoned by her husband, William Green, who left her without any means and never made any pretense of supporting her so that she had to make her own living and had to provide for the little girl born after she had been deserted.

Two months composed the married life of Mrs. Fannie Bollinger and her husband, Charles. They were married in 1911. She alleges in her petition that her husband disappeared without any reason and left her to look for her own support.

Mental weakness of her husband is the grounds on which Mrs. Mamie Doerries bases her petition for a divorce from Louis W. Doerries. In addition, the petition alleges that he cursed her, applied vile names to her in the presence of her children and strangers. Besides he had accused her of being mentally unbalanced and unable to care for the household, so the petition sets forth.

The divorce petition of Mrs. Myrtle Herter against P. F. Herter is based on the allegation that he was a professional gambler and a "bootlegger." He allowed his house to become a gambling den, the petition alleges, and a rendezvous for undesirables on Sunday. When she complained he threatened to eject her, she says, struck her and abused her in other ways.

Similar accusations are made by Mrs. Ida May Ferguson in her petition for a divorce from her husband, Geo. N. Ferguson. She says in the petition that her husband gambled to excess and associated with other women. The name of one woman is given in the petition. She contends that his conduct caused her immense mental suffering and wrecked their home.

Furious wrath and hatred are the grounds of Mrs. Dora Vaughn for her suit against William Vaughn.

Besides he cursed her, struck her in the presence of her children. Even the children had to bear the outbursts of his fury, she related, and were mistreated like herself. On several occasions he threatened to kick her out of the house if she did not leave voluntarily, which she did after three years of suffering abuse, she says.

Mrs. Hallie Smith, in her petition against Robert Smith, alleges that he refused to support her and their infant child. He remained with her only two years and left her alone with a baby to provide for.

Failure to support her and the family are given by Mrs. Hazel Price as the reason for seeking a divorce from Richard Price, who she alleges, left her after they had been married six years.

The divorce petition of Mrs. Minnie McHenry against Charles McHenry is based on the allegation that he abused her in every way possible; that he cursed her, struck her with his fists and on several occasions threatened to cut her throat. He finally left her, she charges, and she was compelled to take in washing to support herself and children.

Vogelsang Pens a Poem on High Cost of Living

Banker Writes a Jingle in Which He Deplores Lack of Fresh Eggs—Wants One for Christmas Present.

Robert Vogelsang, cashier of the Farmers' & Merchants' Bank, yesterday wrote a poem, expressing his views on the high cost of living. Bankers, who possess all the money in the world, were not supposed to have been touched by the rise, but Mr. Vogelsang says they have.

In his jingle, the banker complains about the quality of eggs, which are now on the market, indicating that he is still eating hen fruit. In most homes the smudge of egg upon the coat lapel is considered the badge of opulence. To be seen eating a real egg would cause the whole neighborhood to cackle over the extravagance.

Mr. Vogelsang admits that he has joined the teeming millions who now look upon a beefsteak as a souvenir. He announced last night that he was not eating eggs, as the poem indicates. He merely expects to present a few to relatives for Christmas. It has been his custom in other years to give each of his close relatives a turkey. As an egg retails at the price paid for a turkey last Christmas, he will present each of his relatives with a hen fruit this Yuletide. His poem runs:

My country tis of Thee
Land where things used to be
So cheap, we sing.
Land where folks once could buy
Things that are now so high,
To Thee with many a sigh,
Our memories cling.

Some of thy children swear
That what they eat and wear
Takes all their wad.
Others avow that they
Eat only once a day
And for it cannot pay
So help them God.

The people humbly crave
To pull from out the grave
At least one leg.
We do not ask to dine
On flesh of beef or swine,
But give us, Lord Divine,
One good fresh egg.

Our father's land, with Thee
Blest home of Liberty,
We chose to stop.
We don't exactly like,
So soon to henceward hike,
But we must hit the pike
If things don't drop.

T. L. GRIFFITH DIES AFTER LONG ILLNESS

Funeral to be Held This Afternoon—Burial to be in Cincinnati.

After a long illness from kidney and liver trouble, T. L. Griffith, a well known resident of the Cape, died at his home on Bellevue street, at 10 o'clock last night. He had been confined to his bed for many months.

Mr. Griffith, who was secretary of the Portland Cement Co., lived with his two daughters. His wife died two years ago. He was well known over this section of the State.

The funeral services will be held at 1:30 o'clock this afternoon at St. Vincent's Catholic Church. After the services the body will be taken to the depot and placed on the afternoon train to St. Louis, whence it will be shipped to Cincinnati, Ohio. The body will be interred in the family lot in the Catholic cemetery by the side of his wife, immediately upon its arrival there.

He leaves two daughters, Misses Mary and Alice Griffith, who will accompany the body to Cincinnati. Mr. Griffith was 54 years old.