

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE FARMERS

About the Potash Controversy.

For some months there have been appearing cables from Berlin to the effect that unless the demands of the American fertilizer manufacturers were granted a rupture of commercial relations between the United States and Germany would follow. These have been supplemented by an interview credited to Mr. R. S. Bradley, chairman of the board of directors of the American Agricultural Chemical Co., on his return.

These dispatches and interviews give only one side of the case, that of some American fertilizer manufacturers, and they fail to set forth many facts which are of importance to the real consumers of potash salts; that is, to the American farmer.

In the contracts the American fertilizer manufacturers agreed to assume all taxes imposed by the German government. They knew that some regulation of the production had been under consideration for some years, and that such regulation was imperative in order to conserve the potash supplies and to prevent such results as have already been brought about by the unscrupulous exploitation of the phosphate, coal and lumber resources of this country.

They also knew that the German courts had awarded heavy damages against mine owners for making contracts in the night in the manner that Mr. Bradley states his were secured. The first law that was proposed was withdrawn because it seemed to discriminate against the Americans, and the new law was very carefully framed to avoid all discrimination. It applies to all potash mined without regard to whether it is used in Germany or is exported—all contracts, French as well as American, were treated alike.

The real tax is trifling, being from 15 to 65 cents per ton, which is less than the usual State taxes on the same money value in fertilizers in the United States. It is the tax on the production that is worrying those who in their rush get a low price, bound themselves to pay any governmental charges.

The law provides for a government commission that estimates the annual an equitable basis among the US requirements and apportion this on mines. Should the estimate be found too low, it can be increased at once, the purpose not being to limit production but rather to increase it. In fact a considerable part of the tax is expended in work intended to increase the use of potash in agriculture.

Since Germany uses as much potash as all the rest of the world, each mine is required to sell half its lawful production in Germany and the remainder may be exported. A mine may exceed its lawful quota by 10 per cent. without any further penalty than having the excess deducted from its quota of the following year. Should a mine go beyond this in exceeding its fair and lawful quota, it must pay a tax on its over-production which is so high as to be unprofitable. This is far more effective in enforcing the new law they took particular pains does not require the action of any court.

Perhaps if the holders of the American contracts had made no objection to the first law as proposed, they would find themselves in a better position now; but their noisy protestations put the Germans on their guard, and in framing the new law they took particular pains to avoid everything that might appear to be a discrimination against anyone. Indeed, they went even further, and inserted a clause providing that the proper authorities might make concessions in the over-production tax for two years to such an extent that the holders of these contracts would pay no more for their potash than before; but this provision did not apply to the speculative options which extended for some years more.

Some years ago many American fertilizer companies signed potash contracts in which no price was named the contracts simply stating that they were to pay the same price as the American Agricultural Chemical Co. This latter company by its action in signing a contract assuming all governmental charges seems to have put these other companies in a bad position.

The German law does not require the formation of any syndicate. Every mine is at liberty to sell its quotas as it sees fit. The mines find it more economical to sell through one agency and most of them sell in this way. These syndicates or selling agencies

are quite different from the so-called fertilizer trusts in America, since they are formed for only five years, with merely a nominal capital. The government exercises a rigid control over them and uses them to market the products of the State mines. This control is exercised in the interest of the real consumer the farmer.

The law provides potash shall not be exported for a less price than that which might well be applied to American phosphates.

Any one who is familiar with the methods of the so-called American fertilizer trust cannot fail to be impressed with their solicitude lest there be a rupture of commercial relations between the two countries, nor with their magnanimous offer to surrender the paltry sum of \$12,000,000 in order to avoid this calamity. Such patriotism is unique. Possibly the fact that the great packing houses are owners of extensive fertilizer factories may have something to do with it. To the innocent bystander it appears that American buyers must feel that they have a very weak case if they are willing to offer \$12,000,000 as the price of a compromise.

From Mr. Bradley's interview one might be led to think that all potash sent from Germany after the law was passed was taxed \$22 per ton. This is not true. Only the over-production of each mine bears this tax. There is plenty of potash to be obtained from any of the other mines at the usual prices. In fact, the American farmer is today buying potash at 10 to 15 per cent. less than ever before. This is due to the fact that the German mine owners have changed their methods of selling in America. Formerly they had a few exclusive agents who sold only to the fertilizer manufacturers. These manufacturers did not sell the potash to the farmer, but used them in mixtures, the so-called standard one containing only 2 per cent. potash and many of them even less. Thus the farmer to secure a little potash was obliged to take a great quantity of other material, no small amount of which consisted of filler having no fertilizing value.

In the South some kainit was sold as such to cotton growers but it was used as a "leader" to secure orders for mixed goods, and salesmen were expected to sell no more kainit than was necessary in securing the mixed goods order.

Many small mixing plants have been started in the South in connection with the crushing of cotton seed. These plants mix cotton seed meal, acid phosphate and potash salts, making the same grade of goods as the large factories, but selling them locally at less prices than the large manufacturers who have repeatedly demanded that potash should not be furnished to these small mixers.

Even under these handicaps the American potash trade steadily increased, although the farmer could obtain but a fraction of the potash that he wished to buy, and got that at an unnecessarily high price. This condition of affairs led the Germans to discontinue sales through a few exclusive agents and to sell direct through its American corporation, the German Kall Works, which sells to anyone, any kind of potash salts, in any quantity from a single 200-pound sack to a ship load. This method, which cuts out three sets of profits, permits the farmer to secure his potash for less than ever before, even though the cost of mining has steadily increased.

From time to time the American fertilizer manufacturers have tried to combine to advance and maintain prices and to refuse to sell raw materials to farmers who wished to prepare their own mixtures. Some of these attempts have succeeded for a time, but ammoniates and phosphates can be secured from so many sources that new companies are constantly entering the field. Potash being derived from a single source, is easily controlled, but the Germans' plan of direct sales to everyone, in any quantity at reasonable price, serves to prevent the manufacturers from forming combinations in restraint of trade and for the exploitation of the farmer, and permits the farmer to secure his fertilizer materials at reasonable cost.

One of the demands of the American fertilizer companies was: "That the German potash syndicate shall undertake not to do any direct business in the United States." This demand was refused. Had it been granted the American fertilizer companies

could have readily recovered (at the expense of the American farmer) the \$12,000,000 that they were willing to pay for a "compromise."

It is hardly necessary to remark that the American public is no no-humor to approve of an executive order for maximum rates on German imports as a retaliatory measure against a law that places the people of all nations on an equal footing, and prevents the fertilizer companies from unduly exploiting the merican farmer, who spends annually more than \$100,000,000 for fertilizers.

Ringbone.

I have a horse that is lame in one leg and the blacksmith told me. It was ringbone. Is there a cure for it? The blacksmith told me there was no cure.

H. J.

Blisters or liniments will not be likely to cure the lameness of a bad case of ringbone; but it should be quite possible to remove it by having the ringbone punctured and blistered by a graduate veterinarian and afterwards allowing six weeks rest tied up in stall. If the lameness persists the ringbone may be repeatedly blistered after six-weeks' rest.

A. S. A. in Rural New Yorker.

Abortion.

Would eating wheat cause a cow to have abortion? We know of no other cause.

New York.

C. W. A.

Indigestion from any sudden change of food or from any unsuitable food may induce abortion. Feeding wheat might well cause sufficient disturbance to cause abortion, but we are unable to say that that was the cause. It always is best to treat every case of abortion as if it were known to be due to contagion, otherwise other cattle may contract the contagion and prove a loss to the owner. Treatment for contagious abortion has been given several times in this department.

A. S. A. in Rural New Yorker.

Decrease in Milk Flow.

I have a Jersey cow about eight years old. She had a calf in July and gave over 12 quarts of milk. She was quite thin and has only of late improved in weight, but has fallen off in milk five quarts. The pasture is good and in addition I give sweet apples occasionally, two quarts meal, two quarts, salt, clean water. She was kept in an open shed during warm weather. Can you tell me what to do to increase the milk? I have sprayed her to keep the flies away.

Rhode Island.

H. Y.

Better keep the cow off grass and feed good mixed hay and corn fodder or silage, and in addition allow corn meal, bran and other feeding meals likely to improve the milk flow. Medicinal treatment should not be necessary. Warm drinks would prove beneficial.

A. S. A. in Rural New Yorker.

Lame Colt.

I have a colt five years old which was not used to work, and I used him on the harrow half a day. Since then he has been lame in the left leg; the nerve in the shoulder is swollen a little and is a little sore all when pressed hard. His legs seem to be all right, no swelling except that mentioned above.

What would be good to cure lameness? Is there anything to sop a young horse from stumbling on the road.

Connecticut. P. J. C.

Very likely the colt has been sweened in working. The muscles of the shoulder in that case will begin to waste away. Mix together equal parts of aqua ammonia and turpentine and shake up with six parts of raw linseed oil. Rub the shoulder muscles with this once a day. Proper shoeing will doubtless correct the tendency to stumbling, provided the horse is not afflicted with ringbone or some other serious trouble of the tendons or bones.

A. S. A. in Rural New Yorker.

Worms.

I want to ask a remedy for bots and worms in horses. Our team here is a pair of six-year-olds that came from the west this Spring, and they both have worms. One has had two light attacks of worm-colic, and a few days later passed two bots. The horses weigh a little better than 1300 each, are in good flesh, and feel well. I feed them whole corn and bran, corn and oats, cracked corn and bran or oats, anywhere from six to 12 quarts

a day per horse, according to what they are doing.

C. J. B.

Feed on whole oats, bran and hay. Do not feed corn before cold weather comes on. Avoid hay from low wet land. In the feed mix night and morning for a weedy a tablespoonful of a mixture of equal parts salt, dried sulphate of iron, flowers or sulphur and ground gentian root; then skip ten days and repeat. Omit the iron for mares in foal and in their case double the dose of salt. Medicine has no effect upon bots nor is there need of treating horses for those parasites.

Mr. G. E. Flow Hurt.

A distressing accident happened at the Banner Warehouse about ten o'clock last night when Mr. G. E. Flow, of Johnston county, stepped off the warehouse floor into the driveway, sustaining painful and serious injuries.

Mr. Flow, who is sixty-two years of age, lost one leg years ago and has since used a wooden one. He resides on Mr. James G. Raper's farm, situated near Selma, and last evening brought a load of tobacco here to sell at the Banner warehouse.

About ten o'clock last night Mr. Flow went to get a drink of water, the water cooler setting near the driveway, and afterwards started towards the southern entrance. Although the warehouse and driveway was well lighted with electric lights, Mr. Flow stepped off the floor to the driveway, a distance of about two feet, and his lame leg was painfully hurt, the ligaments being torn from their place.

Mr. A. O. Davis, one of the proprietors of the Banner warehouse, was in the building at the time and at once assisted Mr. Flow, and called Doctor Dickinson and saw to it that the best of attention was given him, but it was thought best to prepare a comfortable bed for him at the warehouse last night where he remained until this morning when he was removed to the Wilson Sanitarium. Mr. Flow is expected to fully recover from his injuries in a few weeks.

Washington, Dec. 21.—J. Bailey Knott, his wife, Florence Knott, and his brother, Benjamin Knott, with Alton Armstrong, who are charged with having tried to extort \$5,000 from Charles Rosenthal, a merchant, by operating the so-called "Badger game," were released on bond. They pleaded not guilty and were held for the action of the grand jury.

New York, Dec. 21.—Mrs. Julia Preston Tolman, formerly of Chicago, and the wife of Daniel Hubbard Tolman, a millionaire money lender, died suddenly in her bath room yesterday morning. This was disclosed last night through an undertaker's report filed at the coroner's office.

Lexington, Ky., Dec. 20.—Representatives of more than a dozen counties of the Burley belt met here in convention yesterday and inaugurated a movement for the organization of a tobacco pool in 1911. While the meeting is called "Independent" poolers predominated, but both elements showed a disposition to agree.

Kinston, N. C., Dec. 20.—Frank Lee, a young colored man, who had been working at the Lenoir Oil and Ice Company's plant in this city, was killed by the Norfolk Southern passenger train near Falling Creek station Saturday night, and his remains were scattered along the track for about 50 yards. It was train No. 16, which left Goldsboro at 10:15, and was due in this city at 11:10.

Barry and Ross to Fight in Memphis

New Orleans, Dec. 21.—It is announced that Jim Barry and Tony Ross, whose schedule here was called off on account of the decision of the authorities not to allow it to take place, would meet in Memphis next Monday night.

Roanoke, Va., Dec. 21.—The dead body of Prof. Lee A. H. Sullender, 30 years of age, teacher in the public schools of Botetourt county, and at the time of his death principal of the schools at Glen Wilton, Va., was found under a railroad trestle near Buchanan, Va., Monday. It is thought in the dark to catch a train. His skull was crushed. He was 60 years old.

Afraid of Ghosts

Many people are afraid of ghosts. Few people are afraid of germs. Yet the ghost is a fancy and the germ is a fact. If the germ could be magnified to a size equal to its terrors it would appear more terrible than any fire-breathing dragon. Germs can't be avoided. They are in the air we breathe, the water we drink.

The germ can only prosper when the condition of the system gives it free scope to establish itself and develop. When there is a deficiency of vital force, languor, restlessness, a sallow check, a hollow eye, when the appetite is poor and the sleep is broken, it is time to guard against the germ. You can fortify the body against all germs by the use of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. It increases the vital power, cleanses the system of clogging impurities, enriches the blood, puts the stomach and organs of digestion and nutrition in working condition, so that the germ finds no weak or tainted spot in which to breed. "Golden Medical Discovery" contains no alcohol, whisky or habit-forming drugs. All its ingredients printed on its outside wrapper. It is not a secret nostrum but a medicine of known composition and with a record of 40 years of cures. Accept no substitute—there is nothing "just as good." Ask your neighbors.



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