

**BE A SPORT.**

You may call yourself dull in a fit of despair. Or drop all your pep, and say you don't care; But I'll tell you, my friend, that's a habit to break. In planning this world not a single mistake was made in the building. So when you complain Take stock of yourself. You're the chap that's to blame. Just right about face; it may hurt some, it's true; But that's just the way any good sport would do.

When you wake in the morning don't look for a cloud; You know what's behind it. Just swing in the crowd. Be one of them, cheerfully singing along. You may get a bump, but don't stop your song. Perhaps one will hear it who needs just a bit Of encouragement now. Your song may be it.

What matter if yesterday's failure were big? Today is your day, so get in and dig. If you meet any trouble, why just change its name. And call it a ladder. They oft lead to fame. But whatever you do, be quick and begin it; You never can tell just how much there is in it.

—Jane Bates, in Forbes' Magazine.

**PEANUT GROWERS ORGANIZE TO CUT COST TO CONSUMERS.**

In northeastern North Carolina and southeastern Virginia peanut growing has risen to a place of great importance. This section produces the largest yield of the high-grade nuts. Here is produced about 90 per cent. of the large peanuts grown in the United States, and Suffolk, Va., is the largest peanut market in the world.

An organization, the Peanut Growers' Exchange, has been formed as a non-profit co-operative body to promote and reduce speculation and to stabilize the peanut market. The exchange is designed to distribute the supply uniformly throughout the seasons in accordance with market conditions.

This organization has about five thousand members representing fifty-two per cent. of the 1921 crop. It expects to handle approximately one million bags this season. All members bind themselves for a period of seven years and expenses are limited to 5 per cent. of the resale value.

Peanuts of a like grade and variety are pooled for storage and sale. The exchange can borrow money on peanuts or by-products in warehouses. It is proposed to advance 50 to 60 per cent. or about two and a half cents per pound, upon delivery of the peanuts to the exchange, then to pay off the grower, as the market consumes the nuts. The present delay in paying is due to the slow movement of peanuts in the market; but recently the Board of Directors signed papers for one million dollars which the War Finance Corporation has since advanced, with the statement that it is in a position to make whatever further advances would be necessary. This will take immediate effect by easing up the financial situation in the peanut district.

Considering the fact that the cleaner pays only four to five cents a pound to the farmer, it is evident that the consumer pays a very high price for peanuts. The cleaner figures 10 per cent. less and generally gets twenty per cent. jumbos at seven and a half cents. 30 per cent. fancies at six cents and 40 per cent. shellers at three cents on the present market. I bought a five cent bag of peanuts from a vendor and found that it weighed a shade over three ounces, showing that it was sold at about twenty-five cents per pound. Later I purchased a pound at a large retail store, paying twenty-two cents.

The aim of the exchange is to place peanuts in every grocery store in the raw state, eliminating the various middlemen and roasters, and bringing peanuts to the consumer at a lower price. It is planned to have groceries lease roasters and get peanuts direct from the Peanut Growers' Exchange or a cleaner. This would bring the retail price to twelve or fifteen cents a pound.

Another plan of the exchange is a public educational campaign. The food value of the peanut is not generally appreciated; but nevertheless, leading doctors recommend them on account of the large amount of oil and protein they contain. Likewise, knowledge concerning peanut growing is to be disseminated. The nut or pod is at the roots of a stalk and is ripened underground. The stalk sprouts from one of the branches of the plant above the ground, grows downward into the earth and there develops the pod. After the fields are plowed, the nuts are raked up and placed in one hundred pound sacks (four bushels). The average annual production is two to two and a half million bags.

This plan of public education will be built around the slogan "America's National Food."

**Speaking of Thrift.**

Two women were arguing about thrift. "D'ye see that purse?" demanded one with a triumphant air. "It's the one I bought when I was first married, twenty years ago." "That's nothing!" sneered her friend. "You know my husband, John?" "Of course, I do. What about him?" "Well, he's my first husband and you've had three. Don't you preach thrift to me!"

—One million dollars an hour for more than two years—that is what the war cost the United States.

**FARM NOTES.**

—Animals selected for food should be healthy. They should also be in good condition. Lean, scrawny animals do not give much satisfaction when served on the table, while fat improves the flavor, tenderness and appearance of the carcass.

—During the winter when cows are stabled the greater part of the time, they should be watered two or three times a day, unless arrangements have been made to keep water before them at all times. The water should if possible, be 15 to 20 degrees above freezing, and should be supplied at practically the same temperature every day.

—Minerals fed to hogs strengthen the bones of the animals. When pigs are receiving a balanced ration, but are being fed without pasture, milk or tankage, minerals are a valuable aid. Minerals used are ground limestone, airslaked lime, rock phosphate, bonemeal in various forms, slaked coal and salt. Every practical hog man knows the worth of charcoal, wood ashes and salt for hogs, especially in winter, when hogs cannot get into the soil.

—Much theory has been advanced as to the value of vegetable matter in the soil. Too much can hardly be claimed for it in practical farming. Humus is formed by the turning under of vegetable matter, by the application of barnyard manure, by the application of straw, litter, etc. Many soils have failed more from lack of humus than from lack of fertility constituents of the soil. It is a fact often shown that soils with much plant food, when analyzed by chemists, failed to yield crops in heavy cropping, because the humus had depreciated, so the plant foods could not be used by plants.

—It is important that the manure be kept moist. This is especially so with horse manure, which decomposes very rapidly, due to its natural dry nature. The same applies to sheep manure, only in not so great a degree. Where there is not a sufficient supply of water the manure will "fire-fang." To check this the manure pile should be sprinkled regularly in order to have the heap kept in a constant state of moisture. Ammonia is liberated where there is alternate wetting and drying; hence the importance of doing the work regularly.

The composition of the manure has much to do with the nature and extent of fermentation, especially upon the amount of nitrogen in a soluble form which it contains. The more soluble nitrogen, the more rapid fermentation. Urine is rich in soluble nitrogenous compounds, causing rapid decomposition.

Fermentation causes manure to decompose rapidly in bulk. The coarse materials are gradually decomposed, and to a large extent are dissolved, in the black liquid which oozes out of the manure pile.

Although it decreases the bulk, fermentation when properly controlled is a valuable way of increasing the availability of the fertilizing constituents. Leaching causes deterioration of manure. The value rapidly decreases when the manure is exposed to the action of the elements and the leachings are allowed to drain away. A loose pile of horse manure that is subjected to the action of the elements will lose about half of its valuable fertilizing constituents in the course of six months.

Experiments have shown that solid cow dung when exposed to ordinary leaching for 109 days lost 37.6 per cent. of its nitrogen, 51.9 per cent. of its phosphoric acid and 47.1 per cent. of its potash. Mixed dung and urine lost during the same time 51 per cent. of its nitrogen, 51.1 per cent. of its phosphoric acid and 61.1 per cent. of its potash. More than one-half of the constituents in the total animal manure product of the cow may be lost by an exposure of less than four months.

To estimate the amount of litter required for any given animal, it is a safe rule that the litter should amount to at least one-third of the dry matter of the food consumed. The daily allowance would be, sheep, three-fifths pound of litter; cattle, 9 pounds; horses, 6 1/2 pounds. An excess of litter beyond that needed to keep the animal clean and absorb the liquid excrement should not be used, as the materials available for bedding are generally poor in fertilizing constituents, and so extend and dilute the manure unnecessarily.

The character of the soil dictates whether the manure should be applied rotted or fresh; where improvement of the mechanical condition is the main object, heavy clay soils should have fresh manure, and light soils well-rotted manure.

Where prompt action of fertilizers is desired in a favorable season light soils utilize coarse manure to better advantage than do heavy soils. In soils that are heavy, decomposition takes place slowly, and the constituents of the fresh manure become available very slowly. In light soils, however, unless there happens to be a dry season, the conditions are such that the manure decomposes readily, and the fertilizing constituents are probably rendered available as fast as the plant needs them.

Trials on clay soils show that frequently manures produce no effect at all during the first year, due to decomposition being slow, but the manure is not lost, as the clay possesses very powerful absorptive properties. There is a forcing effect in fresh manure, with a tendency to produce stems and leaves at the expense of fruit and grain. Therefore, fresh manure is better for early garden crops, grasses and forage plants than for cereals and fruits.

Manure should be spread and allowed to lie on the surface only on level fields where it is not likely to be surface washed. There is no danger of a serious loss of ammonia into the air. As regards the amount of manure to be applied, there can be no fixed rule. An abundant application would be 17 to 18 tons to the acre; a good coating would be 14 tons, and a light one would be 8 or 9 tons. In New Jersey some farmers go as high as 20 tons to the acre, where trucking is practiced, and some farmers give even larger amounts.

**THE STATE'S FORESTS.**

**Investments of \$25,000,000 Would Yield Enough to Support Schools.**

In his report to the State Grange convention recently held at York, Gifford Pinchot, State Forester, said: "The State forests of Pennsylvania can be made to pay the school bill of the State. If the 5,000,000 acres of the Pennsylvania desert can be purchased and set to work growing trees, not only will the \$25,000,000 of the bond issue necessary to buy it be repaid, principal and interest, within a reasonable time by the growth of the forests, but a net annual revenue will be produced large enough to carry the whole burden of State taxes for school purposes for every taxpayer in the State.

"This is a big statement, but it is true. The appropriation for school purposes for this year, made available by the last Legislature, is \$15,000,000. Pennsylvania has today more than 1,000,000 acres of State forests. If she issues bonds and buys 5,000,000 more, that will make 6,000,000. Let us see what 6,000,000 acres of well-handled forests will produce.

"Twenty years ago certain kinds of trees were selling for \$20 per 1000 board feet on the stump. Last year the prices ran up to \$75 per 1000. The value of stumpage will keep on rising.

"Stumpage of very moderate quality is now bringing the Pennsylvania Department of Forestry \$10 per 1000. It is, therefore, more than conservative to say that the average value of Pennsylvania stumpage 50, 75 and 100 years hence will be \$20 per 1000 board feet and \$1.50 per cord.

"The forest lands of the State, under proper care and protection, will grow at least one cord of wood per acre per annum. Using this figure, and also the known amount of board feet in a cord at different ages, we find that, if the trees on the 6,000,000 acres we hope to have were cut when they reached the age of fifty years, the product would be 270 board feet and one-half cord of wood per acre, yielding, at \$20 per thousand and \$1.50 a cord, a stumpage return of \$6.15 per acre, or, for the 6,000,000 acres, a yearly total of \$36,900,000.

"If the trees were cut when they reached the age of seventy-five years, they would yield 315 board feet and about one-third of a cord per acre,

a stumpage value of \$7.54 per acre, or a yearly total of \$45,240,000.

"If the trees were cut when they reached the age of 100 years they would produce 405 board feet and one-quarter of a cord per acre, a stumpage value of \$8.47 per acre, or a yearly total of \$50,820,000.

"For much of the saw timber the estimated \$20 stumpage will by that time be far too low. It is more than likely, therefore, that if the State acquires the 5,000,000 acres of the 'Pennsylvania desert,' the net annual return from it will ultimately be larger than the whole present yearly revenues of the State. Indeed, it may well reach the total of all present State and local taxes for school purposes, or an amount sufficient to pay for the whole public school system of the State. And whatever the State forests yield goes by law to the schools.

"That one-half the net revenue from 6,000,000 acres of State forests for a single year as outlined above, \$25,000,000, will be sufficient to buy the land needed to set this wood factory going is proved by actual offers of land on file with this department."

**WAR ON BAD ROADS.**

War material worth \$150,000,000 that was to have been sent to France has been turned over for use in the construction of good roads throughout the United States. Included in these military supplies were 172 locomotives of various sizes; 27,000 motor vehicles, mostly trucks; 25,000 tons of rails; 4,500,000 tons of powder and 10,000 tons of TNT.

This material was delivered to the States under the Wadsworth-Kahn law as a part of the national aid in the building and improvement of roads throughout the country. But the amount stated does not include all the material, for \$11,000,000 worth was retained by the department of agriculture largely for forest road work which is not done by the States. In addition, the States have received from the War Department about \$5,000,000 worth of material shipped from the various army camps in this country. Texas received the largest share of the surplus. Thus what was designed to tear up roads and ground in France and Germany will be used to make roads in the United States.

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