Democratic Watchman.

Bellefonte, Pa., April 1, 1910.

## FARM NOTES.

—It does not hurt a horse to heat up by driving or working, provided he is not cooled off too suddenly.

—Every hog house should be fitted with a properly adjusted ventilating shaft, so that the foul air can escape.

—Keep troughs and feeding pens clean. Do not let any feed remain after the meal. It sours, moulds and is unhealthy.

—To make pigs get thrifty, strong and healthy, there is nothing like clover pasture, milk and mill feed with a very little corn.

—Postmaster General Hitchcock says rural mail delivery has without doubt greatly increased the value of farms all over the country.

—Many find enjoyment and profit in pigeon rearing. If it can be arranged, they would give employment to the restless boys and girls.

—When sheep have to be kept up closer, do not forget they need water. A good clean fresh water supply is essential to healthy stock of all kinds.

—It is estimated that Colorado farmers last year received $7,500,000 for their sugar-beet crop, an increase of $1,000,000 over the product of the previous year.

—A. J. Freed, of Mercer county, Pa., cultivates about eight acres of cherries, mainly Farly Richmond, Murillo and May Duke. The crop last year brought about $265 per acre, gross.

—Scientists have succeeded in making a substitute for rubber from corn. At the Omaha Corn Show a big chunk of refined rubber made entirely from corn, by a seedless process, was exhibited.

—It is much better and cleaner not to wipe dairy utensils with a cloth, no matter how white it may be. If the cleansing water is plentiful and hot, the vessels dry much more healthfully without wiping.

—Charcoal made of wood is most excellent for hogs as a corrective of the stomach, and where that is not convenient chared corn cobs are good for them. Wood ashes is excellent also as a corrective.

—Michigan probably ships more beans to the eastern markets than any other State, and Boston is the best market for this vegetable, as that city pays for baked beans in a single year the price of two of Uncle Sam's modern war ships.

—In sowing turnip seed aim to do so before the ground gets too dry. It is a mistake to sow turnips the last of all crops, but rather sow them early, and as a result you will find yourself thinning them, while your neighbor is waiting for his to grow.

—The New Jersey Experiment Station announces that Professor Halstead has succeeded in growing a seedless tomato. Not every fruit grown is seedless, plenty of them containing from 10 to 20 seeds, but many others contained none at all, and all are of excellent flavor.

—There is no danger of overstocking the dairy cow market so long as the systematic robbing of the herds by the disposal of the calves continues. When cows sell for from $50 to $70 at public sales, it seems like folly to hurry off the calves for a few dollars a head.

—Press Bulletin 32, on testing seed corn, has been issuee by the Nebraska Experiment Station, in an edition of 40,000 copies, giving full instructions on how every farmer may test his own seed corn. A copy can be had by addressing the Agricultural Experiment Station, Lincoln, Neb.

—Manure of all kinds should be well protected during bad weather. If it has been carefully kept under cover and properly applied, it will show its effect almost immediately; but if it has been leached by heavy rains and exposed to drying, winds and the sun's rays, it will not be so valuable.

—One of the prime essentials in growing a root crop of any kind is to have a good seed bed. The land should be rich in potash and lime, with large quantities of available nitrogen. This holds good with all root crops, with possibly the exception of the sugar beet. Cultivation should begin with the plowing.

—A Western New York farmer says that when he used good, large, smooth potatoes of good variety for seed the yield was 250 bushels to the acre. On two acres adjoining, with same tillage and fertilizer, but poor, small, mixed seed, the yield was only 80 bushels to the acre. He concludes that there is something in good seed, after all.

—A furrow plowed through a field that is soaked with water will aid and hurry the process of drying several days. On the bare spots scatter a generous quantity of grass seed, manure each lightly and go over the ground with a spike-toothed harrow again. Frost throws grass roots out of the ground. Get out the roller and go over the fields before they are dry and hard.

—According to the Crop Report, issued by the United States Department of Agriculture, the average oat yields per acre for 10 years were as follows: Russia, 19.4 bushels; France, 28.1; Austria, 28.6: United States, 29.8; United Kingdom of Great Britain and and Ireland, 44.7; and Germany, 47.3. The three great crops of wheat last year were: United States, 807,156,000 bushels; Germany, 530,131.000 bushels; and Russia, 834,502 bushels. the world's crop was 3,560,524,000 bushels; and in excess of either corn or wheat.

—Professor Malley's remedy for scab in potatoes is to take three or four pounds of corrosive sublimate and dissolve it in a barrel of water. Then take a sack of seed potatoes and let them down in the barrel (in the sack,) where they should remain about 30 minutes, after which no scab would appear. Then to prevent rotting before germinating he advised that when the seed was cut for planting they should be well sprinkled with pure gypsum and allowed to dry before planting, as the gypsum would heal the cut, and prevent the seed from rotting in the ground.

# On the Panama Canal.

[Continued from page 2.]

twice as many boats of smaller service could be locked through as each lock has a centre gate that makes it possible to take two at a time. The locks are all built in pairs so that if one should become inoperative another would be ready for use. Boats will be drawn through them by means of electric motors the power for which will be generated by the water fall at the respective dams at which they are located.

The Culebra cut, where the most of the excavation has been done, is nine miles long, counting the approaches to the cut proper from both sides. The highest point is 504 feet and the width at the bottom is 500 feet with proper slopes to prevent, so far as possible, slides from the surface. The ground is all soft, in fact so soft that no rock formation is found anywhere on the route that is solid enough for use in the concrete work consequently stone is procured from on immense quarry at the top of Ancon hill on the Pacific coast. At the bottom of Culebra cut, Is aw strata of dry wood and sea shells lying one above the other and so soft that they could be pulled out with the hand.

In general there would be very little use of giving figures as to the amount of excavating to be done because they would be inconceivable. The popular conception of the Canal as a "big ditch" is probably erroneous. I am frank to say that I anticipated seeing something like our old time canals here except very much larger; whereas a person might travel over the work for months without even getting an idea of what it will look like when completed. In fact had it not been for the working model and maps in the chief engineer's office I think none of our party would have been clear as to the completed whole.

Approaching from the Atlantic side there is a seven mile arm of the gulf that has been dredged out and is already in use to the Gatun dam. There the boats will be raised into Gatun lake, 32 miles long and 14 miles wide, and steam through that lake to Pedro Miguel lock where they will be let down 30 feet to the level of Miraflores lake. This lake is a little over a mile in length and after traversing it boats will be lowered to the level of the Pacific by two locks, each with a lift of 27 1-2 feet. Then they will steam through an eight mile arm of the Pacific that has already been dredged out deep enough to make it navigable for boats of large draught.

The machines used in construction are exactly the same types most of you have seen in use in American railroad building, river and harbor improvements and concrete construction; with the exception that they are all on a gigantic scale. In fact the magnitude of the work is so great that I imagine few who have not lived with it can have anything near a proper conception of it.

As we remarked above, after the engineering problem was solved the greatest one to confront the builders was to make the place habitable for the class of workmen who alone could carry the plans into execution. It was a veritable pest hole before American sanitation began. Yellow fever, plagues and malaria picked the population off like flies; the many, many cemeteries showing their little white wooden markers telling all too well what conditions must have been. In truth it is said that every tie in the forty-seven miles of the Panama railroad represents a human life. Now it is different, the death rate on the Zone, in Colon and Panama, is less than in many of our American cities. This was brought about by the most stringent regulations. No water is allowed to stand anywhere. The little swamps and ponds have been drained wherever possible and where it has not been possible to do this you can see men bearing on their backs tanks from which they spray oil over the standing waters to destroy the larvae of the mosquito for the mosquito is the dreadful purveyor of disease in the tropics. This reign against standing water is carried to such extremes that during the frequent transient rains of the rainy season the workmen turn their wheel barrows upside down lest water might stand in an unused one long enough to breed the deadly insect that has its entire existence in only eight hours of life.

When Uncle Sam arrived on the Zone the first thing he did was to give Colon and Panama such a scrubbing as they had never had before. Both cities were washed out, front and back, and their native residents given to understand that cleanliness must prevail and it does. Regularly our government makes its inspection and no longer is there to be found rubbish, offall or any other accumulations likely to breed disease. The natives have taken to the cleaning up kindly because they were quick to see that the only ones who were suffering were the undertakers.

All of the government employees are furnished with quarters in large, airy wire screened houses, all of which are painted a slate-blue with white trimmings, and have verandas on all sides and for each story of height. The equipment and size of the quarters is measured entirely by the size of the salary the man draws. In fact the wage scale makes the social scale, so that the families of the husband who is drawing $150.00 a month are not supposed to mix up with those of the men who are drawing $200. The government furnishes them all light, heat, pure water, ice and certain articles of furniture. Their supplies may be bought at the Commission stores really at a less price than we pay here for the same articles; though no one who is not working for the Commission may have opportunity to buy at these stores. On the whole their lives are cast in pleasant places, for once acclimated it must be a dream spot in which to live; especially in the dry season that extends from December to April. In the wet season they are never dry; inside or outside the house, for there is continual dampness, so much so that shoes and clothing are rarely packed away in drawers as we would do. They are kept hanging in closets in which the slight heat from a continually burning electric light keeps them from moulding and makes them dry enough to wear when needed. An electric light burning all the time in the box of a piano is all that keeps the wires from rusting off within a year or so.

There are 1200 men in the employ of the department of sanitation. The cost of this department is about $2,000.000 per annum and it is in control over the entire Zone, as well as the main hospitals at Ancon and Colon, the asylum, the field camps, and convalescent sanitarium on Taboga island. The Ancon hospital is the acknowledged finest institution of its kind in the world. All employees receive medical attention without charge and a regular scale of prices prevails for the use of private rooms or the treatment of members of their families.

There are seventeen postoffices in the Zone, with receipts of $100,000 per annum. The 327 saloons that were there during French occupation paying a license of from $12 to $60 each have been cut down to 56 paying a license of $1200 each and this revenue supports the twelve schools for white children and seventeen for the blacks.

They have their own railroad shops, foundries, boiler works, printing establishment, laundry, ice plants, bakeries, etc. A special ice and supply train traverses the Isthmus every day carrying ice, fresh meats and fresh bread for the employees.

This brings up the matter of the labor itself and how it is handled. In November, 1909, there were 44000 men on the rolls 5000 of whom were Americans. For the most part the skilled labor is American, works an eight hour day, with two hours off at noon, and is paid in gold according to a regular published schedule. The wages run from $75.00 to $200.00 per month according to the grade of work performed. The labor, some firemen and brakemen on the trains, is foreign, mostly blacks, but including nearly every nationality under the sun. It seemed strange that few Panamanians are employed, but I soon learned that the native and work never did agree and probably never will. All of the work is organized in as large units as possible so that the bosses are reduced to a minimum. We heard no complaints except from the gentlemen not connected with the work whose evenings are spent about the Tivoli hotel, the magnificent establishment the government runs at Ancon which is the name of the town we control at the Pacific end of the Canal though, in reality, it is part of Panama city.

A most pleasing revelation of the visit to the canal was the generous and frank manner in which our engineers paid tribute to the excellence of the plans and work that had been done by the French. To a man they praised the accuracy of the French surveys, the quantity of work accomplished with old fashioned machinery and the determination that kept them at it while their force was dying like flies for want of proper sanitation. They declared that the French had failed for no other reason than because of the graft at home. One thing that impressed every one in our party was the amount of junk left by the French. Really the old engines, cars and macnines of every description are piled mountain high at many places along the work. Much of this old metal is being hauled back to the States as ballast and brings a good figure laid down at New York as scrap. In fact computing the value of the surveys, excavation already done, buildings and junk we acquired from the French we received nearly dollar for dollar for the forty million we paid for the franchise. Many of the French engines, dredges and buildings are now in use on the Zone.

In general the government of the Zone is vested in a commission of five members with Col. Geo. W. Goethals, U. S. A., as the executive head. All are splendid types of American manhood and manifestly live wires in modern construction. Col. Goethals is almost supreme in authority, but his forte of accomplishment is more by magnetism than absolutism. His personality so pleasing, his grasp of every detail so comprehensive, his administration so eminently fair that the Zone appeared to me more like some new Arcadia than a strip of land in a wild and revolutionary tropical jungle where one man's word is law unto men of almost every nation on the earth.

The prediction is made that the Canal will be completed by January 1st, 1915. If no unforseen difficulties crop up to interfere with the present rate of progress I believe it will be done before that time. In any event it will not be long until we will see the finished result of our four hundred million dollar expenditure. Then we will know whether it has been worth while. From the standpoint of strategy it will be, but commercially we fear that it will prove of no avail to Uncle Sam unless he makes his great rivers navigable so that they may carry the trade of that vast area between the Alleghenies and the Rockies.

### The Practical Joke a Celebrated Man Played on Posterity.

One of the most famous of postmortem jokes was that perpetrated by the donor of the celebrated Soane museum of pictures and other valuable objects d'art to England, the late Sir John Soane, who died in 1837. In his will Sir John made provision for the opening of three sealed cupboards on certain specified dates in the presence of the trustees. In 1866—that is to say, almost thirty years after the death of the testator—the first of the mysterious receptacles was with much ceremony and breaking of seals opened in the presence of a committee of men, with the then president of the Royal academy, Sir F. Grant, at their head. Instead of a priceless treasure or some evidence that would throw an entirely new light upon some doubtful incident in political history the contents of the cupboard proved to be worthless accounts, letters and stationery.

Twenty years passed by, and the interest that had smoldered after the disappointment of 1866 was again fanned into flame at the prospect of breaking the seals of the second cupboard, at which rite there were present, among others, Dr. Alfred Waterhouse, R. A., and Sir (then Dr.) B. W. Richardson. Like the cupboard mentioned in the well known nursery rhyme, Sir John's second cabinet proved "bare" of any sensation, the contents being chiefly composed of letters relating to certain long forgotten family quarrels that had not even the merit of being interesting. If some of those authorized to be present at the opening of the third and last receptacle of mystery were dubious about the profit that would accrue by letting the light of day fall upon the contents thereof after sixty years' darkness, one at least, Sir B. W. Richardson, looked forward with unabated interest to that day in 1896 when the last seal would be broken and the mystery solved, but he, alas, died just two days before the ceremony was performed, and the fact that Sir John had played a practical joke upon posterity was duly confirmed by the presence of a collection of perfectly worthless letters and papers.

### Painfully Frank.

The caller didn't look it, but she declared to little Clorinda that she dearly loved children. It may be that she said so because she heard the distant swish of the skirts of Clorinda's mamma; but, whatever the cause, she repeated it urgingly. Then, as the small lady with the pet cat made no move to answer her invitation to come and make friends, she asked. "Why is it that you love your kitty better than me, dearie?"

And Clorinda's mamma entered the room with an ill concealed smile as she heard her daughter answer, "'Cause she purs as if she meant it."

### Harmony.

"What we want is harmony," said the statesman.

"Yes," replied Senator Sorghum; "it makes me think of a glee club I used to belong to. Every fellow's idea of harmony was to pick his own key and sing so loud nobody else could be noticed."—Washington Star.

### Steps to the Presidency.

"Pa," said little George, "I've chopped down your favorite cherry tree."

"That's a good start toward the presidency, son," responded wise Mr. Washington. "Now split it into rails."—Pittsburg Post.

### Safer.

"Those two statesmen are so angry they won't speak."

"Well," answered Senator Sorghum, "that's better than starting a controversy."—Washington Star.

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