

Entered as second-class matter January 15, 1910, at the postoffice at St. Paul, Minn., under Act of July 16, 1891.
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 29, 1918.

EDITOR'S COLUMN

COUNTRY WEEKLY'S MISSION

Not to amaze, but to report plainly the life of its people from week to week—such is the task of the country weekly, a task deserving the support of the entire community.

Editors of State Coming.

Following the practice of holding its annual meetings alternately in St. Paul and Minneapolis, the Minnesota Editorial association will meet in the latter city Feb. 17 and 18. The various sessions will be held in the West hotel. Entertainment features will consist in part of a luncheon and a matinee theater party, given by the Minneapolis Supply Men's association on Feb. 17 for the women of the convention. The same day Rome G. Brown, formerly of the Minneapolis Tribune, will be host at a dinner for association members and their families at the Radisson hotel.

Among the convention speakers will be Mayor George E. Leach, W. E. Verity of Wadena, Richard S. Wilcox of Brainerd, B. C. Ellsworth of Lake Crystal, Rudolph A. Lee of Long Prairie, Howard Folsom of Taylors Falls, Bess M. Wilson of Redwood Falls, Neil M. Swanson, publicity manager for the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation, and Seth Thornton of the South Dakota state school of printing.

Committee reports will be made by J. C. Morrison of Morris, Alvah Eastman of St. Cloud, J. L. Jacobs of Franklin, Herman Roe of Northfield, G. B. Bjornson of Minnesota, A. O. Moreaux of Luverne, and L. C. Hodgson of St. Paul, historian of the association.

Revises Head to Fit Conditions

Reflecting the change that has taken place in farming in the Red river valley the last 30 years, a new head has been placed on the Warren Sheaf by John P. Mattson, publisher. The old head had a sheaf symbolical of the farming practiced in the valley. Live-stock a cream can, corn and potatoes are shown in the new cut. The editor says:

"The Sheaf has been a consistent and persistent advocate of diversified farming, and the paper has in some measure at least aided in calling attention to the necessity of getting away from exclusive grain raising. The change in farming, indicating more sane, scientific and practical methods, will lead to better days for agriculture."

Le Friere New President

Editors attending the Northern Minnesota Editorial association's recent annual meeting at Sauk Center report a very interesting and profitable series of meetings. A. L. La Friere of the Grand Rapids Independent was elected president, and E. H. Denu of the Bemidji Daily Pioneer, vice-president. A. G. Rutledge of Minneapolis was unanimously requested to serve his fourteenth year as secretary. The new executive committee is composed of J. C. Morrison of Morris, E. P. Peterson of Pelican Rapids and Rudolph A. Lee of Long Prairie. The summer outing of the association will be held probably in July in Itasca state park.

Levang Dines Advertisers

Ole M. Levang, publisher of Levang's Weekly at Lanesboro, provided what he termed "an appreciation banquet" for 54 advertisers in his paper. The principal address was given by H. C. Hotelling, past president of the National Editorial association. The menu card admonished those attending to get chummy and enjoy themselves.

Print Shop Notes

Paul Kvale, who for seven months edited the Swift County News, has joined the staff of the Minneapolis Tribune.

Elmer Wiecken, editor of the Elmer Eye, is recovering from an operation for acute appendicitis.

Tams Rixby, formerly publisher of the Red Wing Republican and the St. Paul Pioneer Press, and later owner and publisher of the Phoenix at Muskogee, Oklahoma, died Jan. 17, in Kansas City. Funeral services were held at Muskogee and the burial was at Red Wing.

J. J. Leonard, once a newspaper publisher of Le Sueur county, died Jan. 17 at the age of 62.

Herman Roe, editor and publisher of the Northfield News and vice-president of Minnesota of the National Editorial association, has been awarded a silver trophy for securing the largest number of members in the association in a contest just held.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

February 15 to 22

Early celery and tomatoes may be started early in March.

The average yield of onions per acre in the United States is 231 bushels. The highest average in any state is 570 bushels, in Idaho.

Texas produces nearly three-quarters of the so-called Bermuda onions raised in the United States. It is estimated that more than 11,500 acres will be grown in Texas in 1922.

Hotbeds are useful for starting early vegetables and flowers. Radishes, lettuce and onions may be had much earlier from frames than outside and the extra labor does not amount to much.

About 2,000 tons of tomato seeds are wasted yearly by tomato catsup factories. The United States Department of Agriculture has recently conducted experiments which show that after an oil has been extracted the press cake contains about 37 per cent protein of high food value.

The total returns from the vegetable growing greenhouses of the United States according to the last census were \$15,487,878. Ohio produced the most—about \$2,740,000 worth. Minnesota produced \$171,540 worth.—Le Roy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

February 22 to 30

There are many varieties of daisies that are worth growing about the home grounds.

Cheap seed is expensive at any price. Only high grade vegetable or flower seed should be used. A few dollars more invested in cabbage seed often means many tons increase in yield per acre.

An unsprayed orchard may be a menace to other orchards, as it is a harbor for insects and vermin. Better either spray and prune and take care of the trees generally, or else cut them down.

An acre of good orchard trees in Minnesota ought to yield at least \$200 worth of fruit when of good bearing age. It surely will pay to put in a few days each year caring for the trees. Wheat and corn seldom bring as much and they require much more work per acre in proportion to the income.

One of the progressive florists in Minnesota maintains a small dairy herd in connection with his greenhouse property to furnish manure needed in the growing of his roses and other flowers. All manure is put in a tank from which it is distributed over his greenhouse benches by means of pipes.

There probably has never been a time when there has been as much interest in horticulture among amateurs as now. Many people are just beginning to appreciate vegetables, fruits and flowers in the home.—Le Roy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

INCOME DOUBLED BY COW TESTING WORK

Look on this picture: It is estimated that the average Minnesota cow produces annually 4,000 pounds of milk containing 160 pounds of butterfat, which, at a valuation of 36 cents a pound, is worth \$57.60. The cost of feed based on cow testing records for average cows is \$38.65, leaving a return over and above feed costs of \$18.95.

And then on this: Average figures for eight cow testing associations reporting for 1921 to E. A. Hanson, dairy specialist with the agricultural extension division of the University of Minnesota, indicate that each cow produced 6,379 pounds of milk, containing 258 pounds of butterfat, which, at a valuation of 36 cents a pound, was worth \$92.88. The average cost of feed was \$46.89, leaving a return in excess of feed costs of \$45.99 which is more than twice as much as the average cow returns.

Records of testing work kept by Mr. Hanson show that testing almost invariably results in increased yields of milk and butterfat.

IMPORTATIONS HIT MINNESOTA BUTTER

"Importation of butter from Denmark, Australia and New Zealand is seriously affecting eastern butter markets, the duty of six cents a pound not being sufficient to prevent large importations of foreign butter," says A. J. McGuire, dairy specialist with the agricultural extension division of the University of Minnesota.

"What is equally serious," he says, "is the fact that Minnesota butter lacks uniformity and much of it lacks quality, as evidenced in the range of prices being paid."

"The time is here when Minnesota cooperative creameries must work together for uniformity and quality if they are to keep the eastern markets as they have had them during the last 20 years," says Mr. McGuire. "There is serious need of cooperation."

DAIRY COWS RESPOND TO BALANCED RATION

Cow testing association reports to the office of dairy specialists at University Farm emphasize again the value of balanced rations and good care and management for dairy herds.

A cow owned by Marlow & Randall of the Blue Earth association produced 121.14 pounds of butterfat during December. The 12 cows constituting this herd averaged 64.9 pounds of butterfat. Thirty-nine cows in the Blooming Prairie association produced more than 40 pounds of butterfat each. Two hundred and ninety-eight cows under test in the Meeker county association during the month had an average milk production of 740 pounds.

Nesbitt & Son are the owners of the highest producing cow in the South Hennepin association. Her record was 90.5 pounds of butterfat. A cow in the Northfield association produced 88.8 pounds of butterfat, another in the Blooming Prairie association 83 pounds, one in the Meeker county association 82.3 pounds, one in the Chisago Lake association 80.6 pounds, one in the Mower county association 80 pounds, and one each in the New Richland and Watertown associations 79.9 pounds.

Testing and grading up the dairy herd not only increases production but add materially to the value of dairy stock. North Dakota men purchased a carload of purebreds and high grades of Winona county association members at an average of \$125. These animals had testing association records, which made them worth the money.

Reports of the testers indicate steady progress in the development of association dairy herds. Boarder cows are being cast out, and blooded animals purchased. New associations are being organized over the state, and new herds are being added to associations already established.

VALUE OF BALANCED RATION AGAIN SHOWN

The use of balanced rations by a member of the Lake Pepin cow testing association who owns a herd of 20 cows resulted in an increase of milk in a month from 11,920 pounds to 14,060 pounds, or a total of 2,140 pounds, according to E. A. Hanson, dairy specialist with the agricultural extension division of the University of Minnesota. With a 3.99 per cent butterfat test, this resulted in an increase of 83.31 pounds of butterfat which, at a valuation of 45 cents a pound, is equivalent to \$38.39.

In November this farmer fed an unbalanced ration consisting of silage, timothy hay, corn stover, and a grain mixture made up in the proportion of 600 pounds ground corn, 200 pounds oats and 100 pounds bran, the herd consuming 4,486 pounds at a cost of \$29.52.

In December the ration was changed to include only 200 pounds of ground corn, but an addition of 100 pounds of oil meal and an additional 100 pounds of bran. Silage, timothy hay and corn stover were fed as before. To make this ration ideal, Mr. Hanson asserts, clover should have been added, but the farmer had none and hesitated to buy. The same amount of grain mixture was fed.

The difference in the cost of the two rations was \$12.65, leaving a total of \$25.74 as a gain in favor of the balanced ration.

100 BRED SOWS SOLD THROUGH UNIQUE PLAN

A plan by which two livestock breeders in the Red river valley distributed more than 100 registered Duroc Jersey sows to members of boys' and girls' clubs and farmers during 1921, with the stipulation that the breeders buy back from the purchasers of the sows all the improved, spring farrowed, registered gilts raised, is creating strong interest, according to C. G. Selvig, superintendent of the Northwest School of Agriculture and president of the Red River Valley Livestock association.

Fred S. Clark and Charles E. Franks of Warren agreed to pay a premium above the top St. Paul market for hogs. The purchaser of the sow was assured a definite market for his gilts that attained a certain standard of weight within a specified time, and was given instructions in feeding.

The Clearbrook, Leonard, Gonvick, Trail and Gully communities which took the sows last year will buy more in 1922, along with farmers around Shevlin, Bagley and Fosston. Practically all purchasers secured outstanding results last year.

Messrs. Clark and Franks are offering a purebred Hereford bull to the boy or girl who makes the best 1922 record. In addition, silver trophies will be awarded to the junior who shows the best individual pigs at various county fairs.

VEGETABLE VARIETIES BEST FOR PLANTING

The Minnesota gardener should choose the vegetable variety of highest quality that will mature within his season, be productive, adapted to his soil, resistant to disease, and have an attractive appearance when ready for the table. The list to choose from is long and the gardener should, if possible, be governed by his own or his neighbors' experiences or follow the recommendations of the Minnesota Experiment Station.

The varieties which have stood the test of many seasons should be given first choice. Space should also be left for two or three of the newer vegetables, as something new always creates interest. The kinds and varieties to be grown in the garden should furnish something daily for the table, besides an abundance for canning or winter storage and also some choice specimens for the county fair.

For tomatoes, Earliana or Burbank for the early and Bonny Best or John Baer for the late. A good strain of Earliana has no competitor for earliness among present day varieties, while the most perfect fruit will be found on the Bonny Best plants. Copenhagen Market cabbage for early, Danish Ball-head for late; Bountiful beans and Alaska and Marvel peas, Washington asparagus, Detroit beets, Early Nantes carrots, Golden Bantam sweet corn, Salamander head lettuce, Osage muskmelon, Danvers Yellow Glode onion, Harris Earliest peppers, and Harris Earliest watermelon are standard varieties hard to beat.

Choose wisely your vegetable seed house. Try Minnesota houses first. It may be necessary to go outside the state for a few varieties, but our seed houses will try to get what you want. The horticultural department at University Farm will be glad to advise or approve your variety list.—W. T. Tapley, in charge of the section of gardening of the department of agriculture, University of Minnesota.

NOISY BEES MAY BE BEGGING FOOD, DRINK

Bees which seemed to be happy and contented the first months of winter may become uneasy and noisy during February and March. They will fly in large numbers out of hives and die. Particularly is this noticeable toward the end of March. Causes of uneasy behavior and flight are thus explained by Francis Jager, the bee culture division chief of the university:

First, impure food, causing undigested matter to accumulate in the big intestine. As bees ordinarily can cleanse themselves only when the wing strikes the cellar, and sometimes in the dark. Sugarkeepers who fed their bees 10 pounds of sugar sirup last fall need not worry, because sugar sirup is the cleanest food known for bees in winter quarters.

Second, the temperature of the cellar may be too low—below 40 degrees F. In this case the bees must eat more to keep warm, and the more they eat the faster their intestines get filled.

Third, the cluster of bees put away in the fall was too small. The cluster cannot keep warm on account of its size, and the bees eat too much. They should have been united last fall.

Fourth, they may run short of food. Bees ordinarily eat about 10 pounds of honey during winter, but this honey must be within touch of the winter nest, above and surrounding them without a break. They cannot bridge over an empty space to reach the honey on the other side, so they starve. Starving colonies die very quietly.

Fifth, queenlessness, disturbance by mice, and other causes easy to prevent.

Sixth, thirst. Bees wintered in a bone dry cellar, especially if they have wintered poorly on account of cold or poor food, get so excited toward spring that they generate an abnormal amount of heat, which causes them to dissolve the cluster and try to get out. They need water. The beekeeper may use his own ingenuity in introducing water to the colony. A lamp wick pushed along the bottom board and connected with a dipper of water on the outside may do.

HOME WATER SYSTEM SHOULD COME FIRST

"If for lack of funds only one modern improvement can be placed in a home, that improvement should be running water," says E. A. Stewart of the agricultural engineering division, University of Minnesota.

"A water system with sewage disposal," he says, "will do more to make for the good health of the family than any other one thing that can be done."

Professor Stewart also emphasizes the labor saving advantage of an indoor water supply. He finds that the average housewife who carries water from a well and soft water from a rain barrel takes more than 200,000 steps yearly and uses 20 days of union time to do it. Most of the water has to be carried back outdoors, adding probably 10 days more of union time in the course of a year.

"Why sentence yourself to 30 days hard labor every year carrying water?" he asks. "Pumping and carrying water wears out more women than any other work they do."

HINTS ON HOW TO "MAKE ENDS MEET"

"In the face of present economic conditions," says Prof. Andrew Boss, vice-director of the Minnesota Experiment Station and chief of the division of farm soils and farm management, University of Minnesota, "farmers must give serious thought to this year's farm business, if receipts are to cover expenses. What can be done? The answer is, approach the problem from both sides, that is, cut down expenses and increase receipts."

Addressing himself to the question, "How can expenses be reduced," Professor Boss replies as follows:

Keep the farm stock on cheap farm grown feeds, rather than on salable grain, expensive mill feeds or commercial by-products.

Hire less labor, and use the available labor only on productive enterprises.

Make the old machinery do for another season whenever possible. Calculate ahead what you are going to get for every dollar expended. Two hundred dollars spent for good dairy cows may give larger returns on the investment than if spent for a manure spreader for which you have only a little use.

Professor Boss says the task of increasing receipts is not easy in the face of falling prices. He would have the husbandman make the attempt, however—

By maintaining better balanced production wherever possible without materially increasing the expenses.

By improving the quality of the product, or by better preparing it for the market.

By adding new lines of production, or changing to lines that promise best.

By reducing the cost of production, thus increasing the net receipts.

By getting more for what you sell. Combining with your neighbor in cooperative movements is a possible way of doing this.

"Staple crops, standard livestock, livestock products and a well organized system of diversified farming," says Professor Boss, "have carried many farmers through the tight places before. The chances are they will do so again."

SEED TREATMENT FOR VEGETABLE DISEASES

Vegetable diseases carried through from one crop to another can often be controlled by treating the seed with corrosive sublimate or formaldehyde.

This work must be done very carefully or the seed may be injured, says R. C. Rose, plant disease specialist of the state university's agricultural extension service. A successful method of treatment for one kind of seed may do positive harm to other kinds. Treatment is worthless unless the seeds are planted in clean soil.

Precautions must be taken in handling corrosive sublimate and formaldehyde. The former is a deadly poison and must be kept out of the reach of children and irresponsible persons. The latter is irritating to the skin, nose and eyes, but is not poisonous. The following methods of seed treatment are recommended by Mr. Rose:

For black rot in beets: Soak the seeds for 20 minutes in formaldehyde (one ounce in six quarts of water); wash in clean water, dry or plant immediately.

For black rot, black leg and yellows in cabbage and cauliflower: Soak the seed 15 or 20 minutes in formaldehyde (one ounce in two gallons of water, which is about one teaspoonful in a teacup of water); wash in clean water and dry. Or, soak for 10 or 15 minutes in corrosive sublimate (one part in 1,000 parts of water); wash and dry.

For smut in onions: Mix one pint of formaldehyde in 30 gallons of water. Put the seed in the row and sprinkle each 100 feet with three or four quarts of the mixture, and cover immediately.

SEED CORN TO FIT MINNESOTA CONDITIONS

Soil and climatic conditions vary so greatly in different localities in Minnesota that seed which will produce promising crops in one district will fail in other districts. This is particularly noticeable in the growing of corn. Experiment station men from University Farm and from various substations agree that the following varieties are the best for planting in the different sections indicated:

Southern Minnesota—Silver King, Murdock, Rustler White (Minn. No. 13).

Central Minnesota—Rustler White (Minn. No. 13).

Northwestern and North Central Minnesota—Northwestern Dent, Earl's Minn. No. 13, Minn. No. 23, and flint varieties.

Northeastern Minnesota—Earliest flints such as Squaw, Gehu and Dakota White.