

**ALSACE HAS FRENCH SCHOOLS**

**In Liberated Part of the Country the Alsatians Welcome the Return of the French. Soldiers Are Teaching the Schools Where Free Text Books Are Furnished.**

Twelve thousand Alsatian children are now trying to lose their German accent in French schools in the three districts into which the liberated part of Alsace has been divided for administrative purposes.

A fortnight after the French troops entered Dannemarie, the first Alsatian town re-occupied, French schools were in operation with French officers and soldiers as teachers; consequently a number of the pupils have now had three years instruction in French which at once supplanted German, under the French system of absolutely free education with books and school supplies, furnished by the State.

The progress made by the children is remarkable, excepting as concerns pronunciation. The habit of pronouncing words exactly as they are spelled was so strong, they haven't yet mastered the difficulties of the French mutes, diphthongs and liaisons, but they are very strong on grammar, which, after German, they find is mere play.

The French administration here has shown every possible tolerance of local traditions. The daily prayer in the school room abolished in French public schools years ago, has been allowed to survive. The military governor of the reclaimed territory has given strictest orders that no infringement, even upon religious customs of the population be permitted.

Schools were installed anywhere and everywhere at the beginning, the old school houses in many cases being in the danger zone. In good weather classes were heard in the open air. Now they are all provided with comfortable and safe rooms attractively decorated and made in every way so inviting that few children are tempted to play truant.

There are now 89 of these schools in operation, with 113 schoolmistresses and 99 schoolmasters, the latter recruited from among the mutilated soldiers mustered out of the army. A few of them are the old Alsatian teachers of French origin who have readily assimilated the French methods of instruction. Of the schoolmistresses 90 are Sisters of Charity of the congregation of the "Divine Providence," who had never ceased to protest against the annexation of Alsace by Germany. They render inestimable services to the French administration which has braved the anger of the anti-clericals by retaining them at their posts.

The soldier teachers wear their uniforms in the classroom, which give them increased authority over their pupils by reason of the immense prestige the French uniform enjoys in Alsace. The voluntary discipline inspired by respect for that uniform has entirely displaced the old rigid Teutonic iron-clad disciplines.

The little Alsatians are working particularly hard to master the French pronunciation of consonants, for none of them want to pass for Germans, after war, on account of their accent.—Associated Press Correspondence.

**Make All Wheat Acres Profitable.**

With a fixed price of \$2.20 per bushel for wheat the balance of 1917, and a minimum of \$2.00 for next year's crop, while the government is pleading for an increased acreage sown, it is to be hoped that the farmer will try and do his part. No doubt here in the East and South a large portion of the crop will have to be seeded this fall under unfavorable conditions, as most of it will have to be sown after peanuts, tobacco or corn. A fallow of weeds and grass turned over early in August always produces far better wheat than land cultivated in corn or some other crop, so the above conditions mean that extra care will be needed for us to produce an average crop, and far better than an average yield should be every farmer's slogan.

Let's see that our wheat land has most careful preparation and closest attention in seeding and the quality of seed sown. Every means should be used to add fertility to the wheat land and to increase the yield. With high prices for fertilizers the quality used, especially acid phosphate, should be increased rather than lessened. Soil poor in nitrogen should have all available manure used. See that none is left around the barnyard to waste. It is far too valuable. This may be pulverized or made quite fine and spread on the land and disced in before seeding, but we find that it is usually more valuable when spread thinly over the grain the latter part of November or early December. See that not a particle of the manure goes to waste, nor any old stary piles or rotting stacks are left in the fields until next spring. All not used for bedding should be spread thinly this

winter over the wheat fields. A liberal use of lime also pays well on wheat. Don't make the mistake in seeding a large acreage if you are to neglect proper preparation and fertilization. The idea is for us to make every acre produce as large a yield as possible. Better sow a few acres of fertile, well prepared land than a large number not so fertile and half prepared and gotten in. Large grain crops will be necessary for several years, and the only way to insure such is to see that the fertility is kept up.

Another thing, be careful and don't sow damaged wheat. Rainy weather in July in many sections of the country damaged the wheat crop to a large extent. Sheeks and stacks grew green by sprouting, and a large quantity was housed damp, which moulded or heated. Such is worthless for seed. No farmer can afford to risk this kind for seeding purposes. It will be far wiser to buy good seed and put in only a few acres rather than use such seed simply to seed a large acreage or to make a big show. There is no profit in such work.

If you are going to use your own seed give it a thorough test beforehand, and if a large percentage does not germinate it will be a very nice plan to secure seed from a source where the germination is better. If a goodly percentage will germinate, of sprout, and you run it through a good fanning mill, fairly good seed can be made, as the mill will blow or take out a large quantity of the non-germinating or inferior grains because they are much lighter in weight. I expect to work this plan on my seed.

It will pay you this season to use more care than ever before in your wheat. Get good seed—seed that is high in germination. Cultivate the good seed-bed. Do not be afraid to use fertilizer, particularly acid phosphate, even if the price is high—remember the price of wheat is high, also. Save your stable manure and use it on your lighter soils. With a minimum price of \$2.00 a bushel, wheat is bound to pay, and the more you can raise to the acre, the better will be your profits.—Wm. Hart Harrison, in Southern Ruralist.

**Preparation for Wheat.**

The most important crop before the farmers of America at this time is wheat. The great demand for wheat and the price which it is commanding on the market and which is being assured by the government for the 1918 crop, makes it incumbent upon every farmer in the wheat growing sections of the United States to put forth every effort to meet the ever-increasing demand for bread.

The Department of Agriculture officials estimate that to meet the demands for next year, the farmers in this country must produce more than one billion bushels of wheat. To meet this demand under normal yields, will require a sowing of 47,337,000 acres of wheat this fall, or 18 per cent increase over the acreage of the 1916 winter wheat sowing. The number of acres required for Virginia's quota will be 1,670,000, a 15 per cent increase over last year's sowing.

We do not for one moment doubt the farmers in our territory will meet the demand and far surpass it.

A seed bed for wheat must be firm, moist, and well compact beneath with a mellow, finely divided upper three inches of soil, the specialists advise. If wheat is grown in rotation with oats or after wheat, the stubble should be plowed to a depth of at least 7 inches immediately after the preceding crop of grain. The ground should be harrowed within a few hours after plowing and cultivation with harrow, disk, drag, or roller should be given as necessary thereafter until planting time.

These operations are necessary to kill weeds, to settle and make firm the subsoil, and to maintain a soil mulch on the surface. The earlier the preparation of a seed bed for wheat is started the better the condition of the soil will be at planting time. Late plowing does not allow time for thorough preparation.

Early plowing, followed by thorough tillage, aids in catching the water which falls and in conserving this and the water already in the soil for use by the wheat plants.

The firm seed bed under the mulch thus made, enables the young plants to make use of the subsoil waters, which rise when there is a perfect union between the plowed soil and the subsoil.

Sufficient moisture is thus assured for the seed and for the early fall growth of the seeding, a very important consideration. Plant food is also likely to be more abundant in the soil when such methods are employed.—Southern Planter.

**At Barbour's Chapel.**

Elder J. T. Johnson of Penfield, N. Y., will be at Barbour's Chapel Saturday night and Sunday October 28. Come to hear this learned and distinguished man. This is your only opportunity to hear him.

J. Q. BAKER.

**PRESIDENT SETS PRAYER DAY.**

**October 28th Fixed for National Supplication for Victory.**

Washington, Oct. 20.—President Wilson to-day designated Sunday, October 28th as a day of prayer for the triumph of American arms. In a proclamation the President says: "Whereas, The Congress of the United States, by a concurrent resolution adopted on the 4th day of the present month of October, in view of the entrance of our nation into the vast and awful war which now afflicts the greater part of the world, has requested me to set apart, by official proclamation, a day on which our people should be called upon to offer concerted prayer to Almighty God for His divine aid in the success of our arms; and

"Whereas, It behooves a great free people, nurtured as we have been in the eternal principles of justice and of right, a nation which has sought from the earliest days of its existence to be obedient to the divine teachings which have inspired it in the exercise of its liberties, to turn always to the Supreme Master and cast themselves in faith at His feet, praying for His aid and succor in every hour of trial, to the end that the great aims to which our fathers dedicated our power as a people may not perish among men, but be always asserted and defended with fresh ardor and devotion and, through the divine blessings, set at last upon enduring foundations for the benefit of all the free peoples of the earth.

"Now, therefore, I Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States, gladly responding to the wish expressed by the Congress, do appoint October 28, being the last Sunday of the present month, as a day of supplication and prayer for all the people of the nation, earnestly exhorting all my countrymen to observe the appointed day according to their several faiths, in solemn prayer that God's blessings may rest upon the high task which is laid upon us, to the end that the cause for which we give our lives and treasure may triumph and our efforts be blessed with high achievements."

**What Farmers Get.**

The public thinks of prices to the producers in terms of market-topping records. Those are the prices that get onto the front pages of daily papers. Few readers have the hardihood to dig into the detail of the market pages. "Wheat reaches three-fifty," "three dollars a bushel for potatoes," and "twenty-cent hogs" are the phrases that catch the wandering eye of the consumer as he munches his bacon and sips his coffee. "Farming is a great business," says he.

But how much of the total goes at these prices to the farmer? More than half the wheat crop is usually marketed in August, September, October and November. Last year the average price received by the producer for his wheat during those months was about \$1.35 a bushel—far from \$3.50!

Half the potato crop leaves the farmer's hands in September, October and November. During those months in 1916 the price to him averaged \$1.19 a bushel, and it will probably be much less this year.

Hogs go to market in largest numbers in November, December and January, and during the last period covered by those months the average price for hogs of all grades was about \$8.90 a hundred.

Only a few farmers speculate by holding their crops for the high market. The records prove it. One reason more don't do it is that they can't. There are too many chances of loss and they haven't the cash reserve or the storage facilities. Such crops as hogs must be marketed when finished, for costs pile up rapidly and gains diminish.

If farmers could hold their stuff as long as they pleased, the consumer would have reason to worry. A farmers' union could then stick up the price to the limit of the nation's pocketbook. But it hasn't been done and, as business is now done on the farms, it can't very well be done.—Country Gentleman.

**Not a Good Guesser.**

They were discussing that joke about getting down off an elephant. "How do you get down?" asked the jokesmith for the fourth time. "You climb down." "Wrong!" "You grease his side and slide down." "Wrong!" "You take a ladder and get down." "Wrong!!!" "Well, you take the trunk line down." "No, not quite. You don't get down off an elephant; you get it off a goose."—Selected.

The Turlington Graded School will give holiday on Wednesday so that all the children may attend.

**Feeding Europe.**

Food-laden ships sail steadily to Europe in spite of submarines. The best check on what we are striving to do to feed our Allies is the monthly reports of exports of breadstuffs. The total for the first eleven months of this fiscal year showed that food of much greater value was sent than in the same period a year ago. The increase is greatest in corn, though wheat and wheat flour show gains. Whether the Allies are learning to eat more corn or not we cannot say, but anyway the value of corn exported so far this year has been double that of a year ago.

An interesting fact shown by comparison of import figures for the eleven months of this and last year is that imports of breadstuffs have been more than doubled. This shows that we are handling more of the surplus of other nations. Canada undoubtedly contributed the bulk of the increase in our exports. America is becoming the supply house of the world, which makes the careful counting and supervising of our stores of more vital importance. Two important facts are plainly shown by these figures: First, we are shipping more food to Europe in spite of the U-boats; and second, our increases in exports promise to take up all the surplus that our farms will produce this year.

A greater expansion of production seems likely to be required next year. Indeed, it looks as though it would be imperative. Reports from all parts of the world, as gathered by the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome, show no increase worth considering in any country.

High prices of farm products have not been a sufficient stimulus. They have done much less than we thought they would. On January first prices of ten staple crops were 183 per cent of the average of over forty years, while on July first they had risen to the astonishing figure of 290 per cent of this average. The increase in five months has been greater than has occurred in the past ten years. The world is bidding frantically for the food we alone can supply. The high prices of previous years have been so eclipsed as now to appear trivial.

These are hard facts. The promise of big corn and potato crops offers little substance for optimism.

In joining the Allies we pointed to our broad and rich acres and said: "We will give you food." Our pledge is still unfulfilled. The next year's burden will be a huge one. We must prepare to shoulder it.—Country Gentleman.

American soldiers and army civilian employees have purchased more than \$32,000,000 of Liberty Bonds. Of this amount, men in the 16 national army camps have subscribed \$10,600,000 and those in the 16 national guard camps \$9,200,000. The national army soldiers have averaged \$24.52 each, while the record of the national guardsmen is \$33.36 per capita and the average for the entire 31 camps is \$29.97.

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**The Nation's Lesson**

All people are children, either young or grown up. And all children must learn life in many lessons. This year's lesson for our people is

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