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## EDITOR'S COLUMN

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

## Department Takes Hint

Federal departments have been criticized repeatedly by the press of the country for the waste of paper stock in their publicity work. The bureau of war risk insurance of the treasury department seems to have taken the hint, for it is sending out its material single spaced to save paper, it says. The bureau can make a saving of from 25 to 50 per cent, which is certainly worth while.

## No Fixed Murder Schedule

Students of journalism in the University of Minnesota are learning the technique of the murder story by "covering" movies featuring murder mysteries. This device was resorted to because murders—unlike speeches, trials, lectures, and other assignments for reporters—do not occur at convenient times for them. There is one extant exception to prove the rule. While coming down town one morning, a photographer who was attached to a Minneapolis paper saw a man on the street engaged in the gentle pastime of murdering his wife. The artist unlimbered his camera in double quick time and was able to get some first-class "snapshots" and a distinct "beat" for his paper.

## Builds Hen House for Teacher

The consolidated school board of Nemadji, Minnesota, has just voted to pay \$1,600 a year for a school superintendent and to build him a chicken house which is to be 16x50 feet or its equivalent. Nemadji is in the Barnum district where they know just what chickens will do. The schoolmaster's hen house will shelter 200 chickens, which, on the basis of returns for Barnum eggs and poultry, should add a generous sum to his income.

## Pioneer Editor Dead

W. D. Joubert, who was in the newspaper business at Litchfield for half a century lacking a year, died recently at the age of 67. When his health broke down he sold his newspaper plant to the editors of the Review and Independent of Litchfield.

## How Wool Pooling Pays

The Iowa Wool Growers association, a co-operative enterprise, has a membership of 3,600 and last year marketed 1,250,000 pounds of wool, on which it saved \$340,000 for farmers because of the better markets it was able to find. This is enough money to pay the salaries of all county agents in Iowa for a year.

## More Co-Operation Needed

Rural Education, published at the Northern Normal and Industrial School at Aberdeen, South Dakota, has sounded a call for co-operation between the rural press and the rural school. More school news, it says, would help the better school campaign. The editors, it contends, are willing to do their part, but for lack of effective work between the two forces, more news is printed about John Brown's cattle and swine than there is about his boy and his girl in the little country school.

## Everybody Helped

Judicious advertising by farmers lowers the cost to consumers, quickens sales, relieves overcrowded transportation facilities and keeps the money in the home community. Both the consumer and producer—and incidentally the editor, who is doing his best to make both ends meet—are benefited.

## Print at 18 Cents the Pound

A quantity of newspaper print is reported to have been sold in New York the other day for 18 cents a pound, which is a little more than nine times the price before the war. Thirty-cent paper within the next 12 months is predicted by some publishers. The Red Wing Republican says: "This is one of the most serious problems that the country has to face. At present daily and weekly newspapers are tumbling over like nine-pins, and unless relief comes, which is not in sight, hundreds and perhaps thousands of newspapers will perish during the next year or two."

## ORCHARD AND GARDEN

May 1 to 8

The wild pasque flower was among the first flowers out this spring. It was found near Minneapolis April 1.

Some of the folks hurried their pieplant along by banking up around the plant and putting a storm window over it.

Lettuce and Swiss chard are two good kitchen vegetables and are also good for chickens' green food.

It is not too late to set a bed of Progressive, Minnesota 1017, Minnesota No. 3, or Senator Dunlap strawberries. Why not do it?

A Minneapolis nurseryman has sold more than \$700 worth of pussy willow sprays this year. Not bad for a sideline. He did this by advertising in a florist paper and furnishing fine quality material.

An Iris show is to be held in Minneapolis June 10 and 11. Shortly after that comes the big horticultural flower show at University Farm. Peonies, perennials, strawberries and vegetable should be found in abundance, as good prizes are offered.

Plant a few butternut and walnut trees this spring. Shagbark hickory are also good and chestnuts are grown on a few farms in southeastern Minnesota. These nuts are always useful and as a rule find a ready market.

An exhibit of wild flowers well labeled is to be maintained in the Minneapolis Public Library this summer. A member of the Garden Flower Society will be in charge to answer questions in regard to plants exhibited.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

## ORCHARD AND GARDEN

May 8 to 15

Watch carefully the ventilation of hot beds, cold frames, and greenhouses these days.

Wood ashes are a good fertilizer to apply to fruit-plants in small quantities.

Do not let evergreen tree roots be exposed to the air in transplanting even for one minute. If the roots dry at all, there is little chance of their starting.

A good supply of fruits and vegetables goes far in adding comfort and contentment in any home. Few of us like a steady diet flavored with tin can material.

A succession of gladiolus flowers may be had by planting every week or ten days up to July 1.

Golden Bantam sweet corn is still one of the best sweet corns to use the season through. Make frequent and large plantings up to July 1.

Sunflowers are ornamental and the seeds make good hen food. Plant a few.

More than 3,000 persons attended the Ramsey County Garden Club meeting at the St. Paul Auditorium April 9 to hear something about gardening. This shows that great interest will be taken in gardening this year.

Plant liberally of a goodly number of vegetables. Seed and cultivation are going to be cheaper than to buy the finished product this year.

Watch for currant worms on currants and gooseberries. When they appear mix enough paris green with fine air slaked lime to give it a greenish cast and then when the foliage is moist, dust it over the plants. Arsenate of lead sprayed on the same as for potato bugs is also effective.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

## OATS GOOD CROP FOR VIRGIN LAND

What to plant for the first crop on land stumped and broken late in 1919 in northern Minnesota districts is something of a problem. Present high prices suggest potatoes, but objection to this crop as the first crop is taken by M. J. Thompson, superintendent of the Northeastern experiment station at Duluth, who says:

"The first breaking on new land should be rather shallow to avoid turning up too much raw soil. Potatoes usually require rather a deep seed bed for best results. Irrespective of plowing, the first seed bed will require much labor to fit it for a cultivated crop. Growing the crop is often expensive and, finally, the yield is below the average, contrary to accepted opinion.

"If the farmer is more interested in economy of production than gross returns per acre, he will choose oats and sow clover and grass seed. A shallow plowed seed bed will do for oats. No summer cultivation is needed and the grain and grass will choke out the weeds.

"Following the hay crop of the next season, the land may be broken at reduced cost, less weed trouble will be experienced, an improved seed bed of slightly greater depth can be produced and a higher potato yield anticipated."

## HINT FOR POTATO GROWER OF 1920

The present price of potatoes does not indicate anything about the price of the 1920 crop, according to W. L. Cavert, farm management extensionist at University farm, for the reason that the weather is the big factor in determining prices rather than the acreage. "During the last 20 years," says Mr. Cavert, "the yield of potatoes has varied from 65 to 114 bushels to the acre on account of weather conditions, while from one year to another the acreage seldom varies more than 15 per cent for the United States as a whole.

"Frequently high price years are followed by an increased acreage. If the weather is unusually favorable, the result is a serious over-production and unprofitable price.

"The wise course would seem to be to plant no more than the usual acreage; but to take every precaution to insure a return from the high priced seed by planting on only the most suitable soil, by treating the seed with formalin or bluestone and by giving particular attention to thorough cultivation and timely spraying."

## "U" SUMMER TERM TO OPEN JUNE 21

As far as possible work which corresponds to regular university courses will be given in the summer school session of the University of Minnesota this year. The summer term will begin June 21 and will continue six weeks, except in the college of medicine which will have a full quarter of 12 weeks.

Instruction will be given in the college of science, literature, and the arts, the college of agriculture, the college of dentistry, the college of engineering, the college of medicine, the school of chemistry and the college of education.

Among new faculty members for the summer session are: Frank M. Anderson, professor of history at Dartmouth, formerly of the University of Minnesota; M. M. Guhin, state director of Americanization in South Dakota, special lecturer on Americanization; William W. Hudson, director of the bureau of child labor of the state board of health, lecturer on sociology; O. H. Holbrook, director of the district department of civic relief of the American Red Cross, lecturer on sociology; and C. A. Prosser of the William Dunwoody Institute, courses in industrial efficiency.

## HOW TO BEAT HIGH SEED COST

M. J. Thompson, superintendent of the Northwest experiment station at Duluth, believes that newly cleared timber land can be sown with grass seed at the small cost of 70 cents to \$1 an acre. To meet the famine prices now asked for grass seed, Mr. Thompson recommends the purchase of seed in quantity lots, the use of a modified mixture and care in seeding.

"After the forest fire," says Mr. Thompson, "this station faced a problem of sowing 200 acres of burned-over meadow, stump pastures, and timber land. A mixture containing 10 per cent alsike clover and 90 per cent timothy, was sown at the rate of five pounds per acre. One pint of this mixture weighs three-quarters of a pound, and four pints or two quarts of seed were used to the acre. At present prices this quantity of seed would cost from 70 cents to \$1 an acre.

"The clover content appears low in comparison with the usual sowing, but an inspection of our pastures shows that the clover is filling in rapidly and will continue to do so. This manner of sowing is abundantly justified when the choice is between a thin sowing of clover and a surplus of grass on the one hand and a huge crop of weeds and brush on the other."

## BEGIN NOW TO FIGHT APPLE SCAB

The apple scab is likely to be serious again this year. "Last season," says Frank Frolik of the agricultural extension division of the state university, "a large percentage of apple leaves were infected with the scab fungus. The disease lived over winter on the dead leaves, and unless these are raked up and burned or plowed under soon, a large amount of infection on the new leaves and fruit will take place.

"In addition to destroying the old leaves, the apple trees should be thoroughly and repeatedly sprayed. Success in controlling the scab depends largely on the timeliness and thoroughness in spraying. It is better to spray before a rain than after since the greatest protection is needed during a rain."

## GOOD PASTURAGE CHEAP STOCK FOOD

One of the cheapest livestock foods is good pasturage. Good yields of this cannot be secured unless the land is kept in good condition.

A generous top dressing with good barnyard manure applied in the fall, winter, or early spring is recommended by Andrew Boss, vice director of the Minnesota experiment station at University Farm. This top dressing, says Mr. Boss, should be distributed evenly and not too thickly. If bunchy, it may be thinned out by harrowing which sometimes helps to stimulate the growth.

Thin spots in the pasture should receive a new seeding of grass. Mr. Boss says that the use of a mixture of six pounds of timothy, two pounds of red clover and one pound of alsike clover to the acre will give good results. Where there is a partial stand of grass, possibly not more than one-half of this quantity is needed. Only the thin spots will require treatment.

Alternate freezing and thawing and the early spring rains will work the seed into the soil and result in quick growth. Let the grass get a good start before the stock is turned in, says Mr. Boss; nothing so depletes the annual yield of pasturage as to overstock it at the beginning of the season.

## SEEDLING BLIGHT SHOULD BE FOUGHT

"Farmers should be on guard," says E. C. Stakman, plant pathologist at University Farm, "against seedling blight in wheat and other grains. Irregular patches of stunted or dead plants indicate the presence of the blight. The disease appeared in May last year and was especially serious in June.

"Seedling blight," says Dr. Stakman, "has some of the appearance of the take-all disease which has been found in Illinois and Indiana. However, investigations made at the Minnesota experiment station show clearly that the disease is caused by a common mold-like fungus which has probably been present in grain fields several years. While no great fear need therefore be felt, it is well to do whatever is possible to control the disease, because it is not yet known how serious it may become.

"The seedling-blight fungus lives over winter inside of the seed and it may also remain in the soil. Seed from fields in which the blight has not appeared should therefore be used. If the blight has been serious on a particular piece of ground, do not grow grain crops on the field two years in succession. It is probable that much of the disease would be eliminated from the soil by growing corn, potatoes or some other cultivated crop on the infected land for at least one year."

## MODERN HOME, AID TO BETTER FARMING

To install a water system in the farm home increases the efficiency of the whole farm. "It pays the young people beginning on the farm to borrow the money with which to install a water system. The efficiency of the farm home is increased enough to increase the efficiency of the farm." This is the judgment of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Zimmerman of the Waseca County Farm Bureau.

The women in Waseca county have taken up the home convenience project under the direction of the farm bureau. They are being assisted by the extension department in home economics of the Minnesota college of agriculture. They expect to make their work easier and more interesting, and to gain some added time for other activities.

A poorly equipped home means a less efficient, a less hopeful farm. To have a strictly up-to-date, modern farm necessitates an up-to-date, modern farm home. If the efficiency of the home lags, the farm and the farmer will also lag.—Adele Koch, extension division, University Farm.

## TIME TO PREPARE FOR 1920 SHEARING

"This is the time to prepare," says Phillip Anderson of the animal husbandry division of the Minnesota college of agriculture, "for the annual shearing of the farm flock. See that the shearing machines are in good working order. Have the combs and cutters sharpened; it is impossible to do good work unless they are in good condition. Send them to some firm that is capable of turning them out again as good as new. If the shearing heads fail to do their part, examine them closely to see that the combs, cutters and thumb screws are adjusted properly. Do not begrudge the use of good oil. It will preserve the machine, conserve man power and make shearing much easier. A shearing machine, if properly taken care of, will last many years."

## YIELDS INCREASED BY USING STRAW

According to experiments made at the West Central Station at Morris, Minnesota, farmers who burn their straw or allow the stacks to stand for years in the fields, are robbing themselves. Applying straw directly to the land has given good results at Morris, as the following statement from Superintendent P. E. Miller shows:

"In our 1919 station report, we publish results of experiments conducted the last four years. For a four-year average, one ton of wheat straw plowed under each year gave an increase of 6.2 bushels of corn to the acre the following year, while one ton of corn stover plowed under gave an average increase of 1.5 bushels of wheat each year during the same period.

"Heavier applications gave smaller increases. Two tons of wheat straw gave an average gain of only 3.3 bushels of corn, while two tons of corn stover gave an average gain of only 0.4 bushels of wheat, compared with the untreated land.

"This experiment was begun in 1916 and during the first two years there were no increases with wheat, but during the next two years, wheat gave an increase each year with both the one-ton and two-ton stover applications. In 1916, there was no increase with corn, but in 1917 there was a very decided increase and in both 1918 and 1919 there was a very decided increase from the one-ton applications. It seems apparent that the cumulative effect especially with an application of one ton, is having beneficial influence upon yields.

"We are coming to the conclusion that straw in amounts of one ton per acre can be applied with benefit upon land which is to be used for corn or wheat. The results at this station seem to indicate that it will take at least two applications before noticeable increases in yield are obtained. Inasmuch as only a small part of the straw can be handled as litter, it would appear that spreading it directly upon the land is an easy and effective way of making us eof it."

## GOOD TEST RECORD BOOSTS COW PRICES

When a member of the Blue Earth County Cow-Testing association prepared to sell two of his cows recently, he demanded \$25 more for one than for the other. On form there did not seem to be this difference in price, and when the owner was questioned about it he pointed to the figures in the association's herd book and said, "That's why." The book showed that the higher priced cow had produced more than 50 pounds of butterfat in a month. When he wishes to sell, the farmer can demand and receive more money for cows that have an association record.

## FLY TIME NEARS; PLAN FIGHT NOW

That the slogan "Swat the fly" is more honored in the breach than in the observance is the opinion of W. A. Riley, chief of the division of entomology at University Farm. Dr. Riley says: "The oft-seen swatting of flies on lunch counters, tables, dishes, yes, even on food, is not only altogether disgusting, but is more insanitary than to let them roam at will."

In Special Bulletin No. 48, "How to Fight the Dangerous House Fly," Dr. Riley shows how the fly can be swatted by attacking their breeding places. Manure should not be permitted to accumulate and premises should be kept clean and sanitary. Nothing so discourages the fly as the absence of filth.

Practical elimination of the nuisance can come only through community action, adds the entomologist. To get this he says it is necessary to:

Begin early in the season. Enlist the local newspaper, health board and school authorities.

Interest and educate the school children and the public by means of posters, talks, lantern slides and movie films.

Insist on protection of food and drink in stores, restaurants and dairies. Keep everlastingly at it.