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Help to Conserve the Wealth of Your State.

At the November election an opportunity will be given every voter of the state to show his patriotism and loyalty. An amendment to the State Constitution will then be before the people, to authorize the collection of a fifteenth of a mill tax on every dollar of assessed property in the state, for the purchase and maintenance of state forests.

This is of interest to you, whoever you are and wherever you are. It means the purchase and care of thousands of acres of land unsuited to agriculture—the forester cannot profitably use any other kind—which will eventually return large revenues to the state treasury. It means a future timber-supply for the people, at a time when timber from elsewhere will be hard to get; it means revenues from lands which now pay little or no taxes; it means fewer forest fires—for the neglected lands which would be bought are the places where these fires are fostered. It means a saving to the state in every way.

That you may be a farmer on the prairies, far from the wooded section, does not excuse you from the obligation to vote for this amendment. It is of vital interest to your section; for that is just the place where the timber-shortage will be soonest and most severely felt.

There is not a citizen in the state who can afford to vote against the amendment.

Do not let the idea of an added tax scare you. The aggregate will be \$75,000, but the share of the individual will be about nothing. Only seven cents on a thousand dollars, and how many thousand dollars' worth of property do you possess? Three and a half cent per capita for the people in the state! Surely you can afford that much for the general good.—E. G. Cheyney, Forestry Division, University Farm.

The Farmers' Club.

Like all other instrumentalities intended for the betterment of human conditions, the Farmers' Club depends for its success upon the manner in which it is used. Given a group of families all anxious for the mutual improvement which comes from the attrition of mind with mind, each individual eager to contribute something to the general advancement—yet each as willing to listen as to hear; to applaud as to criticize—and we have the material for a club whose success is practically assured from the start. Given another group, most of whose members are stolidly content with things as they are—who are inclined to resent any disturbance of their inertia, and to look upon the act of joining a club as a personal favor to the persuasive organizer—and the bond of union is so weak that little surprise is occasioned when some member reports, as in a recent case, that "Our club seems to run to interment instead of to discussions." The "interment" is never far off from such a club. Perhaps, however, the most beneficent work is done by a club which has a sufficient number of live, progressive members not only to make its privileges beneficial to themselves, but to so drag along the inert and uninspiring as to make them contribute bulk at least to the community's advance.

One thing is sure: Whenever a Farmers' Club is sufficiently long continued, the advantages accruing from its organization become so clear that few will consent to its abandonment. As soon give up the school or the postoffice! For it develops not only as the radiating center of advanced ideas in agriculture and household economics, or as a means of reinvigorating social intercourse, but as the nucleus of all manner of co-operative undertakings, which are to add to the wealth and prosperity of the farmer and make country life more than ever "worth living."

Says the secretary of one new Farmers' Club, in sending his report to the Extension Division, "The Club has not accomplished anything in the line of business; but it has

brought neighbors together that did not hitch before." Now, is that not the very best of beginnings? Does it not indicate that these neighbors, now "hitched," will ere long find the strength of unity, and accomplish before undreamed of and impossible things "in the line of business?"—C. R. Barns, Extension Division University Farm.

Subjects for Debate.

The indefinite variety of subjects which come up for debate before our Minnesota Farmers' Clubs is indicated by the following, taken at random from some recent monthly reports sent to the Extension Division:

Making Hay; Killing Quack Grass; Dairying; Co-operative Breeding; Consolidation of Rural Schools; A Depot Site; Farm Buildings; Shipping Produce; "Would it be beneficial for the Farmers to Organize?" Preparation of Soil; Potato Culture; Cheese-Making; Destruction of Weeds; Crop Rotation; The Training of Children; Good Roads; The House Fly; Co-operation in Buying; Surface Cultivation; Silos; The Fireless Cooker; The Split-Log Drag; Incorporation of Clubs; Co-operative Storehouses; Local Corn-Growing; Kitchen Conveniences; Cruelty to Animals; County Development; Gardening; Clover-Raising; Stock-Rearing; Cows and Bulls; Good and Bad Seeds; Spring Work; "One Kind of Stock and Two Kinds of Potatoes;" Co-operative Marketing; Poultry; Flax Culture; Improving Home Surroundings; The Cultivation of Root Crops as Forage and for Market; The Co-operative Market Association and the Shipping of Eggs; The Benefits of Getting Together; Handling Milk and Cream; Sheep-Raising; Beet-Raising; Binding-Twine; Fences; Tile Drains; The Pure-Bred Hog vs. the Scrub; The Influence of Home Surroundings in Keeping Boys and Girls on the Farm; Making a Living Off the Land; Farmers' Elevators; The Minnesota Conservation Congress; Fraternal Development; Seed Corn Testing; Getting a Rural Telephone.

Shipping Veal.

Shipping veal from local markets to the cities does not receive the careful consideration and attention that it should in order to bring the best returns. In the first place, the farmers are not careful enough in preparing the product for market so as to be assured of the best price obtainable. The writer recently saw a veal awaiting shipment, in the southern part of the state, that was to appearances well enough dressed, but not well prepared to withstand shipping and reach the market in good condition. Instead of being well wrapped with burlap, or sewed up tight through the midline, it was only stitched in a few places, and the loose particles of skin from the shanks and head were left untied. Flies were getting on the inside of the carcass; and, by the time that this carcass had undergone the changes of cars necessary before it reached its destination, it no doubt was badly soiled on the inside. The shipper was probably disappointed when he received the check for his veal, because he did not get the top price quoted, and vowed that some one had been "getting the best of him." These small details of preparing products for shipment may seem like trivial matters, but they are the finishing touches that must not be overlooked if the top price is to be expected when products of good quality are shipped. Remember that these small details may mean the difference of a loss or profit on your product.—W. H. Tomhave, University Farm, Minn.

Take Care of the Farm Machinery.

Farm machinery is often sadly neglected when not in use. It is not uncommon to see binders, cultivators, grain-drills, plows, etc., left out all winter in the field where they were last used, or in the barn-yard. Here they are exposed to the sun, rain and snow at all times of the year, and the actual depreciation from such exposure is more than the wear caused by use. To leave machinery exposed to all kinds of weather has the same effect as it would have on house furniture, live stock, or anything that

Nature has not provided with protection against the elements.

One of the best investments on the farm is a good machine-shed in which all machinery can be put when not in use. Statistics show that such an investment will mean a return of 30 per cent on the money invested. It increases the life of machinery fifty to one hundred per cent. Even at the present price of lumber, a machine-shed, 16x32, well built, on a concrete foundation, will cost only about \$125. Such a building will house all the farm implements used on the average Minnesota farm. To figure the life of such a building at 15 years, with a small outlay for an occasional coat of paint, will make the annual cost of sheltering all the machines on the farm less than twenty dollars per year. Such small annual cost will pay many fold in its saving on the depreciation of the machinery.

A little time used in overhauling and cleaning up each piece of machinery, when one is through with it, is well spent. Tighten up all the bolts, saturate the bearings and cover all wearing surfaces with a good grade of machine oil. This will stay on from one year to another, and keep the parts from rusting. Plow lays and all polished parts should be cleaned and covered with oil or grease of some kind, to keep them in good condition. There is no part of the farm operation at which a little time can be spent to better advantage than looking after farm machinery.

Free Libraries for Farming Communities.

With the approach of the long winter evenings, there is need of providing something to profitably employ the minds of the various members of the household. Where one is fortunate enough to be in touch with one of our rural mail-routes, there is ample chance to provide a series of good periodicals, and to receive them in good season. There is, however, a need and a desire for books to read, and where these are not wisely chosen it frequently happens that some are read which might better have been left unread.

The Public Library Commission is in position to supply a reasonable number of rural communities with a special agricultural library of fifty volumes. Twenty-five of these volumes are standard works of fiction, and the balance a careful selection of reliable works on most phases of agriculture. These libraries are loaned to communities practically free of charge, the sum of one dollar being collected to defray the shipping expense. This class of traveling library is designed especially for farmers' clubs, reading clubs and agricultural clubs in general, and should not be overlooked by communities desiring this class of reading this winter. A request to the Public Library Commission, State Capitol, St. Paul, Minn., will bring full particulars and an application blank.

Against Early Frosts.

The matter of frost protection will be just now of much importance to many persons in the state. While these early fall frosts are not so much to be dreaded as those of late spring, because most of the gardeners' crops have matured, yet there are many amateur growers of vegetables and flowers who will want to lengthen the season for some choice specimens.

Fire-pots or orchard heaters will not be generally successful with such persons, because they will not be sufficiently repaid for the outlay for the heaters and the fuel. In the West, the systematic use of them in the orchards, along with the use of a thermo electric alarm, has been productive of excellent results. The person who has a small area of flowering or garden plants would better resort to the old-time expedient of covering with burlap or cloth.

Another excellent method is to turn the lawn sprinkler on during the latter part of the night and let it sprinkle the plants to be protected. Most frost damage is done by the rising sun striking the plant and warming it too quickly. If one arises in the morning and finds that a frost has occurred, the plants should be covered immediately and kept dark

until the rising temperature of the air has taken the frost out of them. Or, the plants may be sprinkled with cold water, before the sun strikes them, with good effect.—K. A. Kirkpatrick, Extension Division, University Farm.

Winter Protection of Strawberries.

Plan now to protect the strawberry bed when the ground freezes. Probably the best material for this purpose will be a light covering of marsh hay. This will be least likely to introduce seeds of weed pests into the bed. Material useless for feed, such as reeds, rushes, and the coarser grasses, will be ideal, because it will not pack so closely to the ground and at the same time it is not so easily lifted by the wind.

The whole surface of the bed should be covered rather lightly, an even depth of three inches being very desirable. On small beds, the material can be hauled up to the edge of the plantation while the weather is fine, placed in a neat pile, and, when the ground is frozen, it can be scattered over it with a fork. On larger plantations, the work of hauling may be deferred until the ground has frozen, when the loaded wagon may be driven astride a row, the driver pitching the material off on either side of the load, while two helpers scatter it to the proper depth over a convenient swath.

The problem of retaining the covering during the windy weather of early winter, before the snow has fallen to weight it, and in early spring after the snow has left, is a serious one. On small beds it may be advisable to use stalks cut from the cornfield after husking, or gathered from the racks where bundle-corn is being fed. These may be used alone, or in conjunction with a light covering of the marsh grass. In extreme situations, such as points of knolls or exposed hillsides, it may be necessary to resort to small brushwood poles to retain the covering. These should be laid on top of the hay, at right angles to the prevailing winds and about three feet apart. In the wooded portions of the state, forest leaves or pine needles may be used and retained in place by brushwood or pine or spruce branches.

The great damage is done to our strawberry plantations in the early spring months, when the snow has disappeared, allowing the thawing of the surface through the day, followed by sharp freezing at night. This results in the heaving of the plants or the killing of the crowns through the rupture of the prematurely-distended cells. While the damage comes at that time, covering must be done in the fall in order to do it efficiently.—K. A. Kirkpatrick.

The Farmer's Automobile.

The rapid increase in the number of automobiles owned by farmers would seem to indicate that the day has already passed when this vehicle could be properly classed as a thing for "pleasure-seekers and snobs" alone—if, indeed, it could ever have been so classed. The adoption of the machine to farm uses goes steadily forward; and, while no automobile has yet made its appearance which satisfactorily fills the place of the "democratic wagon" or "box buggy" with the farmer of moderate means, there is little doubt that ere long such an auto will appear, procurable at a price which, when added to that of the horses, will be no greater than that of those old-fashioned "rigs."

The eagerness of the rich and well-to-do—and of the multitude of reckless and extravagant spenders, who, though without adequate means, somehow continue always to follow the fashion—to possess showy autos has kept all the factories so busy turning out high-priced machines that they have had small inducement to build cheaper ones, such as the multitude of farmers could buy. But—just as, in the history of the bicycle, machines which originally cost \$100 were a few years later duplicated, or even bettered, by wheels selling for \$30 and even \$15—so it is sure to be with the auto. Three hundred and fifty dollars will eventually pay for an auto, not so showy, perhaps, but even better for practical purposes than those today selling for four or five times as much—capable of an all-day speed of twenty miles

an hour, and suited to all the purposes, social and business, of the farmstead.

Meanwhile many farmers are doing very well with various adaptations to their purpose of existing types of autos. In the last Farmers' Review, for instance, is a picture of one where the space usually occupied by the back seat is filled by a crate containing a fatted calf bound for the city market. With the auto, its owner can deliver such a calf, or some crates of produce, at a point twenty miles away, and be back home in two hours; while with a democratic wagon at least six hours would be required. Furthermore, the farmer possessing an auto has usually several markets within reach, while the one who depends on horses is naturally confined to one.—C. R. Barns, Extension Division.

Corning Beef.

The pieces commonly used for corning are the cheaper cuts of meat, such as the plate, rump, cross-ribs and brisket. The meat should be cut into medium-sized pieces, so that it will pack well in a jar or barrel. It should be well cooled and corning before decay sets in, or it will spoil the brine. For each 100 pounds of meat, weigh out 8 pounds of salt, and sprinkle a layer of about a quarter of an inch in depth over the bottom of the vessel, and then pack in a layer of meat five or six inches in thickness. On top of this put a layer of salt, followed by a layer of meat, until all the meat is packed in the vessel. Keep enough salt for a good layer over the top of the last layer of meat. After this has stood over night, add, for every 100 pounds of meat, 4 pounds of sugar, 2 ounces of baking soda, and 4 ounces of saltpeter, all dissolved in a gallon of warm water. When this is cool, pour it over the meat and add enough cold water to cover the meat. Weight it down with a loose board, held in place by a clean stone, to keep the meat under the brine. It should be left in the brine for from twenty-five to forty days before it is ready for use.—W. H. Tomhave, University Farm.

Tuberculosis.

Feeding experiments, conducted by the United States Bureau of Animal Industry at Washington, have conclusively proven that hogs are readily infected with tuberculosis through taking into the stomach the faeces and milk from infected cattle. Meat-inspection figures show that about one per cent of the cattle and more than two per cent of the hogs slaughtered are tuberculous. This condition is certainly alarming, and should appeal to farmers to provide the best sanitary surroundings and conditions for their stock. Pure air, sunshine and wholesome food are the best preventatives against diseases, and it is evident that this disease in hogs can be materially reduced by eradicating it from cattle or by segregating them.

Barn-yard Manure.

Barn-yard manure increases the water-holding capacity of the soil; and instead of dumping the manure in some convenient, out-of-the-way place, or leaving in the yard to deteriorate, or to rot the structures against which it is so frequently piled, the farmer can not only save money, but at the same time conserve the moisture of his soil, by immediately spreading it upon his fields. To get manure onto the fields quickly and effectively a manure spreader is very useful. Such implements are in daily use at University Farm.

Without moisture, fertility is of little consequence; and moisture without fertility will not produce satisfactory results. The soil must be supplied with organic matter to replace the plant-food extracted from it by growing crops. This must come largely from the barn-yard; from plowing under the green weeds, &c. Without paying attention to modern methods of agriculture our Minnesota farmers will soon be complaining of wornout soil; the value of the land will drop, and the young men will look for "a better chance" elsewhere.

Manure from the barn-yard adds humus to the soil; and humus acts like a sponge; retaining moisture in the soil, making it more capable of absorbing a heavy rain-fall and of holding it there longer. The moral, therefore, is to save and carefully spread all barn-yard manure over the fields. Manure is worth dollars, and will put dollars into the farmers' pockets.