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MONDAY, AUGUST 9, 1915.

The following from the Extension Farm News of the State Board of Agriculture gives a good idea of the excellence of farm investment in North Carolina. Few people think much about "unearned increment" in its relation to the farmer, generally considering that the farmer earns about all the "increment" he gets, but it appears the value of North Carolina farm lands increased 14.25 per cent annually from 1900 to 1910—high dividends.

According to Mr. J. M. Johnson, of the North Carolina Experiment Station, the improvements on the farms of North Carolina during the period from 1900 to 1910 was seven per cent annually of the value of the crops produced during the decade. "According to the census of 1910," says Mr. Johnson, "the value of the crops grown in North Carolina during the previous year amounted to \$152,890,192. The increase in value of farm buildings, equipment, and live stock on the farms was \$102,672,412. This amount is 70 per cent of the value of the one year's crop as given above, and if we distribute this per cent increase in value over the ten year period, it seems that the farmer has been able to put at least 7 per cent of the value of his crops into better equipment, more and better live stock, and improved farm buildings.

NO TEST FOR SEAWORTHINESS.

The Eastland investigation has revealed the astonishing fact that, while there are all sorts of provision made for insuring the proper equipment and handling of steamships, there seems to be none for the seemingly important matter of the vessel's seaworthiness.

Officials of the federal department of commerce have stated that their inspection does not take construction into account. There is no official test for the stability of vessels. It is simply taken for granted that a boat is properly built. And if a craft appears, like the Eastland, built only for speed, practically without a keel, so that she rolls easily and is hard to steer, and with not enough weight below the water line to guarantee that she won't turn over, it seems to be nobody's business to see that she is kept out of the passenger traffic.

We may assume that it will be somebody's business hereafter. Whatever legislation is needed will be adopted. There will be an extension of the range of inspection and a thorough enforcement of rules old and new. But the pity of it is that it always seems to take a great tragedy to bring about such reforms.

The Balkans are maintaining their reputation as expert equilibrista. Some of them may fall off the fence, but the chances are they will or so flustered they won't light on their feet.

There is an apparent scarcity of gas bombs on the various fronts; but the world may at any time be startled by the news of a deadly Limburger-sardine duel along the Isonzo.

The attitude of the Balkan states toward participation in the war is not admirable, but their treatment by the Powers in times past gives them reason to be cautious.

"Why," retorts the pretty girl hither to masculine censorship, "should we not wear one-piece bathing suits if the men do?" We pass it on.

Judging from hopeful London utterances which issue in times of stress most of Russia is swampy.

Carranza probably figures he can fight longer by talking peace.

The Russians didn't want Warsaw anyhow.

A DAILY LESSON IN HISTORY

August 9.

1815—One hundred years ago today—As a result of a visit from Commodore Deatur's squadron the Dey of Tripoli agreed to free his Christian prisoners and make restitution for American property captured.

1840—Seventy-five years ago today—The brig "Florence," bound from Rotterdam to New York, was wrecked off the coast of Newfoundland, with the loss of 50 lives.

1863—Fifty years ago today—Alexander H. Stephens of Georgia, John H. Reagan of Texas and other eminent representatives of the late Confederate States government were still held prisoners in Fort Warren, Boston harbor.

1890—Twenty-five years ago today—Germany took formal possession of Heligoland in accordance with the terms of the agreement concluded with England.

1914—One year ago today—Serbia made a declaration of war on Germany.

OUR DAILY BIRTHDAY PARTY

August 9.

Hernando De Soto, whose present position as U. S. consul at Warsaw is not an enviable one, born of American parents at Jena, Germany, 49 years ago today.

Blair Lee, United States senator from Maryland and now a candidate for the democratic nomination for governor, born in Montgomery county, Md., 58 years ago today.

Julius G. Lay, U. S. consul-general at Berlin, born in Washington, D. C., 43 years ago today.

Rt. Rev. William T. Capers, coadjutor bishop of the Episcopal diocese of San Antonio, born at Greenville, S. C., 48 years ago today.

Marlin Huchitt, chairman of the board of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway, born in Cayuga county, N. Y., 78 years ago today.

Charles Nagle, secretary of commerce and labor in the Taft cabinet, born in Colorado county, Texas, 56 years ago today.

Louis B. Hanna, governor of North Dakota, born at New Brighton, N. D., 54 years ago today.

William N. Quay, celebrated professional runner, born at Merced, Cal., 27 years ago today.

Bed Time Tales.

By Clara Ingram Judson.

Tommy Gets A Surprise.

In spite of the fact that Old Man Owl had called and frightened Tommy's little mouse away from the cellar door, he could not give up the idea of exploring and seeing for himself the wonders that the garden creatures thought it contained. "I should not have tried to explore at night," Tommy said positively. "Of course I should have known better. Old Man Owl will see me yet if I am not more careful." (For Tommy knew as well as anyone that Old Man Owl was laying for him and would never be content till he caught him!) "I must stop my night adventures and explore in the afternoon when the garden creatures are napping. In the evening I must stay tight in my nest."

So the very next afternoon, when the sun shone fiercely and the garden creatures were lazily napping, Tommy's little mouse slipped out from his home and ran over to the cellar door. "I declare," he said to himself after he had looked at the door carefully. "If all those garden folk had not made so much fuss about that cellar door, I would be inclined to say that it was a most ordinary cellar door, and that it doubtless led to an ordinary cellar. Quite the same kind of a cellar that Mrs. Tommy and I lived in—but of course it isn't like that! Let-me-see—I think I can get in this way."

Tommy was just crawling up by the side of the door ready to slip into a hole he had spied, when who should hop 'k-plunk by his side but—Mr. Garden Toad.

"Hello, there Tommy, what are you doing so slyly?" he asked, right out so loud that way.

"Hush!" whispered Tommy softly, "please, please, Mr. Garden Toad, don't talk so loud. I am trying to explore this cellar while the garden creatures are napping. Don't wake anybody up. I want to get down in the cellar and back up again while they are still asleep."

"Now, what in the world do you want to go down there for, I'd like to know!" asked the toad curiously. "Because it is a wonderful place," replied Tommy. "Haven't you heard all the talking about it? Don't you know that all the garden folks are interested in it? I mean to be the one who explores it and can tell all about what it contains!" And Tommy twisted his tail proudly.

Mr. Garden Toad just leaned back against the side of the cellar door

and laughed and laughed and laughed till Tommy was almost offended. "I don't see anything funny!" he said.

But the toad only laughed the harder. "To think you, who till two months ago lived down there, should be trying so hard to explore! It's too funny!" and he laughed again.

"Do you mean that this cellar door leads to my cellar?" asked Tommy. "MY cellar?"

"To be sure it does," replied the toad; "this is merely the other side of the house. You know all about that cellar without exploring—oh, dear, this does amuse me! Why don't you simply tell what you know already?"

Tommy gulped his surprise and ran back home—and that evening he told all he knew of the cellar and was quite a hero after all.

Tomorrow—Rainy Day Fun for Boys.

LINES WORTH REMEMBERING. Whoever you do, do wisely, and think of the consequences. —Gesta Romanorum.

PLAY FESTIVAL HELD AT RIVERSIDE PARK

Many spectators attended the play festival and prize races Saturday afternoon given at Riverside Park by the public school students under the direction of Principal W. J. Barton of the Orange Street school. The events were very successful and it is stated that records will be kept and that a similar program will be repeated annually. The judges were Captain James P. Sawyer, John Colvin and Claud Jordan. Mr. Burton was field director and G. Buckner announced the different events.

The features included the hurdling and fancy stepping of Carolina Kings, owned by Mrs. L. L. Jenkins and ridden by J. J. Pollard; Buster Brown and Dixie Girl. Mr. Burkner rode Buster Brown. All the animals were trained by Mr. Pollard.

The prizes were awarded as follows: Boat race, open to boys between sixteen and twenty—Gus Matthews, first; L. Buckner, second. Potato race, open to boys between six and nine—Gay Whitmore, first; Paul McIntyre, second; fifty-yard dash, open to girls between six and nine—Miss Jantice George, first; Miss Margaret Buchanan, second. Shoe race, open to boys between ten and thirteen—J. Roberts, first; James McConnell, second. Sixty-yard dash, open to girls between ten and thirteen—Miss Ada Belle Shytle, first; Miss Mary Patterson, second. Hoop race, open to girls between six and nine—Miss Pauline Church, first; Miss Margaret Buchanan, second. Hopping race, open to boys between six and nine—P. McIntyre, first; J. Bridge-water, second. Backward race, open to girls between fourteen and sixteen—Miss Lucy Jensen, first; Miss Mamie Taylor, second. Human race, open to boys between ten and thirteen—J. Roberts, first; S. Shippe, second; dou-

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