

and put their product on the market for what it really is, there would never have been an oleomargarine question. With perfect fairness it may be positively stated that oleomargarine has not been placed on the market on a legitimate basis. It has not been offered to the consuming public as oleomargarine, but has been made in imitation of butter, and largely sold as such.

So notorious was this fraud upon the public that extraordinary measures were necessary and justified, to prevent that fraud. It is a well established principle in such matters that extraordinary measures are justified in order to prevent great frauds, hence the tax on colored oleo.

All the material and moral interests of the South, including the oil mill interests, are wholly on the side of the dairymen in their efforts to force oleomargarine to be sold for what it actually is, a clean, wholesome food product; but not butter. I have a right to buy oleomargarine if I want to, but no man has a right to sell me oleomargarine or butterine as real butter. This the oleomargarine people persist in doing until extraordinary measures are necessary and justified to prevent the continuance of the fraud.

The amount of cottonseed oil used in the manufacture of oleomargarine is insignificant, while the interest of the South in building up a live stock industry is monumental. The building up of a dairy industry in the South is of such vital and far-reaching importance to our agricultural development that in arraying themselves on the side of oleomargarine against the dairy and honest food interests, the newspapers of the South, our Congressmen, the commercial organizations of our cities, and cotton oil men are accepting the shadow for the substance and doing the agricultural and commercial interests of the South a vast and far-reaching injury.

Don't Buy Quack "Formulas."

WE WISH to again warn our readers against the purchase of secret or mysterious formulas for fertilizers, the treatment of diseases in animals, or for any other agricultural purposes. Likewise beware of the secret methods of cultivation which are offered for a price through advertisements in certain agricultural papers. We are informed that numbers of farmers have been caught by that transparent swindle advertised as a new and mysterious "bunch" method of planting cotton. That any one would give up good money for so plain a "fake" as this ought to have been known to be by any one, is astonishing. We repeat: There are no secrets in agriculture, and the mere fact that any one offers such for sale is sufficient to arouse suspicion and justify condemnation. Give up no money to any one for any secret formula or method for the mixing of fertilizers; you can obtain all the information in existence about this subject merely for the asking; and just as certainly there is no secret method of cultivating any crop, that is worth one penny. You can get all that is known on this subject by reading farm literature.

The big fact which so many farmers overlook when they first try the weeder is that it is not intended to cultivate the grass and weeds, but to kill them before they come up. If you let the weeds and grass get rooted, you may have to resort to expensive hand-hoeing after all. The weeder and harrow should always be used before you think you need them, the object being to kill the weeds and grass while they are sprouting. If you let them take root it is like giving your enemy a big stick to hit you over the head with. The only safe way is to work the grass before it gets big enough for you to see it.

"I find that nothing pays me better on my farm than the good roads that I keep up for my own use," remarked a thoughtful farmer to us the other day. A few hours' time with the split-log drag at this season of the year will do much for the roads either on one's farm or on the public roads of the neighborhood.

"What's The News?"

The Week's Happenings.

NEW FROM Washington these days is of a very unexciting nature. President Taft's corporation license bill has been introduced by Senator Clark, of Wyoming. It provides that any corporation engaged in interstate commerce may take out a Federal charter, under the provisions of the act, which provides for full publicity of accounts and Governmental supervision, and forbids the purchase of stock in one corporation by another except with the permission of the Commissioner of Corporations. Senator Rayner, of Maryland, has made a sharp attack on the postal savings bank bill, basing his opposition on Constitutional grounds. There seems little doubt that the measure will pass. The ship subsidy bill has been favorably reported to the House over the vigorous protests of the Democratic and two Republican members of the committee. Senator Heyburn, of Idaho, got in the limelight again Monday by making a speech against lending United States Army tents to the Confederate soldiers for their annual reunion at Mobile next April. No reply was made to Senator Heyburn, and at the close of his outbreak every other vote was cast in favor of the proposition. President Taft's conservation proposals evidently have hard sledding ahead. Speaker Cannon has always opposed such legislation; the chairman of the House Committee on Public Lands, Mondell, of Wyoming, is a bitter foe of all effective measures of the kind, and a small group of Senators, led by Heyburn, may be counted on to do all they can against the President's policies.

More attention is being given to the proposal to increase the postage on magazines than to any other of the President's recommendations, and public sentiment here is decidedly hostile. Such proposals have been time and again defeated, and until there is reform in other branches of our postal system, such a measure as this is not likely to meet with favor.

If the Postoffice Department really wishes to become a self-supporting institution, there are a great many things that ought to be done before a tax on knowledge and information is levied by doubling the postage rate on magazines and newspapers: (1) The railroads are getting too much for carrying the mails; (2) Congressmen and Government officials frank countless tons of Government documents, and it is unfair to make the newspapers make good the loss sustained here; (3) it is notorious that exorbitant salaries are paid half-idle officials in many postoffices where one-half the force could do the work if the postoffice were conducted as a private enterprise; and (4) as we have often said, the parcels post should be a money-making part of the postal system, as it is in England and other European countries. The machinery is all ready for the work, and it is folly to surrender it to the express companies.

All of this must be said even if we are to assume that the postoffice should be self-supporting. As a matter of fact, the postoffice is as much an educational institution as the public schools, and we doubt whether there is any more reason in requiring it to be profitable than there is in requiring a warship to make a profit for the Government. Certainly there is no parallel between a low postal rate, the benefit of which goes to all the people and promotes education and enlightenment as well as trade and commerce on the one hand and a subsidy for ship-building corporations on the other hand; and especially is this true when we might have American ships simply by removing the tariff on ships and ship-building materials which now stands in the way.

The Ballinger investigation drags along without

much evidence of weight having yet been produced on either side. It seems likely that the investigation will leave things just about as they are now—the Secretary will be acquitted of any violation of the laws, but will be generally considered as having had too intimate relations with land-grabbers of shady reputation to be the proper person to manage our rapidly decreasing public domain. The appointment of a man who has to explain things to such a responsible position is always a thing to be regretted by those who wish to see the public service on a high plane.

Considerable interest has been attracted by the fight against the cotton exchanges. Hearings are now being held before the House Committee on Agriculture, and a Washington dispatch says:

"The very determined campaign of the Farmers' Union for the elimination of exchange gambling in agricultural products, the cordial reception given the proposal in Congress and the strong arguments furnished by the damaging report of the Commissioner of Corporation, who has recently investigated exchanges, have created serious apprehension and alarm among the friends of the exchange. The exchanges have decided to make a determined stand in their own defense."

The sudden death at Baltimore last Monday of former Chief Justice James E. Shepherd, of North Carolina, occasioned deep regret all over the State. Judge Shepherd was sixty-one years of age, and had long been recognized as one of the leaders in his profession in North Carolina.

Wade H. Ellis, Assistant to the United States Attorney-General, has resigned to become the manager of the Republican campaign in Ohio this year. The Republicans are preparing to put up a hard fight against Governor Harmon.

In England it seems to be conceded that the Lloyd-George budget will pass in pretty nearly its present shape, and that some measure for the reformation of the House of Lords—just what, no one seems to know—will be adopted. Both Labor and Nationalist parties, however, show a disposition to insist on concessions, and the Government seems to be between two fires.

The value of wireless telegraphy received another striking testimony last Friday when the forty-six members of the crew of the steamship Kentucky were rescued by the Alamo, which was at Savannah, more than one hundred miles from the disabled vessel, when the message came in.

The deadlock in the Mississippi Senatorial contest continues with no notable change. Mr. Alexander has withdrawn from the race, and some eight or ten of his supporters have gone to ex-Governor Vardaman.

One of the most wholesome signs of the times is the great interest being shown in all sections of the country in the training of country children for farm work. Governor Mann, of Virginia, has announced that he will give certificates of proficiency to those boys under eighteen years of age who make the best yields of corn in that State.

The appeal for a new trial for the Coopers, convicted of the murder of Senator Carmack, was heard by the Tennessee Supreme Court last week. A decision is not expected for some weeks.

The volcano, Poas, in Costa Rica, is in eruption and people are fleeing by the hundreds from the locality.

A Thought For the Week.

THE GOODS of fortune we would possess and would enjoy; those of virtue we long to practice and exercise; we are content to receive the former from others, the latter we wish others to experience from us.—Plutarch.