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ORCHARD AND GARDEN

February 1-8.

Pruning may be done in the orchard on warm days. Burn the prunings.

Do not let snow remain on specimen evergreens. It is likely to break down the branches. Go over the trees and shake off the snow.

The hotbed should be in shape to put down the last of this month or the first of next. Get the manure ready for it soon.

Test all farm and garden seed now if it has not been done. Planting untested seed is too expensive.

Now is a good time to make bird houses for use next spring. Put them up as soon as made, as most birds prefer to have the newness worn off before they build in a house.

The bulbs put away last fall should soon be rooted enough to bring into the living rooms to help brighten up things. Be sure they are well rooted before taking them from the cellar.

Geraniums when grown in the house often lose their leaves because they are kept in sour or wet soil or because they are kept too dry. Sometimes in a dry, dusty room the red spider will cause the leaves to turn yellow and fall. Keep the air in the room moist and dip the plants in water once in a while to remove dust.

Order seeds now. From the catalogs so far received, it seems that there will not be many new things offered for planting this year. This is one of the years when we cannot afford to try uncertain things. We must use the best seed obtainable in as small quantity as possible to get the best results and take every possible care in the way of soil and culture to get the maximum results from what is put into the soil.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

February 8-15.

The florist business of the United States last year amounted to about \$100,000,000.

Early celery, pansies, cauliflower and cabbage may be sown soon.

It is said over \$1,000,000 worth of flowers were sold in the Twin Cities last year. This business gives employment to more than 1,000 persons.

Be sure the garden tools are in shape for the campaign this year. Buy new tools now if they are needed. This is a good time also to purchase fertilizer for this year's use.

According to the bureau of crop estimates the cabbage acreage in the important states was 66,800, the yield per acre 7.5 tons, the total yield 502,700 tons, and the farm value \$17,080,000.

Did you save any seed last year of your best vegetables? It will pay to give some attention to doing so this year. Tomatoes, corn, beans, radish, lettuce, etc., may be saved if care is taken to select seed from only the best plants.

The pelargonium, or pansy geranium, makes a good potted plant for Easter. As soon as it is through blooming, it should be allowed to ripen its wood and then be given a rest for two or three months. It cannot be kept growing continuously like the ordinary geranium.

Gardeners, the country over, are unanimous in saying that the war gardens did not in the least hurt their business. In most places they helped it and also helped to furnish the needed supply of fresh vegetables. Let us plant more of them this year and take better care of them. It will pay.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

30,000 FARM ACCOUNT BOOKS ARE SENT OUT

More than two hundred Minnesota country banks have purchased through the Minnesota Bankers' association 30,000 farm account books for distribution as complimentary copies among such farmer customers as may be interested in adopting a simple and useful system of farm records. This account book provides convenient forms for recording the annual inventory, cash receipts and expenses, and for making a summary of the year's business that will show the amount that the farmer has earned by his year's work, over and above business expenses and interest on his investment.

USE SKIMMILK IN COOKING

Aside from its food value, skimmed milk adds much to the quality and flavor in cooking, and is a first aid in converting left-overs into palatable dishes. Milk used in bread in place of water adds as much protein to a pound loaf of bread as there is in one egg. It gives a softness of texture to bread that adds particularly to the palatability of Graham or bran bread.

EDITOR'S CORNER

EDITORS' SHORT COURSE

The University of Minnesota will offer its second annual short course for editors this month.

The time, February 11 to 14. The place, University Farm, St. Paul, Minnesota.

The program will include practical studies in and discussions of—

Cost finding
Papers
Inks and press work
News writing
The use of "free stuff"
The editorial column.

Inspirational addresses will be given each evening and sociability will be encouraged when the editor-students get together daily at luncheon and at dinner.

For information address Office of Publications, University Farm, St. Paul.

ADVERTISEMENTS

"Wanted—a sturdy, steady man Of any age at all— One who can handle heavy weights, And help to lift and haul. Color or creed will matter not; He need not read or write. We work the union eight-hour day With double pay at night. Experience we'd like, of course, But any man who's strong (A laborer is what we want) Could qualify ere long. To put this man to work at once Our foreman we empower, So please report, prepared to start At 60 cents an hour.

And lo! a little further down The advertising page: "Wanted—an office man with brains, Past thirty years of age. A clever correspondent—one Who is not prone to shirk, And will not feel himself aggrieved When asked to do night work; A man of some experience, A college man preferred, With quick intelligence endowed, And by ambition spurred. The highest references we Require—the man we seek We'll gladly pay a salary, To start of twelve a week." —Beaatrice Barry, in the New York Times.

AMERICA'S FIRST CARTOON

Benjamin Franklin's Pennsylvania Gazette was the first American newspaper to print a cartoon. There were rumors of a possible war with the French, which resulted in a call for a meeting at Albany of the representatives of the British colonies. Franklin was one of the commissioners and to increase the force of an appeal for united action, on May 9, 1754, printed a cartoon representing a snake cut into eight parts, the head representing New England, and the other seven parts the various colonies outside of New England. The legend read: "Join or die."

DE-INKED PAPER

The Inland Printer announces that there is promise of relief in the paper situation in the fact that Dr. Thomas Jasperson, of Neenah, Wis., is soon to begin the manufacture of de-inked paper. The Inland Printer says:

"Dr. Jasperson has demonstrated the practicability of his de-inking process for making used paper new, which means that of the 6,000 tons of news paper used in the United States every day, 1,500 pounds can be reclaimed. The saving should go far toward relieving the shortage of print paper."

FEED IS SAVED BY GOOD HOUSING

Comfortable shelter cuts the feed bills for nearly all classes of livestock in winter. This is especially true in northern Minnesota. M. J. Thompson, superintendent of the northeast experiment station at Duluth, says:

"When livestock is comfortable it requires less feed. In order to keep chickens dry and healthy during the winter, it is well to provide a 'straw loft,' composed of either hay or straw, and not stuffed full. A depth of ten or twelve inches gives sufficient absorbent. Last winter we used straw lofts in hog houses with good results. The moisture problem is a big one in the modern hog house and the source of much of the rheumatism and other ills that hogs are subject to in a prolonged cold spell.

"To turn cattle out for exercise in cold weather is poor practice. Cattle do better if kept comfortable and will consume less feed. Horses are different. A horse converts food into energy that must and can be expended only in action. As a consequence, he should have a certain amount of daily exercise."

TAMARACK A GOOD SUBSTITUTE FOR COAL

In the north where its qualities are known, tamarack is the chosen fire wood after birch, and some prefer it to all other hard woods, says E. G. Cheyney, head of the forestry division of the University of Minnesota, in advocating the use of wood instead of coal as a fuel this winter. Mr. Cheyney says he has used tamarack for ten years in preference to all other woods, and many other persons have done likewise. Mr. Cheyney says the following are proved facts with regard to tamarack:

It does not pop or throw out sparks when burned round in a fireplace.

It does not burn out a stove if ordinary care is used.

It does make a very hot fire.

It does burn a long time and has been known to hold a fire over night in a fireplace.

It can readily be ignited when split fine.

It is cut from dead, standing trees, and is dry enough to burn well.

BOXES SUGGESTED FOR BUTTER PACKING

Owing to the shortage of stave material and transportation, the United States food administration recommends to creameries that boxes be used in place of the familiar butter tub, where box materials are readily obtainable. Butter can be packed in boxes at about one-third of a cent per pound less than in tubs, and trade prejudice is the only reason boxes are not more generally used.

WHY PEOPLE MUST SAVE WHEAT SUPPLY

The combined wheat production of all countries for 1918 was about 32,000,000 bushels less than last year and about 400,000,000 bushels less than the pre-war average. This decrease from the pre-war average is more than 10 per cent. France shows the greatest decrease of all countries, her 1917 crop being 54.5 per cent less than her average crop before the war.

The total world crop of wheat for 1917 is estimated at 3,347,924,000 bushels, of which the United States produced 69,707,000 bushels, the greatest amount of any nation.

GETTING MONEY TO GET AN EDUCATION

The money which I had been able to save since childhood had seen me through my second year at college, but the luck in which I had trusted to find a way to finance the other two years of my schooling seemed to have failed to materialize.

It looked to me impractical to quit and earn enough to carry me through, and besides the risk is great. So often the fellow who does this finds the earning game too attractive and never returns to his studies.

High finance occupied my thoughts and from my urgent need I devised the following plan which I successfully carried through:

I made arrangements with my banker to lend me fifty dollars the first day of each school month. I then insured my life in his favor, and from the savings of my summer's earnings I was able to pay my insurance dues and keep up my interest. If I were fortunate enough to save anything further, I could pay off part of my indebtedness.

By this method my banker was safe; I was never worried as to my being able to meet college expenses, and, too, it gave me uninterrupted time in which to continue my studies, which were unusually heavy.

When I left college I was capable, and accepted a position that netted me enough rapidly to dispose of my indebtedness.

Besides having my schooling I had learned to finance my own "ship of state," an dhad acquired the habit of saving money.—M. C. R. in the American Magazine for November.

CONSERVATION TIPS FOR THE HOUSEWIFE

To save sugar:
Omit icing from cakes and fancy breads.

Use fruit and nuts, candied honey or maple sugar for cake fillings.
Sweeten fruit drinks with honey or corn syrup.

Instead of sugar use figs, dates, raisins, syrup or a light sprinkling of maple sugar to sweeten breakfast cereals.

Try cakes that call for honey or syrup instead of sugar.

Replace white sugar candies with syrup candies or sweets made from figs, dates and raisins combined with nuts.

Tide over the sugar shortage by using your jellies, jams, preserves and fruits canned with sugar, now.

A fruit salad or fruit omelet makes a delicious dessert.

COUNTY AGENT PLAN GOING OVER THE TOP

It looks as if Minnesota would go over the top in complying with the federal government's plan to place a county agricultural agent in every county in Minnesota, says F. E. Balmer, state leader of county agents.

Eighteen counties were permanently organized and had agents at work on November 1, 1917. These were: Anoka, Clay, Crow Wing, Dakota, Faribault, Grant, Jackson, Hennepin, Kittson, Lac qui Parle, Murray, Otter Tail, Ramsey, Renville, St. Louis, Steele, Traverse, Washington. On January 24, 1918, 34 additional counties had organized and were ready to secure county agents. These counties include the following: Beltrami, Benton, Blue Earth, Carlton, Carver, Chisago, Cook, Cottonwood, Dodge, Freeborn, Fillmore, Hubbard, Lincoln, Mahanomen, Marshall, Martin Mille Lacs, Morrison, Nobles, Pennington, Pine, Pipestone, Polk, Red Lake, Redwood, Rice, Roseau, Rock, Sherburne, Stearns, Waseca, Watonwan, Wright, Yellow Medicine.

In addition, the following counties are in the process of organization, expecting to secure membership required in order to comply with the federal plan. These are: Aitkin, Becker, Bigstone, Brown, Cass, Goodhue, Isanti, Itasca, Kanabec, Kandiyohi, Lake, LeSueur, Lyon, McLeod, Meeker, Mower, Nicollet, Olmsted, Stevens, Swift, Todd, Wabasha, Wadena, Wilkin, Winona.

This leaves nine counties yet to respond to the government's call for patriotic organization. In three of these, Clearwater, Koochiching, and Scott, the question has not yet been considered. In the remaining six—Chippewa, Douglas, Houston, Norman, Pope, Sibley—there have been delays. Mr. Balmer believes that by February 1 Minnesota will have completed the job which the United States government wanted done.

WILSON APPROVES BARLEY BISCUIT

Having tried barley baking powder biscuit in his home and found them equal in every respect to the white flour product, State Food Administrator A. D. Wilson is recommending them unqualifiedly. For the real conservationist they can be made a 100 per cent wheat-saving food, or for the person who wishes to approach the perfect stage gradually can be made on a basis of half barley and half white flour. A recipe for barley baking powder biscuit, prepared by Miss Mildred Weigley, of the home economics department of the college of agriculture, reads:

3 cups of barley flour or 1½ cups of barley flour and 1½ cups white flour
1 cup liquid
4½ tablespoons fat
6 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon salt.

Minnesota mills are producing 10,000 barrels of barley flour daily and because the local demand has not yet reached this point a large portion of this is being shipped out of the territory. A greater use of the barley flour would reduce the use of wheat and release the latter for export and help to win the war.

PEELING SAVES POSTS FROM BORING INSECTS

All fence posts should be peeled. Peeling keeps boring insects out of the posts. Since peeling is desirable, it is best to cut posts in the spring.

If the posts are not to be given preservative treatment, they need not be seasoned. Records show that unseasoned peeled posts last just as long as seasoned ones. If the posts are to be seasoned, they should be piled in square piles, each tier of posts at right angles to the tiers below. These piles should be placed where they will be well ventilated. If large season cracks appear, the posts should be piled like cord wood. It takes from two weeks (in dry hot weather) to three months to complete seasoning.

Setting posts in concrete does not materially lengthen their life. Neither does placing small stones or sand around them. Nor does setting the posts upside down have any effect on the length of life.

Charring the butts, or treating them with wood preservatives, increases their life.—J. H. Allison, Forestry Division, Minnesota College of Agriculture.

POTATO LEFSE

To cold mashed potatoes add salt and knead in enough flour to make a dough that can be rolled much thinner than ordinary pie crust. Bake this in large sheets on a hot griddle, or wash the top of your range and heat it, then bake the lefse on the top of the range. The latter is the more common practice.

MAKE READY NOW FOR SPRING RUSH

There should be no lost time in the field this year. Help is going to be scarce and every move should count. The forehanded farmer will see that the seed is cleaned and treated before the land is fit for seeding. He will also see that the implements needed are ready for work before the frost is out of the ground. Prompt seeding when the season opens is one of the essentials in securing a good crop.

Farmers are not the only ones who are going to be short of help this year. Mechanics and shop men, as well as farmers, are in demand in the army. This means that there may be delay in getting repairs when wanted. For this reason one should look over all of his machines during the winter season and order the extras or parts that are needed to put the machine in good working order.

In preparing for the season's work it would be well to bear in mind that it is better to have an extra part or two left over unused than it is to lose two or three days waiting during harvest time for repairs. In other words, order parts that are likely to break, whether they are actually broken at the time of ordering or not. This is the sort of preparedness that counts in getting efficient crop production.

Seed cleaning, repair ordering and putting the machines in condition for work should be the order of the day as soon as the summer's wood pile and supply of ice have been provided.—Andrew Boss, University Farm, St. Paul.

PNEUMONIA IS AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The report of deaths due to preventable disease in Minnesota shows 1,582 deaths from pneumonia in the first 10 months of 1917, and 1,587 from tuberculosis.

The death rate from pneumonia is not showing improvement from year to year as is the case with most infectious diseases.

Pneumonia will continue to increase in prevalence as long as public indifference to it increases.

"If we are to cut down this terrific pneumonia death rate, we must make the public understand," says the state board of health, "that it is highly infectious and very frequently fatal. It will probably be necessary to make it reportable and quarantinable and the public will have to be taught that coughing, spitting and sneezing in crowded places are dangerous practices and to a large extent responsible for the spread of diseases like this one."

SHOW PARTIOTISM BY USING POTATOES

A recipe that will aid in potato consumption and save in the use of wheat is this for yeast potato bread, recommended by the division of home economics at University Farm:

½ cup liquid (milk and water)
1 tablespoon salt
4 cups mashed potatoes
1 cake yeast, compressed or dried, softened in ¼ cup water
8 cups flour.

Directions for making yeast potato bread using compressed yeast: Combine liquid, salt, potatoes, and compressed yeast softened in ¼ cup warm water. Mix into a dough with about 6 cups of the flour and knead. Let rise until double original bulk. Knead and add remainder of the flour. When again double in bulk, bake about one hour.

Directions for making yeast potato bread using dried yeast: Make a sponge at night of 1 cake of dried yeast, ¾ cup water, and 1½ cups white flour. Cover and let stand in a warm place over night. In the morning combine salt and potatoes with the sponge, and mix into dough with about 4½ cups of the flour and knead. Let rise until double original bulk. Knead and add remainder of the flour (2 cups). When again double in bulk, bake about 1 hour.

Note:—A half pint measuring cup is used and all measurements are leveled. The flour is measured after sifting.

RURAL SCHOOLS SELL 1,500,000 R. C. SEALS

The rural schools of Minnesota disposed of 1,500,000 Red Cross seals, over twice the number sold last year. This is the number just reported to national headquarters by the Minnesota Public Health association and will be increased when tardy reports are in.

As a result of the sales, 50,000 Modern Health Crusader certificates were issued, 100,000 buttons and medals were distributed, and several thousand health charts are now being sent out to various schools. In addition a nurse will be sent to the rural districts for a period of one month for each 28,000 seals sold.