

Farm Extension Service Notes

By H. H. ELLIS, County Agent

Testing Seed Corn

It is important to have good seed in growing any crop but it is very important to have good seed in the case of corn and potatoes. In the case of corn it is possible to test every ear if not every kernel and thereby be practically sure that every kernel will sprout. Now is the time to test the seed corn for the coming season. The best time to select seed corn is before it is harvested from the stalk but if you have not done that it will be necessary to select from the crib.

Only heavy, solid ears should be used for seed, and the ears chosen should contain kernels of a good uniform length, width, and thickness. Ears containing kernels of various sizes and shapes should be discarded.

Each ear can be numbered by sticking a pin through a piece of paper into the end of the cob and ten kernels taken from each ear and tested to determine whether they will grow. If weak or dead kernels are found, the ears from which they were taken should be discarded. To test the germination of corn accurately it will be necessary to take considerable pains with the work. Procure a box about 5 or 6 inches deep, and large enough to give a space 2 inches square to each ear that is to be tested. Place from 2 to 3 inches of warm, moist soil in the box and pack with a board. The soil may be heated by placing it in a bag and dipping it in warm water, then allowing it to drain, and all the surplus water. Next take a piece of white muslin and mark it off with an indelible pencil in 2-inch squares and number the squares. Place this on the sawdust and take from each ear ten kernels and place them in a square marking the ear with the same number as the square as mentioned above. Take the kernels each from a different part of the ear. When all the squares are filled wet another piece of muslin and place it over the kernels. This piece should be larger than the box. The place warm, moist sawdust enough to fill the box. Keep this box in a warm room four or five days and examine by pulling up the top cloth a little to see if the corn has sprouted. To read the test well the sprouts should be about one-half inch long but they should not be allowed to go too long as it will be difficult to take the top cloth off without disturbing the kernels. When it is ready, to read take off as much of the dust with your hands as you can, then remove the top cloth carefully and you can tell which ears are bad and discard them. Discard any ear that has a single weak sprout or dead kernel. You will be surprised to see that some you thought would sprout were no good.

Before shelling, all small and poorly developed kernels should be removed from the ear, as they will produce weak and barren stalks. If the seed is to be planted with a corn planter, the large, irregular kernels from the butts of the ears should also be discarded before the ears are shelled.

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Three attendants and 27 patients are believed to have perished in the fire which gutted the upper floors of one of the large pavilions of the Manhattan State Hospital for the insane at Ward's Island, New York City. Photo shows view of the 4th floor corridor in which many are said to have died, trapped by the barred windows. Cells are shown on each side of the hall. The building housed the inmates obsessed with suicidal mania.

NEITHER night sessions nor any other expedient has, up to the time of writing, had any effect on the senate filibuster by which a small minority is preventing the taking of a vote on the ship subsidy bill. Reed, Curaway, Brookhart, Williams, Hedin and others of this precious gang relieve one another in making long-winded speeches on Russia, the Akh-Amen, the West Indies—any subject under the sun except ship subsidy; and their efforts seem so well organized that it is generally admitted that the measure is really dead. Majority leaders in the senate planned, if the filibuster did not end with the week, to ask permission of the President to abandon the bill so that passing business might be transacted during the final week of the session.

Just before taking a recess for Washington's birthday the senate did get a chance to approve the conference report on the army appropriation bill, which carries the \$36,000,000 rivers and harbors provision.

In the house another filibuster developed over the bill for the purchase by the government of the Cape Cod ship canal. But that sort of thing can be stopped by the house rules.

WISCONSIN Socialists came to the front rather startlingly last week. In the lower house of the state assembly they, in combination with the administration forces, put through a bill to abolish the Wisconsin National Guard. The measure was passed by acclamation, the opposition being negligible in numbers. It was taken for granted that the bill would be killed by the senate or vetoed by Governor Illiame, but this did not materially lessen the frantic joy of the Socialists, who felt they had put over something on the so-called progressives and justified their claim that the Wisconsin assembly is the most radical of all the state legislatures. The radicals are threatening to pass so many bills that would hamper capital that the Wisconsin Manufacturers' association laid before the legislature a list of 65 manufacturing establishments which have planned large extensions and additions, but which will not go forward with the work if pending bills go through. George Knill, secretary of the association, read a formal statement that passage of radical measures, including tax bills now before the legislature, would place an "unfair, discriminatory and unbearable burden upon industry."

THE New York house of representatives, by a vote of 78 to 64, adopted a resolution asking congress to liberalize the Volstead law, and next day the senate approved it. Under an amendment adopted the resolution must be signed by Governor Smith to be effective. The Democrats rather resented this way of "making the governor a clerk for the transmission of the memorial," but it was said Mr. Smith would comply with the requirement.

THEOPHILE DELCASSE, one of the most eminent French statesmen of this generation, died last week in Nice. He became minister of foreign affairs in 1898 and held the post eleven years in five successive cabinets. Among his great achievements was the creation of the entente cordiale between France and Great Britain. Apparently foreseeing the World war, he succeeded in forcing Italy and the central empires apart and in conciliating the opposing interests of Russia and England, thus preparing the ground for the quadruple entente.

Another notable figure passed away last week in the death of Mrs. John A. Logan, widow of the famous cavalry general of the Civil war, in her home in Washington. She succumbed to influenza. Mrs. Logan, who was eighty-six years old, never lost her active interest in public affairs.

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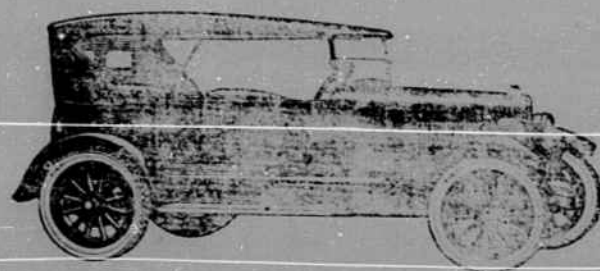
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