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ORCHARD AND GARDEN

February 15 to 22

Plant flowers liberally this year. Nasturtiums, pansies, sweet peas, etc., are all easy to grow and give a wealth of flowers.

Are the dahlias and cannas keeping well? Go over them again and remove all decay. If bulbs are shriveling, cover with sand. They should be kept firm and plump.

Protect the birds during the March storms. Keep feed boxes where they can easily find them. Suet, chicken or duck fat, and bread crumbs are relished. Thousands of acres of cucumbers are grown for seed in California. They bring from \$75 to \$85 an acre and the seed is shipped to many parts of the world.

Where a quantity of any vegetable or flower is to be grown year after year, it is well to find a strain of the seed that does the best under the local conditions and tie to it until a better is found.

Are you going to make any maple syrup this year? It is time to get busy if you are. Home-made maple syrup and sugar are mighty good at any time of the year.

With the coming of the bright sunny days, attention must be given the ventilating of the greenhouse and the watering of the plants. House plants as well as greenhouse plants require much more water on bright, warm days.

The average farmstead can well afford a good planting of evergreen trees, both for shelter purposes and for landscape effect. Large or small trees may be planted and if properly cultivated and cared for soon make good shelter. The spruces are perhaps best for general planting. By using several kinds variety of color may be had, although often the best effect is secured by a solid planting. If these are set rather thick when small they may be thinned for planting in other places or for Christmas trees, to advantage.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

February 22 to 28

Now is a good time to put up some bird houses about the place.

There should be plenty of hyacinths, daffodils and other bulbs in flower in the home windows.

Pussy willow twigs brought into the house and put in water now will soon bloom.

It will soon be time to do some top-working on apple or plum trees. Better get the cions and wax ready.

Test all field and garden seed now. It doesn't pay to plant dead seed. It costs little to make tests.

The following are good flowers for a fragrant garden: Sweet alyssum, mignonette, verbena, stock, heliotrope and nasturtium.

One of the most effective shrubs in the garden or border in late autumn is the snowberry. Its large, well-grown clusters of snowy fruit are always attractive.

Now is a good time to get the community interested in better streets, parks, school grounds and home grounds. Newspapers, clubs, and schools can do much to aid in this work.

More gardens will be started this year than ever before. Many will be expensive luxuries, while many well planned and well cared for will cut down living expenses. Every home should have its garden.

There are more than 100 fruit-bearing ornamentals that can be planted in Minnesota. Many of these are not only ornamental but furnish quantities of food for birds. Plant more of these in thickets about the home.

Congress has again made an appropriation to enable its members to remember the constituent at home with a few vegetable or flower seeds of the same kind, no better and we hope no worse than can be purchased from any dealer. In order to be reasonably safe it is better to buy the seeds needed from a reliable seed dealer than to trust to the congressional seed.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

HATCH PULLETS

IN EARLY SPRING

Poultry owners who wish to obtain eggs in the fall and early winter should arrange to hatch their pullets in March or April, say specialists in the department of agriculture, Washington, D. C. Birds hatched in March or April will be well matured in the fall. The rest is a matter of proper housing, feeding, and handling. The chicken house should be comfortably warm, well ventilated, and clean. The feed should include beef scrap or similar material. There should be temptation to exercise in scratching over clean litter on the floor.

WATER IN COUNTRY SCHOOLS IS UNSAFE

The water supplies of 97 per cent of the schools of an entire county recently investigated by H. A. Whittaker, director of the division of sanitation of the state board of health, were found to be unsafe in their existing conditions. The disposal of human excreta was found to be unsatisfactory in every case. "It is reasonable to assume," says Mr. Whittaker, "that such unsatisfactory conditions exist in many rural schools throughout the state, and that there is a necessity for further surveys to protect the health of school children throughout the state."

Referring to Mr. Whittaker's comment, Dr. I. J. Murphy of the Minnesota Public Health association says: "If all of the counties of the state would employ public health nurses, attention would be called to such environmental hazards and the health of individual children would at the same time be safeguarded. Some form of health supervision for rural schools is even more necessary than similar supervision for city schools, where physicians, hospitals, and clinics are accessible."

MORE SANATORIUMS ARE MUCH NEEDED

Nearly every Minnesota institution for the treatment of tuberculosis has had to open a waiting list, according to reports received by Dr. I. J. Murphy of the Minnesota Public Health Association.

The Otter Tail county institution equipped to care for 24 patients was accommodating 32 and had a waiting list of 7 according to a report submitted January 1. The Sunnyrest sanatorium had 2 on the waiting list, Mineral Springs sanatorium 1, Sandbeach 6, Glen Lake 25, Nopeming 30, and the state sanatorium 12.

In view of this situation, Dr. Murphy believes the legislature will appreciate better than ever the need for funds with which to fight tuberculosis.

CHANCE FOR STUDY OF RURAL CREDITS

Opportunity for a careful study of rural credits and of the new federal farm loan act may be found in the new issue of the Minnesota Farmers' Institute Annual, a "rural credits" issue, recently brought out under the supervision of A. D. Wilson, director of farmers' institutes and of the agricultural extension division of the department of agriculture of the University of Minnesota.

The subject of rural credits is introduced in a brief general article by Mr. Wilson. This is followed by a paper by A. F. Woods, dean of the university's department of agriculture. The features of the federal act are next outlined in an article taken from one of the publications of the national department of agriculture. Among the other articles that will interest the farmers of Minnesota are these:

"Does the Farmer Incur Risk in Joining a Federal Farm Loan Association?" by E. Dana Durand, chief of the university's division of research in agricultural economics.

"Amortization as a Method for Paying of Mortgage Debt," by J. F. Ebersole, of the university's department of economics.

"The Farm Loan Act," an interview with W. W. Flannagan, secretary of the farm loan board.

"More Capital and Farm Profits," by W. L. Cavert of the university's agricultural extension division.

"The Proper Use of Capital in Farming," by Andrew Boss of the division of farm management of the Minnesota College of Agriculture.

"Profitable Uses of Capital," by F. W. Peck, associated with Professor Boss of the farm management division of the college of agriculture.

A score of other articles and papers bearing on many other subjects of value may be found in the annual.

Copies of the annual may be had by enclosing six cents for postage and mailing it to the Agricultural Extension Division, University Farm, St. Paul.

FOR THE GOOD CITIZEN

Civic Problems Discussed in New Issue of Minnesota Municipalities

The February number of Minnesota Municipalities, published bimonthly by the League of Minnesota Municipalities, contains much useful information for the citizen interested in village or city improvements. The articles cover such subjects as street oiling, street lighting, the revival of the Chautauqua, the natural purification of water by freezing, the League of Minnesota Community Clubs, and instruction in municipal administration at the University of Minnesota. In addition, there are the reports of committees on parks, playgrounds and city planning, and on street paving, and other comments of interest.

NORTHWEST STATION PUBLISHES REPORT

Those who wish to know what the Northwest Experiment Station at Crookston has been doing will find the whole story in a report compiled by C. G. Selvig, the superintendent, and just from the press, copies of which may be had by addressing the station.

The report not only gives a brief resume of the station work from the time it was begun in 1895 until 1910, and a detailed statement of the work from 1910 until the present, covering such subjects as drainage, field crops, horticultural work, animal husbandry, and poultry investigations, but it contains several valuable practical articles. These articles are in an appendix, and include such subjects as trees and shrubs for northern Minnesota, the cardinal points in successful corn growing, the fall litter of pigs, calf breeding, the building of farm poultry houses. They are all written by station specialists.

People of the Red River Valley will discover in this report that a splendid beginning at working out the problems of their territory has been made.

THE OLD HOME PAPER

Charles Moreau Harger

It's printed old-fashioned and homely, Bearing name of a small country town;

With an unfeigned sneer at its wrapper queer, The postman, in scorn, throws it down.

But I on every line that it offers; Each item brings something to view, Through the vista of years, through youth's pleasures and fears, And serves their keen touch to renew.

The death of the girl I once courted, The growth of a firm I once jeered, The rise of a friend I love to commend, The fall of a man I revered.

As I dream I drift dreamily backward To the days when to live was a joy, I think and I pore, till the city's dull roar Grows faint, and again I'm a boy.

Rare perfume of green country byways, Fair music of mowers and bees, And the quaint little town with the streets leading down To the creek and the low-bending trees.

Around me the forms of my comrades, About us earth's glories unfurled, Each heart undefiled, with the faith of a child, Looking forth to a place in the world.

And the papers tell how all have prospered, I follow their lives as they flow, Applauding each gain and regretting each pain For the sake of the days long ago.

Above all the huge city dailies With ponderous utterance wise, This scant page hath power to spread for an hour A fairyland sweet to my eyes!

—Kansas Industrialist

MERCHANTS AND FARMERS UNITED

The merchants of Stillwater and farmers from the vicinity got together not long ago for an evening's discussion of the problem of trading in Stillwater. Both the merchants and the farmers learned things, things of a kind that merchants and farmers of other communities might learn if they would get together and tackle the similar problems of their own bailiwicks.

The farmers told the merchants, for example:

That they could get lower prices elsewhere.

That dealers in certain articles (implements) did not keep complete stocks from which parts could be readily supplied.

That habit has much to do with the place of one's trading.

That a lack of attention often shunted a possible buyer to a rival merchant or community.

The merchants came back with propositions to the effect that:

They could and would meet prices made elsewhere.

They could carry as complete lines as merchants elsewhere.

They would make the farmers trading with them their guests rather than let them depart from any lack of courtesy.

They would pull together for the good of the entire community, including the farmers of the vicinity as well as the townspeople.

STREET OILING IS LOOKED INTO

The Minnesota Reference Bureau has just published the results of an investigation of street oiling methods in Minnesota municipalities. Streets were oiled in nearly forty villages and cities in 1916.

One or two applications of oil a season not only prevents dust but preserves the streets.

The cost of oiling varies, according to local conditions. If much preparation has to be made, of course the cost is high, and some soils require more oil than others. But a street that has been oiled takes less oil than a street oiled for the first time.

The investigation shows that it is poor economy to use makeshifts for distributing oil. They almost always use too much oil, which is good neither for the street nor the treasury. It pays to get a special distributor, once street oiling has become a settled policy. This may be either an oil distributor or a special attachment for a water sprinkler. Heavy oil should be heated as it is applied, and oil should always be applied under pressure.

Copies of the report may be had by addressing Municipal Reference Bureau, General Extension Division, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

Apple-Pruning Demonstrations

Communities desiring pruning demonstrations should send in their applications very soon. The petition should be signed by fifteen or more persons who will agree to attend a demonstration. Address communications to the Agricultural Extension Division, University Farm, St. Paul.

SHORT COURSE AT THE MORRIS SCHOOL

The annual short course of the university's agricultural school at Morris will be held February 19 to 24. This course is becoming one of the important events of the year at the school. It offers class work, lectures and demonstrations in dairy and animal husbandry, farm crops, mechanics and engineering, including gas engines and tractors, and similar subjects; also evening entertainments of an interesting kind.

The organization of the stock breeders' association will be completed Saturday, February 24.

UPKEEP LABOR LESS ON LIVESTOCK FARM

On the average farm of Minnesota about 22 per cent of the farm labor is employed in up-keep or maintenance labor. From this sort of labor there can be no possible return in cash yet it is necessary that a certain amount of such labor be performed. The proportion of maintenance labor is considerably less on well equipped livestock farms where diversified farming is followed, than it is on farms that specialize largely in grain-raising.

The reason for this is that where livestock is cared for a good part of the farm labor is employed in the winter on enterprises that return cash for the work performed. It is difficult in the winter on grain farms to find profit-bearing employment for very much labor. If one looks ahead to the summer's work, however, he can find numerous places in which he can prepare for the rush seasons and save the time of men and teams when labor is really valuable. With careful planning one can estimate a year in advance approximately the amount of labor that will have to be provided.

Two new bulletins by the Minnesota Experiment Station, Numbers 157 and 162, deal with the question of labor requirements for crops and livestock. They will be found very useful in making estimates as to the time of the year that labor will be required and as to the amount required for the different classes of crops and animals.—Andrew Boss, University Farm, St. Paul.

CROP SHOW DELAYED

Blockade of Railroads Causes Postponement of Fairmont Meeting

On account of the blockade of railroads, the annual exhibit and convention of the Minnesota Crop Improvement association, which was to have been held at Fairmont the week of February 11, has been postponed until March 6, 7, and 8. Samples sent between now and March 6 will be taken care of and exhibited as was intended had the show been held on schedule time. The original program will be carried out as nearly as possible.

Governor J. A. A. Burnquist is to appear on the program for Wednesday evening instead of Tuesday evening, and President and Mrs. George E. Vincent on Tuesday afternoon instead of Wednesday afternoon.

GREAT RESOURCE NEEDS PROTECTION

White pine is one of the great natural resources of Minnesota to be compared with her iron, her water power, and her agricultural products. It is one of the timber trees of the world and it grows wonderfully well in Minnesota. It is a native of eastern North America and covers the northeastern quarter of the United States and adjacent parts of Canada. It has furnished billions of feet of lumber for the building up of Minnesota. It has been a great natural asset of the state. Can it be called an asset of the future? We know that the white pine can be raised profitably on large areas of land in the state. Will it be done?

Is fire the only serious enemy? It is not. Another real enemy has appeared in Minnesota—the disease called pine blister rust. Fire can be prevented. Blister rust, if once well established, can probably never be eradicated; and, in that event, white pine will, according to the experience in the east and in Europe, have to be eliminated as a future asset of Minnesota and probably for all time to come.

Now is the time to act. Every effort ought to be made to stamp out the infection in Minnesota and to protect the state from any future infection.—E. M. Freeman, Minnesota Experiment Station.

CARE FOR CAULK WOUNDS AT ONCE

At this season when horses are sharp shod and the snow is deep, conditions are just right for caulk wounds at the crown of the hoof. Remove caulks or shoes if sharp, before starting a team out in deep snow, says Dr. M. H. Reynolds, University Farm, St. Paul.

A caulk wound should be thoroughly cleaned at once. Contaminations should then be prevented. Nothing additional in the way of washing or other treatment that is not actually necessary, should be done, adds Dr. Reynolds.

Cleanliness at the very beginning of treatment may be secured either by long continued irrigation or injections with a mild antiseptic, such as common salt—a teaspoonful to a quart of water. Military surgeons have found, during the present war, that a tablespoonful of chlorinated lime to a quart of warm water, applied thoroughly twice a day to every part of the wound is very satisfactory for this preliminary cleansing. Either one should be applied continuously to every part of the wound for at least an hour before the wound is considered thoroughly and safely clean.

Strong disinfectants may also be used. These give quicker results and are in some cases more practical. Hydrochloric acid or even nitro-hydrochloric acid may be used for the first treatment, providing it is applied to every part of torn surface in the depth of the wound and provided the skin is not burned with it. Undiluted carbolic acid or tincture of iodine in full strength may also be used. Two or three thorough treatments with the iodine should be given the first day. Plugs of cotton may be soaked in the tincture of iodine and packed in the wound.

After this first thorough treatment, use a drying antiseptic powder, composed of iodoform, tannic acid, and boric acid, equal parts by bulk, applying lightly three times a day. But it is of the utmost importance to keep such a wound out of mud and filth.

A stockman attempting to treat a wound of this kind will usually do better to avoid bandaging.

MINNESOTA CATTLE TUBERCULOSIS FREE

Twenty-nine thousand, two hundred nineteen cattle of all classes were tested for tuberculosis in the quarter year covered by the last report of the state livestock sanitary board, recently issued by Dr. S. H. Ward, secretary of the board, and summarized here by Dr. M. H. Reynolds of University Farm. Of this large total, 500, or 1.6 per cent, a very small number comparatively, gave reactions. Seventy-one purebred herds containing 3,453 head were tested with about 2 per cent giving reactions. Of those reacting, 34 were tested cattle bred in other states and recently imported, leaving approximately 1 per cent of reactions among Minnesota-bred cattle.

The board is preparing to ask the legislature to pass a measure admitting cattle from accredited herds in other states without the thirty-day test required at present; also for an increased appropriation for the compensation of farmers whose cattle are condemned; or else for a decreased appraisal limit. The board also has under advisement a request that it support a new law making a home test after sixty days a regular requirement for imported purebred cattle.