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## ORCHARD AND GARDEN

December 1 to 8

Home grown spruce and pine are useful as Christmas trees.

Parsnips may be stored in sand in a cool cellar.

See that all decaying vegetables in the cellar are removed.

Now is a good time to put all tools and machinery in repair for next year's use.

A peony society was recently organized in Minnesota and will have an evening session Wednesday, December 6, at the West Hotel.

Cyclamens are among the desirable house plants at this time of year. They may be kept over several weeks if kept in a cool room and if some attention is given to their watering. It takes about 18 months to bring the plant to flower from seed. Hence, it is not desirable to raise them in the house from seed.

Many towns and villages get much satisfaction and advertising out of community Christmas trees. The community tree brings the people together into the open and if well managed is worth while in any community.

Parched sweetcorn or popcorn is appreciated these cool winter evenings. Was any raised on the place this year? Popcorn should be stored in a cool room after it is well cured.

Although the dahlia was a failure the country over this year, there were a few shows in the east and in California which were successful. The national society is making steady gains. A small bulletin is published by this society frequently during the year.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

## ORCHARD AND GARDEN

December 8 to 15

See that the bulb beds are well mulched with litter.

An evergreen windbreak is just as effective as a board fence and much more pleasant to look at.

Some plants may be protected over winter by wrapping straw, rope, or mats about them.

Do not allow seeds of fruits or trees to dry if you wish them to germinate. Either plant them as soon as they are picked or stratify them in sand until sown.

Be sure that the snow is well tramped about the apple and plum trees. This will discourage mice from nesting near them.

It is well to wash the foliage of palms and ferns occasionally to keep dust and insects off.

It is not too late to cut cions for use next winter. Do it now and store them in sand or sawdust over winter.

Currants should be tied up to prevent snow and sleet storms from crushing them to the earth. Gather the tops together and tie with cord.

The hardy gaillardia is among the best perennials to furnish cut flowers. It blooms well about the last of June and the flowers stand up well.

Thoroughly rotted manure makes good mulching for shrubs. It may be spaded into the soil in the spring. A thin covering over the lawn is also desirable to hold the snow and work into the soil during the spring.

Circular 81, College of Agriculture, Columbia, Missouri, gives some good suggestions for pruning shade trees.

Darwin tulips were planted very generally this year. They are later than the singles, but very showy in their season. They can be forced in the greenhouse to some extent.

It is about time to put the rhubarb roots (taken up just before the ground froze) into the cellar. Just cover the roots with soil or sand and thoroughly water. The shoots make good winter sauce.

Water the house plants thoroughly. A little water applied each day is likely to do more harm than good. Set the plant in a tub or bucket of water until it is thoroughly soaked, then wait till it needs water again.

In the large hotels attention is being given to the preparation of vegetable dishes of all kinds. Some hotels even list special vegetable dinners. Greater popularity of vegetable dishes can be brought about if chefs, cooks, and caterers will see to it that good varieties of well prepared vegetables are used.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

## Sodium Fluorid for Chicken Lice

Entomologists of the United States Department of Agriculture have demonstrated that all species of lice which infest poultry may be quickly destroyed by the application of a very small quantity of sodium fluorid, according to the annual report of the chief of the bureau of entomology just issued.

## HOTALING WRITES OF RURAL PRESS

H. C. Hotaling, editor and publisher of the Blue Earth County Enterprise, is the author of an article on "The Rural Journalist," in the October number of the Journal of Agriculture, published by the University of California. The University Farm Press News reprints the article below, because every editor in the state will be interested in what Mr. Hotaling says:

A speaker at the Minnesota Editorial association last winter said, "Agriculture is the biggest thing in industry," and no one doubted the statement. There were those who did question whether the rural press had really awakened to the importance of its country constituency and whether the farmer had awakened to the usefulness of the press to his business. There are so many matters in common that we welcome the interest of the young people in our schools of agriculture, in journalism and in their demand for knowledge along practical lines.

## Relation to the Farm

The country newspaper, if it is alive to its responsibilities and its possibilities, is, with every issue, drawing nearer to its agricultural constituency as it recognizes that the greater share of its subscribers are located upon the farms which surround the village that constitutes its headquarters. Like a central office of a telephone company with its wires radiating in every direction, the well-founded printing office has its correspondents located in every school district, always alert to the doings of the community. Thus the editor constantly has his hand upon the public pulse and can be in touch with the needs of his people. Thus once knowing the requirements of the locality, it is his place to measure up to the responsibilities by not only advocating through his publication such matters as will benefit the greatest number, but he should go out into the fields which are ripe for the harvest, attend the farmers' club gatherings, participate in and encourage their fairs, assist in building up the community church and in every way help to eradicate the barriers which now separate too many villages from the country districts that surround them. There should be absolute cooperation between farmer and business man and no imaginary boundary line permitted to divide them. By working together, land values are advanced and in the distribution of prosperity all must participate.

## Co-operation Urged

It is the country newspaper's place to point out the advantages and benefits of this loyal cooperating, this trusting one another and bring all to a realization that the home friends are the best friends after all. In fact, the duties and responsibilities of the country editor are to endeavor to bring to the people of his community a broader vision of life itself. The great war which is now waging its relentless battles in Europe has brought home to us all as never before how dependent even the nations are upon one another. How necessary it is that we individually take an interest in one another's lives and bear one another's burdens. There is a realization throughout the country that there is too great an exodus from the rural districts to the city, and no less an authority than Right Honorable Sir Horace Plunkett, for over thirty years a student of agricultural cooperation and author of "Rural Problems of the United States," says: "Were it not for the steady stream of rugged strength from the countryside the city would ultimately lose its population." He adds further, "American civilization has been dominated by the city. There its strivings, there its marvelous achievements have been centered. Its thought and action came from the heart and mind of the city, and its failures, which have culminated in the present war, are from the same source. May we not make a serious effort to strengthen our civilization on its neglected side? The more we ponder upon the causes of the war and upon the conditions of an enduring peace, the more we come to realize that there is no better work for the statesman, the economist and the social worker than in an all-around reconstruction of rural life—a return to the simpler things, the better physical and moral condition of a closer relationship with Mother Earth."

## Journalist Has Problems

As a vocation, it is thus evident that the man who takes up rural journalism will not only have a large constituency but will have broad problems for consideration. It is a man's task, and the one who undertakes it will have abundant opportunity to give something to the world for the remuneration which he receives. The remuneration, however, need not be unsatisfactory, for the field of rural journalism is one which may be followed with even more financial returns than many of the so-called professions, but like the farmer, he will have to labor with no eight-hour restrictions to his time of toil, no watching of the clock and no soldiering on the job who is to become a public bene-

factor and give the community that which it deserves, for only the best is good enough. He should be an advocate of prepared soil and tested seed.

A half century ago agriculture was classed as drudgery. Today it is an art, and the man who undertakes farming without taking advantage of the new methods developed by the state agricultural schools will find himself distanced in the race of success. An old Scotch farmer truly says, "Farming is not plowing. Farming is gathering sunshine." And I would like to add that the purpose of rural journalism should be to dispense sunshine and happiness; to help and give encouragement to all, and in the words of another, "Expect its reward in a generous return of the same virtues in exact proportion to the seed which it sows to generate them."

## Press Not Appreciated

The value of the rural press is not realized by one farmer in a hundred. By this I mean that the farmer is slow to take advantage of the profits which the publicity of the press place at his command, in the disposal of blooded stock, the exchange of animals and the disposal of seed grains. There is no reason why the farmer should not avail himself of the advertising columns of the paper as well as the village merchant. By using printer's ink there are many instances where the products of the farm might be sold without the loss of time incidental to taking the same to market and there disposing of it at a price named by the other fellow. This is especially true in the sale of blooded stock, as by advertising buyers are attracted from long distances. The posting of a notice on the fence corner may have its virtues, but few people have the inclination to get out of their automobiles or tie up their teams to read a poorly written ad tacked up on a fence-post. The same notice, perhaps at a cost not to exceed twenty-five cents, might be placed before a thousand farmers who would be permitted to read it while spending the evening around the parlor table. But advertising is a study in which business men have learned but the rudiments, so it should not be expected that the farmer will have taken any advanced grounds in reference thereto.

There are so many places in community building where the press and the farmer can cooperate profitably that it is one of the encouraging signs of the times to note the presence of departments of journalism at so many of our state schools of agriculture and so great an interest in the cause of publicity on the part of agricultural colleges throughout the land. The press needs men equipped with a practical knowledge of the farm. Too many of the present writers on farm topics, having the temerity to give advice on "how to run the farm," have no real knowledge on the subject, failing to recognize, even though they once lived on the farm, that agriculture like other professions has advanced by leaps and bounds and that the methods of a quarter of a century ago are not the methods of today.

## There is Need of Broad Men

Farming has in reality been revolutionized by the creamery and the cream separator, by the tractor and the gang-plow, the silo and the corn binder. All of this advancement needs men in the country newspaper field who are qualified for the opportunities which are daily presenting themselves and an agricultural specialist is just as essential in the rural printing office as is the agricultural county agent. The opportunities of a permanent position are far more promising in the newspaper field than in that of pedagogy, where the place and salary both are dependent in far too many instances upon some booster club which no doubt has been made to see the need of such an agent through the persistent pushing of some country editor. There are so many problems of country life up for solution that the need of experts and specialists is daily becoming more prominent and the opportunities for such cooperation are innumerable and can be found in every community. In the words of F. W. Beckman, Professor of Agricultural Journalism of the Iowa State College, "Such a business, such a partnership with God, have in times past made for the best citizenship. Men of the country press (and we would say, of the schools of journalism), stick by the farmer; he needs you and is worthy. With his head in the sunshine, with his feet feeling the soft earth, with hand to the plow, the farmer is the very personification of substantiality and honesty and safety and loyalty and devotion. The play of the winds has fanned a freedom into his being; his tender care of dainty growing things all around him has made him gentle in spite of a rough exterior; his far view has made his vision wide; the quiet has made him thoughtful, and thinking has given him wisdom. So we must stand by the farmer, because the community needs him, the commonwealth needs him, the nation needs him."

Typhoid is a disgrace to a community. It is a sign of lack of cleanliness and want of sanitation. Keep your community typhoid-free.

## FARMERS' AND HOME-MAKERS' MEETINGS NEAR

The annual Farmers' and Home-Makers' Week at University farm will be held this winter from January 1-6. Last year's attendance was about 1,500 and it is expected to be far surpassed this winter. The committee of arrangements is looking for not less than 2,000.

Among the men special emphasis will be placed upon the subjects of:

Livestock  
Rural credits  
Soils  
Cattle diseases  
Farm management.

Among the women attention will center on:

Child welfare  
Home nursing  
Home management.

There will be offered also general courses in agriculture and home economics.

Among the special speakers will be Herbert Quick, chairman of the federal farm loan board and a writer and speaker of wide reputation; Cyril G. Hopkins of the University of Illinois, an authority on soils; Dr. W. L. Williams of Cornell University, an authority on cattle diseases; Mrs. Grace R. Darling of Milwaukee, a specialist in child welfare; and Miss Alice M. Loomis of the home economics department of the University of Nebraska, an authority on home management.

## TRUE NEW WOMAN IS A HOME-MAKER

The true new woman of today is a real home-maker. The subject of the right management of the home and the care of children was never studied more carefully, or by so many people as it is at the present time.

This interest on the part of the women in Minnesota led hundreds together at University farm for the annual Farmers' and Home-Makers' Week last January. The expectation is that it will bring together even larger numbers for the week January 1-6, 1917.

Because of this expectation a program of great value has been arranged.

Home nursing, child welfare, and home management will be especially emphasized. All who attend will have an opportunity to make a study of these subjects and at the same time to select any one of a group of five other subjects. Among these other subjects are included the planning of meals and the preparation of food; textiles and clothing; art in everyday life; dress design; house planning and house furnishing. In addition to the staff of the home economics division of the department of agriculture of the University, led by Miss Josephine T. Berry, speakers of national reputation will be present, including Mrs. Grace R. Darling of Milwaukee, and Miss Alice M. Loomis of the home economics department of the University of Nebraska.

Two evening programs will also be especially interesting to women. One of these will be given to the special subject of child welfare, and another to the subject of community recreations.

This conference will be one of the most important women's gatherings for the entire year in Minnesota.

## FERTILITY THE FARMER'S BANK

Every ton of grain sold at the elevator costs the farm from which it is sold from \$5 to \$6 in fertility. Every ton of grain that goes to the stock yards in the form of meat animals costs the farm on which it was fed from \$1 to \$1.20 in fertility. Every ton of grain which goes to the creamery in the form of butter fat causes a farm loss of only 20 cents in fertility.

Statements like these show that the problem of fertility is both interesting and highly important. That is why the Department of Agriculture of the University of Minnesota has secured Cyril G. Hopkins of the University of Illinois, one of the nation's leading authorities on soils to deliver an address on "The Most Neglected Factor in American Agriculture" at the coming Farmers' and Home-Makers' Week, January 1-6, 1917.

Farmers' and Home-Makers' Week this year will give splendid opportunity for men to study soils, farm crops and farm management; dairy and animal husbandry; horticulture, botany, and plant pests; agricultural engineering; poultry and bees; and veterinary science, and for women to study home nursing, child welfare and home management, and other subjects of special interest to women.

The committee in charge expects an attendance of 2,000.

## HERBERT QUICK MINNESOTA TO TALK TO FARM CLUB FEDERATION

Herbert Quick, chairman of the federal farm loan board, and a widely known writer on agricultural subjects will deliver an address before the Minnesota State Federation of Farmers' Clubs, Wednesday evening of Farmers' and Home-Makers' Week, January 1-6, 1917. Mr. Quick is an entertaining and instructive writer and speaker, and it is the hope of those in charge of Farmers' and Home-Makers' Week that every farmers' club in the state will try to have a representative present to hear his talk on a subject which is just now attracting a very great deal of attention.

Because farm credits is attracting so much attention, the three days' meeting of the Federation of Farmers' Clubs at University farm will be given over largely to a study of the subject.

Those who attend the federation meetings will be able to take advantage of numerous other courses offered during the week—courses including studies of the various farm problems of interest to men and of home problems of interest to women. Speakers of wide reputation in all departments will be on the program. Two thousand are expected to attend the various meetings.

## LIVESTOCK MEN TO HEAR ABOUT CATTLE DISEASES

Diseases of cattle levy a heavy toll upon the farmers of the northwest every year. A study of these diseases by the farmers will help to reduce this enormous loss. To aid in such a study the Department of Agriculture of the University at its Farmers' and Home-Makers' Week, January 1-6, 1917, will offer lectures on cattle diseases by Dr. W. L. Williams of Cornell University, one of the country's leading specialists in cattle diseases.

Hundreds of livestock men are expected to attend, including representatives of the Minnesota Livestock Breeders' Association and its various auxiliary organizations, most of which will hold their annual meetings at University farm during the week mentioned.

W. A. McKerrow, secretary of the Minnesota Livestock Breeders' Association, says that this winter's meeting at University farm promises to be largely attended and the most interesting that the association has ever held.

In addition to the opportunity to study cattle diseases, those in attendance will have a chance to be present at the annual meeting of the Minnesota State Federation of Farmers' Clubs and to hear lectures on farm credits, on soils, and on many other subjects of vital interest to the farmer or the home-maker.

## HOUSEWIVES AND MOTHERS TO MEET

A joint meeting of members of the Housewives' League and of members of the mothers' clubs of the state will be held at University Farm, St. Paul, during Farmers' and Home-Makers' Week, January 1-6, 1917. Mrs. J. B. Rounds of the Mothers' club of St. Paul and Mrs. J. E. Robinson, Minneapolis, representing the Housewives' league will be the principal speakers.

This meeting will be but one of many of great interest to women to be held at University farm during Farmers' and Home-Makers' Week. Child welfare will be emphasized, but other subjects of interest will be studied in detail, such subjects as home management, planning and preparation of meals; textiles and clothing; dress design; house planning and house furnishing.

## SIGNS OF DANGER FROM TUBERCULOSIS

"Persons dying from tuberculosis this winter received their infection ten or possibly twenty years previous," says Dr. I. J. Murphy, of the Minnesota Public Health Association.

The insidious nature of the disease, and the fact that it often lies dormant from childhood, makes it particularly urgent that people be on the watch for the early symptoms of this disease, adds the doctor. The following symptoms should be observed by everybody, and regarded with suspicion: A succession of colds without the ability to overcome them; persistent loss of weight, without any easily explained cause; a general feeling of tiredness, not caused by abnormal or unusual exertion; fever late in the afternoon; spitting of blood; persistent cough extending over a period of one month, especially if not preceded by a cold in head or sore throat; night sweats; digestive disturbances, especially when accompanied by any of the foregoing.