

LIVE STOCK

VALUE OF ALFALFA PASTURE

Farmers and Swine Breeders Interested in Experiments Conducted in Nebraska.

A story of value to farmers and hog growers is found in a report of experiments in Nebraska in feeding pigs on alfalfa pasture.

During the summer of 1916, three lots of 20 pigs each were fed corn and 50 per cent protein tankage in soft feeders while running in fields of alfalfa pasture.

The pigs in the dry lots ate 4.18 pounds of tankage per 100 pounds of corn and tankage, while those on alfalfa pasture ate 3.85 pounds of tankage for each 100 pounds of corn and tankage.

The pigs in the dry lots gained at the rate of .32 pound a day, while those in the alfalfa pasture gained at the rate of .41 pound a day.

The pigs in the dry lots ate 297 pounds of corn and 14 pounds of tankage to produce 100 pounds of gain, while those on alfalfa pasture ate 277 pounds of corn and 14 pounds of tankage to produce 100 pounds of gain.

Access to alfalfa pasture reduced the grain eaten to produce 100 pounds of gain nearly one-half.

Considering corn worth \$1.40 per bushel or \$50.00 per ton and tankage worth \$100 per ton, the cost of corn and tankage for 100 pounds of gain in the alfalfa field was \$8.12 as against \$15.47 in the dry lot. Alfalfa pasture reduced the cost of gains nearly one-half.

Many farmers and stock keepers are careless in allowing bits of metal, nails, wire, etc., to get into the manger trough and pull where the cows and calves feed.

Cattle are voracious feeders and take up their feed in large mouthfuls, chewing it but little and swallowing it by wholesale.

Hence, nails, pins, small pieces of wire and such like are quite likely to be taken up with the feed and pass into the stomach or lodge at some point along the channel.

Lodgment of a piece of metal is sure to cause inflammation and pain to the animal. Usually a pointed piece of metal does not remain long in one place; every movement of the animal or organ drives it a little farther in the direction of least resistance, and the result is that a long line of inflammation and festering is set up in the suffering animal.

A bad feature of the disease is that when a vital organ is reached by the moving piece of metal death usually follows, and the owner often attributes the loss to some other cause.

The well-bred beef animal, owing to better feeding quality, can be put in good condition for the market in shorter time than can a scrub. At the same time such an animal can also be fed to advantage for just as long a period as a scrub.

This means that there is greater opportunity for selling a well-bred animal on a good market than is the case with a scrub that must be fed for a longer period in order to be salable at a reasonable price.

Exercise for Horses. Work provides exercise for the horse and insures keeping him in vigorous, healthy condition.

It also accustoms him to being handled by a man, an important factor in the development of stallions.

Buttermilk for Pigs. State buttermilk, if kept clean, gives just as good results as fresh buttermilk in pig feeding.

The trouble, when trouble occurs, is generally due to lack of cleanliness, which causes digestive disturbances.

POULTRY



MAKE MONEY RAISING GESE

Success Can Be Had With Small Numbers Where There is Low Pasture and Water.

The Toulouse and Emden are the most popular breeds of geese in this country. The Toulouse is the largest breed, the adult gander and geese weighing 25 and 20 pounds, respectively, while the standard weights of the Emden are 20 and 18 pounds.

Geese can be raised in small numbers successfully and at a profit on many farms where there is low, rough pasture land containing a natural supply of water. The market for geese is not so general as for chickens, but the demand and prices are especially good in sections where goose fattening is conducted.

Geese need only a house during cold or stormy weather, when an open shed should be provided. One gander is mated with from one to three geese, and the matings are not changed from year to year unless they prove unsatisfactory. When mated, they are allowed to run together in flocks. Toulouse and Emden geese will breed when about two years old. The females are usually kept until they are from twelve to fourteen years old, or as long as they lay well. Sex is difficult to distinguish, especially in young geese. The gander is usually somewhat larger and coarser than the goose, and has a leaner, longer neck and a larger head. The sex is sometimes determined by a critical examination or by the action of the geese at mating time.

Large boxes, barrels or shelters are provided as nests for geese, or they are allowed to make nests on the floor of the house. The eggs should be collected daily and kept in a cool place. First eggs are usually set under hens while the last ones which the geese lays may be hatched either under hens or under the goose if she "goes broody." If the eggs are not removed from the nest where the goose is laying, she will usually stop laying soon.

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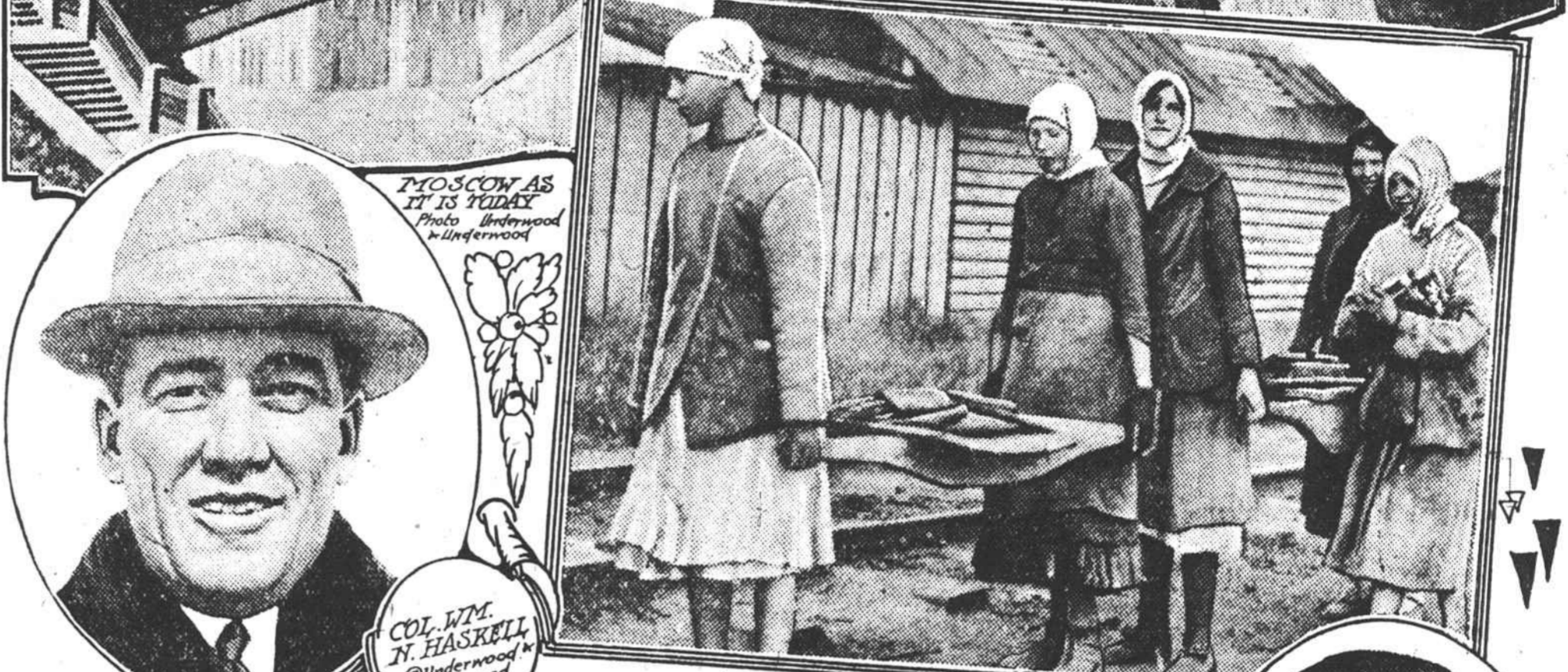
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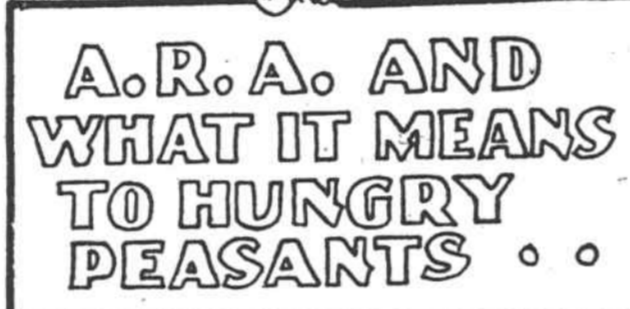
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"AHRA": Starving Russia's New Word



PROSCOV AS IT IS TODAY. Photo Underwood & Underwood.



COL. WM. N. HASKELL. Photo Underwood & Underwood.

A. R. A. AND WHAT IT MEANS TO HUNGRY PEASANTS

By JOHN DICKINSON SHERMAN

AMERICA'S feeding of starving Russia has introduced a new word into the vocabulary of that famine-stricken nation. This feeding of Russia is the biggest piece of philanthropy in all history. Doubtless it will affect the history of the future. But whatever its effect in the years to come its immediate result has been to add a new word to the Russian vocabulary that is said with heartfelt gratitude by the peasant masses and shouted joyfully by the children. It is a household word among the masses—a word to conjure with in Soviet Russia today.

"Ahra" is this new word. It is the native pronunciation of "A. R. A." the initials which symbolize the American Relief Administration and its manifold works of relief.

Leon Trotsky, to be sure, is saying that the "American bourgeoisie are glutted with the blood and gold of Europe"; that "when the fire of the European revolution is lighted the American bourgeoisie will be consumed"; that "punishment and revenge await the American bourgeoisie from the European proletariat." But the Russian proletariat cry "Ahra" just the same.

"When we visited the feeding kitchen in the old palace of the czars at Tsarskoe," said E. M. Flesh, "the children jumped to their feet and shouted in spontaneous greeting, 'Ahra!'" Mr. Flesh, identified with the A. R. A., the United States grain commission and the purchasing commission, had just finished an inspection trip of a month through famine districts. This was in December, 1922. He said further:

"I think the back of the famine is broken, though we'll have to keep on feeding the children. We fed one and a half million people at the peak of our activities. That number is being decreased now, and henceforth we will care for just the orphan children and the sick. The American medical program in Russia is one of the biggest things ever done by one country for another. We'd go into hospitals and see absolutely empty shelves. Then an order would be issued and in would pour supplies. The gratitude of the people was touching. Doctors came to us with tears in their eyes to express their thanks. But best of all were the kids. It made you feel good when they shouted 'Ahra.' To them it is a word of salvation and hope."

Here is another contemporary description of the situation:

"You are from the 'Ahra'? Their eyes open and they gaze as they might do on a king, and as often as not they fall on their knees and kiss your hand. And then I wish all the people who talk so loudly of letting the Russians take care of themselves could be present. They would be properly ashamed. Russians, particularly the Russian peasants, would much prefer to live on their own food. They have no desire to sit down and wait for a nation, however kind-hearted, to come across the sea to their help. They want their own corn. They tried to sow it, even when they were living on horseflesh for food. . . . They thought even God had forgotten them, and then the 'Ahra' appeared. It fed their children first, several million of them, and then it fed them. It fed their sick. It supplied their hospitals with unheard of stocks of medicine. It put something in their arms to ward off the dreaded cholera and other diseases from which

IN THE PETROGRAD RAILROAD YARDS. Photo from Underwood & Underwood.

they have suffered so many years. The 'Ahra' did this on behalf of the American people. Why did the 'Ahra' do it—for trade or political advantage? They have got neither, though they are in Russia nearly a year. They must have done it then for pure love of humanity. A wonderful nation, America, big, generous, strong, kind, disinterested! There is no word quite capable of expressing what America is. That is how the Russians feel, and they will remember. How does America feel? If I were an American I would feel very proud—and very humble.

"America has built up a tremendous amount of good will for herself among the Russian people through the relief work in the famine districts," said Preston Kumler, a Chicago attorney, back from a year's service with A. R. A. "Prior to our coming the Russian masses knew little of America. Now the United States is the best advertised nation in Russia."

The soviet government has shot robbers whenever it captured them. Still there are many bandit gangs which roam at will, living off the country. In several instances A. R. A. workers were captured by these bandits and were turned loose with apologies as soon as their identity was established. It actually appears that these bandits never interfere with the A. R. A. activities.

Here is a story that comes from the Bugachof district of Samara, in which a bandit organization of over 1,000 men with horses is operating. The bandits sacked the government warehouse in Balakova while the A. R. A. storage house, next door, bulging with cocoa, sugar, canned milk and other good things to eat, was not touched.

As an illustration of further consideration by the bandits of the famine sufferers, it is related that some of the gang last summer rode up to one of the A. R. A. village kitchens, merely tasted the food being prepared for the children; pronounced it very good, chucked a few youngsters under the chins, wishing them good appetites, and then went their way—to the home of the village treasurer, which they looted.

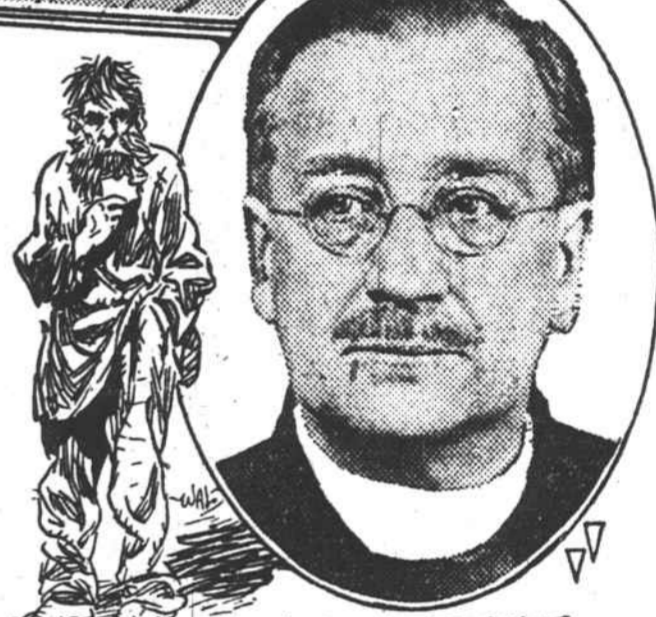
An interesting feature of the A. R. A. work is the springing up of hundreds of new villages. American corn built these new villages, which sprang up practically overnight last spring. The same thing is expected this spring. Edward Fox, A. R. A. supervisor in the Simbirsk district, tells of it thus:

"There has been a genuine back-to-the-soil movement, an exodus from the cities, where panicky thousands fled when famine came. Racing against the brevity of the summer season, fighting time to plant the unfertilized fields, groups of weak and weary men have dug earth houses to cover their heads and those of their families, wasting no time, merely tossing up a make-shift home.

"Taking into account the famine situation, the local powers had quite prepared themselves for an increase of the refugee movement with the advent of spring. With the issue of corn the flight from the villages diminished, and by the end of April had completely ceased. May even saw the return of many of the villagers to their native villages. Farmers returned to their former occupation singly and in whole batches and colonies.

"As an example, the village newly formed in the Simbirsk Ouyezd, called 'Pestchany Ozeró,' may be pointed out, where 130 adult farmers, having first assured themselves of a corn ration, settled on land given them, hurriedly dug themselves earth huts and seeded their land with all they could obtain, so forming an entirely new village."

Just what is being done now in the way of relief and what will be necessary next spring and summer is difficult to say. It seems probable that the A. R. A. may be able to close its work after the next harvest, except insofar as the 1,500,000 orphan children and sick in hospitals are concerned. Estimates place the number of Russians now receiving help at 8,000,000 from the soviet government, European relief associations and the A. R. A.



REV. DR. THEODORE BENZE. Photo Underwood & Underwood.

The American relief of starving Russia may be thus recapitulated in brief:

The first station of the American relief administration to feed Russian children was opened in Petrograd in September of 1920. Three hundred children then received the first American meal. Originally Herbert Hoover, in response to an appeal from Maxim Gorky, and with the help of the American people, planned to feed 1,000,000 Russian children. The work grew until in August of 1921 no less than 4,171,411 children were receiving daily meals from the A. R. A., and a daily corn ration or its equivalent, was going to 6,257,958 adults, a total of 10,429,369 individuals. The original program had been multiplied tenfold.

The adult feeding, not included in the original intentions, was made possible by the appropriation by the United States congress of \$20,000,000 for the purchase of corn in America. This product began to arrive in Russia in February of 1922.

From that time until the last carload of corn was shipped to the interior districts, the railroads of Russia from the northern and southern ports to the famine areas were taxed to their capacity. The delivery of the food became the greatest problem which the A. R. A. was called upon to face. Warehouses were filled and emptied and filled again. Barges loaded with corn were sent up and down the Volga river and up the Kama, Biela, and Viatka rivers. Horses and sledges, camels and wagons, wheelbarrows and peasants' backs carried the grain from the river ports and from the railroad stations to the distant villages. By August 1, 206,407 tons of corn and other products had been distributed to the districts for adult feeding.

In the matter of distances alone, and in view of the lack of sufficient railroad connections, it is significant that the work of the A. R. A. has not been limited to the easily accessible areas.

And even this covers only a part of the work of the A. R. A.: There are the food remittance division and the medical division, each of which has handled something over \$7,000,000 worth of supplies since the beginning of their operations, and the clothing remittance division.

Col. William N. Haskell, U. S. A., took charge under Hoover in September of 1921. He is a West Pointer and has been awarded the D. S. M. for brilliant service in the World war. He was in charge of American relief in Rumania and the Caucasus. He is now also in charge of American Red Cross relief in the Near East.

Rev. Dr. (Charles) Theodore Benze has just gone to Moscow as commissioner for the National Lutheran council; he is also commissioned by the A. R. A. He is a theologian, author, college president and a leader in the board of foreign missions of the United Lutheran church.

It is a question whether the charity or the efficiency of the Americans the more astonished the Russian people.

Anyway, their new word "Ahra" expresses their feelings and it is a household word from one end to the other of their unhappy land.

HOUSE GESE ARE LARGEST BREED.

More than if they are taken away. The period of incubation of goose eggs varies from 28 to 30 days. Moisture may be added after the first week by sprinkling the eggs or the nests with warm water. Goose eggs hatch slowly, especially under hens, and the goslings are usually removed as soon as hatched and kept in a warm place until the hatching is completed.

INDIVIDUALITY OF HER OWN

Different Breeds of Chickens Have Characteristics—Many Do Not Study Their Fowls.

Each hen has an individuality and her own notions and customs. That different breeds have different characteristics, we all know, but many do not study their flock or do not consider it necessary to do so.

Some one suggests that hens which are talked to and made much of will, in turn, be good layers. There is a measure of truth in this; certainly those treated with kindness will do better work than those which are never tamed and are frightened at the approach of any one. But don't get the idea that kindness will produce eggs. A hen possessing no laying strain worthy of mention will never repay one's affection by eggs if there are no eggs bred in her.

RATION FOR EGG PRODUCTION

Best Feed is That Suited to Local Conditions—Prepared Material is Economical.

In feeding for egg production, the economical feeder wishes to use the grain he has. The best ration is the one that best suits the local conditions. If one must buy all the feed, then he will probably find the ready prepared scratch feeds and mashers as cheap as buying the varieties of grains and mixing his own. The agricultural colleges have worked out rations which are practical for farm flocks.