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PROSPECTS FOR AGRICULTURE 1923.

New Year's Statement and resume of Agricultural conditions and prospects from Secretary of Agriculture Wallace.

Twelve months ago most of the six million farmers of the United States were starting on the long hard climb out of the valley of economic depression. They have not yet attained the heights which are bathed in the grateful sunshine of prosperity. Some, indeed, have fallen by the way. Others are still in the valley. Nevertheless, as we stop a bit and look backward we can see that very considerable ground has been gained by the great majority, and we can enter the New Year with renewed hope and with that courage which comes from the realization that we are really making progress.

A year ago, when speaking of the prospects for farming in 1922, I said that while there was no reason to expect boom times for the farmer in the near future, there was promise of better times, both for the farmer and for those whose business is largely dependent upon him. The year has brought fulfillment of that promise. Speaking generally, times are better, much better, than a year ago, both for agriculture and for industry.

Crops have been good, on the whole. While there has been a corresponding advance in the prices of the things the farmer must buy, the total sum which farmers will receive for the crops of this year is greater by a billion and a half dollars or more than that which they received for the crops of last year. This will certainly mean better times on the farm, and farm folks will be able to ease up a little on the grinding economy they were forced to practice the preceding year.

The labor cost of producing the crops of 1922 was still further reduced. There were some substantial reductions in freight rates. Much helpful legislation has been enacted and more will be this winter. Interest rates are lower and the credit strain has been eased. This has made it possible for many farmers who were rather heavily involved to refund their obligations and get themselves in condition to win through.

There are still some dark spots. In some sections weather conditions were unfavorable and crops were short, and farmers in these sections are having a very hard time of it. Freight rates are still too high, especially for those who must pay for a long haul to market.

Taxes are high, but this is largely due to the increase in local taxes, over which farmers themselves must exercise control.

There has been gratifying growth in farmers' cooperative marketing associations, and more of them are being organized on a sound business basis.

Aside from the help which has been given by legislation and by administration activities, strong economic forces are at work to restore a more normal relation between agriculture and other industries.

The peril in the agricultural depression is more keenly realized by other groups than ever before, and on every hand a sincere desire is being evidenced to do what can be done safely to help the farmer better his condition.

Everything considered, we have good reason to expect still better things for agriculture in the year 1923.

Plan to can some of your meat when killing time comes. It may be a life saver some day when company drops in.

The correct height of sink, ironing board and work tables help the housewife cheat old age by keeping her good posture.

Excessive feeding of livestock before shipping is not desirable, says V. W. Lewis, livestock marketing specialist. By light feeding they handle better, do not have so much shrinkage and take on a better "fill" at the market before they are sold.

NORTH CAROLINA RICH IN HISTORY AND TRADITIONS.

These Being Dramatized at University For Preservation.

World's Work, Dec., 1922.

The University of North Carolina has adopted a plan for preserving the history and traditions of the state which promises to be as instructive as it is popular. For many years Harvard University has had a course in playwriting; this department has justified itself by turning out several playwrights who have won extended fame and fortune on Broadway and in London. The Harvard course, however, aims to produce playwrights of universal scope, whereas the course recently established at the University of North Carolina has a more restricted field. North Carolina has a history particularly rich in legend as well as in actual achievement. The mountaineers in the western part of the state are among the most delightful and historically interesting survivals in this country. Practically every mountain has its story and the wilds of Scotland itself are no more full of feuds and adventure and romance. The association of Sir Walter Raleigh with this state and the lost colony, the Croatan Indians and the Mecklenburg Declaration, the stirring scenes of the Revolutionary War, to say nothing of the excitement of the Civil War and of the reconstruction period that followed, certainly contain material enough to keep many playwrights busy for a considerable time.

These are the traditions and the historical incidents to which the new course in playwriting at the North Carolina University is now devoting its energies. Even though the successful playwrights who have been developed at Harvard may not materialize at Chapel Hill—though there is no good reason why they should not—the work is well worth while. It is educational in the highest sense and university extension work of the finest kind. More and more modern universities are realizing the new conception—that it is their business to be part of the community in which they exist; to preserve the best traditions of the state and to familiarize its people with all good thoughts and actions. Certainly no more attractive way can be found of doing this than that which the University of North Carolina has now discovered. The fact that the plays are not only written by the students but staged and acted by them gives the University an undergraduate activity of an especially wholesome and elevating kind.

Use And Abuse of Lime.

The use of lime in North Carolina is advocated by the Division of Agronomy, according to W. F. Pate, of the N. C. Experiment Station, but only under certain conditions. The soil must be wet and sour and a system of crop rotation should be followed which includes the growing of some legume crops.

When lime is used with regard to the proper rotation, an increased yield may be seen for a few years but in the long run the soil will become poorer and the yield less than if no lime had been used. The old adage of "Lime and Lime without manure makes both farm and farmer poorer" will in most cases prove true.

Some of the soils in the states are deficient in many elements of plant food such as lime, nitrogen, and potash, and when lime is used to supply this deficiency or to neutralize or destroy sourness, it should be very beneficial. Although the use of lime has been practiced for many years, its effect on soils and crops was never fully understood and even now its use is advocated when the soil is extremely wet and sour, when there is a deficiency in the soil, and then only in conjunction with a proper rotation.

What this country needs is onions too polite to smell in company.

FORESTRY WORK IN NORTH CAROLINA TO BE REVIVED.

Farmers Desiring Help in Dealing With Woodland Problems May Take Matter up With Specialist.

H. M. CURRAN IS SPECIALIST IN FARM FORESTRY.

According to an announcement from Director B. W. Kilgore of the North Carolina Extension Service, H. M. Curran, a graduate of the State College and a native born North Carolinian, has been appointed extension specialist in farm forestry to help timbered farmers in handling their farm woodlots and otherwise developing the farm forestry industry of this State.

Mr. Curran has been well trained. He has been in the employ of the United States Forest Service for years and during that time has made studies of forestry problems all over the entire country. He has also seen seven years service in the Philippine Islands and about five years service in the tropical forests of South America. Recently he had charge of a lecture course on tropical forests at Yale University.

He comes to North Carolina after these years of service and study to render assistance in any of the forestry problems that may be acute with the farmers of North Carolina at this time. It will be remembered that this work was formerly done by Harry B. Krausz who left the extension service shortly after the war. For sometime the work has been hampered because a suitable man could not be found to carry it on. Now that Mr. Curran has been secured, farmers of the State wanting help with their farm wood lot problems or any other problem dealing with woodlands on their home place should take up these questions with him.

North Carolina Excels in Roads and Other Things

Memphis Commercial Appeal.

The St. Louis Globe Democrat reminds some of the Western States that vaunt themselves much over good roads, that North Carolina has a pre-eminent record in good roads building.

The experts say that North Carolina is next to Pennsylvania in the quality of its highway system. North Carolina has a program involving an expenditure around \$90,000,000. It has more than 3,000 miles of hard roads.

Among the other records North Carolina has are these: Leads in the manufacture of tobacco. It consumes one-fourth of the tobacco crop in the country. It has more cotton mills than any other State in the Union. In the number of employes and in output North Carolina leads all the other Southern States in cotton manufacturing. It has the largest pulp mill in the country and the biggest aluminum plant in the world.

North Carolina has large water power possibilities. Tennessee has greater water power possibilities. North Carolina has little coal or iron. Tennessee has both.

While the Globe Democrat calls North Carolina to the attention of Missouri, we might well call the same progress to the attention of the people of Tennessee.

North Carolina is homogeneous. Tennessee is divided into three parts. North Carolina has fierce politics, but after the men are elected to office they try to do something for their State.

The mental caliber of officeholders in North Carolina is higher than that of officeholders in Tennessee.

We might learn much from our neighboring State. A committee from the Tennessee Legislature this year might go over to North Carolina and study that State's road program and other things subject to legislation which are factors in the great advancement of the Tar Heel State.

A bag of hot salt, applied to the face, is excellent for toothache.

PUT SAFETY LAST

British Sailor Reversed the Usual Order of Things.

Much to Be Said in Commendation of the Change, Says Writer in Eastern Magazine.

Captain Campbell, V. C. royal navy, hero of mystery ships, used to put in his night order book as a closing admonition, "safety last."

Time and again Captain Campbell took a chance and came through, while the cautious took their caution down to Davy Jones' locker.

America was discovered because Christopher Columbus dared to jump across the sky line. The restless and audacious enterprise which advanced the frontiers of American business was but a carrying on of the explore and the pioneer.

The sheltered-life theory means either premature demise or an over-supply of wealth. The street that breeds strong men is not Easy Street. Danger and risk are as essential in making strength as air and food are, observes the Saturday Evening Post.

America would be well at this moment to call back something of the devil-may-care bravado of her entire kind and her clipper captains. They were strong men with strong views, but also with strong virtues; pungent characters in a pungent age.

The life of Sir William Van Horne is a great sermon on the text "Safety last." Donald Smith and his colleagues had a vision of clamping all British North America with an iron band. They came to Minneapolis to consult with James J. Hill.

"You need," said Hill, "a man of great mental and physical power to put the line through. Van Horne can do it."

From the first the scheme was problematical. The railway man who undertook it was risking his career. Van Horne had before him an assured success in the United States, but as a friend put it, "He went off chasing rabbits into the wilderness." The task which called him was the execution of the greatest railway project in the world. The natural obstacles to be overcome were unparalleled. Undaunted he turned his back on the easy places and ventured forth.

Said one of his engineers, "He always acted as if nothing were impossible. He was not always right. He was the kind that would go out on the side of a mountain and say 'Blow that down.' He would not ask if it could be done. He would say, 'Do it!' Sometimes the thing was impossible under ordinary circumstances, but he had such luck. Some accident or other would happen so the thing could be blown up or torn down without any harm. His luck, his daring and his fearlessness just carried him through." Or, to put it more clearly, luck carried him through.

Physical obstacles were the least of the opposition met by Van Horne and his colleagues. "On one fateful day in July," writes Professor Skelton, "when the final passage of the belt was being tensely awaited, the Canadian Pacific, which can borrow \$50,000,000 any day before breakfast, was within three hours of bankruptcy for lack of a few hundred thousand dollars."

Optimism is a nice word, but right now pluck is a thousand times more what we are needing. Amid the softness of today we need more stoutness of heart. There is a Gaelic phrase, "Sìoul fear ferrail," which means "the sons of manly men." On the floor of the stock exchange, on the floor of the roasting foundry, wherever there is hesitation there is a call for the sons of manly men, a call for those who are possessed of that good old-fashioned Anglo-Saxon virtue of pluck.

Slangy but Sincere.

Without my knowledge son asked me to come over for a Halloween party. Neither preparation nor food had been arranged for, but we made an impromptu party, rolled back furniture, turned back rugs, and gave them the house. I unearthed the material for Halloween games, rubbed the frodox, and afterward took them out to the kitchen, where we cracked nuts and made fudge.

When they said good night, son behought himself.

"Why, say, Dad," he said, "mother did not even know you were coming. I'll say she's some Sheila!"

And the boys said, "I'll say she is!" —Exchange.

Raisin Fluff.

Two cupfuls sugar, 1/2 cupful water, 1 stiffly beaten egg white, 1/2 cupful chopped raisins, 1/2 cupful chopped walnut meats, 1/2 teaspoonful vanilla. Boil sugar and water until it threads when dropped from the tip of a spoon. Pour on beaten egg white and beat until it holds its shape. Add raisins, nuts, salt and vanilla. Mix well. Drop from teaspoon on paraffine paper and set aside until cold.

DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO LOVE

Gilbert Frankau Believes the Young Woman of Today is Not Capable of Self-Sacrifice.

You have to watch the modern dance to see the modern girl at her most self-revealing. Regard her carefully, this beapainted, bepowdered, be-manufactured product of our hectic age, as she circles the ballroom. She dances emotionally, but her emotions are for the rhythm and the music, not for the mere male, her partner. Even in a man's arms she is as nearly sexless as the ladies of the Lysistrata, Gilbert Frankau writes in the Forum.

Regarding her thus, one cannot help answering the question which stands at the head of this article in the most emphatic negative. No! Give her all her good qualities, her poise, her efficiency, her intelligence and you will still be forced to admit that—judging her superficially—the modern girl is not capable of a great and enduring love.

To begin with, she is too selfish, too self-centered, too set on the pursuit of what she considers pleasure to abandon herself to that self-sacrifice which is love at its best. And then, perhaps, she is too wise.

Myself, I am and have always been, a strong supporter of the civil contract in matrimony. Matrimony, after all, is—however much sentimental, unbelieved-forgeys like myself may like to regard it as—a pure love affair—a legal undertaking. And I think that it is high time for the young man of today to understand that his legal undertaking when he marries a self-supporting or an independent young woman is not confined purely and simply to housing her. The modern woman, you see, is something more than a mere domesticated pet. She requires her pleasures, her pleasures and, more perhaps even than these, her full partnership rights.

STARLIGHT HEAT SPECTRUM

Scientist of Smithsonian Institution Explains How It May Be Determined.

By measuring a hundred millionth degree of temperature and a trillionth of an ampere of electric current, Dr. C. G. Abbot of the Smithsonian Institution has determined for the first time the heat spectrum of starlight, as he announced in an address at the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

Working with the 100-inch telescope at Mount Wilson observatory this fall, Doctor Abbot measured the heat at different parts of the spectrum of ten stars and the sun. The rays were dispersed by a spectroscopic in a band similar to the rainbow.

The bright star Capella, which is very similar to our own sun in its spectrum, was found to furnish the equivalent of one horsepower to an area on the earth approximately equal to the state of Minnesota. But this prominent star is feeble compared with our sun, which is equal to a hundred billion Capellas and sends down on twenty square feet heat equal to a horsepower. On the whole earth Capella's heat equals 500 horsepower, and as all the stars together equal 500 Capellas, this would amount to one-quarter million horsepower over the whole earth from the stars alone.

Scottish Estates Being Sold.

Enormous estates in Scotland are going under the hammer, due in many cases to the taxes that have followed the war. As many as 310 square miles of forests, grouse moors and farms, with salmon and trout fishing, whole rivers and lochs, islands and mountains, and comfortable houses are offered for sale at the present time, including a large part of the Canadian forests. Yacht anchorages and sea banks are plentiful.

The perfect statement of the game law on some of the properties, and of the average takes of trout and salmon, brings into strong relief the fact that, like Scott's "Finnan haddock," the spotting thus indicated "has a relish of a very peculiar and delicate flavor," inflexible elsewhere.

Going One Better.

One of the brightest stars in "The Island King" at the Adelphi theater is Nanette Lovat. She sings and acts charmingly.

I paid Miss Lovat a visit the other evening, and she asked me if I had "heard this one." I had not.

Two kiddies were engaged in a bragging match.

"My mummy's gone to the shops to pay some bills," said Joan, proudly.

"My mummy doesn't have to," sneered Doris. "The men come to the house for ours."

Here is another of Miss Lovat's stories. "George" murmured the girl, as she nestled close to him, "cigars are nothing but a habit."

"Yes, and you've now broken one of my habits," said the young man, as he sadly withdrew the remains of a Havana from his pocket.—London Tit-Bits.

BRUSHES FOR HOUSEHOLD

They May Be Divided Into Three Classes, Which Are Bristle, Hair, and Fiber.

There are two classes of brushes, those with backs and those without. These come in bristle, in hair and in fiber. It is fiber and bristles that are of special interest in discussing household needs.

The backless brush has the advantage of being usable in any position and thereby being at least twice as long-lived as the brush whose only working surface is one side. These brushes are marvelously made and the bristles, hair, fiber or fabric (mops) are so fastened in as to make a falling bristle almost an impossibility. These brushes come in every department of house life: toilet, bath, pantry, laundry, clothes, kitchen, halls and walls. The Russian pony gives the best horse-hair, and the wild boar gives the most and best bristles. The test for the bristle is that it will not break if bent back and will spring into place again. The hair and bristle when burned give a characteristic hair odor.

The fiber brush, though a cheaper brush, is adapted to things for which the bristle brush is not adapted. The fiber makes a good scrubbing brush, but the bristle would not be stiff enough. Many fibers are made to look like bristle, but the bristle itself will save you from a rash purchase. The bristle brush is expensive and so is the brush of camel or badger hair from which painting and shaving brushes are made.

Radium From Bohemia.

Government-owned mines at Jachymov, Bohemia, are turning out uranium ore, rich in radium, and the known supply is said to be sufficient for 20 years at the present rate of production; in addition, there are three large mines not yet prospected as to depth. These facts are given out by the Scientific American. Two grams of radium a year are now being produced and net profits to the Czechoslovak republic for the past year were about 3,500,000 crowns. The radium is selling today at 10,000,000 crowns per gram, a crown being now worth about 1.94 cents. While production in the United States is greater in quantity, the Jachymov ores are reputed to be richer in quality.

"Partners."

In these days of bonding companies and enormous corporations the old phrase, "His word was as good as his bond," has a homely sound, and little tales of long partnership with never a hard and fast legal instrument naming what is his and what is other's, seem like old tales out of the past.

But the other day when Sam Harris and George M. Cohan dissolved their seventeen-year-old partnership, they ended a period of agreement in their joint producing business in which no contract ever existed, and yet their business was one where more cantankerous hitches occur than in most. Smooth are the seas when two men, each of whose word goes, do business together.—Christian Science Monitor.

Caribou Swarm in Yukon.

Tens of thousands of wild caribou are reported to be swarming over the hills through the suburbs of Dawson, Y. T., for a radius of 50 miles. The great herd, which annually treks through the district, is now moving northward. Large herds swimming the Yukon have interfered with the progress of steamers. The herd is so vast that the hunting by men, women and children, who have provided nearly every home with deer meat for the winter, has made no noticeable effect on it.

Lost Souls.

A spiritist tells us that people play golf in the life hereafter. If they use the same language while playing it that they do here, we think we know in which division of the hereafter the game is played.—James J. Montague.

Paper That Can Be Washed.

Many possible uses suggest themselves for a special paper recently produced and patented by a Japanese inventor. This paper, according to an illustrated article published in the Popular Mechanics Magazine, is remarkably strong and can be crumpled up and washed with soap and water, much as one would wash clothes. So durable is this paper that it can be used as a covering for umbrellas, and when soiled can be easily cleaned at home.

Watching Forests.

New York is the first state in which a reinventory of the wood-using industries has been made, says the American Forestry Magazine. Several other states have now engaged in similar work, the value of which from an educational standpoint alone cannot be overestimated. The more states that will hold the stop watch, so to speak, on forest depletion, the more clearly will we be able to gauge the national effects of its progress.

Clover Increases Corn Yield.

N. C. Agr'l Extension Service.

Trenton, N. C., Dec. 16.—C. M. Foy, who lives four miles from Foy in Jones county, has found that it pays to use a legume in building up his crop yields. In a demonstration conducted in cooperation with County Agent E. F. Fletcher this past season, an acre of land which was planted to corn gave some interesting results. This entire acre was fertilized with 126 pounds of an 8-3-3 fertilizer before the corn was planted on May 16. All of the land in the acre was the same type. On one-fourth of the acre, crimson clover was plowed under before the corn was planted; one-fourth had the clover grazed and the stubble plowed under; one-fourth was given a top dresser of 200 pounds of an 0-9-2, and one-fourth was used as a check plot with nothing added except the regular fertilizer used over the whole acre when the corn was planted.

Here are the yields:

Plot with clover—41.5 bushels per acre.

Plot with clover stubble—37.7 bushels per acre.

Plot with top dresser—36.6 bushels per acre.

Plot used as check—26.4 bushels per acre.

This demonstration proves that clover will help to increase the average yield because the plot which was fertilized with an 8-3-3 mixture gave only 26.4 bushels, while the plot on which the clover was plowed under before the same fertilizer was added gave a yield of 41.5, an increase of over 15 bushels per acre. E. C. Blair of the Division of Agronomy assisted Mr. Fletcher and Mr. Foy in conducting this demonstration and the results show that the farmers of this section should begin the practice of using more legumes in their crop building and land building operations.

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JOHN J. HENDERSON

Attorney-at-Law

GRAHAM, N. C.

Office over National Bank of Alamance

J. S. COOK,

Attorney-at-Law

GRAHAM, N. C.

Office, Patterson Building

Second Floor.

DR. WILL S. LONG, JR.

DENTIST; 71

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