

Our Farm Department

Devoted to the Interest of Those Who Till the Soil

CONDUCTED BY J. M. BEATY

THE FARMERS INSTITUTE.

The doctors, lawyers, bankers, merchants, cotton mill men, lumber manufacturers and men of almost all trades and professions have their meetings to talk over matters that concern them. It is said to be harder to get farmers to see the importance of such meetings than people of other professions and really it seems that way. A great many farmers seem suspicious of each other and of everybody else. We notice this in their attitude to the farmers institutes. The Department of Agriculture arranges for these institutes free to the farmers and yet many of them seem never to see the importance of the work. In a large county like Johnston there should be several hundred farmers at an annual institute such as was held here August 9th. There were hardly as many as one hundred in attendance but the work goes on and all who attend are benefited. The institute was the best ever held here and the only discouraging feature was the small attendance.

The institute opened at 10:45. Prof. H. H. Hume spoke on "How to improve our Soils."

"To what extent should farmers engage in trucking?" was discussed by Mr. R. H. Gower.

"Farm Poultry" by Prof. J. S. Jeffreys.

At 2 o'clock Prof. Franklin Sherman talked on "Insect Pests."

"Farm Dairying" was discussed by Prof. J. C. Kendall.

At 2 o'clock the ladies held a meeting in the Pythian hall which was led by Profs. Hume and Kendall and Miss Mae Card.

The following were appointed an institute committee for next year: W. M. Sanders, Chairman, R. H. Gower, G. B. Smith, C. C. Young, J. P. Canaday, Josephus Johnson, J. J. Rose, E. T. Westbrook, J. D. Smith, W. A. Edwards, D. B. Oliver, O. P. Rose, D. H. Bagley, J. L. Jones, W. G. Wilson and R. H. Biggs.

Don't Invite Hog Cholera.

None of our readers will be so foolish as to knowingly invite such an unwelcome guest to their farms and feed lots as the dreaded hog cholera. None the less, however, many unwittingly issue an urgent invitation.

It is well understood that the genuine hog cholera and its next of kin, swine plague, are germ diseases, and that they will not appear on any farm unless the germ has first been in some way introduced. It is perhaps not so well understood as it should be that, even if introduced, it will not necessarily prove fatal unless a seed bed has been prepared for these germs. They have their own proper environment, and farmers are more likely to invite them by preparing the proper seed bed than in any other way.

Western farmers are to be congratulated on the fact that there is, as far as we know, very little cholera this year, nor has there been for the last year or two. We seldom have any great amount of cholera when corn is either scarce or high priced. This is so common an observation that it has almost passed into a proverb. We often hear the remark that cholera comes in with new corn. All who have made a careful study of the disease know that new corn does not contain the germ of cholera or of swine plague. Hence the proverbs above mentioned must have their conception in the fact, quite well established, that a constant corn diet produces so to speak, a proper seed bed for the cholera germ, especially if farmers begin to feed it before it is fit, namely, in the roasting ear stage.

Some reader may ask: How does feeding hogs on roasting ears prepare a proper seed bed

for hog cholera? The answer to this is quite easy: Corn alone, no matter how sound or well matured, does not furnish in itself the material adapted to the growth and development of a healthy pig. In other words, a pig grown on corn from pighood up lacks a good deal of the essential requirements for health. There is not enough bone-making material, as is shown by the uniform softness and weakness of bones of hogs on an exclusively corn diet. Neither is there enough muscle making material; hence there is a lack of muscular development in hogs grown in the corn country, unless the corn has been balanced by feed containing a greater amount of protein or muscle-making material. Especially is this true where farmers begin feeding their hogs corn in the roasting ear and continue to use it as an exclusive feed until they are finished for market.

In fact, a good deal of what is called hog cholera is simply the corn disease, or lowered vitality caused by the continuous feeding of a one-sided or unbalanced ration, especially when this is fed to young and growing pigs.

Many farmers who feed corn altogether unconsciously balance it, and thus avoid many of the evils, when they feed their hogs on skim milk or buttermilk, or when they give them the run of clover pastures, or in the fall of the year in a timber country an opportunity to gather mast. Were it not for this unintentional balance, we would see far greater mortality among hogs than we see now.

This unbalanced ration produces, so to speak, a seed bed for the cholera germs; and when they are once introduced, especially in sections where there is a large hog population, the disease increases in malignancy and sweeps over the country, particularly along the railroads, sometimes becoming so malignant that it even sweeps through herds that have been kept under the best possible conditions both in regard to diet and sanitation.

Therefore the way to avoid hog cholera is to keep the hogs under the best sanitary conditions, with clover or blue grass pastures, with spring or well water, with clean and dry sleeping places, and at this season of the year an abundance of shade of some kind.

Many farmers unwittingly invite hog cholera when it appears in their neighborhood, by permitting their neighbors to visit their hog yards on one pretext and another. Others very foolishly accept a neighbor's invitation to visit his yards and give their judgment as to what is the matter with the pigs. When cholera appears every hog yard should be absolutely quarantined. Neighbors should be forbidden to enter on general principles. You should not permit your father or your brother or your brother-in-law, or any of your wife's relations, to come snooping around your hog yard to see how your pigs are growing, and whether they have cholera or not. It goes without saying that peddlers of dead hogs, which in former times spread the disease most efficiently, should be absolutely forbidden to enter the premises. Keep your hogs at home, and see that your neighbors keep theirs at home. Use every precaution to prevent the germ of the disease finding a lodgment on your farm.

Fortunate is the man in hog cholera times, whose buildings are away from the main traveled road. Fortunate also is the man who at such times has few visitors, whether business or social. We have known instances of herds thus situated and kept under quarantine that were entirely free from the disease, while the herds on adjoining farms were swept away by it.

There is plenty of good money in the hog business. If farmers will breed carefully, feed carefully, and use all precautions against the spread of the disease, there is a chance to make more good money in hogs this year than any year within our recollection.

—Wallace's Farmer.

For Ellwood Field Fence call on Cotter-Underwood Co.

To what Extent Should our Farmers Engage in Trucking Crops?

The following speech was delivered by Mr. R. H. Gower before the Farmers Institute held at Smithfield August 9th:

While we are doing our part to cloth the world; producing about 30,000 bales of cotton per year, and standing third in the list of cotton producing counties in the State, we are not producing possibly more than two thirds enough food crops to feed our own people. If we could know the amount of corn, meal, flour, meat, lard, butter and all other articles of food shipped into our county, I've no doubt it would verify the above assertion. And yet, all the world with its teeming millions has got to be fed.

Two great lines of railway, the Southern and the Coast Line cut our county in to four quarters, crossing in the centre. We are in a few hours of the great northern markets. We have a soil and climate perfectly adapted to most of the trucking crops; an abundance of good reliable labor and yet this great mine of wealth that might be ours lies almost untouched and undeveloped. Our people are too much inclined to run in ruts. We all too are putting too many eggs in one nest. If the price of cotton, this fall, should drop to 8 cents it would bankrupt the county. The entire crop at that price would scarcely pay the farmers and merchants debts. But if we had grown and sold enough trucking crops all through the year, (a thing we could have done) to have kept off the store account we would be far better off. We would be in a position to hold our cotton and thus help to keep up the price, getting perhaps as much money for our cotton as if we had planted no trucking crop at all. Around Clayton, the section of the county in which I live, we are making a beginning. An average of 200 lbs. of butter per week is shipped from the two dairies near the town, fifty cart loads of water melons, two cars of canteloupes and two of Irish potatoes have been shipped this season. We are on the Southern road, Farmers on the Coast Line would have an advantage over us in shipping. One great thing about trucking crops is that you can grow two crops a year on the same land and leave the land 25 per cent. better off for the strain. After potatoes you can grow corn and peas; after melons a crop of peavines and crab grass; hay; after cabbage, turnips, etc.

We have in our own county eleven thriving growing towns, these are at their present rate of growth, will, in a few years, make good markets. But the farmer does well to remember that the world has got to be fed and that it is always in six months of starvation; it can cut on clothes, but not much on rations. Of course to succeed with these crops require much more brain, energy and attention than straight cotton and corn. The extent to which I would advise trucking in our county, is just what I have done for the past two years. Cut your cotton acreage 20 per cent and put that much acreage in these crops.

Changes in Ten Years.

In his address a few days ago to the National Live Stock Exchange in Chicago in reviewing the wonderful advances made in the past ten years, Thomas Kelly said in his address:

The average price of 2,500,000 bushels of corn has been doubled the last ten years, adding \$500,000,000 annually to the created wealth of America. The average price of hogs and sheep has been more than doubled. Cattle are selling forty to sixty per cent higher, benefitting the producer hundreds of millions yearly. Distributing stations for America's meat products girdle the globe, bringing \$180,000,000 of foreign gold to our shores each year, to "leaven the dough," and add to that wonderful prosperity which is the marvel of all nations. Thousands of cold storage

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William Bryant, of Montgomery county, this State, long known as the "cattle king," died a few days ago in his 83d year. He began a poor boy and built up an estate worth \$200,000.—Indiana Farmer.

Scrub yourself daily, you're not clean inside. Clean inside means clean stomach, bowels, blood, liver, clean, healthy tissue in every organ. MORAL: Take Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea. 85 cents, Tea or Tablets. Hood Bros.

The Oldest Mule is Dead.

Probably the oldest mule in the United States died recently in this county. The mule belonged to John Davis, colored, of Ansonville township, and was 40 years old. That the mule was every day of 40 years old is established beyond a doubt. Mr. M. W. Hyatt, one of Ansonville township's most substantial citizens, tells the M. & I. that he was present, as a lad, when his father, the late David Hyatt, of this county, traded for the mule. This was 38 years ago, and Mr. Hyatt says the mule was two years old when it came into the possession of his father. At the sale of his father's effects Mr. Hyatt bought the mule and owned it until about five years ago, when he sold it to Davis. The mule, Mr. Hyatt further deposes, did good work on the farm until this spring.—Wadesboro Messenger and Intelligencer.

The Origin of Coffee.

Coffee was discovered in 1285 by a dervish named Handji Omar, a native of the town of Mocha—hence the familiar name. Handji Omar, lost in an Arabian desert, was dying of hunger, when he discovered some small, round berries. On trying to eat them he found, to his disgust, that they were extremely bitter. Then he tried roasting them, and finally steeped a few thus roasted in water. Naturally, this was coffee, and, though of the worst description, so agreeable did Handji Omar find it that as soon as he could make his way back to his native town, he introduced this new drink to the wise men of the city. So well pleased were they with it that the dervish was made a saint.—North Western Agriculturist.

Fifteen Years for Lyncher.

Salisbury, N. C., Aug. 10—George Hall, of Montgomery county, charged with being one of the leaders in the lynching here Monday night was tried in Rowan Superior Court here today and sentenced to fifteen years in prison, the maximum of the law.

This was the first case against the Rowan lynchers. The trial was a speedy one, and it is the first instance in the history of the State, when a prisoner charged with aiding in a lynching was convicted, and is considered a distinct victory for the court and the law.

The Golden Rule Applied.

"Really, Mr. Hanson," said the fair girl, "I'm shocked to hear you confess such behavior in your business dealings. You should always 'do unto others as you would have others do unto you.'"

"You wouldn't have me do that always?"

"Certainly," she replied; "always."

"All right. Here goes!" he cried, and kissed her.—Ex.

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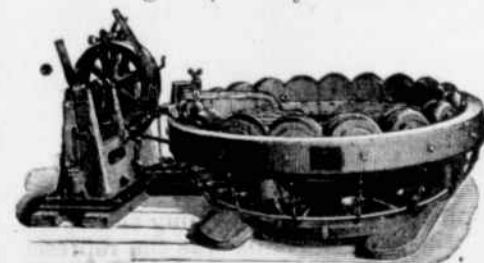
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