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EDITOR'S COLUMN

Editors Hold Annual Meeting

Editors of the state were in Minneapolis in large numbers Feb. 17 and 18 to attend the fifty-sixth annual convention of their association. Minneapolis gave them a gracious welcome and provided much social entertainment. Even the weather turned bright and pleasant for the occasion.

Philip Liesch, the retiring president, in his annual address urged repeal of the state law which allows legal publications to be made in foreign language newspapers. He thought that present advertising rates are none too high, and recommended that no hasty reductions be made in subscription prices.

W. E. Verity was elected president, J. P. Coughlin first vice president, J. McGowan second vice president, and Rudolph Lee third vice president. H. C. Hotelling and John E. Casey were re-elected treasurer and secretary respectively. L. C. Hodgson was continued as historian.

"Shop" talk at the various sessions centered about foreign advertising, advertising from competing towns, and country correspondence. Resolutions were adopted indorsing the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence waterway project and commending legitimate advertising agencies.

When Melville E. Stone founded the Chicago Daily News in 1876, he laid down these rules for the conduct of his paper:

First, to tell the truth, without fear, without prejudice, and free from political bias.

Second, to publish nothing which could not be read without embarrassment in the family circle—i.e., to preserve always the utmost of dignity and decency.

Third, to provide its readers with as much of interest and entertainment as possible.

Country Press a Power

In the small towns and villages the tradition of editorial freedom has been preserved. As a result, the country newspaper has come to a degree of influence which is very promising of good for the country. The United States lies mostly outside the cities anyway. The country press should be a power. And it will be a power as long as it expresses level-headed, fair-minded, well-informed, and deep-convinced personality.—The Dearborn Independent.

Young Soldier Editor Dead

Farm Press News records with deep regret the death of Elmer Wicken, young soldier editor of that excellent country paper, the Elmore Eye. His recovery from an operation had been expected, and friends over the state were shocked by news of a fatal relapse. He was in the world war service, and at the time of his death was commander of the legion post of his home town.

McQuary Making Good

G. H. McQuary, the new publisher of the Belview Independent, is issuing one of the cleanest and neatest papers that Redwood county has seen for some time, according to the Redwood Gazette. "In following the precedent established by the former owner, C. A. Johnson, the new brother has a hard row to hoe, but it certainly looks as though he were going to hoe it," the Gazette declares.

Building for the Future

The Beardsley News recently installed a linotype machine. "While the present times may not warrant this addition, we have sufficient confidence in the future of this locality to justify the move," the paper declares. "In the near future when the force gets down to regular working conditions, we will have more to say regarding this mechanical wonder."

Stick to the Pioneer

On checking over its list of advertisers recently, the Bemidji Weekly Pioneer found that many business men who were advertisers in the paper 27 years ago when the paper was begun, are still advertising patrons.

Comma Not to Be Despised

A compositor in setting up the toast, "Woman—without her, man would be a savage," got the punctuation in the wrong place, which made it read, "Woman, without her man, would be a savage."—Business Printer.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

March 1 to 8

Get seed of tomato, cabbage, celery, cauliflower and onions for early seeding. They may all be planted in seed boxes in the house and later set in cold frame outside.

Potatoes may be brought into the light and allowed to sprout several weeks before planting. If carefully cut and planted much earlier crops will result.

Snapdragon, cosmos, zinnias, scabiosa, sweet william, nasturiums, calliopsis, calendula, brownie marigold and asters all make good annual cut flowers. Get the seed now so it will be ready to plant early next spring.

Sprays of pussy willows cut now and put in water in a warm place soon open up and make good bouquet materials alone or mixed with other flowers.

The right sort of advertising will create a demand for what you have to sell. A good example of creating a demand is that of a certain new confection just lately put on the market. It is said that in four months the new firm putting this product out did a business of \$2,000,000.—Le Roy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

March 8 to 15

Don't plant fruit trees and plants on a garden on land that is too poor for other crops. Both deserve good land.

Have you received any nursery or seed catalogs this year? They are worth sending for and reading when received.

A farm home, or any other home for that matter, should have flowers in some form as many of the 12 months as possible. It is easily possible to have them from March to December or even longer.

Are there any shrubs or perennials about your home grounds? Now is the time to order them and spring is the time to set them.

The last year or two the garden has given the best returns of any part of the farm if it has been given proper attention.

An entomologist in the potato district of Maine has come to the conclusion that there is a definite relationship between the rose bush both wild and cultivated and the potato mosaic, a destructive disease of the potato. He says the aphid which works on the potato is the same as that which works on the rose. This aphid carries the disease to the potato plant. Either we will have to get rid of the aphid or breed disease resistant potatoes. Neither this country or Europe would care to lose its roses.—Le Roy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

UNIVERSITY FURNISHES FARM BUILDING PLANS

"A log house or a sod shanty is not difficult to plan, but a modern farmhouse or barn includes a great number of details if it is to meet the needs of the farm home," says H. B. White of the farm building section of the university's department of agriculture. "It is therefore necessary to give more time and attention to considering what will best suit the particular needs of each farm home.

"Farmers intending to build should visit the office of their county agent if possible and look over the farm building plans in their files. If it is not convenient to do this, a list of the plans may be secured from the agricultural engineering division, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn. The cost of the blue prints is 10 cents.

"There are 100 plans on the list, which includes 17 houses, 15 barns, 2 cornercribs, 2 cornercribs and granaries, 2 garages, 1 granary, 2 hog houses, 1 ice house, 2 implement sheds, 1 milk house, 5 poultry houses, 2 privies, 7 farmsteads and miscellaneous plans of hay racks, etc."

BAN ON SIGN BOARDS SOUGHT BY AUTOISTS

The Minnesota Automobile association at its recent meeting in St. Paul went on record for the enactment of a law against the erection of advertising signboards on any highway. "Just think what it would mean to those who drive over our highways," says Prof. Le Roy Cady of University Farm, "if there were no signboards to blot out or detract from some of our fine Minnesota scenery. This is a reading nation. Why not confine all advertising to papers, magazines, etc., rather than littering our highways with advertisements even though they are good? Let's help to have such a law enacted by all means."

CORN ACREAGE—SHALL IT BE REDUCED IN '22?

"Shall the corn acreage be reduced?" Many agriculturists have been seeking an answer to this question. Below is given the opinion of Prof. Andrew Boss, chief of the division of farm crops and farm management of the Minnesota College of Agriculture.

"There have been arguments from many sides for a reduction of the corn acreage. There is a possibility that the most effective argument has been the low prices which have prevailed during the last year. Probably corn growing has been sufficiently discouraged. Full cribs and low prices speak more emphatically than resolutions drawn by well intentioned people at public gatherings.

"There is always a possibility in Minnesota that frost or a cool summer may result in a short corn crop. Some of the states to the south frequently experience drouths or wet seasons which also result in a short corn crop. An unfavorable year in the corn belt would reduce the surplus beyond the limits of safety in livestock feeding communities. Wise livestock men will not be contented unless at least half a year's supply of corn is left over until the new crop is safely matured.

"It would be well to ask those who argue for a reduction in the corn crop what is to take the place of corn. There seem to be two alternatives. Either the land must stand idle or it must grow something else. No one who understands the expense accounts that the farmers must meet would argue for having the land stand idle. Farmers must have something with which to pay their bills. If a farmer wants credit at the bank he must be a producer. If corn is not to be grown, what is to take the place of it? Oats, which is the crop that usually accompanies the corn or replaces it, is also low in price. It is a feed crop and a large supply is on hand. Why not discourage oats also? Not much of the good corn land is in sections of the state where spring wheat does best. Barley can be substituted to some extent. These are the main cash crops of the farmers.

"To be sure the grasses and clovers can well be substituted for a part of the grain or corn crops, but these are feed crops and must be converted into cash through the medium of livestock. Livestock needs supplemental feeds and of these corn and oats are in greatest favor. Think this over before cutting down the corn crop."

LIFE SIDE OF FARMING MUST BE BRIGHTENED

There is a home problem on most of the farms, a living problem, a child problem, a social problem, how many only a farm mother knows.

Unless we face the facts squarely and fairly and add all possible assistance toward the solutions of these problems we shall not have promoted a well balanced agricultural program. Nor will agriculture permanently prosper or maintain itself as a worthy industry if the life side is left to work itself out as best it may. Living any place may be said to be largely an individual matter—one chooses his own standard to a certain extent. In farming it is probably more a matter of individual desire, decision and possibility, than in the city.

The desire for better things is one thing, the ability to obtain and enjoy them is distinctly another. Knowledge, ambition, business opportunity, efficiency, all these are factors in finally fixing the plane of one's living.—F. W. Peck, director of agricultural extension, University of Minnesota, in Institute Annual for 1921.

NONE TOO EARLY TO PLAN SPRAY PROGRAM

Horticulturists at University Farm say it is none too early to plan the spray program of 1922. R. S. Mackintosh, specialist with the agricultural extension division, recommends the organization of community spray-rings, which will work cooperatively in improving the orchards of members. A cooperative association of this kind makes it possible for the individual member to get the benefit of adequate equipment which will do first class work in his orchard. The cost is paid by each member in proportion to the amount of material used on his farm.

Mr. Mackintosh says that the Iowa Fruit Growers' association is ready to help Minnesota orchardists get supplies, as in times past. The association is cooperative, and no one is making any profit from it, he says. The membership fee is \$1. Spraying materials, Mr. Mackintosh adds, will be somewhat cheaper this year. "Spray every fruit tree—it pays."

CHEAP SEED MAY BE DEAR AT ANY PRICE

The season is near at hand when the farmer will begin to line up his supplies of seed for planting purposes. If he has his own supply, he should be preparing it for seeding; if he has not, he will be looking for it on the market. Poor seed means a poor crop.

"Seed may be poor for several reasons," says A. H. Larson in charge of the seed laboratory at University Farm. "It may not be adaptable to the conditions under which it is to be grown, or it may not be the right variety to plant in the particular locality. It may contain so much weed seed that the crop plants do not get a chance to do their best because of the weeds crowding them.

"Too often the farmer's own supply of seed, judging by its purity test, shows that he does not possess a good fanning mill or else does not care if he does keep his fields well seeded to weeds. Weeds are such because of their ability to grow in spite of adverse conditions, and when they are coddled by the farmer, by his sowing them with his crops, they often respond with a sturdy and luxuriant growth. A recent farmer's sample received by the university seed laboratory contained approximately the following number of noxious weed seeds per pound: Perennial sow thistle, 3,378; Canada thistle, 102; dodder, 92, and quackgrass, 17. Multiply these by the number of pounds of seed sown per acre and the possible number of these weeds per acre will be appalling. While this is not an average sample, it shows a possibility.

"Good seed, the right variety, free from weed seeds, and with a good vigorous germination, is the cheapest in the long run. If the farmer cannot raise it, he can get it on the market if he demands it. All agricultural seeds, sold or offered for sale, must be labeled as to purity, germination, date of germination, kind, where grown, the seedsman's name, and the approximate percentage, if it contains any, of quackgrass, Canada thistle, perennial sow thistle, and dodder. If the seed buyer will only demand this label, he will be safeguarded; it is his guarantee. When buying seed one should always deal with reliable concerns.

LEGUME CROPS AID IN KEEPING DOWN COSTS

Prof. A. C. Arny in charge of farm crops at the Minnesota Experiment station, says that an increase in yield per acre of 39 per cent for wheat, 34 per cent for oats and 28 per cent for corn has been secured on University Farm from growing these crops in rotation with clover above the yields secured from these same crops grown continuously. Manure was applied at the rate of two tons an acre each year both in the rotation and continuous cropping systems.

At these rates five acres of wheat in rotation produced as many bushels as seven acres cropped continuously to wheat; three acres of oats in rotation produced as many bushels as four acres devoted continuously to oats and four acres of corn in rotation produced more than five acres grown to this crop continuously. These results are similar to those secured at other places.

"This is ample evidence," says Professor Arny, "that legumes grown in rotation with grains and corn bring increases in yields per acre and in this way reduce cost of production and make for permanent agriculture.

"As prices are low, the present is a particularly opportune time to increase very largely the acreage planted to leguminous crops with the idea in mind of increasing the productivity of the soil so that larger yields may be secured when prices again become normal."

STOVE IN HOGHOUSE WILL SAVE MANY PIGS

Cold weather at farrowing time is a big handicap in raising pigs. When the temperature gets much below freezing inside the house, pigs less than a week old are sure to show serious effects from the cold. It is a good plan to set up a stove and keep fire enough to maintain a temperature of about 50 degrees. Pigs which get chilled at the time of birth are in for trouble. Scours is the most common result. Pneumonia enteritis, and all other diseases of small pigs are hard to combat unless the health of the pigs is good.

Extra time spent with sows when due to farrow will pay big wages. Put in part of the night in the hog barn when necessary. Suppose the feed cost for the sow during the winter has been \$4.50, which is a fair figure this season. If by reason of three or four hours work, seven pigs are saved, where only five would survive without attention, the labor gives returns of several dollars per hour.—E. F. Ferrin, professor of animal husbandry, Minnesota college of agriculture.

WHAT CROP SHOULD YOU GROW THIS YEAR

The matter of reducing the crop acreage and determining the crops to grow is in reality an individual matter. Most farmers will decide for themselves which crop they can best limit. Crops must always be fitted to the markets, the livestock to be fed, and the labor supply available to grow the crops. When a good combination has been found for a certain farm it is best to equip for it and follow that combination of crops and livestock through a period of years. The emphasis may be placed on different crops in different seasons but the combination should not be radically changed.

The labor demands of the crops and livestock must be fitted to the labor supply of the farms. Where the labor supply is limited, it is well to limit the acres of cultivated crops because these take more hours of horse and man labor than do the grain and grass crops. It is not so much a question of reducing the corn acreage as it is of suiting the acreage of each crop to the farm needs, the labor supply and the market probabilities.

Those who live in corn territory will do well to remember that even though corn has sold at 20 to 25 cents a bushel this year, hogs have paid them 40 to 70 cents a bushel for the corn converted into pork. Those who have fed corn and corn silage to cows and marketed the butterfat have no complaint to make. If Minnesota is to take the place that it should take as a livestock raising state the corn acreage should be increased rather than decreased, except in limited areas where corn production possibly has overreached the place it should hold in the permanent farm organization plans.—Andrew Boss, vice director of the Minnesota Experiment station.

CONDITIONING HORSES FOR SPRING CAMPAIGN

Now is the time for farmers to begin preparing their horses for spring work. An animal is said to be "in condition" when he is in that state "best able to produce," and a farm horse is best able to produce hard work when his bony frame-work is covered with a set of thick, hard muscles; when he has a keen spirit for work, a bright eye, and a bloom to his coat of hair.

If a farmer is to get his work stock in condition for spring work, he must reach a balance between feed and exercise. Horses that have been wintered mainly on roughage, such as hay, oat straw, and corn stover, should be started on grain again a month or six weeks prior to the beginning of spring work, because they must be gaining in weight and hardened up if they are to "hit the collar."

Horses that have been wintered on a heavy grain ration with very little exercise are usually carrying fat at this season and should be started to work gradually. Horses that have been working at odd jobs all winter and fed for light work should be cut down a little on roughage and have their grain ration increased two weeks before hard work begins.

If horses are given the proper feed and care just before and during the first few weeks of spring work, they will be able to stand the heavy toil and hot weather later on. Regularity in feeding and watering is of great importance.

In starting horses to work see that they are grinding their feed properly, or that their teeth are in shape. Square up their feet and fit their collars. Keep their collars scraped and clean. Watch their necks and shoulders and wash them with salt and water every time the collar is removed.—N. K. Carnes, division of animal husbandry, Minnesota College of Agriculture.

BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB WORK IN STATE IN 1921

1,487 organized clubs.
18,730 boys and girls enrolled.
13,254 final reports filed on or before December 1.
Total value of all products produced by club members, \$299,788.70.
Cost of producing the above products, \$148,924.70.
Total value above costs, \$150,864.

MEANS NEAR AT HAND FOR IMPROVING CROPS

Timely in its aid to farmers who seek to improve their crops by means near at hand is the annual seed list of the Minnesota Crop Improvement association. Seeds inspected and certified by the association, also seeds reported for sale by association members, and by farmers of the state and seeds offered for sale by Minnesota Experiment stations are listed in the pamphlet which can be obtained on application to A. D. Haedecke, its compiler, University Farm, St. Paul.