

The Chieftain's Monday Morning Farm Page

WESTERN LIFE REQUIRES PLUCK IN COUNTRY OR IN TOWN

Bright Example to Both Has Been Set By the Merchants of Pueblo—Cheerful Grit Is Also Shown By the Farmers

General praise has been awarded to the business community of Pueblo for the brave spirit of fortitude and enterprise it has shown in rapid recovery from the great June flood.

But that was an unavoidable case. It was absolutely necessary to dig out of the mud, rebuild and reopen. It had to be done.

Yet in this present month of December the merchants have proved themselves endowed with an even higher grade of courage.

With deliberate intent, facing most serious risk, basing judgment and action on their sanguine faith in the buying power of Pueblo and the probable exercise of it at Christmas time, they sent out orders for immense quantities of costly goods.

They knew the town, or knew what it would be by December, better than did we, the anxious and skeptical laymen. It would be a cold day before we, the aforesaid plucky laymen, right in the sight of smoke stacks and a-foot piles of mud in the streets, would give out orders for two hundred-dollar suits of furniture, and hundred-dollar goods and rugs and furs, and enormous quantities of the finest toys, and tons of candy and the greatest quantities of clothing and of silks ever brought to Pueblo.

NOW LOOK OUT OF TOWN

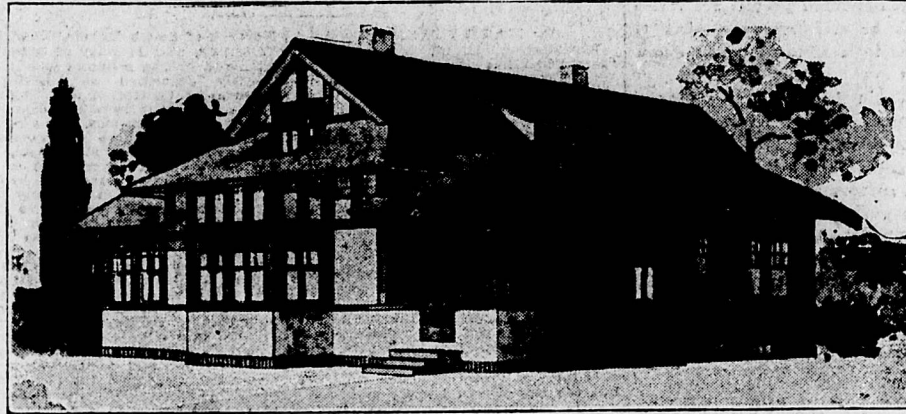
So now let us ask about the country people; are they as brave, as sanguine, as hopeful as these Pueblo merchants? It is not exactly a parallel case. There is more freedom and independence for the farmer in some ways yet he is more hopelessly bound down in others. He can direct and plan, plow and sow, without the keen calculation which the merchant must devote to his local constituency; in fact the whole

country is the farmer's constituency. But in the matter of prices and values the farmer is completely tied up. While the merchant loses from rapid caprice in styles and fashions, the farmer loses from swift changes in markets.

It is here in the west that the industry of agriculture is not so much a question of quantity of production as the variety and species of their botanical task. Human brain is called upon to figure out a probable market for these articles, not a few weeks ahead at Christmas time, as the merchant had to do, but nine months in the future at September harvest. How can we possibly make any sort of guess on the demand, the prices, the conditions three quarters of a year in the dim and mythical 1922?

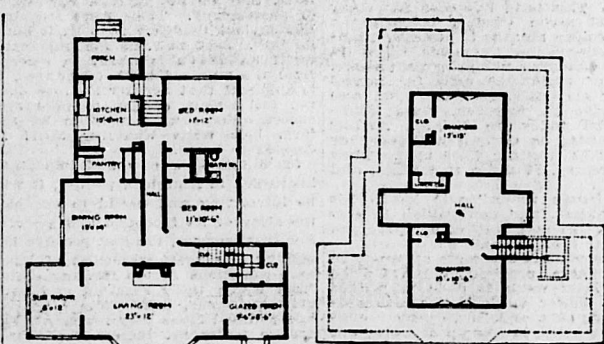
But were past years any better? Were they not even more deceptive, more treacherous, more disappointing? Therefore we may analyze the past experiences of war and of peace time and close the debate with the assertion that the courage of the mercantile community of Pueblo in the past month of December is fully matched by the courage of the farmer in the past month of December. It has been a critical year which saw Pueblo come back; but out in the fields and orchards and gardens and stock pens and poultry pens every year presents a fascinating round of adventures. Such is life in the far west.

A MODERN SEMI-BUNGALOW DESIGNED BY CHAS. S. SEDGWICK



COMplete in every detail is this seven room semi-bungalow. Though there are two bedrooms on the second floor, the first story is complete in itself and unless one's family is too large it could with comfort be used as the living part of the house and the two rooms in the second story could be utilized for storage purposes. Or, if one of the members of the household is an artist and desires a studio, what more ideal studio rooms could be found than the two in the upper story of this house?

On the first floor there are two bedrooms, a glazed front porch, a good sized living room with a beautiful bay window and open fireplace, a sun parlor, dining room, pantry, kitchen and rear porch. The floor plan is attractively and practically arranged and the housewife will find keeping house here reduced to the minimum so far as the actual labor and work are concerned. There is a basement under the main part which will be nice to store things in and which has a foundation wall of concrete.



The living room, sun parlor and dining room are finished in "Mission Oak" and all other rooms in white enamel. The chimney in front is for the fireplace in the living room and due for the furnace, while the back chimney is for kitchen range. Cement stucco is used to finish the exterior with English "half-timbers" in the gables. This makes an exceedingly attractive appearance, particularly with the outside trimmings stained brown with green crested shingles on the roof. The estimated cost of building this house is between \$6,500 and \$7,500, this being exclusive of the plumbing and heating.

SANTA DISCOVERS THE POOR FARM

(Eganaro)

I was at the county home (sometimes called the poor farm) when Santa Claus came there Saturday afternoon.

It was his first official visit, so the old timers told me. There had been Christmas dinners and Christmas decorations and some Christmas extras in such times before, but there had never been a real Christmas tree and a Santa Claus on the place before.

Of all the Christmas things I have witnessed down in New England, in the middle west or the south, this on the Pueblo county home yesterday "took the huckleberries," yes, and the cranberries too.

Sixty-six residents of the home were beneficiaries at the hands of an idea Santa Claus. He looked just like his best picture, and he was the typical jolly, laughing, shouting, jolly old Kris Kringle that we read about in our nursery books.

The laughing and expectant people who gathered around the monster Christmas tree, all beautifully covered with electric lights, were 70, 80, 90 and almost 100 years young boys and girls who had for the most part witnessed no such scene since the days of pioneer schools.

The tree was set at the intersection of the two great hallways in the magnificent three-story main building; around this had been placed just enough chairs for all the residents who were physically able to leave their rooms, while the doors of the hospital ward for old ladies were swung wide that they might see and hear and be easily waited upon by the old king of the holiday season and the lady nurse-matron and superintendent, who acted as his assistants.

There were presents for every resident of the home, and nice oranges and apples and a sprig of holly-laden holly accompanied each present. "Hello, John; how do you do. I have brought you a present too. I visited you often before when you were the crack shot. I hope you a happy new year." With cheery expressions of sentiment such as this, Santa Claus greeted each of the young-old people as he handed him or her the present bearing the name of the child.

"Same to you, Santa Claus," was the response in many instances, while others looked their appreciation more expensive than words, as tears trickled down wrinkled cheeks. All this grew out of a suggestion of Mrs. Burkett, wife of superintendent, Dixon Burkett. The idea was presented to the county commissioners, they liked it into the ear of Charles W. Lee, and in almost less than no time the Masonic Relief association was in charge of a plan for carrying out the idea; thus was the tree and its decorations, also the many of the presents provided. These were augmented by many presents from the ladies of the Ascension church, and they also bought and presented to the home a Victrola with 78 records.

ALLEGED CATTLE THIEF CAUGHT NEAR FOWLER

Special to the Chieftain.
Fowler, Colo., Dec. 25.—Deputy Sheriff A. A. Larson arrested an alleged cattle rustler today and took him to Pueblo where he was placed in the county jail. He gave his name as Carlson and resided 4 miles west of here, say the authorities. His arrest comes after several days of watching and the officers believe they have the ring leader of a band of rustlers. When captured, Carlson had a load of cattle hides.

FEEDING PLANTS IS INTERESTING PART OF HOT HOUSE WORK

Feeding plants is an interesting part of the work of conducting a successful greenhouse business.

The other day we happened into Johnson's greenhouse and saw Steve feeding the plants. Sounds strange. We heard about feeding the chickens, dogs and cows, but not often of feeding plants.

But there he was, Steve has a magnificent lot of carnations which were started a year ago from cuttings and have been worked with a whole year. Now they are tall and coming into magnificent blooms.

But to grow carnations requires about three artificial feedings in the course of their life. What are they fed? Steve was feeding them fine bone meal just the same as I fed chickens.

It is applied to the surface of the soil among the plants and stirred in. It sure makes them grow strong and fine.

In fact, all plants are fed. Foliage plants have to be fed but a different kind of food. They are given nitrate of soda, blood meal and various forms of nitrogen.

It is sure some game to learn just when to feed and what to feed. If the plants grow along all right they don't need any food. However, if they stop growing they are fed. If the carnations stop growing they are fed.

Mr. Johnson is now busy making carnation cuttings for next year's crop.

What is life, anyway? What's it for? What is the object? What's good in it? If it is to be filled up from milking time at 4 a. m. to hanging up the dishpan at 9 p. m. Poor system of book-keeping that sums up the success of a life in the achievement of buying "another forty" to enlarge the farm. Better to view the big end of life as the "good turn" performed for some impressionable young mind at Christmas time, when we drive up to the gate of the heavenly corral St. Peter will look into the wagon bed and will find there only the few small rattling grinds of selfish congeniality dated December 25.

OTERO'S SOIL IS SPOILING IN QUALITY

A serious proposition confronts large areas of the best irrigated lands down the river according to investigations made by Dr. Sackett and Professor Kezar who have been analyzing farm dirt with alarming results. At a meeting held a few days ago at Rocky Ford they made public critical conditions that have developed in that vicinity and also in the Grand Junction region.

Some years ago it is stated Dr. Headen, state chemist was called to the Grand Junction district to investigate some soil troubles and after analyzing some of the soil he found it contained a very high percent of nitrogen. Later he found the same condition at Grand Junction and Montrose. Dr. Sackett believes that such is the situation and found the nitrates were being formed by a species of soil organisms that under favorable conditions took nitrogen in the air and fixed it in the soil.

Condition favoring this problem is clean and frequent cultivation and growing crops that required very little nitrogen. Also the lack of organic matter in the soil increased the nitrates. In the Grand Junction district where fruit was the chief crop the nitrates became so bad that many orchards had to be grubbed out. Such condition is fast approaching our Manzanola district.

Special crop farming such as cucumbers and cantaloupes and continuous growing of beets on the same ground are all factors that cause an excessive increase in nitrates.

It is hard for people to get this idea of too much nitrogen in the soil and that they must be supplied with commercial fertilizer.

Dr. Sackett has been working on this now for years and he has proved to his own satisfaction that this is the cause of our soil troubles and not the cause of our soil troubles and not the cause of our soil troubles.

Now what is the remedy? These men suggest methods by which it can eventually be overcome, but we must not expect sudden results. As it has taken a good many years to get us into this condition it will take years to get out of it.

First, we must change methods of farming from a special crop to a diversified system. Next we must rotate beets and cantaloupes with such crops as corn and grain that will use large amounts of nitrogen.

We must get more livestock and put more barnyard manure on the soil in order to get more organic matter into it. We must supplement this with plowing under green crops.

Above all we must use less water in irrigating, as we are being more convinced every year that overirrigation will ruin this country.

An effort will be made thru the Farm Bureau to arrange a number of demonstrations to prove out these theories by actual field tests. This will be supplemented with laboratory tests made at the Rocky Ford and La Junta high schools by the vocational agricultural departments and the laboratories at Fort Collins.

Various organizations are being formed at points in upper valleys to take care of the large amount of head lettuce it is expected to produce the coming season. A lettuce club was formed at La Jara at a meeting on Thursday.

CAREFUL SEED SELECTION GIVES FARMER SWEEPS TAKES ON CORN

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 25.—(By The Associated Press.)—Rich soil of Sangamon county, which in Indian dialect means "Land of Plenty," and long years of careful seed selection, produced the corn of this year, which brought to Illinois the 1921 grand champion sweepstakes prize of America.

Only a country store, a grain elevator, three farm houses and a muddy road mark the railroad station of Maxwell, 23 miles southwest of Springfield, where the ten ears of yellow corn were raised which won the grand championship.

From the depot railroad station westward, stretches the land of J. W. Workman, producer of this champion grain, the son and grandson of corn growers. His corn was awarded the championship by Chicago at the International Grain and Hay show.

Years of careful seed selection, his excellent land, the rotation of corn with alfalfa or clover pasture, are the three outstanding elements in his success.

Farmers about Workman's home, say the honor came of hard work, and his wife adds "enthusiasm that kept him at it day and night while all the rest of us slept," poring over his grains with the same rapture that holds a miser.

"I'm a crank," Mr. Workman said. "You can't raise prize corn for 25 years and not be a crank."

Yet for all his corn growing and prize winning he has never seen a perfect ear of corn.

"Never," he said, "have I seen a perfect ear. Not one of the ten ears I sent to Chicago was perfect. All I could do was take the very best I had and hope they would stand up beside the others. In every ear I could see imperfection."

Of his 420 acres in the Maxwell farm, only 55 were in corn this year. He yielded 25 bushels an acre, all yellow dent. That was picked over at first by Mr. Workman and his son, Rome Workman, who, his mother says, "is almost as bad as his pa about corn."

Then he yielded 120 bushels of yellow dent. The spuds are stored in sacks on a false bottom of slats and are exposed all around to the air and have good ventilation. He has stored 3,800 sacks of the best seed stock in the country. People's Russets, grown without the application of a drop of water, artificially. They are real dry land stuff at 7,500 feet. There are 500 sacks of certified stuff for sale, grown at the rate of 100 sacks to the acre. His whole yield was 80 sacks to the acre of fine seed stuff, just the right size, smooth, free from disease and the best that can be grown anywhere.

Mr. Lytle's dry farm is on mesa above Rocky Ford. To get there one takes the Strand road and asks for directions after he gets on the Park.

Montrose Press states: Douglas Lytle completed one of the best spud cellars at his dry land ranch above Bostwick Park. He studied plans of many and then improved upon them himself in regard to ventilation. The cellar is 120 by 40 feet with 12 foot ceiling and plenty of ventilation. The spuds are stored in sacks on a false bottom of slats and are exposed all around to the air and have good ventilation. He has stored 3,800 sacks of the best seed stock in the country. People's Russets, grown without the application of a drop of water, artificially. They are real dry land stuff at 7,500 feet. There are 500 sacks of certified stuff for sale, grown at the rate of 100 sacks to the acre. His whole yield was 80 sacks to the acre of fine seed stuff, just the right size, smooth, free from disease and the best that can be grown anywhere.

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The Canon City Record: Each egg cost a certain farmer in Fremont county one and ninety-nine hundredths cents, or twenty-three and eight-tenths cents a dozen during the past year. On this same farm it cost the farmer \$1.25 to feed one bird, 47 cents labor to care for a hen, 27 cents housing cost, 47 cents capital cost, and

all but 50 ears, which were sent to the International show.

In the regional contest with Kansas, Missouri, Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and Southern parts of Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, the first prize for yellow corn; then took the highest regional prize of the best white corn, which was won by Missouri. Then he entered the sweepstakes. His best ten ears won.

"I have seen him down on all fours," one neighbor said, "picking his seed, grain by grain, cutting out that which he felt fell below his standard. He would spread a big tarpaulin, pour the grain upon it, and then get down with it."

Corn should not be planted for more than five years in succession in the same land," Mr. Workman said. His custom is to raise corn in a parcel of land four or five years, and then to plant it in alfalfa and clover and make it pasture land for ten or twelve years, renewing the land.

"Best corn never comes the first year," Mr. Workman declared. "Corn from the champion farm came from ground that was in its second year of corn."

Where all the turkeys came from, which blossomed out in goodly supply for Thanksgiving and then for Christmas, is sure a mystery. We must give the credit to Towser and Sheep. We must give the credit to Towser and Sheep.

In past years the coyotes had everything their own way, out on the vacant leagues of plains and foothills. Their number has not perceptibly decreased, but their spirit has. So many settlers have invaded the outer townships that dog can call to dog and hear an encouraging answer from the night. Their faithful farm guards have evidently given the prowlers a cautious turn and they keep back and give the poultry some chance for life. So now the turkeys are safe to come to a big wagoned with a cover of netting over it moving in from the Apishpa and another from Rattlesnake and each long box crowded with indignant turkeys red in the face with offended dignity.

By an order issued during the week by the Interstate Commerce commission, alfalfa, meal, corn and other feedstuffs are to be classified to take the same railroad rates as corn and coarse grain in western trunk line territory.

The rate for alfalfa, meal, corn and other feedstuffs is to be established at a lower freight charge on the cattle foods named than the existing rates on wheat.

December 15 was "Farmers' day" up the river. On that day numerous farmers from all over Fremont county assembled at Canon and Florence, where they were taken in to be cared by the tired and blustered citizens to do a good day's stunt with shovel and pick in Phantom canon. They made the dirt fly and there was no soldering.

Colorado Agricultural college at Fort Collins had a serious loss by fire one day in the week. The Chemical building was destroyed with a loss of \$20,000 and with it \$8,000 worth of chemicals.

Several more carloads of poultry have been taken from Lamar on the way west. Whether they go to Arizona or to Southern California is not stated but they seem to give proof of an opening and enlarging market.

7 cents for equipment or total cost of \$2.54 to take care of each bird. The birds produced an average of 172 eggs each in a year which made an income of \$5.17 per hen, or a profit of \$2.63 per bird, or 1.1 cents per dozen eggs. Each hen had to be kept 88 eggs to pay for her keep during the year.

This farmer's flock was in the Fremont county egg-laying contest which was closed. This farmer, along with six others, in co-operation with the County Agent and the County Farm Bureau, kept records for the year.

The farm has a flock of 70 birds which is near the average sized farm flock in the state, but is above the average in production. Farmers can bring their poultry up to this standard by culling out the boarders, keeping simple records, and using ordinary care in management along with the feed furnished by the farm.

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THIS WEEK'S NOTES ON THE FARM

The reader of yesterday's paper was astonished at the bewildering number of Christmas parties and programs. He had not supposed there were people enough in Pueblo to "pull off" so many indoor picnics of so many different kinds. Yet the country dwellers were doing their share in social and benevolent exchanges. To many of them the social of farm life is crowded with voluminous tasks that they have no time, or think they have not, for any of it to be spared for recreation or for hilarity or even for religion.

Christmas comes exactly on the line between seasons, when past is past and future is far and never the two shall meet. Therefore there are hundreds of busy rural toilers who indulge in a few hours of relaxation at this period, the only red letter in the year. At all other times they attend and give no tea parties, they are doing chores at church time on Sunday, they are too tired and sleepy when neighbors are hitching up to drive over to the barbecue; they have not time to travel ten miles to vote at the November election. But in December they try to make up for some of this drudgery by a little indulgence in the joys of Christmas.

There is a little more encouragement in the outlook than there was before Christmas, though it requires a sagacious philosopher to be able to tell. The grain harvest has been a good motion in Chicago lately though they were brief and did not hold up long. Poultry was plentiful for the holiday trade and though prices weakened slightly they were heavy on the producers, and they get big figures for eggs. Meats are still very cheap but there is going on all the time an enormous reduction in the quantity, from Missouri. They are not being kept up. There must come a time when a sudden scarcity will be realized and prices will jump. Those who are prepared for that time will make easy money.

One more very wet snow made Friday an unlucky day, if we consider moisture to be bad luck in dry Colorado. It was those sanguine ones, who look for good things in the future, like the merchants of Pueblo, that planted plenty of wheat in the fall, and now that wheat is being planted in the north half. They do not know anything about the south half, and apparently do not want to know. On the 1st of January pedantic farmers will be making out their accounts for the year. So many settlers have invaded the outer townships that dog can call to dog and hear an encouraging answer from the night. Their faithful farm guards have evidently given the prowlers a cautious turn and they keep back and give the poultry some chance for life. So now the turkeys are safe to come to a big wagoned with a cover of netting over it moving in from the Apishpa and another from Rattlesnake and each long box crowded with indignant turkeys red in the face with offended dignity.

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out there for Colorado products. There will be still more of this when the new railroad comes up from Gallup to Farmington.

Some crops grow best in the summer, some in the winter. The newspapers have just been harvesting the biggest crop of ads this year.

Officials of the Mountain State Beet Growers' association were re-elected at the annual meeting in Denver. They are Fred Cummings, Fort Collins, president; H. C. Boggs, Fort Morgan, vice-president, and George Huston of Greeley, secretary.

In a continuously moist winter like this, it would be possible to germinate thousands of walnut trees. They could be grown in mile-long rows along the ditches and fences and banks, simply by burying walnuts a few inches deep.

Cold still winter nights help out with mountain agriculture, though the thoughtless plainman would never think of it. Pando is a place where great quantities of natural ice are put up for summer use and there are numerous other places where thousands of tons of ice could be obtained if people would make little lakes. Ice in large amounts is used for cooling fruits and meatstuffs in refrigerators. Much ice could be made from first-class water in this vicinity, in most winters, the not thus far this winter. It would be a paying crop.

A strong local farm bureau was organized at Debeque this month. William Briggs is president.

An advertisement has been running in Canon City Record for weeks offering Geniton apples for sale, at a moderate and liberal price. It is evident that the Genitons came thru when all the other Canon trees were frozen up last April. This bears out with strong proof the assertion often made on this paper that the Geniton is the best apple tree for this perilous region, because it is the last to blossom. The Geniton, like the cottonwood, waits till the first of May before venturing forth with buds and blossoms.

The quality of the fruit is not first class but it is good and salable, an excellent keeper, and the tree is long lived and hardy, and is willing to grow on bottom lands where most trees strive up as soon as they get their feet wet.

Not a single Santa Claus got his cotton overcoat burned off of his back in Pueblo county school houses so far as learned.

One argument for planting more evergreens is the fact that the mountains and foothills are surely being denuded by the enormous cutting of Christmas trees which is being done every year.

BOULDER WINTER FAIR
WITH CORN AT THE FRONT

From Longmont Call: The ninth annual meeting of the Boulder county farm bureau and the sixth annual corn show was held today at the W. O. W. hall with a large aggregation of farmers, club members as well as many of Longmont's townspeople present. Many from neighboring towns brought exhibits and the display of corn was excellent. One hundred and three entries were made and grain was of a high quality. Small grains were entered for the first time this year. Of the entrants a number were from the members of the Boys' and Girls' clubs.

The raising of corn, practically unknown in Boulder county a few years ago, has been so successful that other counties and foothills are surely being denuded by the enormous cutting of Christmas trees which is being done every year.

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