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EDITOR'S COLUMN

Upon the rural press of America rests the fate of civilization.—Arthur James Balfour.

STATE EDITORS MEET

The 54th annual convention of the Minnesota Editorial association was held February 27 and 28 in Minneapolis with about 200 members in attendance. J. R. Landy of Olivia has advanced to the presidency of the association, Philip Liesch of New Ulm to the first vice presidency, W. E. Verity of Wadena to the second vice presidency and J. P. Coughlin of Waseca to the third vice presidency. H. C. Hotelling of Mapleton and John E. Casey of Jordan were re-elected treasurer and secretary, respectively. The editors took a vigorous stand against radicalism, and indorsed a proposal for a school of journalism at the university separate from any other college. Since the meeting the Minnesota Daily, edited by the students of the university, has strongly indorsed the school proposal of the editors.

COUNTRY PAPER FOR SALE

A thoroughly equipped newspaper plant in one of Minnesota's best small cities—a paper which has been established many years and has produced in connection with the job printing of the office from \$3,000 to \$4,000 net—is for sale. The editor of the Press News will be glad to put a possible purchaser in touch with the present owner, whose reason for wishing to sell is the requirements of other business interests.

WALKED IN 40 YEARS AGO

S. S. Lewis, veteran editor of the Cannon Falls Beacon, turns back the clock and writes in reminiscent vein of the fortieth anniversary of his debut in Cannon Falls and active connection with the Beacon. There was no train service and no stage coach over the route chosen for his advance, so the future editor walked in. Only one man who was in business in Cannon Falls at that early day, says the editor, is still "doing business at the old stand."

CO-OPERATING WITH THE PRESS

Farm and village community representatives and country editors of New York have been holding a conference to talk over the editor's problems with a view to lending help and encouragement to local papers. One of the scribes declared that the country editor at the present time is facing, even more than is the city paper, the problem of rising costs and scarcity of help. He appealed especially for cooperation with country papers. "The paper cooperates," he said, "with the farm bureau, the church and the school. They in their turn should cooperate with and boost the paper, for the paper, like them, is a community institution."

BOY EDITOR DIES

Fillmore county's boy editor, pronounced by the editor of Levang's Weekly of Lanesboro as "the bright, lovable kid brother," is dead. Peter M. Schmelzer was only a trifle more than 21 years of age. Most of his life was spent at Fountain in Fillmore county where he was editor and proprietor of the Review.

IOWA COPIES MINNESOTA

Iowa has investigated the cooperative livestock shipping plan so ably fostered in Minnesota and pronounces it good. Iowa farm shippers have been holding a meeting to effect a state organization "like that in Minnesota," as one of the organizers expressed it. Minnesota farmers have saved millions by cooperative shipping and marketing.

FARM ADVERTISING CROWDS PAPER

A February issue of the Fennimore, Wis., Times contained 35 advertisements paid for either by farmers or by merchants to reach farmers. Altogether there were 570 inches of agricultural advertising in that particular issue of the Times which contained 12 pages.

BRIDGE RAILING ADS

"Did you observe," said a merchant to a customer, "the handsome advertisement I have had painted on the railing of the bridge?" "No," replied the customer, "but if you will send the bridge around to my house I will try to read the announcement. I read the papers and I haven't time to run around from place to place to read the billboards."

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

March 15 to 22

Prune the orchard and lawn trees these nice warm days

Time to sow early flower and vegetable seeds. Plan and plant a garden of good variety both as to vegetables and flowers.

Spray materials for summer use should be ordered now. It will soon be time to spray the orchard and the material should be on hand for this at once.

Sweet pea seed may be started in pots or small boxes now for planting into the ground as soon as the soil is warm enough.

Hot beds should be well under way now. They furnish a good means of extending the garden season into early spring.

Popcorn is easily grown either as a part of the farm garden or on a city lot. A space forty by fifty will give at least two baskets of fine quality corn. White rice is the best variety to use.

Don't put off ordering a few dozen gladiolus to plant this spring. Few flowers give more pleasure in their season. They can be used for nearly all purposes for which flowers are used.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

March 22 to 29

Pansy, cabbage and celery seed will need transplanting now.

Sow onion, parsnip and oyster plant as early as possible. They thrive best in cool weather.

The Globe type of onion is the best for all purposes since there is less waste in preparing it for cooking.

Cheap labor in the garden is often the most expensive in the long run. Better hire good help at a fair price than cheap help at any price.

Start a few gladiolus in berry boxes or pots. They can be set out in the ground late in May and will bloom early.

Look for damage from mice and rabbits in the orchard. Paint the wounds with grafting wax or clean white paint. Perhaps it will be well to bridge graft bad injuries.

Some of those poor varieties of apples may be topworked now to advantage. Wealthy is a good marketable variety to use in top working.

High wages that must be paid by truckers this year will make home gardens a good investment. Besides town and city folks need the outdoor exercise.

While nursery stock costs more this year than ever, it is likely the grower of the stock is getting more nearly his rightful proportion of the dollar for it than ever before. Too many growers have in the past sold too near what the material actually cost them.

According to the department of agriculture, farm and garden labor has never been so high as in 1919. The average wage without board the country over was \$56.29—the lowest \$44.03 in the south and the highest \$87.12 a month in western states.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

HEAD YOUR HERD WITH PUREBRED SIRE

Why should anyone be satisfied with scrub cattle? It is true there are not enough purebreds for all, but the heifers from a scrub herd will be wonderfully improved over their dams if they are sired by a good purebred bull from a productive dam. A registered bull calf can be had at a reasonable price from a dam which has made a creditable record, and the offspring of such a bull proves the wisdom of the investment. It is a known fact that in many cases the milk production by the heifer of such a bull is more than double that of the dam. Neither these animals nor their offspring will ever be purebred, but the continued use of a first class registered dairy bull of the same breed will in a few years result in a herd that may equal in production many purebred herds.—E. O. Hansen, of the dairy husbandry division, Minnesota college of agriculture.

BOYS, GIRLS GET MOST OF PRIZES

Boy and girl club exhibitors practically made a clean sweep in the potato section of the annual seed show of the Minnesota Crop Improvement association held at Tracy, Minn., February 23 to 27. To enumerate the competitions they lost would be easier than to make up lists of those they won. Of leading prizes in the several classes they lost only the first and third for Triumphs and the second for Burbanks. The sweepstakes trophy for potatoes, a \$40 silver cup, was won by Master James Johnson of Meadowlands, St. Louis county, who also took the first cash prize in the class for Green Mountains and the championship for late varieties. His prizes are valued at \$61.

U. S. ON TRAIL OF H. C. L. IN MINNESOTA

The United States government, through its Department of Justice, which has a Minnesota organization, is setting out to smash the high cost of living in Minnesota as in other states.

Through the division of women's activities in St. Paul, at the head of which is Mrs. C. A. Severance, a complaint card is being sent to women over the state asking for information as to complaining against dealers who seem to be charging excessive prices. The card calls for the date of the purchase, the name and address of dealer, the commodity purchased, the price paid, ground for the complaint, and the name and address of the complainant. The name of the latter is to be kept confidential, but no attention will be paid to unsigned cards.

Associated with Mrs. Severance in the Minnesota work are Mrs. Gilbert Gundersen, president of the Minnesota Housewives' League, who is first vice chairman; Mrs. J. T. Hale, chairman of the Ramsey County Council of Home Defense, second vice chairman; Miss Genevieve L. Burgan, executive secretary. The officers are with the St. Paul Association in St. Paul.

The organization will attempt to stimulate production through home gardens, poultry raising, and home industries; to encourage conservation through intelligent buying and avoidance of senseless luxuries; and to teach Americanization.

BOYS AND GIRLS GOING TO "U" FARM

Plans are well advanced for the tenth annual boys' and girls' week short course to be held at University Farm March 29 to April 3. All boys and girls who are now or who have been club members can attend. The forenoon of Monday, March 29, will be devoted to registration. The program other days will be as follows: 7 a.m., breakfast; 7:40 a.m., classes begin; 12:05 p.m., dinner; 1 p.m., excursions; 5:30 p.m., supper; 6:15 p.m., gymnasium; 7:30 p.m., movies or other entertainment; 9:30 p.m., lights out. The various projects of the state club work will be studied and discussed each day. Special attention is to be given to the keeping of records and the making of reports. Two grades of work will be provided the girls in the breadmaking, canning, and sewing projects—elementary for the beginners and more advanced for those who have had experience. Some new features like quick breads will be offered. Club leaders of the state will hold conferences on the second and third days of the course.

TIMBER LAND FARM GIVES GOOD PROFIT

Walter Day, farmer and member of the legislature, operates a demonstration farm, in connection with the agricultural extension division of the state university, in the timber land district near Bagley, Clearwater county. His gross receipts in 1919 were \$4,086 and his labor income, or net receipts, for the year, after charging off 5 per cent on the farm investment of \$9,000, amounted to \$3,097. Mr. Day's income was derived from clover seed, potatoes, sheep, wool, honey and bees. He has no dairy herd. There are 157 acres of clay soil in the Day farm. That such farms in the timber country can be made to pay has been clearly shown by the co-operators. Several successful demonstrations in land clearing have been made on this place.

BEST POTATO SEED IS NONE TOO GOOD

Great care should be taken in selecting potatoes for seed, says E. C. Stakman of the Minnesota Experiment station. When it can be obtained, certified seed should always be used. If not available, tubers true to type and free from rots, scabs, blemishes and internal discolorations should be selected. These should be soaked in corrosive sublimate, four ounces to 30 gallons of water, for one and one-half hours. Plant on land which has not grown potatoes for three, four, or five years. A bulletin containing information regarding seed plot methods and seed treatment and describing the varieties of potatoes best suited to Minnesota will be sent upon application to the office of publications, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

SUBSTITUTES FOR DESPISED BARBERRY

There is no lack of substitutes for the common barberry as a hedge plant. LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist at University Farm, recommends among other substitutes the Japanese barberry, Alpine Currant, Cotoneaster, Acutifolia, Buck Thorn, Rosa Rugosa, and, in some cases, Crataegus or thornapple.

SOYBEANS IMPROVE MENU FOR STOCK

Cultivation of soybeans as a factor in solving the stock food problem is urged by A. C. Arny of the farm crops section at University Farm. An illustrated poster issued by the Agricultural Extension division calls renewed attention to the fact that soybeans, by reason of the protein which they contain, furnish the muscle forming food needed to supplement corn, corn silage, barley and timothy hay in order to get best results.

Mr. Arny says that for silage or "hogging-off," the soybean seed—seven or eight pounds to the acre—should be mixed with corn in the planter box or special attachment. For seed or silage production alone, 35 pounds of soybean seed should be sown in 36- to 42-inch rows.

"Inoculate to get the best results," says Mr. Arny. "Secure for each bushel of seed five pounds of soil from a well-inoculated field. Keep it from sunlight and, after it has been dried gradually, put it through a fine sieve. Moisten the seed, just before using, with a 5 per cent solution made by dissolving two ounces of sugar in a quart of water for every three or four bushels of seed to be used. Then mix the dry soil with the moistened beans." County agents will aid the prospective grower in obtaining inoculated soil.

Mr. Arny recommends the Chestnut, Wisconsin Black and Elton for seed production, silage or "hogging-off." The Ito San, Medium Green, Medium Yellow, Mikado and Black Eyebrow are best for silage purposes, he says.

WHY NOT INSURE CROP AGAINST SMUT

Grain crops can be insured against loss by smut, which in a single year in Minnesota has destroyed growing cereals worth ten millions of dollars. The estimated annual loss from grain smuts in Minnesota is estimated by plant pathologists at University Farm to be at least four millions of dollars. "There may be a great deal of smut again this year," says E. C. Stakman of the Minnesota Experiment station, "and farmers should therefore not neglect to treat their seed. Only in this way can the crop be insured against loss.

Frank Frolik, plant pathologist with the agricultural extension division of the university, has made up the following list of things to remember in treating seed for the season's sowing:

1. Clean the grain thoroly before treating in order to get rid of smut balls.
2. Floors, bins, wagon boxes, sacks or anything with which the grain may come in contact after it has been treated should be kept scrupulously clean.
3. Treated grain may be sown right away. If not sown wet it must be spread out to dry and shoveled over every few hours to avoid heating.
4. Wet grain, after treating, must be kept from freezing.
5. If treated grain is sown before it is thoroly dry, the drill should be set to sow from one-fifth to one-fourth more per acre than when dry grain is used.
6. The formaldehyde treatment is not effective for loose smuts.

SIMPLE EXPEDIENTS EASE HOUSEWORK

Household work often can be made lighter by simple and inexpensive conveniences. "My work table," says Mrs. Claude Thom of Verdale, Minn., "was always four inches too short. I had it raised by having 2x4's put between the table top and each of the legs. The change has been of great help to me. Each woman should have the table raised or lowered to suit her needs. She can determine what height it should be by standing before it and placing her hands upon it. Her hands should rest upon it easily without making her stoop."

The adjustment of working surfaces, like those of sink and stove, to prevent constant stooping, is urged by home economics extensionists as being of great help in saving a woman's strength and preventing fatigue.

It is learned from Adele Koch, assistant state leader of home demonstration agents, that the woman's department of the Farm Bureau of Wadena county is discussing ways and means for lightening the toil of farm women. The county agent and the state specialist of home economics are co-operating in this movement.

SEED BED CARE OF FIRST IMPORTANCE

Methods of preparation of the seed bed vary with the soil, the season and the crop to be planted. A. C. Arny, in charge of farm crops at University Farm, says:

"A single thorough harrowing of fall plowed land in preparation of the seed bed for the grain crop is usually satisfactory unless the land is very weedy or unusually hard packed. Disking the land previous to planting grain, unless made necessary by weeds or unusual hardness or dryness of the soil, delays seeding operations and may reduce yields because of late seeding. Further, an increase in yields traceable to disking previous to planting of grain under ordinary conditions in Minnesota has not been demonstrated.

"Spring plowed land should be disked immediately, running the disks nearly straight so they will cut through the furrow slice and unite it with the furrow pan. It may be necessary to weight the disk in order to do this. In this way air spaces in the spring plowed soil are obviated and better yields secured. Surface backing with smooth rollers or packing brought about by corrugated rollers will not take the place of the disking.

"Early disking of fall plowed land planned for corn or potatoes is desirable, for the weeds are killed and other favorable conditions for growth brought about. Disking should follow at intervals frequent enough to keep all weeds down. This will give a desirable seed bed for planting at any time other conditions may be opportune. It is much easier to cultivate the soil for these crops before the seed is planted than afterwards."

TENSE SITUATION IN CLOVER SEED

R. C. Dahlberg, in charge of the seed laboratory at University Farm, reports that the average germination for red clover seed is 73 per cent with 18 per cent of hard seed. This, he finds, is lower than the average of germination of preceding years.

"The production of seed in the United States last summer," says Mr. Dahlberg, "was far short of actual requirements because of crop failure in the big seed producing sections. Large quantities of red clover seed have been imported. Imports up to January were 9,259,000 pounds, which is the third largest importation in the last 10 years. Approximately seven-eighths of this seed has come from Italy and one-eighth from France.

"The imported Italian red clover, according to E. Brown of the federal seed laboratory, is the poorest red clover that can be planted by the American farmer. Italian seed can be distinguished from American seed only by careful examination of large samples. The only sure way of eliminating such seed from our markets is to raise more local seed. Farmers should secure seed in their own locality whenever possible, provided it is free from noxious weed seeds."

PEAT SOIL MAKES FIRST CLASS BEDDING

The use of peat for barn litter or bedding has been given a thoro trial through a series of years at the North Central Experiment station at Grand Rapids, and is declared a great success by Otto I. Bergh, the station's superintendent.

In 1914 Mr. Bergh visited experiment stations in Denmark, Norway and Sweden and in all three countries was impressed with the use made in stables of peat soil. "In 1915 at Grand Rapids," he says, "we copied the methods I had studied in the old countries, but with our high cost of labor we did not consider the system profitable. We used tile spades to cut the peat in blocks and piled the peat in ricks to dry and then stored it in a shed. Later, as needed, we pulverized the blocks with a corn silage machine.

"The following season I undertook to simplify the system by pulverizing the peat while it was in its natural state in the fields. To do this we used a disk which cut down four to six inches. When the peat was dry enough for litter we found that two men could load and one team haul enough peat in a week to provide all the bedding needed for 120 head of cattle during the stabling period.

"We have used the peat litter at the North Central station for four years now and have found it superior to straw as an absorbent. Our cattle were never so clean before. Not only has the manure output doubled, but all the straw produced on the station is available for feeding purposes."