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ORCHARD AND GARDEN NOTES

January 1-7

You cannot plant poor off-type potatoes year after year, and get good results.

A few of the bulbs may be brought from the cellar, and forced slowly for flowers.

A potted plant must have air about the roots and good drainage, as it would in the garden.

Rhubarb roots, stored in the cellar, may now be started into growth and will give good stalks in a few weeks.

Large beets may be put in moist soil near a sunny window, and give a few crops of greens between now and spring.

Jardinières in which water is allowed to stand make good graves for house plants. Keep them free of water if you want healthy plants.

In some sections it would be worth while to set out plantations of young spruce trees to use in later years for Christmas trees or ornamental planting.

No home is complete without a wind-break and shrubs, vines, and flowers. Now is a good time to procure catalogues and plan for better surroundings for the home.

Cut-flowers keep best in clean water and pure air. It is a good plan to change the water daily and cut off an inch or so of the stem at the same time. This keeps the flowers fresh and firm.

Two of the main roads from Minneapolis to Lake Minnetonka are to be lined with elm trees this spring, the gift of Charles M. Loring. These avenues will be among the "show" features 25 years hence.—LeRoy Cady, Associate Horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN NOTES

January 8-15

Azaleas may be kept for another season, although the flowers will not be so good. Gradually reduce the water supply and keep in a cool place until next May, when the plants may be put in a shady place and rested until about September 1.

Some very pretty poinsettia pots have been shown this year, made up of poinsettias and ferns. The ferns give a pretty setting for the scarlet flowers and when the flowers are gone the ferns make a pretty basket for several months.

It is possible to have iris in flower for about six weeks, if careful choice of varieties is made. Begin early with the dwarf Siberian roots and continue to the larger German kinds. Japanese varieties are excellent, but do not stand this climate.

Better community cooperation in growing potatoes of one or two varieties and then careful grading would mean thousands of dollars to some sections of Minnesota and the establishment of a steady market for their product. Now is a good time to consider potato seed in farmers' club meetings.

One potato-grower at the Iowa State Horticultural Society's meeting told how, by the continual selection of his tubers in the field each year for 20 years, and by the rigid culling out of anything not up to his standard for seed, he had built up an exceptionally good strain of seed. This was done without buying new seed.

Watch the new house plants, obtained at Christmas time. Remember they are from a greenhouse, in which the air is moist, so water frequently and thoroughly. A good way is to set the pot in a tub or pan and sprinkle the leaves. If it is a flowering plant, be careful not to get water on the flowers.

Look for scale and mealy bug on ferns and other house plants. To rid the plants of the insects wash with soap and water, using a soft sponge or brush, then cleanse with clear water. Rain water is better than well water, since it does not contain alkali, which often leaves white streaks on the leaves.

Some nut or fruit-bearing trees set out on country roads 50 feet apart, would add much of beauty and comfort to the highway. It would be necessary, of course, to have well-rounded roadways to drain off the water, for mud holes and poor roadbeds would not dry out quite so fast as where the sun shines on the roadbed all the time. The better road beds would be well worth while.—LeRoy Cady, Associate Horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

WINDOW-TENT DOESN'T CURE TUBERCULOSIS

"The idea that window-tents will save consumptives is exploded," says Dr. H. W. Hill, of the Minnesota Public Health Association. "By the medical profession they were always understood to be makeshifts at best, and they are now seen to fail in giving the consumptive the full fighting chance he should have. In fighting tuberculosis, nothing but the best is good enough, and the best means living outdoors all the time, not merely sleeping with the head out of a window.

"Ideas on ventilation have been revolutionized in the last nine years, although a great many persons still cling to the old traditions. Merely breathing fresh air gives only a part of the fresh-air supply needed by the body. The air that is around the body must be up to standard as well as that which one takes into the lungs. The window-tent idea overlooks this fact. The window-tent, therefore, is only a half-measure, and often stands in the way of effective tuberculosis fighting."

SCALES HARMLESS IN SCARLET FEVER

"Scarlet fever scales are not dangerous," says Dr. H. W. Hill of the Minnesota Public Health Association. "Our ancestors dreaded these little shreds of skin, but we know they are harmless in themselves. A scarlet fever case is dangerous, scales or no scales, from the first moment of the attack, even before the rash appears and remains dangerous until the patient is entirely well. The first signs of scarlet fever are headache, fever and sore-throat. The patient is infectious as soon as the sore-throat develops. He remains infectious so long as the throat or nose remains even slightly inflamed, even though every other symptom may have disappeared. It does not matter whether the scaling of the skin has not yet begun, or whether it has been finished. If the throat and nose are restored to normal, the patient is safe; if the throat and nose are still inflamed, even slightly, the patient is still dangerous. Furthermore if the ear has been infected and a discharge occurs, scarlet fever may be contracted from this discharge for a period of at least three months after the attack begins. Don't worry about the harmless scales. Be sure the throat, nose, and ears are normal before the child associates with other children, or goes back to school."

GERMS LIKE GIRLS BETTER THAN BOYS.

"Fathers and mothers, lucky enough to have both boys and girls, know how clean the girl's keep themselves, and how the boys disregard dirt," says Dr. H. W. Hill of the Minnesota Public Health Association. "From earliest childhood the little girl's hands and face are washed, and she evades dress-stains, combs her hair, and tries to look nice. But every normal boy, up to the age of fourteen, revels in dirt, and looks forward to the Saturday night bath with virtuous contempt or dread. But boys do not suffer infectious diseases as much as girls. This was brought out in an investigation made of 8,900 children of all ages and sexes. We requested the mothers themselves to report what diseases their children had had. Girls had had more infectious than boys of the same age. This goes to support the modern view that dirt and disease have no necessary relation. It is not the dirt boys revel in that does harm. It is the germs in other people's bodies that should be dreaded. The girls encounter infection more than the boys because they are more sociable, meet other children more, and associate with them more intimately than boys do."

TUBERCULOSIS IS A CAUSE OF POVERTY.

Poverty has been assigned as a great cause of tuberculosis. The fact is that tuberculosis, like typhoid, cancer, and other physical disabilities is really a great cause of poverty. "Our pioneer ancestors were poor," says Dr. H. W. Hill of the Minnesota Public Health Association. "They worked desperately hard, their facilities were far less than those we have. Yet tuberculosis was no more abundant among them than it is now in Minnesota, with all its great wealth and rapid advancement. Tuberculosis is simply an infectious disease, and like any other, from chicken pox to mumps, it strikes those who are exposed to it regardless of their poverty or their wealth."

The Minnesota Farmers' Library, issued by the Extension Division of the Minnesota College of Agriculture, is mailed regularly to nearly 50,000 persons, most of whom reside in the State.

GUERNSEY CATTLE MEN WILL ORGANIZE.

The breeders of Guernsey cattle in Minnesota are going to form a Guernsey Breeders' association. A meeting has been called to be held during the Farmers' Short Course at University Farm early next month. At this meeting an organization will be perfected.

Letters have been sent out by W. A. McKerrow, of the Agricultural Extension Division, University of Minnesota, inviting all Guernsey breeders to attend the meeting, Thursday, January 7.

DAIRY SCHOOL ENDS PROFITABLE SESSION

The twenty-third annual session of the Minnesota Dairy School, University Farm, St. Paul, was not in the least "queered" by its number. On the contrary the session was the best in the history of the School.

One hundred students were present, and these came from six different states, bearing evidence of the good name borne by the School beyond the bounds of Minnesota. Some of the students had had no more than six months' experience in creameries. Others had served from three to twenty years in creameries or cheese factories. One student, after twenty-four years in various creameries came back to refresh up on methods. At the close of the session, he said that he had learned more in the first six days of the school than in the last six years of practical work. To attend the school is a good way to get out of professional ruts. It is the business of all in charge, says R. M. Washburn, who supervises

TO MINNESOTA'S EDITORS

The University Farm Press News extends with all heartiness the season's greetings. In the year just closing you have cooperated generously in the work which the University Farm Press News was created to aid in fostering. For this the editor conveys to you his thanks—and, to be frank, his hopes for similar cooperation through the coming year.

Whatever the year 1915 holds, however, the University Farm Press News has only these wishes for you:

More circulation
More advertising
Conscientious debtors
Lenient creditors
PROSPERITY!!

the School, to give exact and systematic instruction in just those things that the young butter-maker needs to know. The instructors are all practical men. Several of them are of the regular staff of the Minnesota School of Agriculture, while others are State creamery inspectors or butter-makers who have proved repeatedly their ability to make choice butter and to serve their communities well. While chief emphasis is placed upon butter-making at the School, cheese-making has a considerable place, and the final week of the course is given to ice cream making. Thirty-nine were enrolled for the ice cream course.

An interesting piece of apparatus, receiving much attention this year, was the ammonia refrigerating machine. All students received instruction in the handling of this.

COWS AND BEES FOR NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Francis Jager has a plan for making farms out of northern cut-over lands. The two things on which success depends, according to his plan, are cows and bees. He suggests that farmers, seeking to subdue the cut-over lands, plant clover and other forage crops among the stumps, and put a beehive on every stump. Cows and bees alike will thrive on the inter-stump crops. The bees will also gather honey far and wide from millions of wild flowers.

From the start, says Father Jager, the bees will produce and bring a cash return. Two hundred pounds of honey to the hive at ten cents a pound would mean \$20 to the hive. Ten hives would bring a cash return of \$200, and fifty hives a snug return of \$1,000. With such returns and the profits from a dairy herd, no farmer should fear the northern stump.

Whether one wishes to adopt the entire program or not, the busy bee is worthy of consideration by the settler who is taking up northern lands. At least such is the belief of the head of the Bee Division at University Farm, St. Paul.

MANY INSTITUTES ON JANUARY SCHEDULE

In January, Farmers' Institutes will be held at the following places:

Corps No. 1:

Arlington	Tu. & Wed.	Jan. 5-6
St. Bonifacius	Thursday	" 7
Rockford	Friday	" 8
Cedar	Saturday	" 9
Braham	Mon. & Tues.	" 11-12
Bloomington	Wednesday	" 13
St. Cloud	Fri. & Sat.	" 15-16
Wanamingo	Tuesday	" 19
Racine	Wednesday	" 20
Washington	Thursday	" 21
Rushford	Fri. & Sat.	" 22-23
Harmony	Mon. & Tues.	" 25-26
Eyota	Wednesday	" 27
Pine Island	Thurs. & Fri.	" 28-29

Corps No. 2:

Mapleton	Tu. & Wed.	Jan. 5-6
Geneva	Thursday	" 7
Bloomington	Fri. & Sat.	" 8-9
Elkton	Monday	" 11
Sargeant	Tuesday	" 12
Ottawa	Wednesday	" 13
Jordan	Thurs.—Sat.	" 14-16
Montgomery	Tues. & Wed.	" 19-20
Watson	Thurs. & Fri.	" 21-22
Correll	Saturday	" 23
Dawson	Mon. & Tues.	" 25-26
Hanley Falls	Wed. & Thurs.	" 27-28

Corps No. 3:

Cutler	Tuesday	Jan. 5
Remer	Thursday	" 7
Palisade	Friday	" 8
Verndale	Mon. & Tues.	" 11-12
Hillview	Thursday	" 14
Nevis	Friday	" 15
Pequot	Saturday	" 16
Wakkon	Tuesday	" 19
Upsala	Thursday	" 21
Rice	Fri. & Sat.	" 22-23
Detroit	Mon. & Tues.	" 25-26
Ulen	Wed. & Thurs.	" 27-28
Perham	Fri. & Sat.	" 29-30

The men who will conduct these institutes are among the leading farmers of the State. Each has had a long experience in farming under Minnesota conditions, and the facts they have obtained from their own work, as well as the knowledge obtained from close study, enable them to be of help to the farmers in attendance. Special Home Economics sessions will be held at many of the towns, and will be in charge of a practical lecturer and demonstrator.

Local committees are arranging for Corn and Grain Shows in connection with several of the Institutes. Premiums are offered by local business men and the judging will be done by the lecturers.

MORE AND BETTER POULTRY EXHIBITS.

"More and Better Poultry Shows". This is the slogan of the campaign which the poultry section of the Department of Agriculture, University of Minnesota, is making in an effort to raise the uniform standard of the poultry exhibitions in the State.

Minnesota is making rapid progress in this field and the shows are usually satisfactorily managed, but, in a few instances, valuable birds have suffered because of lack of proper attention. The department desires to standardize methods of management so that no fancier need fear sending his best chickens to any exhibition in the State.

Letters have been sent to the secretary of each association, making certain suggestions and stating that the department desires to cooperate with the secretaries in their endeavor to improve and enlarge the shows.

Some of the hints given are: Secure the largest possible list entries; provide suitable quarters; coop singly when possible; supply an abundance of feed and water; exercise constant oversight; enter and arrange the exhibits conveniently for judging; provide for exhibits of poultry feeds which may be grown on the farms of the surrounding territory, and secure an exhibit of poultry appliances.

EDITING WORK ON POULTRY STANDARDS.

A. C. Smith, head of the Poultry Section, Division of Dairy and Animal Husbandry, Minnesota College of Agriculture, is chairman of the American Poultry Association's committee which will have in charge the revision of the "American Standard of Perfection," the authority on all varieties of poultry.

The book will probably be issued about February 1, says Mr. Smith, and will be the most comprehensive yet published. It will be fully illustrated with pictures of males and females of each breed, made by artists of well known skill. The pictures, it is believed, will serve as a substantial aid in defining standards. The new edition of the work will stand for eight years.

(Editors: There is an opportunity for merchants in the new seed law. The law gives the merchant a chance to offer seeds of tested quality. Seeds of this kind will be acceptable to the careful purchaser. For the benefit of retailer and buyer, therefore, the following two items are worthy of reproduction.)

PROFIT FOR DEALERS IN NEW SEED LAW.

"The quality of the seed offered for sale in Minnesota," declares W. L. Oswald, head of the State Seed Laboratory, "will be greatly improved if the retailers will cooperate in every possible way with the Laboratory in making the new seed law a success.

"The labeling of the seed as required by the law should work no hardship on the retailers. It ought to be a good way for them to advertise, giving them an opportunity to offer seeds of tested quality, bearing labels to that effect.

"All seed sold in quantities of one pound or more, except garden, flower, and tree seeds, must have the proper label attached. Just having it on the bulk package is not sufficient. If the seed is bought from the wholesale dealers and sold without opening the bag or package, the original tag of the wholesale dealer is sufficient. If the bags are opened, however, and small lots retailed the dealer must attach his own tag. Printed labels, with blank spaces to be filled with the required information, may be purchased from any tag manufacturer and should not cost over seventy or eighty cents a thousand.

"The information on the wholesaler's label, if correct, may be copied, or a sample of seed may be sent to the State Seed Laboratory, where a test will be made free of charge. When a retailer is in doubt he should send in a sample for a State test."

BUYERS URGED TO SECURE ONLY LABELED SEEDS.

A warning to buyers of seed has been issued by W. L. Oswald, in charge of the Seed Laboratory, University Farm. Mr. Oswald cautions farmers and others to buy labeled seeds only. He says:

"It will soon be time to buy seed for spring sowing. Remember, the Minnesota seed law protects you in your seed purchases. The law says all seed sold for seeding purposes, in lots of one pound or more, must be labeled. Don't talk business with any seed dealer except on the basis of the label. Don't buy seed labeled 'Uncleaned Seed' unless you have absolute confidence in the person from whom you are buying.

"The Seed Laboratory, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn., will gladly test any seed for you, free of charge. If you think that any seed you buy is improperly labeled, let the officials of the Seed Laboratory know it.

"BUY ONLY LABELED SEEDS."

BOYS TO COMPETE IN RAISING PORK.

Minnesota is to have a State-wide boys' club, pork-raising contest next year. T. A. Erickson, boys' club leader of the Extension Division, Department of Agriculture, University of Minnesota, and for the United States Department of Agriculture, has practically completed arrangements for it. He plans to hold the contest next year with the annual corn contests.

The first contest of the kind in the State was the one held by Murray County this year. It was highly successful. Clarence Gullick won first prize by producing 2,369 pounds of pork from the produce of one sow in a 250-day period. George Lowe stood second, being only 3½ pounds behind the first prize winner. Clarence's litter, however, only represented a net profit over cost of feed of \$71.085, while the second prize winner came across the line with \$124.81 to his credit, only 1.73 cents to every pound of gain.

FARM SCHOOL BOYS, "MOVIE" MANAGERS.

One of the extra-curriculum studies at the Minnesota School of Agriculture, which is popular with the students, is the course in management of motion picture shows, given under the supervision of D. D. Mayne, Principal.

Regular performances are given by the students, who select their own films and take charge of every detail of the work. Mr. Mayne merely criticises the production and makes suggestions. He places unusual stress upon the entertainment not simply as a show, but as a carefully planned work of art.

The idea is that this training will qualify the boys as managers of entertainments, help to equip them as community leaders, and put their judgment of entertainments on a higher level.