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To Editors.

The University Farm Press News prepared with a sole view to the benefit of the farmer in its columns by the editors of Minnesota papers. It is no subscription list, and is not sent to farmers. The endeavor is to fill its five columns with short articles relating to various phases of rural life and industry—articles which every intelligent farmer will read with satisfaction, but which we want him to read in your paper, not ours. You are at liberty to use the articles with or without credit or name of author—as editorial or as clippings, just as you may prefer.

The University for the People.

In several recent addresses—notably in that delivered at Commencement and that before the Convention of School Superintendents at St. Anthony Park—President Vincent has voiced a purpose that, under his administration, we shall hear no more of the assertion that "the University is an institution for the few, supported by the labor of the many." He would make it manifest that this great educational organism exists for the benefit of the whole State—of everybody in the State! In his Commencement address he said:

"The growth of democracy has made new demands, has widened opportunity, has broken down the barriers of class. Even in the Old World, and especially in the New, democracy has created schools, colleges and universities, and has chartered them to serve the common welfare. The University has become, therefore, especially in this mid-western region, the people's organized instrument of research, or, as President Van Hise puts it, 'the scientific adviser of the state.' On every hand we hear variations of this central theme of social service. College presidents and men of political life, each group from its own point of view, insist upon this conception of higher education. In this view the University appeals to the imagination, it becomes an organ of the higher life of the community and state, it connects itself at every point with the industry, commerce, social conditions, educational interests, ideal purposes of the commonwealth."

He is an ardent believer in the Extension work; and, by means similar to those in use in the Division of Agricultural Extension, would carry to the doors of all who are unable to attend the regular courses of the University an opportunity to acquire, through its aid, the branches of knowledge for which they yearn. He would deem it not inappropriate, even, to use the resources of the University in cultivating, and in ratifying, a state-wide taste for music.

The Agricultural Department claims no monopoly in the beneficent methods of the Extension work. While this form of educational endeavor seems most peculiarly adapted to the needs of farming communities, there are many other fields where it may be used for the general uplift; and it is to be hoped that President Vincent may hear, from every quarter of the State, the note of approval of his plans.—C. R. Barns, Extension Division Minnesota Agricultural College.

To Destroy Ants.

The common little red ant, which makes tiny hills on our walks and in the grass, can be destroyed by pouring a little gasoline in each hole. Half a teacupful to a teacupful will suffice for from three to six holes. Do not be afraid to use plenty of gasoline, in order to reach the queen and queens which lay the eggs. This method, however, will kill grass or plants where it comes in direct contact with them.

The large mounds out of doors, each of which is occupied by hundreds of ants, can be easily treated with bisulphide of carbon. Make eight or ten holes with a cane or roquet stick, about eight inches deep, in each mound. Into each hole pour a good tablespoonful of bisulphide of carbon, closing each hole with earth, and then throw a couple of wet burlap sacks over the hill, leaving them over night. One might expect to do this twice possibly; or,

in other words, until the queen or queens are killed.

While ants, when seen climbing up apple trees, or shrubbery and plants, generally, do not directly injure the plants, since they are for the most part after the lice which give up to them in response to their caresses, some honey dew, of which ants are very fond, nevertheless the black ant sometimes girdles and kills shrubs like the lilac and snowball. When ants are found at this work, we first have recourse to strong tobacco water to see whether we can drive them away. If they still persist in eating the bark, we advise uncovering the crown and larger roots, mixing up arsenate of lead with a little water, and applying it as thick whitewash to these parts. Arsenate of lead is a poison, which, however, applied in that way, would not injure the bush.

Where ants come from the outside, and are extremely troublesome, they can be deterred from entering the house by applying with a brush a band of sticky tangle-foot, which can be purchased in cans, on the outside of the foundation of the house. As long as this is kept sticky no ant can get across it.

A mixture of molasses with abundance of Paris green is effective in destroying some ants in the house. A saturated solution of alum, applied to shelves and allowed to dry, appears to leave a deposit which is obnoxious to ants, and they avoid it. One must bear in mind, however, that until the queen or queens are killed, ants will continue to come.

Familiar resorts are the scattering of powdered borax; the putting of the legs of the refrigerator, or of the tables holding food, in pans filled with water covered with kerosene; and the filling of sponges with sweetened water, which attracts the ants, and when filled with ants, dropping them into boiling water. In the case of the very minute ant which sometimes infests homes, where all other remedies have failed, the fumigation of the house, in the absence of the family, with the deadly gas known as hydrocyanic gas—followed by three or four days of exposure to a winter temperature of four degrees below zero, secured by opening all the windows,—has been found effective. So says Prof. Washburn in "Minnesota Insect Life."

The Gain from Record-Keeping.

Before the results of modern herd records were known, dairy cattle were admitted to the herd-books, and bought and sold, chiefly on their outward appearances. There was no standard by which to determine the relation of form to production. A nice-looking cow was the one which brought the most money. What constituted such a cow was largely a matter of opinion or prejudice. With the introduction of herd records, opinions came to be valued in direct proportion to one's understanding of the relation of form to production. Everything must be determined in the light of the scales, the Babcock test and the cost of milk-production.

To Minnesota must be awarded a large portion of the credit for the inauguration of the newer and more rational system. For the past twenty years the milk from every cow in the State herd has been weighed and tested morning and night; and at least twelve years ago it was found that certain cows in the herd returned \$55.54 per cow, while others returned only \$8.19, after deducting the cost of feed, which was the same in each case. Later, by the same means, the Michigan Experiment Station found that, after deducting cost of feed, cows returned from \$6.18 to \$94.05; the New Jersey Station showed, when milk was valued at \$1 per hundred, a variation of from 13 cents to \$49.72; and in Connecticut it was demonstrated that while the best cows returned \$54.72, the poorest returned only \$2.76 above the cost of feed. With such figures as these, supplemented meanwhile by similar results from the records of up-to-date individual dairymen and of test associations, it became evident that the dairyman who kept no records had but a poor show of succeeding in business in competition with the one who did. That many have taken the lesson to heart is shown by the fact that testing associations are steadily growing in numbers, and that more pure-bred sires have been introduced into Minnesota during the last three or four years than in all former years put together. A sire bred from a cow with the highest record is the most eagerly sought for the production of new herds. "Breed to the winner" seems to be the motto.

Prof. Grout points out, however, that the record is not the whole thing in determining the value of a sire. Just as the colt, which presumptively inherits "a wonderful burst of speed," may from inherited physical weakness fail to approach the record expected, so may the daughter of the

most high-bred sire fail to approach, in milk-production, the record of his dam.

By record-keeping and a careful weeding-out of unprofitable stock, combined with an equally careful selection of pure-bred sires, and good care, the average production of the Minnesota cow can be raised from 160 lbs. of butter to twice that amount. With a million cows, the latter figure would mean an addition to the dairy revenues of our State of from \$30,000,000 to \$40,000,000 a year. And the instrumentalities for attaining this result are so simple—the scales, the Babcock test and the suiting of the ration to the cow—that it seems hardly possible that many of our dairymen will be long content with any inferior system.—Condensed in part from address before the Northwestern Guernsey Breeder's Association by Prof. George P. Grout.—C. R. Barns, Extension Division, Minnesota Agricultural College.

More Profit in Poultry and Eggs.

The Poultry propaganda inaugurated by the Extension Division of the Minnesota Agricultural College, with N. E. Chapman as its foremost exponent in the field, bids fair to so revolutionize the poultry and egg business in our State as to more than double the gains of the honest, intelligent and progressive producer, and to drive the other man out of business. In this work the Division has the efficient co-operation of the State Dairy and Food Commission. Jointly they are sending out 25,000 copies of the following:

Suggestions to Producers and Shippers of Poultry Products.

The annual loss in Minnesota, from detrimental changes in poultry products, is estimated to exceed two million (2,000,000) dollars.

Not only may these millions be saved, but our surplus may be of such quality as to command the highest market price.

PRODUCERS—Keep standard-bred stock, thus ensuring uniformity of products. Sell only full-sized (2 oz.), fresh, clean, uniform eggs.

Keep nests clean; confine broody hens; gather eggs twice daily. Keep in a cool place, free from odors of all kinds.

Do not offer for sale small, dirty, checked, stained or doubtful eggs. Most of these may be consumed at home, at full market value.

Fatten all surplus poultry, bringing stock up to standard weight.

SHIPPERS—Pack eggs only in standard cases, with medium fillers, using excelsior, cork shavings, cut straw or corrugated board.

Store case in cool, dry place, only free from odors, avoiding heat, droughts and dampness.

Ship eggs often, at least twice a week in warm weather, by express or in refrigerator cars.

Ship live, healthy poultry in large standard coops; dressed poultry, neatly wrapped and packed in boxes or barrels, to reliable dealers.

Send for Government and Station Bulletins. Address U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.; for Government bulletins; the Agricultural Extension Division, University Farm, St. Paul; for State bulletins.

Prefixed to the foregoing is a warning from Commissioner Winkler, citing the law of Minnesota which forbids dealing in, or selling for use as food, bad eggs, diseased chickens or decaying poultry. Every violation of this law is deemed a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not less than \$50, or imprisonment for not less than 60 days. All inspectors in the Dairy and Food department are instructed to enforce the law.—C. R. Barns.

Consolidate the Schools.

The revenues of the State of Minnesota are now available to an extent never before equaled, in any state, for the upbuilding of rural schools. It is the purpose of the State, as manifested in the Holmberg and collateral laws, to offer to the boys and girls of the farms educational opportunities second to none that are enjoyed by the boys and girls of the towns. The country youths now growing up are to enjoy in actuality the larger benefices of the State's magnificent school-fund, which those of preceding generations have enjoyed only in anticipation.

"Consolidation" is the key which is to unlock, far earlier than was dreamed of, the rich resources of the State, for the betterment of rural educational facilities. It comes by a

natural process of evolution from the increased density of population and the improvement of the roads, coupled with the shrewder judgment born of a comparison of the results won by the well-equipped city graded schools as contrasted with those of the one-room country district school. Consolidation now offers, in the one hand, a building fund equal to one-fourth the cost of a building, unless a building costing more than \$6000 is erected. Fifteen hundred dollars is the largest amount allowed toward a building. In the other hand, it offers a contribution of \$1500 annually to the support of every consolidated school of four or more rooms. All this in addition to the regular apportionment from the State school fund, of about \$5 per pupil annually.

The school thus aided must teach Agriculture, Manual Training and Home Economics; must observe certain requirements as to the qualifications of the teachers employed, and have the approval of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction for their plans and equipment. None of these requirements is burdensome; rather, every one of them carries a beneficence. The load of taxation left to be assumed by the people of the consolidated district—including the cost of transporting pupils to and from their homes—is so slight that in many cases the change from the district to the consolidated plan will not be noticed through any pull at the pocket.

Districts which, with such an opportunity inviting them to action, continue inert and indifferent, set themselves down as below the plane of Twentieth Century activities. A progressive Americanism should forthwith set the machinery of Consolidation at work in all the school districts of Minnesota.—C. R. Barns, Extension Division, University Farm.

Garden and Orchard Notes—July.

By LeRoy Cady, Horticultural Division Minnesota Agricultural College.

Thin the apples and plums if too heavily loaded.

For jelly, currants are picked about half ripe or when partly colored.

Lawn clippings and green waste from the garden make good chicken feed.

The common and cut-leaf Elders have proved good lawn plants this year.

Keep the hedges clipped. Buckthorn is one of the easiest hedges handled.

Keep the cultivator going. It not only kills weeds, but conserves moisture.

Cucumbers for pickles may be planted yet. Boston Pickling is a good variety.

Do not cultivate beans when the foliage is wet. They will become spotted or rusted.

Swiss chard has now taken the place of spinach as greens. Spinach will not stand the hot, dry weather.

If the onions are not growing well, a little nitrate of soda or hen manure sown broadcast, before or during a rain, often helps them to fill out.

Chicken wire makes a good trellis for tomatoes. A single stake will do, or a barrel-hoop supported about two feet from the ground by three stakes is good.

If dead and unsightly limbs have not been taken off the trees, now is a good time to do so. Paint with white lead the place from which the limb came. Cut close to the tree, and do a clean, smooth job.

If the strawberry plants are vigorous, and the bed not too weedy, it may pay to renovate it for another year. Mow the plants close to the ground, rake off the foliage and burn it. Plow a furrow, cutting out all but about one foot of the row, and then go through and take out the weeds and diseased plants in this row. Fill the furrow with thoroughly-rotted manure and cultivate the soil back. Keep up a thorough cultivation of the soil all the season.

In Maine hotels the announcement, "Minnesota Cartoned Eggs" is to be seen on the bills of fare. Thus do eggs whose freshness, size and cleanness is guaranteed by a Minnesota creamery company, whose label appears on every carton, win the preference even over the products of the home henneries of New England. If the Yankee producers want to keep their home markets, they must evidently adopt the new Minnesota methods, of gathering eggs twice a day, prompt shipments and guaranteed excellence.

Laundry Economy.

Soft water, for use in laundry work, saves soap, clothing, time, energy and money.

Buying soap by the box is more economical than buying it by the quarter's worth.

Removing the soap from the box, and piling it in such a way that it will dry, causes it to wash away less rapidly, and therefore to last longer, than if not dried.

Having a firm, substantial wash-bench, of a height suited to the worker, so constructed as to hold the tubs securely in position, saves time and energy.

A good stationary wringer, or one which is so made as to be clamped securely to the tub, is a necessity. When through using the wringer, loosen the screws to relieve the pressure on the rubber rollers; wash clean, wipe dry and put it away where it will keep clean until needed. Occasionally cleaning the wringer with kerosene, and then washing with soapsuds, rinsing and drying, tends to keep it in good condition.

The ironing-table should be of a height suited to the ironer; not low enough to cause the worker to stand in a stooped position, nor so high as to necessitate the lifting of the shoulders while ironing.

The ironing-pad and sheet should be perfectly smooth, and securely fastened to the table, if rapid, efficient work is to be done.

Irons should be of medium weight, smooth and clean. When through using the irons, remove them from the stove and set them on end in a dry place to cool. When they are cool, see that they are clean before putting them away. Irons that are left on the stove day after day are liable to be rough, dirty and unfit for use.

A slip for the ironing holder, made of some coarse white material, is convenient and desirable, because it can be so easily laundered.

Rub the iron, each time it is taken from the stove, on a piece of clean paper or cloth, before using, to prevent the possibility of soiling or scorching the article to be ironed.

A clothes-pin bag, which can be tied about the waist when hanging out or taking in the wash, saves many steps and keeps the clothes-pins clean.

A rope clothes-line should be taken down when not in use, and kept in the clothes-pin bag, where it will be protected from dust and be handy when wanted.—Mary L. Bull, Extension Division Minnesota Agricultural College.

Repairs on the Barn.

Every business man, in making out the annual balance sheet which is to show the profit or loss on business for the year, allows a certain amount for depreciation in the value of his equipment and buildings and for the cost of repairs. He also finds a slack period at some time during the year, when the buildings, machinery and other equipments are overhauled. Unless he does this, he will find that the efficiency and producing power of his plant will not be kept up to the standard.

Every farmer who is in the live stock business is confronted with this same problem. He has his barn and other stable equipment, which remains idle a part of the year, but plays an important part in the returns from the herd during the winter. It should receive a thorough overhauling during the summer, so as to have everything in readiness when fall comes. The floors, unless they are cement, will probably need repairing in various places. In dirt floors, all holes that have been made during the winter should be filled with clay and packed. The inside of the barn should receive a thorough cleaning, and then be given a good coat of whitewash, which will make it lighter as well as more beautiful. The mangers, stanchions, doors or windows may need some repairs; these can be taken care of during a rainy day. To increase the life of the barn, it should receive an occasional coat of paint. There may be places in the barn that last winter let in too much cold air, to the discomfort of the cows. These should be taken care of before the rush of the season is on. There may also be something wrong with the ventilation in the barn, which can be remedied by a little work and a few boards.

These points may seem like small matters, but unless looked after they will do much toward keeping down the milk-flow of the cows, as well as reducing the size of the cream-check. Further than this, there is much pleasure and satisfaction in working in a place that can be kept clean, and where everything is convenient and handy. With these things taken care of, and good handling and feeding, the dairy herd,—where such is kept—should be a profitable adjunct of the farm during the winter.—W. H. Tomhave, Extension Division, University Farm.