

MOMENT'S THOUGHT SAVES HUMAN LIFE

OBSERVANCE OF THE SIMPLEST RULES OF SAFETY CONSERVES THOUSANDS.

CARELESSNESS CAUSES DEATH

North Carolinians Should Be Careful During Wartime—Stop! Look! Listen!

(By T. Alfred Fleming, State Fire Marshal of Ohio.)

A moment's thought may save human lives; the observance of the simplest rules of safety may mean the conservation of thousands of dollars in badly needed commodities.

And yet the newspapers are full of harrowing, heart-rending accounts of men, women and babies, burned to death through the thoughtlessness of others.

"Baby perishes in fire: Mother visiting neighbor," reads one headline.

"Explosion kills two; boy and mother fatally burned when lad attempts to start fire with gasoline," reads another.

"Burned when gas explodes," is still another headline.

Death and carelessness are allies; and carelessness is the harbinger under which death makes the charge.

Wartime is the time of conservation.

Are We Conservative?

Are we conserving life and property when such horrors as are headlined daily, occur?

The government orders our food conserved; we give gladly and willingly to the sacred cause for which our own sons are fighting; we are denying, and we will continue to deny ourselves, things thought indispensable to our lives before the clouds of a world's storm covered the globe.

Is it conservation that a babe, who might in the time to come, be the man or woman who would turn the spheres of Destiny, dies through carelessness?

Is it conservation that through not properly inspecting vacant property, a lighted match and an open valve makes for a dangerous explosion and possibly kills or maims for life a human being?

Stop! Think!! Reason!!!

The railway crossings are guarded by the sign "Stop! Look! Listen!"

It is true that this does not eliminate all accidents but it does a vast number.

In the brain of every man and woman should be emblazoned this slogan, Stop! Reason!

No one can tell when property has been vacant for months, what condition the gas pipes and fixtures may be in. As a matter of self protection and for public safety throw open doors and windows before striking a light.

Examine all gas connections and be sure every thing is as it should be.

Cellars are the subterranean galleries where the noxious gases love to hide. Air out the cellar before stopping there long.

Gasoline a Menace.

Gasoline is always dangerous. In a hurry or in the darkness the gasoline can is too often mistaken for the coal oil receptacle. Have distinctive types of cans so there can be no mistake in the dark. If necessary wrap sand paper about the wooden grasp of the gasoline can. In that way no mistake can be made. Paint the gasoline can red; have a certain place to keep it in and when not in use see that it is kept there.

In the cold months there is always danger in the heating appliances for the house, whether coal, gas or electricity is the agent employed.

Never leave children alone in the house where fires are going.

This may seem needless advice, but read the papers.

Tots will play with fire; will get to the match supply. Follow fires and death.

Save Years of Agony.

A moment's thought on the part of parents will save years of agony, remorse and grief.

America is at war; conditions will become more and more active.—this is bound to be; but with the increased activity must come also an increased mental capacity. The brain in these high tension times must be master of the safety of the commonwealth.

We, as a Nation, we, as individuals, must think as we have never thought before, as well as work as we never labored before.

As a community, as a state and as a nation, we cannot afford to lose one ounce of commodity; neither can we afford to lose a single human life, heedlessly, needlessly and unnecessarily.

Conservation does not alone mean the gathering and husbanding and distribution of foodstuffs, munitions, clothing, boots and shoes, but it means also the safeguarding of the lives and health of our people as a nation.

To accomplish all of this our brains must be kept at high tension voltage. We must Stop! Think!! and Reason!!!

Food in the mouths of our allies means shells in the mouths of our enemy. Careless fires which burn food mean shells in the mouths of our allies.

We have arranged for a series of six interesting articles, "War Talks, by Uncle Dan," written by Mr. Howard H. Gross, president of the Universal Military Training League, of which this is the first. They tell in a graphic way why military training is of value, both to the nation and to the individual, and our readers will find them of unusual interest.

WAR TALKS

By UNCLE DAN

Number One

America Must Fight Hard or Germany May Win—Necessity for Military Training.

"Now, Billie," said his mother, "your Uncle Dan is coming tomorrow to spend a week with us on the farm, and if you want to know about the war, here's your opportunity. Uncle Dan is probably one of the best-informed men in the country." Billie clapped his hands and gave such a whoop that he awakened the baby, but what could you expect of a fifteen-year-old boy who is a living interrogation point and wants to know about war?

Uncle Dan arrived in due time and Billie watched for an opportunity. It came that evening after dinner when Uncle Dan had lighted a cigar and taken a seat on the porch.

"I'm mighty glad you came, Uncle Dan. I want to talk to you about the war. We have just put military training in our township high school, but we had a hard time to do it. The Joneses and the Greggs objected. They said the war wouldn't come over here. Grandma Jones said: 'They ain't no use to worry, it will soon blow over.' Well, we put the training in just the same. You ever heard Judge Brownell, the president of the school board, do the shakers up. He said unless we take off our coats and go to it, Germany may yet win, and if she does, she will take over the great British fleet as a war trophy and compel us to do what ever she wants to; that she could make us pay all the cost of the war; the Kaiser could tax us as he pleased and that we couldn't help ourselves. He could make every one pay over a part of what he earns; that he could make the farmers pay rent for their own farms, etc. Now, Uncle, what do you think of that?"

"Well, my boy," said Uncle Dan, "all that Judge Brownell says might easily come true and may unless we go quickly to the aid of the allies with large numbers of men and help them break the German line. Unless we can beat the submarines, they may prevent us from getting enough food to the allies to keep them going. In that case Germany would win. As matters stand today, our greatest need is trained men. If we had had several millions of men with military training in our industries and on our farms when the war came, who could have been called at once for service, I do not believe the Kaiser would have forced the war upon us. As it was, he had no respect for us, and now we are in it and must go through with it. But never again must we be caught so wholly unprepared."

"There is only one safe way," said Uncle Dan, "and that is to adopt permanently universal military training, apply it to every young man who is physically fit, say in his nineteenth or twentieth year. The training can be carried forward in the United States training camps that are now being established for training men called by the selective draft. As soon as these men vacate these stations, they should be filled by younger men, and this should be made the permanent policy of the country."

Billie's mother, Mrs. Graham, had overheard the conversation. She came out and said: "Really, Brother Dan, are you serious as to the dangers of our country? If it is as bad as that, it is high time for us to wake up and do something about it."

"Exactly," replied Uncle Dan. "It is better to wake up now than to be rudely awakened later. We may as well understand, sister, that this is our war and we must win it or God help America. Everything that we have or hope to have—our liberties, our blessings, our opportunities are all involved in the great issue before us. Nothing must stand between us and winning this war. It is a question whether the peoples' right or the Kaiser's might shall dominate the world. If there ever was a holy war, this is it. We are fighting for world liberty. We are fighting for the freedom of humanity. We are fighting for the right of men to govern themselves instead of being governed against their will by a war-mad overlord. Perilous times are ahead of us. We must be prepared to make any sacrifice, to perform any service that may be required of us."

"Oh, Uncle Dan," exclaimed Billie, "may I bring my chum, Jimmie Collins, when we have our next talk? He is a bug on this war business and just crazy to see you."

"Certainly," said Uncle Dan, with a hearty laugh. "If we are to have more talks, I shall be glad to have Jimmie join us."

Billie clapped his hands and ran to the phone and told Jimmie to be over at seven o'clock the next evening.

SELECTING SEED CORN FOR LARGER YIELD NEXT YEAR

All Seed Should Be Selected From The Field.

TO SECURE BEST RESULTS

Entire Plant Should Be Taken Into Consideration And Seed Should Be Selected From Healthy And Vigorous Stalks. How To Select The Best Ears Of Seed Corn.

The method of selecting seed from the barn late in the spring has cost this State thousands of dollars, annually, in reduced yields of corn. No method of selecting seed, either of corn or any other crop, that does not take into consideration the whole plant, will give best results. In selecting seed corn the main thing to be looked after is to have the seed come from stalks that have yielded the highest amount of shelled corn per stalk, uninfluenced by specially favorable conditions. It is absolutely impossible to secure seed of this kind unless the selections are made from the standing stalks in the field during the fall. This is the time of the year now and the only time at which these selections can be made. Every corn grower should go into

his fields, when the weather is favorable, and select seed corn for next year from those stalks that are bearing the highest amount of shelled corn. Of course it will be necessary to see that no external factors have specially favored the stalks from which the selections are made. Ordinarily, where corn is producing twenty-five or

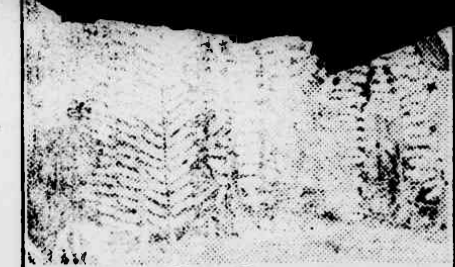


The Time and Place for Selecting Seed Corn.

more bushels per acre it will be well to select the seed from stalks that are bearing two well developed ears per stalk. In making the selections in the field, too great attention should not be given at that time to the character of the ears. Later selection during the winter may be made in the barn when a leisure time presents itself.

The selection should be made from stalks that are healthy and vigorous and on which the top and leaves have remained to thoroughly perform their part in finishing the complete development of the grains. Other things being equal, the ears should be held in a drooping position; but the shanks attaching the ears to the stalk should not be too long.

At least four to five times as much



Drying Out Field-Selected Seed Corn in the Machine Shed.

barrels or boxes that will admit of thorough ventilation, but will keep out rats and mice.

From all the evidence we have gathered from an experience of twenty years in experimental work, largely with corn, we are thoroughly convinced that there are few operations on the farm that when carefully done will give larger returns for the effort than will that of selecting seed in the way indicated above. One might expect on good average land the use of such seed to give at least two to four bushels per acre increase over the average corn that would be secured in barn selection.

Let no one this year fail in North Carolina to select his seed in the field so that next year he can produce maximum yields of this crop for the effort and expenses put into the growing of it.

J. B. WILLIAMS, Chief, Division of Agronomy, N. C. Extension Service, West Raleigh.

Our friends would be pleased to receive marked copies of the News showing your whereabouts and activities; 5 cents a copy.

and might burn your house. Would you take precautions to protect your property? The Southern Commission says many people carelessly, as to their neighbor may be that will wipe out his over night? And what's the consequence in the loss of property, possible life, whether the neighbor is really an enemy or a careless friend. If your neighbor is harboring a defective flue, trash-ridden attic closets or cellar; if his electric wires or stoves are so installed as to endanger the wood-work or if his family or servants handle gasoline or oily rags either ignorantly or carelessly so as to invite the fire-disaster—if your neighbor is doing any of these things or others equally careless or dangerous—its your move. In matters of fire-protection it is strikingly true that "no man liveth to himself alone." Our only safety lies in public sentiment awakened through education.

Stamp out the Red Plague.

ASHES.

The improper storage of ashes continues to cause a great number of fires. Sixty-seven (67) fires were reported as due to this cause in 1915, with a loss of \$10,018. This amount is small compared with the total number of fires and losses, yet it is inexcusable, since the cause is due solely to criminal neglect. Ashes should be stored in closed metal receptacles and final disposal made at a point where property would not be endangered.—Fire Marshall W. E. Laney.

Kirschbaum Clothes

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