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ORCHARD AND GARDEN

February 1 to 8

Test all seeds now. It does not pay to plant untested seed.

Watch the bulk roots in storage for decay or drying.

A box of flowers or a plant makes a very acceptable valentine.

Pussy willow buds soon expand if brought into the house and put in a jar of water.

Plant gladioli and dahlias this year. They increase quite easily and are well worth while.

Did you enjoy rhubarb found in the cellar this year? It should be coming on in good shape now.

Pinus cembra, Swiss or stone pine as it is sometimes called, is worth growing in a pine collection, although it grows rather slowly.

Cover the seed box or pot with glass or newspaper until the plants come up. This will help keep the moisture even.

There are some 5,000 dahlia names, according to a list recently made by Prof. F. H. Hall of Geneva, N. Y. Many of these are duplications. The dahlia, peony, iris and phlox, as well as our vegetable and fruit varieties, need to be gone over and all duplicate names eliminated. It would be better for both purchaser and dealer. Can it be done?—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University farm, St. Paul.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

February 9 to 15

According to the 1910 census, New York fruit products are worth nearly \$25,000,000.

Five or ten dollars worth of flowering shrubs or a few trees properly planted may add several hundred dollars to the selling price of a farm or residence.

Don't plant more than enough apples to supply home use, unless they can be well taken care of. They are not a profitable crop on the average farm unless some attention is given them.

A few lilacs, hydrangeas, spiraea, honeysuckles or Japanese roses add much to the attractiveness of the home grounds.

More than a score of farmers in Minnesota are breeding corn on scientific principles. The results in the grains are as noticeable as the results in scientific breeding of livestock.

Among the best perennials to grow for cut flowers are gaillardias, peonies, Shasta daisies, coreopsis, Giant daisies, aquilegias, especially the Rocky Mountain species, delphiniums and irises.

Special Bulletin No. 78, Michigan Agricultural college, East Lansing, Mich., is entitled "Christmas Tree Plantations." It is worth reading by any one interested in growing evergreens for the Christmas tree trade. There are many farms in Minnesota that would find it profitable to grow a few evergreens for sale. About 5,000 trees can

be grown on an acre and will be ready to market in from three to ten years from planting. A very rapid growing evergreen is not so good as one of slower growth because it is apt to be more spindling. A stocky tree is best.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

FLAX SEED CALLS EXCEED SUPPLY

There is an increasing demand for Minnesota No. 25 flax, according to reports from the Minnesota Crop Improvement association. Farmers who know they have this variety and have seed for sale should write the association, University farm, St. Paul, and give full particulars as to where the seed was secured and how long it has been since the original stock was bought from the experiment station. The association is receiving several inquiries for No. 25 flax, and can not give authentic information leading to a pure supply.

Farmers who raise this variety in 1917 should save all the crop for seed and then get in touch with the association for its disposal. Minnesota No. 25 is too valuable for seed purposes to be sold for common flax.

ROAST PIG CHANCE FOR NORTH BREEDER

With a vision of "roast pig" for his fancy dinners, just as in the good old days, M. J. Thompson, superintendent of the Northeast experiment station at Duluth sees a new industry opening to the farmers in the cut-over lands of northern Minnesota in the production of 20-pound pigs for sale. The method is the only one Mr. Thompson sees of making pork production profitable in that section for a time.

Two litters a year must be produced to make raising pigs profitable there, as the cost of keeping the sows is too great for a single litter. The light crops do not furnish enough feed for fattening the fall litters, so Mr. Thompson sees a future in producing pigs to be sold as roasters for the Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner. There is a growing tendency to substitute pigs weighing from 12 to 20 pounds for turkey on these days.

With the financial side of the roast pig problem in mind, Mr. Thompson has just finished feeding and marketing seven roast pigs. The seven pigs were fed tankage, shorts and buttermilk worth \$4.76 for twenty-four days, when the seven gained 128 pounds and were sold at retail at 10 cents a pound, yielding \$12.80 for the \$4.76 worth of feed. The retail trade, he says, will often pay as high as 15 cents a pound live weight for these pigs and 20 cents a pound dressed weight.

Though the demand for these pigs is not heavy, Mr. Thompson believes that it is very poorly supplied and that the roast pigs offer a chance for additional profits from the swine industry in northern Minnesota.

CROP SHOW PRIZES AMOUNT TO \$3,000

If this county does not take as its share, more than \$100 of the \$3,000 offered as prizes at the annual convention and show of the Minnesota Crop Improvement association at Fairmont February 13 to 15, it will be because those who have developed better crops than were given them to start with do not take the trouble to make exhibits. This is the opinion of several of the better-farm-crops men who plan to send samples of what they have done to the state show and meeting. Premiums will be given on eighty-five lots of farm crops in nine different classes. The entries will be open to all sections of the state.

Forty-eight lots of the exhibits will be of corn, and these will be judged according to the records made on the crop in the three different sections of the state. Two sections will be made for oats exhibits. The prizes for first place in the corn shows range from \$10 to \$175. Potatoes will be given a prominent place in the exhibits, and grains will be included.

A fish exhibit will be made by Carlos Avery, state game and fish commissioner. Another display will show what the Minnesota college of agriculture is doing in making better seeds and crops. A practical demonstration of methods and results of crop improvement will be given each forenoon by the Martin County Crop Improvement association.

On the program of the association's meeting will be Governor J. A. Burnquist, President George E. Vincent of the University of Minnesota, Dean A. F. Woods of the Minnesota college of agriculture, Master C. L. Rice of the state Grange, Warden Reed of the Minnesota state prison, H. J. Hughes of Farm, Stock and Home, A. E. Chamberlain of the Dakota Farmer, and Dr. F. J. Alway of the Minnesota college of agriculture.

The meetings will be open to the public and exhibits may be made by anyone who is interested in becoming a member of the crop improvement association. C. P. Bull, University farm, St. Paul, is in charge of the meeting.

HIGH PRICES HELP 150 ENTER SCHOOL

High prices for farm products has offset the disadvantage of low yields enough to permit nearly 150 farm boys to enter the school of agriculture of the University of Minnesota, St. Paul, for the second term when they were not able to attend the first term, according to the opinion of D. D. Mayne, principal of the school. One hundred and sixty-five new students are enrolled for the second term of the school, and Mr. Mayne attributes the increase to the ability the students found to carry out their plans after they had been changed on account of poor crop yields last fall. The high prices received on selling the crops is the thing that enabled them to take the second half of the year's work in school.

A tendency for older students to enter is also noticed in the new group of students entering the school. The average age of the students entering the school of agriculture is a little more than 19 years. The average age of the new students now is more than 20 years.

SEAL FUND MAY BEGIN HEALTH MOVE

How to use to best advantage local Red Cross seal funds is answered by Dr. I. J. Murphy of the Minnesota Public Health association:

The funds may be used (1) to help pay the salary of a public health nurse; (2) to make a tuberculosis survey; (3) to do school or infant welfare work.

The establishment and maintenance of a free clinic for one or more days each month in the large towns of each county and equipping a room to demonstrate the value of fresh air for all classes are excellent means of employing Red Cross seal funds, he says.

"The use of the funds for the relief of tuberculosis cases at their homes is not permitted except in special cases, that have returned from sanatoria with the superintendent's permission; and for children and special cases under the supervision of a nurse or health officer."

POTATO PRICES MAY STAY HIGH

Though the enormous price is likely to lead to a substitution of some other vegetable for staple use in restaurants and hotels as well as in family kitchens, Arne Aamodt, horticultural specialist at University Farm, St. Paul, sees little chance for the price of potatoes to fall until the next year's crop is on the market. That the price is high now be-

cause of the scarcity of the crop alone and that the market is not likely to be flooded by cold storage products is the opinion of Mr. Aamodt after a general study of the supply available in the state. There are very few potatoes in cold storage, so far as we can learn now, he says.

The price received by growers in Minnesota this year has been higher than they have known for more than a quarter of a century. Growers that unloaded crops at 35 cents a bushel a year ago, sold this year's crop for practically four times as much.

Even the prospect of next year's crop is less encouraging to Mr. Aamodt than to some who look for good merely because it is yet to come. He feels certain that the crop will be light. The acreage will be reduced considerably by the shortage of seed. Seed potatoes are selling for \$2.50 a bushel now in many places, he says, and farmers with supplies on hand are selling so short that they will be able to do little to meet the demand for seed at planting time. With a reduced acreage, the crop is certain to be lighter than usual next year, and the prices are not likely to fall to the marks which they usually reach, he says.

VISITOR TO BOOST CLUBS IS FORMED

Does one of the community clubs near here need a visitor occasionally who can give it expert advice on some question that is causing trouble? Down at the University of Minnesota they think, perhaps, it does, and they have arranged to have the visitor, if plans made at the meeting of the League of Minnesota Community clubs a month ago are carried out. The visitor would be a member of the staff of the general extension division of the university. Aside from visiting the clubs, he would aid in conducting a summer school for secretaries of community clubs each year at the university.

The league of community clubs is a new organization intending to promote the work of community clubs and to encourage their organization in various parts of the state. P. J. Seberger of St. Cloud is president. Other officers are: Vice president, Fred T. Lincoln, Brainerd; secretary and treasurer, R. R. Price, University of Minnesota; executive secretary, E. L. Bennett, Municipal Reference bureau.

The league hopes to be able to furnish speakers to clubs desiring them for special meetings.

"I winter sheep easier than any other livestock. I put them in a high shed of a single board thickness, feed them wild hay, corn fodder and some corn and oats mixed with screenings. With a little care about turning them out every day to let the sheds air out and with constantly avoiding neglect, I have little trouble with them."—M. A. H.

HOTELING SEES EDITORS' SHORT COURSE AS GOOD INVESTMENT

Are you planning to come to the editors' short course at University farm, St. Paul, February 12 to 15? Of course you are if you have thought of it, but in case you have not, let us drop this little reminder. H. C. Hotaling says there is no investment that will return greater profits than an investment in this week's instruction. Most of the fraternity will be here anyway. They took a vote at a district editors' meeting the other day and out of twenty editors ten were coming. If you are not using your head as much as you might in running your business, take the week off to see how others are using theirs on some of the things that bother you. It will pay.

Are you making as much profit as you should? Are your news columns giving more and more trouble? Is your advertising becoming harder and harder to get and paying less? How about the cost of paper, and scores of other things? You may ask about any of these things and you will find someone who will like to talk to you, and maybe he will have a suggestion that will put you on the right track.

Then it is worth something to spend an evening hearing Dean Walter Williams of the Missouri School of Journalism or James Schermerhorn of the Detroit (Mich.) Times. You will think more of your job after they tell you "the other side" of it. We have also some local men whose names sound good when they go to other states to talk. They ought to sound better here, for they know conditions better.

And about those contests. There will be two of them, one on front page make-up and one on estimating the cost of a job. Take fifteen minutes to look over your recent files and select the paper you like best. Don't bother about rules of the contest. Just send in a paper, that is not too old as yet, and J. L. Frazier will do the rest. Also send it early so that we will not be worried about having a good contest. You will be more interested if your paper is entered. You can estimate the job costs after you get here. It is a hand-set job, so all will have equal chances. And let us say here that the country shops are doing work at about a third less on the hour than most of the city shops.

Call on us when you get here and we will find a place for you to stay.

MANY GIRLS GO TO CROOKSTON CLASSES

With more girls included than ever attended the school at one time before, ninety new students for the spring term have raised the total registration at the Northwest school of agriculture at Crookston to nearly the number reached last year, when a new record was set. Courses in music as well as the home economics classes have attracted the unusual registration of women. Twenty are enrolled in the voice classes, fifteen in piano and seven in violin.

For men students, courses in shop work, blacksmithing, carpentry and engineering are given on Monday, the regular holiday of the school, and scores of students are registered for these courses.

ASSOCIATION TO AID FARM SCHOOL

Singling out the school of agriculture of the University of Minnesota, the All Minnesota Development association at its meeting at the Old Capitol, St. Paul, recently promised its warm support in extending courses and carrying on work so as to assist the branch schools of agriculture and the agricultural work in the high schools. The support was promised in a resolution of the association.

A committee of three persons to investigate the work of the school of agriculture, to consider the attendance and the things needed to encourage work and to report the conditions at a future meeting of the association was advised. The committee has not been appointed yet.

Another resolution of the All Minnesota Development association advised that the course of study of the school of agriculture be extended so that graduates of the school could enter the college of agriculture without examination.

OFFICIAL RENT LIST ASKED Federation Would Have Record of Lands Offered Made Public.

That the register of deeds in a county should be the official reporter of land for sale or rent is the opinion expressed by the Minnesota Federation of Farmers' clubs and adopted in its resolutions at a recent meeting at University farm, St. Paul. A law requiring the register of deeds to keep a record of land offered for sale or rent, on the payment of a small fee of not more than \$1 for each piece of land listed, was asked for by the federation. The difficulty of persons finding lands they want to buy or rent and the difficulty of renters or sellers finding customers is the reason for the request. The registration would need to be renewed yearly, according to the plan favored.

EDITORIALS

SANATORIA NEEDED

"Provide for the treatment of every case of consumption in a sanatorium or hospital," is the answer given by Dr. G. D. Head, one of the directors of the Minnesota Public Health association, when asked how Minnesota was to solve its tuberculosis problem the other day. "Only when each county provides enough beds to accommodate all the consumptives of that county can we expect to see Minnesota's death rate decrease," Dr. Head declared. "There are several counties anxious to build if half of the cost were paid by the state. A bill was passed in 1913 authorizing this aid, but the funds have been exhausted. During the two year period before the funds were exhausted thirty-two counties representing more than 60 per cent of the population of the state applied and qualified for state aid. "Before the anti-tuberculosis work in Minnesota will have a decided effect upon the death rate," he continued, "the state must be in position to accommodate as many consumptives as there are annual deaths from consumption. Only half of that equipment is available now. "The fear of hard times among other things prevented the 1915 legislature from adding to the fund created in 1913. It is expected, however, that the present legislature will create a fund sufficiently large to accommodate requests from all of the remaining fifty-four counties that may qualify."

NEW CHAUTAUQUA PLAN

A plan to unite towns in buying chautauqua courses has been formed at the University of Minnesota and will be managed with the lecture and lyceum work of the general extension division of the university. The plan was made in an effort to reduce the cost of chautauqua courses and to make a course possible for every town of considerable size in the state. The plan calls for an association of independent chautauquas

which will buy the same courses to be given at about the same time. The reform in the chautauqua work has been attempted to try to increase the educational value of the meetings. Inquiries concerning the plan may be addressed to the General Extension Division, University of Minnesota.

MOVING THE RIGHT WAY

Ten years ago the wheat crop in Minnesota was nearly one million acres larger than it is now. The decrease has amounted to nearly one-fourth the acreage of the entire crop.

While the wheat acreage was decreasing 25 per cent, the corn acreage has increased 76 per cent. With 2,520,000 acres planted this year, a crop worth \$67,000,000 is promised against a wheat crop of 3,715,000 acres worth \$44,000,000. The 1909 yield of alfalfa was cut from 2,300 acres. Last year 50,000 acres were cut, yielding 157,000 tons. According to estimates received from the railroads by the agricultural extension division, University Farm, St. Paul, 50,000 cars of livestock were shipped from farms in the state, the total shipment being worth at least \$50,000,000.

With the increase in the amount of livestock and the decrease in the amount of wheat, the value of lands in Minnesota has been increased. This increase has come because the product of the land has paid the interest on a larger investment. Land that is raising a good crop of alfalfa and raising a herd of dairy cows to feed it to is worth \$100 an acre. Land that is raising wheat even at \$1 a bushel is not paying the expense of cultivating the land and the interest and taxes on \$100 worth of property unless it is making a yield of nearly 15 bushels to the acre. The average yield over the state this year is 7.4 bushels and the average for the last ten years is but 13.5 bushels.

Land is going up as fast as we are learning how to make it yield more.