

NEED A NINE-MONTHS SCHOOL.

The Smithfield High School Cannot Get on Accredited List of Schools Because the Term is Too Short.

The Smithfield High School made application for accredited relations to the Commission on accredited schools and the following letter is in reply: Chapel Hill, N. C., Dec. 15, 1917.

Supt. H. B. Marrow,
Smithfield, N. C.

Dear Mr. Marrow:
Your application for accredited relations was presented to the Commission on Accredited Schools at its recent meeting and was held up because of the fact that the Smithfield school has only an eight months' session. The commission declines now to accredit any schools that do not run for nine months exclusive of holidays. I hope that you will present this matter to your committee in order that they may know definitely wherein the Smithfield school is not measuring up to the standard required by the Commission on Accredited Schools of the Southern States.

Cordially yours,
N. W. WALKER,
State Inspector of High Schools.
It is evident from this letter that before our High School is placed on the accredited list we must have a nine months' session. This means that we will have to have more money. But it should be done for we had a nine months' session until the last few years and we should not allow our school to fall short of its former high standard.

Seven Ways to Increase Winter Comfort on the Farm.

We ought to make winter a happier time than it is on the average farm; and here are seven suggestions looking to that end:

1. Hardly anything else produces more discomfort, at least for those who do the feeding and milking, than the mud, mire and filth around the barnlot. And yet this evil, with little trouble, can be largely remedied. As we said sometime ago:

"There is no reason why the stock should not be kept away from at least one side of the barn and a mud-free approach maintained if a little attention were given to the drainage and the making of a walk, path or driveway. Where there are large numbers of animals, the whole lot may not be kept solid and free from mud, but at least a portion of the barnlot should be paved or made solid in some way, so as to give a comfortable place for the animals to rest."

2. The absence of suitable winter clothing also does much to add to the unpleasantness of winter—and also to its dangers, hundreds of people dying of pneumonia and kindred diseases every winter because of negligence at this point. Sweaters, overshirts, overcoats, raincoats and leggings should be available for each man or boy in the family; and substantial raincoats, overshirts and cloaks for each girl or woman. School children especially should have warm coats and stout shoes.

3. The rooms of the average farmhouses are large and consequently heat slowly. A small bathroom with a quick heating oil stove will enable the family to dress with much greater comfort and satisfaction on cold mornings.

4. The average farmer has plenty of firewood but no woodshed to keep it in. It's hard enough to keep up fires in winter even with dry wood. If a farmer can't build a woodshed now, he can cover the woodpile in some way, if only with loose boards.

5. Have a sheltered place and an "un-itinerant" trough for hog feeding. It is not very pleasant on a dark rainy evening to stagger to the hogpen with a bucket of slops and find that the trough is about ten feet from the fence and the mud between you and it ten inches deep. The wise farmer will therefore have a sheltered place with permanent fixtures—preferably with concrete—where he may feed his hogs without great loss of time or patience.

6. If he hasn't waterworks, the farmer should at least provide a good cover for the well and a firm walkway to the kitchen. We may not be able to give the women of the household the best thing possible in this line—complete waterworks—but we can at least give them protection in going to and from the well in rough and wintry weather.

7. Build a wash-house. Too often the farm washing has to be done in the kitchen where it will muss up everything or outdoors where unrelieved cold and dampness menace the life of the womenfolk engaged in the work. Of course, the basement is the logical place for the laundry, but the average farmhouse has no basement. Build a wash-house of rough boards therefore; put in a laundry stove, and a washing machine, and let the men folk and boys run the machine when they can spare the time.

after putting in window panes where they have been broken out, stopping cracks in the floor and leaks in the roof, etc., and then by adopting these seven other suggestions we believe the members of the average farm family in the South will find their store of winter happiness materially increased.—The Progressive Farmer.

TIME SAVING.

The Colorado College of Agriculture is presenting to the farmer an efficiency matter concerning farm planning that will apply to a good many farms in Indiana as well. The reference in regard to the water trough hits me for that condition exists on our farm. A change is going to be made.

Efficiency means accomplishing work in the shortest possible time with the least possible exertion, says Alfred Westfall. To be efficient does not mean work harder; it gets more returns for the work done. Efficiency is frequently lacking on the farm.

Sometimes the horse trough is not placed near the barn. It may mean that it takes three minutes longer to water the horses. Yet when the horses are watered three times a day, the farmer loses practically ten minutes. In a year this would amount to sixty hours, or six working days of ten hours each. Wouldn't it pay such a farmer to spend four or five days piping his water to the barn?

Sometimes the gate into a field is two hundred yards out of the way. It takes the driver five minutes longer to go round where the gate is than it would if the gate were in the most direct line. He uses the gate only once a week, yet in a year he would waste four hours going around by that out-of-the-place-gate more time than it would take to put in a new gate.

I know of one farm where the water supply is a hundred yards from the house. On an average, half an hour a day is spent carrying water from the well to the house. If a man were hired to carry the year's water supply at one time, it would take him eighteen 10-hour days. If he were paid only a dollar and a half a day, the water system on that farm would cost \$27. A water system that would bring the water to the house and last a life time could be put in for less than that.

How many days per year is lack of efficiency costing on your farm?—Indiana Farmer.

Save All Manure, Straw and Leaves for Fertilizer.

With commercial fertilizers scarce and high-priced, every pound of home-made fertilizers should be carefully saved and used in 1918. With nitrogen at 35 cents, phosphoric acid 6 cents and potash 30 cents a pound when bought in commercial fertilizers, it is of interest and value to calculate the plant food values of the materials commonly found around the average Southern farm.

Stable manure, of which we waste a tremendous amount, contains in each ton about ten pounds of nitrogen, worth \$3.50; five pounds of phosphoric acid, worth \$3.00; and ten pounds of potash, worth \$3, or a total of \$6.80 per ton. To this we would add a value of at least \$3 per ton for the humus value of the manure and because of its promotion of beneficial bacterial activities. Thus where potash is needed, as is the case over much of the Southeast, a ton of manure is worth about \$10, while in those sections where potash is not needed, a ton of manure is well worth about \$7. When we consider that an animal weighing 1,000 pounds will in a year produce eight to ten tons of manure, we can begin to see the importance of saving every possible pound of this material. To do this, cheap sheds for housing the stock at night should be provided, plenty of straw, leaves or other absorbent materials should be used in the stables and barnyard, and all manure should be put on the fields as soon as practicable after it is made.

Straw and leaves are another source of plant food and humus that should not be overlooked. These will probably average higher than stable manure in nitrogen and fully as high in phosphoric acid and potash. Moreover since they contain less water than the average manure, their humus-making value will be considerably greater. When other work is not pressing, several days may well be devoted to hauling these materials out of the woods and putting them in the fields. In the meantime, keep fire out of the woods. Fertilizing material worth \$10 should not be sent up in smoke.

We are not suggesting that these materials be used to take the place of commercial fertilizers, but rather that one be used to supplement the other. As a matter of fact, present prices for practically everything we raise justify heavier fertilization than ever before. So we would not only save all the manure, straw and leaves, but would go rather strong on commercial fertilizers as well. It is a time for making every ounce of plant food do its duty.—The Progressive

JERUSALEM AND SUEZ.

Philadelphia Record.

Let no one be deceived by the pretense of German military experts that Jerusalem has no military significance and that its surrender to Great Britain is unimportant. It marks the collapse of the whole structure of German domination of Asia and Africa. It brings down in the dust and ashes the German dream of dividing Great Britain from India and North Africa and knocking the corner-stone from under the British Empire. In view of the importance of Turkey and the inability of the Kaiser to send help to the Sultan it is the most significant event since the German invasion was stopped on the Marne.

Ernest Jackson wrote in Das Grosere Deutschland in June, 1915, at which time the efforts of Turkey to dislodge the British from Egypt were in progress:

"Suez is the only direct connection of European England and the African, Asiatic and Australian portions of the British world-empire. Here the vital nerve can be struck at. The threat at Calais is a blow with the fist which stuns. At Suez we can stab England through the heart and kill it. Therefore, Suez is an aim which is most strongly to be desired. The world-war is now being fought for securing the territories situated between the Dardanelles and Suez, for organizing a wealthy and powerful Turkey, for securing the growing Germany against England's hostility, for strengthening permanently the centre of England's world-power about or in Suez."

Dr. Paul Rohrbach, an authority in Germany on all foreign questions, particularly of Asia and Africa, and now or formerly of the German Colonial Office, wrote in the same magazine on September 11, 1915:

"When the English troops in Egypt capitulate to the Turks the blow will resound from Gibraltar to Singapore. When the keystone is withdrawn the whole vault of English world-power will tumble down. The day on which England recognizes its downfall in Egypt and in the world will be the birthday of the new Oversea Germany."

And the besotted Dr. Carl Anton Shearer in the same publication two months later was even capable of imagining a German Suez canal, through which British ships would not be allowed to pass even in peace:

"As soon as we have the Suez canal in our hands we can say, answering The Morning Post: 'We forbid you, England, to make use of the Suez canal with your merchant marine even in peace time.' We must never allow England to wrest from our hand the Egyptian scourge by diplomatic trickery. Our ceterum censeo must be the maxim: 'We must conquer the Suez canal.'"

Where is all this bombastic boasting now? For 20 years the Kaiser and all Germany have plotted the dismemberment of the British Empire by severing it at the Suez canal. For that did the Germans, from the Kaiser down, condone the Armenian massacres of 1895. For that did the Kaiser before Armenian blood stopped running stand up in Damascus and proclaim himself hte protector of the Meslems of the world. For that in great part—though Belgium and France were also coveted—was this war precipitated by Germany. For that was Turkey dragged into this war. Its part was to drive the British out of Egypt and secure the Suez canal. It failed to do it. It could not even stop the invasion of Syria from Egypt. The Kaiser was too hard pressed to send any aid to the Sultan. And the fall of Jerusalem marks the fall of the Kaiser's Oriental ambitions, of the German hope of destroying England, and it is not a violent flight of the imagination to see in it the forecast of the fall of the Hohenzollerns.

Fats Are Much Needed; Save .The Sows and Pigs.

Hogs are mentioned by the United States Administrator as one of the three main agencies that will tend to win the war.

Fats are very essential at the present time, and will continue to be after the war has been brought to a close, and their is no quicker nor more abundant producer of fats than the hog. Consequently it is extremely urgent that hogs be conserved and a greatly increased production of them secured.

This can be accomplished in great measure by hog-raisers retaining their breeding sows and their young pigs. Prices for hogs are high at the present time, and there is great temptation for the farmers to dispose of them for slaughter, irrespec of sex, weight, age, or condition, on that account, evidently overlooking the fact that prices will remain high, not only during the period of the war, but for some time after peace has been declared.

No doubt there may be exceptional instances where farmers may be in immediate need of money from the sale of their hogs; but where such is not the case, the indiscriminate dis-

posal of their stock, for temporary gain only, and especially where feed is plentiful, is only lessening their chances for future profit by decreasing the number of their breeding animals, and failing to get the full benefit from their pigs which they would do if they kept them until they had attained greater weight, and, therefore, worth more money on the market.

Under ordinary conditions, it would seem the better part of wisdom to get rid of the old and unprofitable sows, while retaining the younger vigorous animals for breeding stock to increase the herds; but it seems unwise to dispose of the young stuff for slaughter that are under 100 pounds weight at least.

By adopting some such method as that suggested, a greatly increased production of hogs could be secured, and, necessarily, more hog products, including fats, which are so urgently needed at the present time.—W. H. Dalrymple, in The Progressive Farmer.

Do Not Waste the Manure.

As the price of food climbs higher and higher, the value of everything which enters into its production increases in proportion. Every pound of manure you can produce and save this winter is worth nearly twice what it was a year ago.

Is there any manure going to waste on your farm? If there is, stop it now. See that your manure is protected from the weather. If you must leave it outside, pack it down by leading a horse around dover each layer as you build your pile, so it won't fire, and make the pile four feet high, flat on top and straight on the sides, so that the rains won't leach through it.

If your stock are in box stalls, keep these stalls well bedded with leaves and straw at all times, so as to absorb all the liquid excrement. Remember that the liquid is worth more than the solid manure from your animals. By keeping plenty of bedding in your stalls you can practically double the amount of manure you will produce this winter, and you will need every ounce of it next spring.

Thousands of dollars' worth of manure is washed away every winter from the barnyards of the South which might be saved with a little care. Is this the case on your farm? If so, you simply cannot afford to let it continue.

A large amount of manure is lost from stock in the open barn lot. It is difficult to keep horses and cows in stalls all the time. They need exercise, and besides, very often there are not stalls enough to put them all up. Even though you go around with a wheelbarrow and pick up the manure, much of it is lost, and, in fact, all the liquid, the most valuable part, runs away.

Now, here is where the covered lot is the big economical manure saver, and it not only protects the manure, but shelters your stock as well. You do not need a large lot for this purpose, and you can keep it bedded with oak leaves and pine straw, and it will save your bogging around in the mud yourself when you milk or attend to your stock. Then, when you clean out your stalls the manure can be spread evenly over the covered lot and more bedding put on top of it, and here the stock will keep it trampled down and in perfect condition until you are ready to haul it out in the spring.

Building, it is true, is expensive, but more of us are able to make an improvement of this sort this fall than in many a year. Also there isn't an investment you could possibly find to put your money into that would begin to pay as well. It would simply stop all loss and solve your manure problem.

Of course there may be a little leaching into the soil underneath, and if you could put in a cement floor to this yard that would be the thing to do. You should have cement floors to your horse and cow stalls, anyway, to prevent loss.

Next to cement, a fairly effective floor can be made with clay by puddling and packing it down when wet. This will answer very nicely for your lot, and it will pay you to fix it right while you are at it; anyway, by all means build you a covered lot this fall if you possibly can do so. It will be the best investment you ever made, to say nothing of the comfort it will be to you and your stock this winter.—J. F. Mirriam.

It is to be hoped that salmon will be cheaper during the approaching year, for Alaska has done its bit by greatly increasing the supply. Its salmon catch for 1917 was the largest in the history of the territory and the most valuable. Its pack of 5,300,000 cases will yield \$40,000,000 or thrice that of 1916's catch.—Wilmington Star.

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