



The Sand Farm Dept.

Conducted By
The Sand Farmer

Mail Suggestions and Inquiries to

Louis P. Haight, Muskegon, Mich.

JIM SMITH

Back-to-the-Lander's Success

"At that the Chicago chap swelled out his chest—or what might have been chest before he grew so fat—and said: 'Young man, look at me. I never got no lousin', nor anybody to help me, but I got along all right. I worked and saved and worked some more and if you want to buy a farm go work for it; but remember that I'm a self-made man.'"

"The young chap went away saying: 'I guess you're right. I don't believe God ever had anything to do with the making of you.'"

"I then picked up a little yellow ear as I said: 'This man was born in China. He never had enough to eat. His parents had taught him to be afraid of the demons and the gods until his poor soul was warped all out of shape.'"

"One day he heard that there was a land where man knew and worshipped a kind God, and read a wonderful book. In his ignorance he cried out to the God of America, and said: 'O God, if you care for the white man, have mercy on me and send me a teacher.'"

"Picking up the fifth ear which was a dark red nubbun, I said: 'This man was born in Africa. His parents were cannibals and you know all that word means.'"

"One day a white man came ashore from a ship, and said he had some nice presents aboard which he would give this boy if he would come out with him to get them.

"The poor fellow went out to the ship in all his simplicity but he had no sooner stepped upon the deck than he was struck upon the head, put into chains, thrust into the hold, to be taken to America and sold as a slave.

"Later, while working on a plantation, he heard a minister say to his master that God was the father of us all and he began to think: 'If God is master's father, and he is mine, why are we not brothers, even if I am black?'"

"That night he stole away into a swamp, all alone, and prayed to the only God he knew and the one he had just heard about, saying: 'O God, if you are master's father, and you are my father, why don't you change my black skin so I can have a chance to go to school and learn to read like Master Jack?'"

"One day the God of the corn, the Great Manitou, came to his cornfield, looking for seed corn with which to replant the earth.

"He came to the Boston ear in all its perfectness and beauty, but his face was stern, and he said: 'Did you do anything which made your parents sail in the Mayflower to locate in Boston? Did you build the schools in which you were educated? Did you maintain the university where you completed your education? Did you establish your father's cotton mill which has produced for you your wealth? You seem to have forgotten that I have favored you with all these advantages because I thought that I could read you, and through you I could help your less favored brethren. I want that you have but I leave you and I want you to beware of the day when I shall call for my own and leave you desolate. You would not send that young man enough of my money to fit him to heal my sick children in China. You may be proud of your ancestry, education, and wealth, but I cannot use you, for you have no heart, and leaving the Boston ear he came to the Ohio ear and asked the Ohio gentleman to show him his books and make an accounting of what he had done with that which he had received.

"He glanced over his ledger and noted the railroads, stocks and bonds, country house and city mansions, and then turning to him with a frown said: 'Was it anything that you did that made your parents settle in this fertile valley, and gave them the land for a song, which enabled them to educate you, and which has produced all of your wealth? Did you place the oil beneath this soil? You will not even so much as dig the well, nor sold a barrel of oil, but you have gained from others' labors, and when I sent that young lady asking that she might fit herself to teach my little children, I had hoped that you would realize that I had bestowed upon you rich blessings and that through you I might bless others. Your selfishness shall be your ruin, and when I call for my oil, and my land, what will you have left?'"

"So saying he left the Ohio man

with downcast face and traveled to Chicago where he spoke to the Chicago man in these words: 'Did you guide your parents through the stormy lakes and bring them to this place when only trappers and Indians lived here? Was it your sagacity which made them buy their muscle farm on the lake shore? Was it anything which you did that made this great city grow until this land is almost without price? Did you place the gold in the mountains from whence you dug it? And yet I heard you say to the young man whom I sent to you for assistance that you were a self-made man, and you refused to lend him enough of the wealth which I have so freely bestowed upon you that he might find life and help for his family on some farm where he could repay you with interest in due time. But for the fact of your great ignorance and the father's heart which makes me yearn for even those of my sons who will not come unto me, I would gladly disown any kinship. O my son, it is this ingratitude which breaks my heart. I have given to you freely, but you say my gifts were all yours, and refused to share with those whom I had hoped to bless by blessing you. When I shall call for my wealth which my land has produced, you may well remember that you are a self-made man and nothing else.'"

"As the Great Manitou went sorrowfully away he thought: 'I have yet one chance for my seed corn, as he came to the white nubbun. As he looked at this misshapen ear he said: 'You have grown in good soil under good conditions. Why are you thus? And the white nubbun hung his head in silence.'"

"The Great Manitou continued: 'Your parents worked hard to send you to school but you ran away. They tried to place you under good influences and the church but you would not go. They tried to teach you that real life is service, but you preferred sitting round the store criticizing others. You have some good qualities for with all your laziness there is within you a heart, and if I can but awaken it I may yet be able to use you to reseed my fields.'"

"So saying, he took the white nubbun's hand, and led him to the little yellow red nubbun and placed a hand in each of theirs as he said: 'I shall depend upon you to teach these, your brothers, about me. You must carry to them the Light and be an example of all which you believe should be. The criticisms which you have pronounced on others now exemplify by a loving life of service. You have not grown because you were lazy. Begin to labor. You have not loved yet but will learn by loving.'"

"As the three nubbins stood there together, holding each other's hands, the Great Manitou passed on and became a floating mist over the distant mountains, and the great world task was left to the refined and wealthy Boston ear, nor the shrewd and selfish Ohio ear, nor the bigoted and ignorant Chicago ear, but to the little white nubbun.

"As I finished telling my story the men were almost holding their breath, and I said to them: 'Do you know who this white nubbun is?'"

"They looked at me almost frightened when to my surprise Sam sprung to his feet and said: 'Please don't tell them. I guess they all know that's me, but if the Great Manitou will only give me a chance, I'll do something for the little yellow and the little red nubbins, and from that night Sam has been growing not only in body, but into a beautiful, loving soul.'"

Sam and Jim were nearing the porch where the two were sitting and the kindly expression on the big fellow's face showed that the San Farmer's words were indeed true, for he was trying to plant some good seed in the life of this stranger who but lately had come to Vacation Farm.

"Supper is ready," called Mother. "And I made it," called Mrs. Smith. "O, Jim, do come quick while the biscuits are hot, please."

Jim kissed the cook this time before he had proved the cooking, and the meal, hallowed by the setting sun's rays floating through the western windows, made that day one long remembered by a young girl who had seen a vision in the Sand Farmer's corn story, and guessed that it had been told for her benefit.

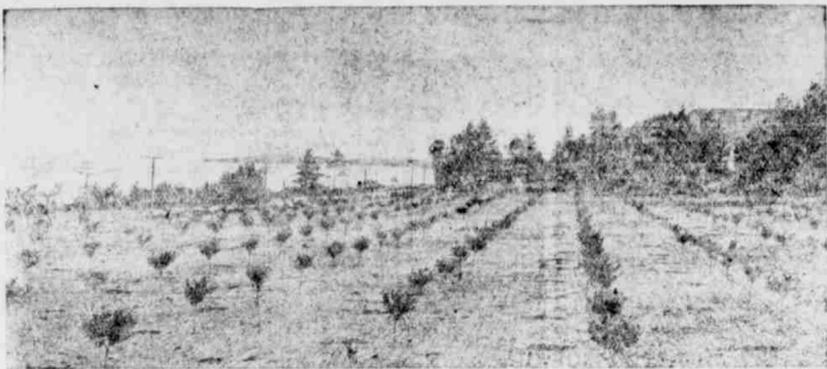
(To be continued)

Concrete Solving The Road Problem In Rural Districts

As is the case in towns and suburban localities, rural communities are turning to concrete as the solution of the road problem. In practically all sections of the United States the concrete road is gaining in favor. Public approval or appreciation of the concrete road is based upon practical observation as to its extreme utility, reasonable cost and the almost negligible outlay required for maintenance. Farmers have discovered that no road can compare with the concrete road, considered as an economic proposition. For a time they

hoped that the old macadam type would continue to serve their needs, especially if thoroughly well-built and cared for, but they have been forced to realize that in the case of every macadam road subject to automobile traffic, destruction is inevitable. In the old days of horse and wagon traffic, iron-shod hoofs and steel tires constantly created new binding material by wearing down the stone, but under automobile traffic the rapidly revolving tires disperse the rock-dust or binding material in clouds, and the stones, upon exposure, are ripped out

A Two-Year-Old Montmorency Cherry Orchard



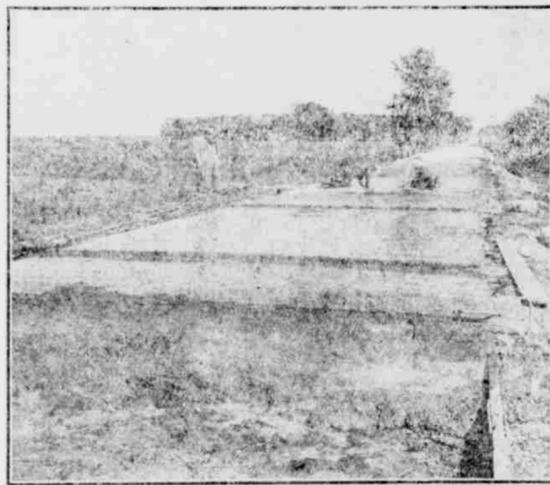
It is possible in Western Michigan to combine summer resorting with fruit growing. This is especially true as regards the cherry industry. Many a city man has secured from ten to forty acres along the shores of Lake Michigan or some one of the many inland lakes and erected a summer home and is devoting the surplus land to cherry, peach and apple orchards. The fruits ripen in the summer when the owner and his family can be on hand to superintend the harvesting. The out-of-door life furnishes the best kind of a vacation for the family and the profits from the fruits, if they are intelligently handled will pay for the outings. The above view is of the summer home of Charles E. Zapf, on the shores of the east arm of Grand Traverse Bay. There are one hundred acres in the place and seventy-three acres are already given over to fruit.

and hurled aside. The situation has become acute, and thus it is imperative for every community to decide whether it will submit to bad roads, pay excessive annual maintenance charges or pay for a road so solid that it will never get out of repair. In many localities farmers have dismissed the first two propositions as impossible and they are building durable roads. And some of them believe it is better to do this by local taxation rather than to have the state take over and control the roads, thus depriving them of the right to say what type of road shall be built. It was the farmers who defeated the recently proposed 50-million dollar bond issue in Pennsylvania. They wanted the opportunity to build roads that would not be utterly destroyed long before state or county bonds should mature. In Connecticut, Maryland, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania, both state and local communities are turning to the concrete road as the solution of their problem and with excellent results.

what would happen in the case of macadam as compared with concrete. For example, let it be assumed that 500 miles are to be built during a period of five years at the rate of 100 miles per year, and that repairs will not be required on either type of road for two years. Beginning, then, at the third year, and estimating maintenance costs for concrete at \$25 per mile per year, the Bellefontaine figures, the total maintenance costs on 500 miles of concrete road would, at the expiration of seven years, be only \$37,500. In the case of macadam, basin costs on New York and New Jersey figures for 1912, repair costs would reach the enormous total of \$1,350,000. Where concrete roads are very narrow, say 10 feet wide, and have a dirt road at the sides, they could be built for \$7,500 per mile. Maryland has built excellent concrete roads of standard 16-foot width for a little less than \$12,000 per mile.

It is upon the above economic basis that farmers are beginning to look at

skates over the wonderful concrete roads of that locality. Horses never slip or fall upon these roads and will draw twice or three times their accustomed load. In Wayne county one farmer has driven an unshod horse over the concrete roads for a long period of time without injury to the animal. It is needless to say that these roads, the water must go over or under them. Another especially good feature of the concrete road is its freedom from dust as well as mud. Wherever farmers have used these roads they are enthusiastic in their commendation, not only because of their great durability and low maintenance cost, but because in every sense they represent the ideal highway and, therefore, the solution of the road problem as it applies to rural communities.



METHOD OF CONSTRUCTING A TYPICAL SIXTEEN-FOOT CONCRETE ROAD.

The templet used to strike the crown is shown against the concrete in the foreground. Back of this are the installing devices for expansion joints. They are holding steel protecting plates in position and will be removed before the concrete hardens. Beyond, men are troweling the surface. This road is near Mason City, Iowa.

Taking a 16-foot concrete road as a basis, highways of this character have cost on the average about \$12,000 per mile, while maintenance costs have been practically nothing. For example, in Bellefontaine, Ohio, a concrete road put down twenty years ago has cost less than \$25 per mile per year for maintenance, while the average maintenance cost of macadam roads in five eastern states in 1912 exceeded \$500 per mile per year. The farmer, in adopting concrete, has figured the matter in this way: A road is an investment. The most conservative estimate of maintenance cost on macadam per mile per year would be certain to reach \$300 if the road is subject to motor-driven traffic and kept passable at all seasons. An equally conservative estimate for construction is \$6,000 per mile. The \$300 maintenance cost represents interest on \$6,000 at 5 per cent, thus making the real investment \$12,000 per mile.

But aside from moderate first cost and practically negligible maintenance costs, the popularity of the concrete road is rapidly growing in rural communities due to the experience of those who have used it. For the farmer it is the ideal highway. Described briefly, the building of a concrete road consists of putting a wet and mushy mass of Portland cement, sand and stone in the center of a highway, where it hardens into impishable rock. The accompanying illustrations give a very good idea of the building of a road and its appearance when finished. The first picture shows the construction of a concrete road near Mason City, Iowa. The concrete has been placed between rigidly staked side forms. The road is then brought to proper contour with the templet and subsequently troweled with wooden floats. The view of the finished road in Maryland



TWELVE FOOT CONCRETE ROAD AT WHITEHALL, MD.

This is the type of road that has proved to be a veritable boon to the farmer. It is an ideal thoroughfare to walk upon as well as a road, never accumulating mud or dust.

or the cost of a mile of indestructible concrete road. As a matter of fact, taking New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania costs, the investment would be some \$25,000 per mile. From considering a single mile of roadway it became interesting to figure costs on many miles to see

shows its admirable surface. This type of road appeals especially to the farmer and his family, because it provides them at all seasons with an excellent place to walk as well as a thoroughfare for vehicles. It is a fact that in Wayne county, Michigan, children go to and from school on roller

DEVELOPMENT BUREAU NOTES

During the nine days that the Western Michigan apple show was on in Detroit, 1,374 people visited the display and 767 copies of the illustrated magazine "Western Michigan" were passed out.

Three Wexford county boys have been granted scholarships at the Michigan Agricultural College because of reports made in connection with the recently held corn contest. These boys are Steward Lowe of Baginall, Lawrence Matthews of Manton and Don Wright of Selma Township.

S. F. Postal of Spring Hill Farm near Evart, in Oseola county, is unable to fill orders for fancy boxed apples at \$1.50 a bushel. For two seasons he has taken pains to sort, grade and pack his apples according to the most approved methods and in consequence is doing a good business.

The farmers in the vicinity of Honor, Benzie county, who have been growing cucumbers are rejoicing because of the news that they are to receive \$1.00 a bushel for small cucumbers next season. Already fifty farmers have signed contracts. It is estimated that \$100 an acre can easily be made growing cucumbers for the salting stations.

Clarence Lofgren, the 17-year-old son of a Cherry Township farmer in Wexford county, grew 140 bushels of corn on an acre the past season and was declared the champion corn grower at the recently held meeting of the Boys' Agricultural Club. The corn was so good that part of it sold for seed at \$1.00 a bushel. The total receipts were \$107. The rent for the use of the acre of ground was estimated at \$5.00. The seed planted in the spring cost 20 cents and the fertilizer used on the acre cost \$9.00. The boy's labor for planting, cultivating and harvesting brought the total cost of the corn up to \$22, which amount subtracted from the \$105 received, leaves a clear profit of \$85. This amount is the boy's reward for the use of his brains, he having already received pay for the use of his brains.



Poultry Department

CONDUCTED BY
ERNEST B. BLEETT
Campau Bldg., 59-63 Market Ave.
GRAND RAPIDS - MICHIGAN

SCALDING POULTRY.

Michael K. Boyer, a veteran poultryman, in an article on above subject, says: "To secure best results, the scalding of poultry is something that must be done with the greatest care. Overscalding makes an untractable carcass. The water should be just to a boiling point, but not actually boiling before the birds are immersed. In doing this, it must not be forgotten, the operator must hold the bird by the legs and head and then lift up and down in the water three or four times, when all feathers and pin-feathers should be removed very cleanly without breaking the skin. All scalded poultry should be 'plumped' after picking by dipping for about two seconds in very hot water—just under boiling point—and then thrown into cool water of the natural temperature, where it should be allowed to remain for 15 to 20 minutes."

FENCE BUILDING ADVICE.

Rev. Edgar Warren, a writer in American Poultry Advocate, says: "Although I have been building poultry fences for years, I have just found out how to do it. Instead of using the wire staples that are provided for the purpose I now use eight-penny nails. I drive these nails into the wood about two-thirds their length, then bend them upward by a strike of the hammer, then loop the head into the wood. I use three nails to a post. This method has three advantages: 1. It does not take so much time. 2. It makes the fence more secure. A strong wind will sometimes loosen the little staples, but the nails hold. 3. The greatest advantage, however, lies in the fact that the nails can be so easily removed. It is quite a job to pull out staples, when they

are rusted into the wood. But all you have to do when you wish to remove the nails is to straighten them out with the hammer, and then draw them out."

EGG PRODUCING EXPERIMENT.

At the New York state experiment station an experiment was made to find what effect a ration containing more than an average amount of fat would have on laying hens. The hens in one pen received as much tallow as was readily eaten with a moderate grain ration. Another lot was fed a similar ration with linseed meal substituted for the tallow. The average egg production was somewhat in favor of the hens having the linseed meal. The greater difference observed was that the hens having the linseed meal molted nearly all at the same time, earlier in the season and more rapidly. Only a few of the hens which had been fed tallow had begun to molt at the close of this feeding trial, October 4, by which time several hens from the other pen were in new plumage.

EGG EATING HABIT.

The egg eating habit is one of the most pernicious habits of the poultry yard. Fowls that have enough meat food will not, as a rule, eat their eggs, but when no meat food is fed they are liable to acquire this habit. Sometimes it is on account of a lack of lime for the shell of the egg. The thing to do is to give them what fresh meat they will eat, place china eggs around the floor of the coop, give them oyster shells or lime in some form, and then watch as carefully as you can the hens that are doing this sort of thing and remove them from the pen.

Side Lights on The War.

By Paul Leake

Forty thousand British troops are guarding the Suez canal and Egypt.

Only 2 1/2 per cent of the 489,733 soldiers treated in French hospitals have died.

Up to October 31 there were 681,005 organized workmen serving in the German army.

Orders for 200,000 overcoats, 200,000 blouses and 200,000 trousers have been placed with New York firms by a European government.

The total German losses in killed, wounded and missing are now placed at 1,200,000.

Lloyd George says that before spring opens there will be a half a million more British forces in the field.

An agent of Greece has placed with a Toledo firm an order for \$1,000,000 worth of tents.

The war expenditures of the allies up to the first of next March are estimated at \$8,000,000,000 and those of Germany at \$3,000,000,000.

Premier Viviani of France announces that his country will carry on the war to a finish.

A Petrograd dispatch says the union of the Scandinavian provinces is proposed and that Germany has promised the Russian provinces on the Baltic which would raise the population of the united countries to 25,000,000.

It is rumored that Germany has recently bought 10,000,000 pounds of wool in the United States.

The censorship department of the British government is handling 250,000 cablegrams a day.