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TRAXTER TELLS JOURNAL READERS VALUE OF REAL EXCHANGE OF FARM HELP

(By J. O. Traxter, U. S. Government Farm Help Specialist.)

Many changes are taking place in the readjustment of conditions from a war period to one of peace, and these conditions are being met, by the people of our country, in much the same spirit as prevailed in war times, which exemplification is being shown in matters requiring closer co-operation of the whole people.

The war conditions have been instrumental in teaching the necessity of co-operation, and since the fundamentals have been so efficiently demonstrated it becomes our unified duty to apply the results gained toward further co-operative development and since the eyes of the world are now on the American farmer, as to how he will handle the food, feed and forage production, to meet the greatest demand for such products the world has ever faced, and to do so at a time when adequate farm help is a puzzle for the best brains, it certainly becomes the duty of our farmers to practice the most efficient means of conserving energy in their farm help, that greater results may be obtained from a less number of farm helpers.

Co-operative Exchange.

The matter of co-operative exchange of farm help is one which has proved in many instances of great advantage in performing certain kinds of work to be performed in a given period of time. We have many crops which are perishable in their nature and require harvesting or handling of the entire crop in a period of, say, one month. The time may be longer or may be shorter, but in either case the work has to be performed in that given period. Now, the crop seldom, if ever, all ripens or matures at exactly the same time, probably the time of planting, the fertility of the soil, the atmosphere, and other conditions, furnish the reasons for the uneven maturity.

May Combine Forces.

This fact, then, allows us the privilege of combining our forces and by working from one field to another we can conserve help and energy. For instance, I and my neighbor both plant a crop of corn for silage exactly at the same time, but for some reason, as explained above, my corn does not reach the stage for harvesting as soon as my neighbor's, possibly by 4 or 5 days. Now, instead of my having a full set of hands and equipment for harvest at the corn at the same time that my neighbor's corn is ready for harvest, I can wait until after he has finished harvesting and in the meantime allow my help to take the place of any extra help required by my neighbor. And after my neighbor has finished I can use the same equipment and some of his help in return for what was furnished him.

Again, suppose a widow with one son, who we will say is 15 years old are farming, the husband and father having been called into the Great Beyond leaving them the little farm, possibly poorly equipped with machinery, and with little or no funds with which to purchase machinery, help, or other equipment. We can see that in all probability with the tools and one horse or mule there could be planted and cultivated as much as twenty acres of peanuts, but in the harvesting by the one boy alone it would require at least twenty days of good weather, which in all probability would consume the greater part of one calendar month.

Would Require Harvest.

From the fact that peanuts are a crop requiring harvesting at just the proper time, in order to secure the greatest quantity of peanuts and to give a good quality of hay, it would many times cause considerable injury to the crop in extending the harvest period of a particular field over a month of time; hence, the easy solution would be for the boy to engage the services of a few of his neighbors for a couple of days to harvest his peanuts, after which he could repay the neighbor in helping them during some emergency in which they needed makes possible, then, a twenty acre crop of peanuts that otherwise may not have been possible.

The boy's peanut crop after being placed in stacks could remain in that condition until the picker came into work of marketing the crop could be successfully handled by the boy alone. This exchange of help at a time when the neighborhood, and the remaining were needing some assistance requiring extra services for a short time.

These examples are given simply to illustrate how convenient it is many times for farmers to exchange help and machines and thereby save the expense of extra help and additional machinery. This exchange may be carried on through entire communities, which would permit of the use of possibly one machine for the whole community.

Used to Invite Neighbors.

When I was a boy of 17 summers it was a general practice in our community for threshing small grain, to invite all the neighbors to help in the work—and of course, each of those neighbors had to be repaid in the same manner, so it became my duty to follow the threshing machine all through the neighborhood, to pay for the help of threshing our one job. These neighbors each had the same thing to do that I had,—but when we were through we had paid out nothing for help and we had a full crew of men for the emergency of threshing our grain.

This same method has been applied to the harvesting of grain, and even to the gathering of corn, and many other crops.

Husking Bees.

This matter to mind the old "husking bees" we have often heard our parents and grandparents refer to

as a source of great pleasure in their younger days. Of course, the husking bees was usually followed by some entertainment of fantastic glee, at which music and dancing were the principal features, but the main object of the husking bee was an exemplification of co-operative exchange of help, for the purpose of husking corn, which was a necessary and tedious work, before the corn could be milled or satisfactorily marketed.

Another good illustration of co-operative effort has been demonstrated in what used to be known as "log rollings." For instance, a farmer needed some new land cleared, and with his ordinary help would saw down trees, cut the limbs off, and otherwise have the work under way. He would announce to his neighbors that on a certain day he would have a "log rolling." When the day for log rolling came, he, with all his neighbors, would proceed to the land to be cleared, and enough help was then available to roll the logs in to piles, where they were burned. Separately and without additional help, the logs were too heavy for them to be handled.

Used for Everything.

This same method of co-operative exchange of farm help has been used in "wood sawings," "stump pullings," "brush burnings," "wood splittings," and with the women as "knitting bees," "quiltings," "comfort tackings," "carpet rag sewings," and many other simple and effective schemes.

These methods were employed many long years ago when there was a perceptible need for them because of insufficient help to handle emergency work. By joining together those who were available greater strength was created, the extreme pressure lessened.

This time is at hand now when these same measures put into practice will be found of great advantage in overcoming what we are subject to call labor or help shortage.

Easy Shorthand

It is now possible for you to learn a superior shorthand method in less than 5 hours; then speed can be gained so that you write as fast as a person talks. No need to spend months and a lot of money in learning stenography when it is now so easy and it will be taught by mail. Absolutely guaranteed. Page lessons will be sent if you write to King Institute, 122-9th Street, New York, N. Y. This is a chance of this free trial method. You will be surprised and delighted to show others this advertisement.

Beaufont Winner At the Club

Advertisement for Beaufont beer featuring a picture of a man and text describing the beer's quality and availability.

Advertisement for Knowles Brothers Agency, Equitable Life Assurance Society, 205 South Palafox Street, Phone 22.

Advertisement for Pensacola Maritime Corporation, Steamship Agents, Ship Brokers, Chartering and Freight Brokers, 25 South Palafox Street.

Advertisement for W.S.S. War Savings Stamps, United States Government.

Advertisement for Johnson & Frederickson, Painting, Paper Hanging and Decorating, Phone 502.

Advertisement for Reed's "Better Bread" Sanitary Bakery, Palafox and Gregory Streets.

Advertisement for McCann's Tire and Repair Shop, 113 North Palafox Street.

Advertisement for The Central Pharmacy, Quality Ice Cream, 177-Phonex-178.

Advertisement for Pastime Bowling Alleys, 108 South Palafox Street.

Advertisement for Pan-American College of Commerce, J. C. Beatty, Manager.

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This cut gives you a small idea of how we make our New Roll Feather Mattress, showing the mattress on the bed with the summer side up. Other cuts show how easy it is roll it up and handle it; etc. It is impossible to appreciate the good qualities of the mattress without seeing a sample of it. Our agent will gladly call, show you samples, etc. A card will bring him.

PILLOWS CLEANED RE-TICKED and MEDICATED.



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This cut shows an old mattress we make over, rebuilt on scientific lines and an extra layer in the center making it always a perfectly level and uniform mattress. No more sags, no more lumps, no more holes to sleep in. A perfect bed, 8 out of 24 hours, or one-third of your life is spent on a bed. Why not keep it clean and sanitary.

CONDITIONS AND OUR GUARANTEE.

When we take a bed from your home we open it and leave you a sample of it, so as you know you are getting your same material back, and to also show you the difference we make in cleaning. Then we weigh it on your scales or anybody's (we carry our own as a matter of convenience), give you a receipt for it; weigh it when we bring it back and guarantee not to lose over ONE POUND IN EVERY TWENTY POUNDS, which leaves no opportunity open for a misunderstanding of any kind. Besides we guarantee our work to be just as represented or refund money. CAN ANYTHING BE FAIRER! ALL WE ASK IS THE CHANCE TO PROVE ALL WE SAY. The people we give you as reference will back us up in all we say or do.

