

PENNA FARMERS HAVE POOR YEAR.

Resume of Agricultural Products in State—Prices Low on Most Articles.

A Washington dispatch says: "While long-range forecasters who predicted at the beginning of 1926 that it would be a year without a summer were made ridiculous by subsequent developments, they hit the mark when they forecasted a material shrinkage in the out-turn of farms."

"Farmers of Pennsylvania, it is disclosed by a survey just completed by the Federal Department of Agriculture, had one of the poorest years in history. All staple crops have shrunk well below last year's harvests, and they are also under the average for the past ten years. The situation is made doubly serious by reason of the fact that the smaller yields are accompanied by a price range that is well under that of a year ago. Unless there is an improvement in farm prices, Keystone farmers' gross income this year will be many millions of dollars under the figure for 1926 according to the Department of Agriculture."

"Figures on estimated production are regarded as fairly disclosing the course of agriculture in Pennsylvania during the present year. It is claimed by crop experts that they will not be increased, but there is a possibility of still further reductions. An early frost in the Keystone State would work havoc with maturing corn, most of which is late, having been retarded by a protracted hot period when the crop was coming into tassel."

"With fair luck, Pennsylvania farmers will this year harvest about 61,600,000 bushels of corn, which will be 11,000,000 bushels less than the 1925 harvest and 4,000,000 bushels less than the average for the past ten years."

"Oats, with an estimated yield of 36,530,000 bushels, will be 4,000,000 bushels under last year's figure and about a million bushels short of the ten-year average."

A very heavy decline in tobacco production is also reported. The output is not expected to be in excess of 45,690,000 pounds, which is 12,000,000 pounds less than the 1925 harvest and 13,000,000 pounds below the average of the past ten years."

"There will be a shrinkage of 2,000,000 bushels of potatoes under the output of last year, and this year's yield will fall that amount short of the ten-year average production."

"Other staple crops are declared to have suffered materially by excessive heat followed by excessive rainfall. There is a possibility that early frost may nip various crops which have not yet matured."

"The bright spot in the Pennsylvania situation is the banner yields of fruit. The State will turn out nearly 16,000,000 bushels of apples, an increase of nearly 9,000,000 bushels over last year and 7,000,000 bushels in excess of the ten-year average. A yield of peaches of 2,183,000 bushels compares with last year's output of 600,000 bushels and a ten year average production of 1,266,000 bushels."

It is estimated that for the entire country the harvests this year will be about 3 per cent. under those of last year. This loss is aggravated by farm prices ranging about 15 per cent. lower than were paid farmers in 1925."

"When decreased yields are added to lower exchange value, it is found that the income of agriculture in this country for this year will be two or three billion dollars under the income received last year. This will result in the wiping out of gains made by Keystone farmers in the heart-breaking reconstruction period that confronted the industry following the deflation of farm prices in 1920, according to the federal government."

Sees Probable Increase in Pennsylvania's Taxes.

The cost of maintaining the State government in Pennsylvania, now at the highest point in its history, is scheduled to go higher. An analysis by the Department of Commerce at Washington, D. C., of the State's financial transactions during the last eight years shows that the trend of taxes has been ever upward, and a study of commitments which for all practical purposes constitute fixed charges against the State's revenues indicates that for several years to come the State's expenditures will continue to mount.

Heavy bonds flotations in recent years have made it necessary to provide a large sum annually to meet interest charges and to amortize the debt. Money received from bonds has gone entirely into road construction, and this again has resulted in largely increasing the cost of road maintenance, which increases in the precise ratio that the improved mileage advances.

Although Pennsylvania is compelled to collect in taxes each year more than \$111,000,000, it so far has managed to do it without laying its hands on general property, which is exempt from levy in this State. In every other State, however, excepting North Carolina, general property is compelled to defray nearly half of the cost of maintaining the State government.

The vast sum which is required to keep the State government functioning is levied against corporations, automobile owners and the estates of decedents. Special property taxes, paid by corporations, amounted to \$29,181,000 last year, and inheritance taxes brought into the treasury \$12,712,000.

The second source of largest income was the automobile. Its owners paid \$21,160,000 as license fees and an additional \$7,059,000 as taxes on motor fuel.

FARM NOTES.

Choice of a dairy breed largely depends upon the kind of dairy product most favorably marketed.

Successful flockmasters find that putting the ram and ewes in good condition before the mating season pays big dividends on the new lamb crop. Feed and exercise are the only secrets.

Market the best apples. With one and one-half bushels of apples per person in Pennsylvania there should be a good market for all good apples. That is less than one-half an apple a day.

Squashes, pumpkins, and sweet potatoes need a dry location but also need to have a temperature between 50 and 60 degrees. Shelves in the furnace cellar are good places to store these vegetables.

Birds often can be attracted to your lawn for winter feeding provided you commence early enough in the fall. Begin to feed regularly and even the birds which migrate each year will be tempted to remain around your place longer than usual.

Dairy husbandry and agricultural economics are the most popular courses among the students of the Pennsylvania State College agricultural school. Of the 595 in the school there are 84 students majoring in the former and 80 in the latter course. Thirty-four of the 195 freshmen have enrolled in farm forestry.

The fourth Pennsylvania State Standard Production Poultry show is scheduled for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of this week, at State College. The show is being staged by the Pennsylvania State College poultry department and the Penn State Poultry club.

Nine different varieties are entered. L. M. Black, formerly a member of the Penn State staff and now poultry extension specialist of Rutgers University, is the judge. Silver loving cups, special rosette ribbons, subscriptions to poultry journals, poultry equipment and cash prizes are the awards.

More than two hundred potato growers, machinery men, and marketing specialists attended the Potato Field day at the Pennsylvania State College last Wednesday. The farmers represented 725 acres of potatoes.

Despite the rainy weather which spoiled the plans for the day, there was a demonstration of potato machinery, comparison of the horse and the tractor as motive power in digging, a report of the seed source tests on the experiment station plots, and discussions of all phases of potato growing. One of the interesting events of the day was the demonstration of potato diggers operated by power take-off on tractors.

Miles Hirst, secretary of the Pennsylvania Potato Grower's Association, presented the services and opportunities of the organization to the growers. Short talks were given by Dean R. L. Watts and Vice-Dean R. G. Bressler of the School of Agriculture. E. L. Nixon, well-known potato extension specialist, was surrounded all day by groups of growers eager for the latest information on proper cultural methods.

It is a far cry from Penn State to India but that is the distance 14 red and white chickens are traveling.

In response to a call from the Mission Farm at Etah, India, seven single comb white leghorns from the Pennsylvania State College and seven single comb Rhode Island reds furnished by Henry Robinson, Seelyville, Pennsylvania, were sent to the Far East.

This is the second time that the Indians have obtained chickens from the Nittany institution. Six years ago 41 White Leghorns went to the Mission farm. After a 60-day voyage by automobile, train, ship and finally on camels and the backs of men all the birds arrived at their destination in good condition.

During the next season, the mission distributed nearly three thousand eggs at a cost of a few cents a dozen. The hatches were exceptionally high, the average being 90 per cent. Some hatches of 100 per cent. were reported. An illustration of the effectiveness of the dissemination of the stock is found in a report of the 1926 poultry show recently held in Etah. Of the 1012 birds exhibited, more than three hundred were straight progeny of the Penn State Leghorns.

Except for one age, the proportion of horses and mules decreased steadily with each age from the nine-year-olds down to last year's colts, which made up only 2.8 per cent. of the horse population on these farms. If colts were produced just for replacement of the farm horse supply, the largest numbers of horses and mules would occur in the youngest age group and gradually decrease with the older groups. Instead, the exact reverse is true.

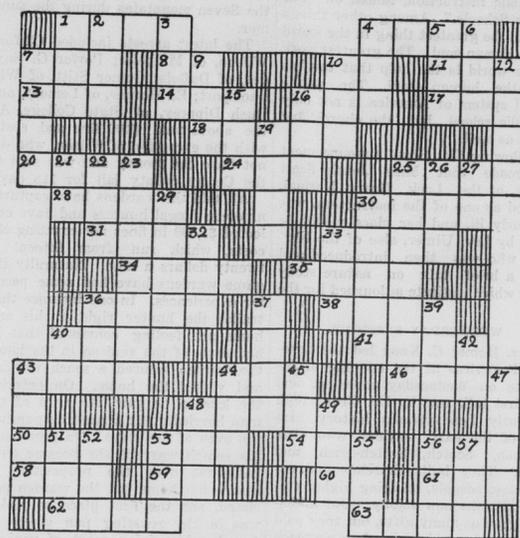
The number of horses of working ages on farms are no doubt influenced to some extent by those sold from the farms, but those below working age should indicate how far replacement needs are being supplied. Those under three years, which include the colt crops of the past three years, made up 10.6 per cent. of the total. If it is assumed that horses average ten years of productive work, those under three years should make up 30 per cent. of the total, if no allowance is made for sales from the farms.

To maintain the present horse supply with the present rate of breeding would require that the period of usefulness be extended from 10 years to 28.3 years, or that the horses attain an average age of 31.3 years without becoming pensioners. Approximately half of the farms studied used tractors. However, there were no appreciable differences in ages of horses on farms using tractors as compared with those using horses only for power.

Of all horses and mules included, slightly more than a fifth, or 21.9 per cent. were under five years of age; a third, or 33.3 per cent., were five years and under ten; 28.2 per cent. were ten years and under fifteen; 12.6 per cent., fifteen years and under twenty, and 4 per cent. were twenty years or older. These figures check quite closely with

HOW TO SOLVE A CROSS-WORD PUZZLE
When the correct letters are placed in the white spaces this puzzle will spell words both vertically and horizontally. The first letter in each word is indicated by a number, which refers to the definition listed below the puzzle. Thus No. 1 under the column headed "horizontal" defines a word which will fill the white spaces up to the first black square to the right, and a number under "vertical" defines a word which will fill all the white squares to the next black one below. No letters go in the black spaces. All words used are dictionary words, except proper names. Abbreviations, slang, initials, technical terms and obsolete forms are indicated in the definitions.

CROSS-WORD PUZZLE No. 9.



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Horizontal.

- 1—To confine
- 4—A tramp
- 7—Haunt
- 8—Conjunction
- 10—Tantalum (chem. symbol)
- 11—Abstract (abbr.)
- 12—Evening (poetic)
- 14—Measure of weight
- 16—Greek goddess of dawn
- 17—To plunge
- 18—A popular dance
- 20—Short sleeps
- 24—George (abbr.)
- 25—Goed to action
- 28—Large, closely populated place
- 30—Barter
- 31—A rank
- 33—A falsifier
- 34—Tidy
- 35—A sharp sound
- 36—A whirlpool
- 38—The traces of harness
- 40—Badly
- 41—Percolate slowly
- 42—Pretense of come
- 44—Defraud
- 46—To plunder
- 48—Prohibit
- 50—The yarn for the wool
- 53—A stout, solid stick
- 56—Chum
- 57—Fullest bird of New Zealand
- 59—Indefinite article
- 60—Note of diatonic scale
- 61—Whole quantity
- 62—Native of Arabia
- 63—A Johnny cake

Solution will appear in next issue.

Vertical.

- 1—Stinging insect
- 2—A hostelry
- 3—A small speck
- 4—To have
- 5—Wicked
- 6—Slash worn by women of Japan
- 7—Supervisor of college students
- 9—To decay
- 10—Also
- 12—To box
- 15—A small horse
- 16—Self
- 19—The lowest tide in the lunar month
- 21—Preposition
- 22—A deep pit
- 23—To defraud
- 25—To walk with a concealed strut
- 26—Equality
- 27—Aloft
- 29—To be in need of
- 30—A hollow or depression
- 32—A line of light
- 33—Pretense of light
- 38—A tree
- 37—A vulgar person who pretends superiority
- 39—A large body of water
- 40—Central state (abbr.)
- 42—Philippine islands (abbr.)
- 43—An edible shellfish
- 44—A male sheep
- 45—To cut short
- 47—Gloomy
- 48—A color
- 49—Idiot
- 51—A large snake
- 52—To prohibit
- 53—A small amount
- 55—To strike gently
- 56—A shallow vessel
- 57—A drink

a similar study made by the federal Department of Agriculture about a year ago.

England to Lead the World in Air.

America will soon be outstripped by European nations in the race for the mastery of the air. England is forging rapidly to the front in this respect and will soon be leading the world.

This is the belief of Captain Otto Heinen, famous German Zeppelin commander and supervising constructor of the ill fated dirigible Shenandoah, which crashed a year ago in a storm in the foothills south of Cambridge, Ohio.

In an effort to awaken American business men to the need for nationwide cooperation in pushing America to the front in the aeronautic field, Captain Heinen is visiting many of the principal cities of the nation and addressing luncheon and booster clubs.

In proof of his statement that this nation is lagging behind, the Zeppelin expert said that Germany is now beginning to construct rigid airships and that England now has under construction two 5,000,000 cubic feet airships of the Shenandoah type.

In spite of several recent accidents, air transportation is the safest mode of travel known to man today he believes. Since his release from Navy connections, Captain Heinen has set out to put his own beliefs to a practical test. He is the founder of the recently organized Aero Corporation of America, a New Jersey corporation, organized to furnish daily airship transportation between New York City and Philadelphia.

He announced that the corporation would contract for construction a dirigible of 65,000 cubic feet dimension, capable of carrying 45 passengers and a crew.

"In a few years if the American business men and man on the street awaken to possibilities," he said, "fleets of passenger-carrying airships of all classes will be winging across the continent in regular air lanes, much as it is being done in Europe today."

Centre-Road Hog Menace to Traffic on Highways.

One of the greatest menaces to traffic on the streets, the boulevards and even on the country highways is the slow driver cruising down the center of the thoroughfare. That this is the case attested by hundreds of letters to the American Automobile association.

"The rules of the road" require all slow moving traffic—whether passenger automobile, truck or bus—to keep to the right near the curb. This rule is violated every day, and all the time. Everywhere may be found the slow traveler, creeping down the middle of the driveway, blocking traffic and actually endangering the lives of others.

"Can't you do anything about the man who has the 'middle of the road complex'?" is the complaint of so many letters reaching us that it looks as if the road hog will never learn.

The Restlessness of Eels.

In order to prevent eels from departing in shoals from the coasts of Denmark and emigrating in deep water, the government has arranged for the erection of a submarine cable between the mainland and an adjacent island, along which there will be fifty electric lights. Each night the lamps will burn and the luminous barrier is expected to keep the eels, who travel only at night, from making the journey. Exportation of eelskins is an important industry in Denmark.

Eels simply refuse to "stay put." An eel in a tank at the London Zoological Gardens became dissatisfied, escaped, and took up his quarters in another one of the tanks some distance away. The keepers replaced him, but again the eel got out. Two or three times he did this, passing intervening tanks and always getting into the same one. He showed so plainly and persistently that he knew what he wanted that he was finally given his way.

His method of escape was very interesting. Unable to squirm up head first, he turned round and threw his tail over the edge of the tank. Once he had a secure hold, he swung his body up and over. The "slippery eel" is not only slippery and elusive, but clever.

Eels can live for surprisingly long periods out of water, and often go overland from stream to stream. One writer reports having seen a large number of eels leave the water together and leisurely eat insects on the shore.

A pea-patch is said to be a regular garden of Eden for eels, though they doubtless like the moisture and slugs found with peas better than they do the vegetable itself.

Eels spawn only in salt water, and never at a depth less than 1,000 metres. But the eggs hatch at or near the ocean's surface, carried there by their natural buoyancy. Thus the eel's extensive travels begin even before he sees the light of day. Eels go around the world penetrating to almost every little muddy pond in the interior of the country.—Our Dumb Animals.

Rare Sugar Discovered.

By a chemical process known as acetylation, the bureau of Standards has discovered a very rare sugar known as gentiobiose, which, although it is considered of no commercial value at this time, it is expected to prove valuable to industrial chemists in working out problems in the manufacturing of corn sugar.

The new form of sugar is an extract of the waste liquor known as hydrol which results from the manufacture of crystalline corn sugar or dextrose, and has caused apprehension in the sugar industry because of its quantity and undesirable influence on the duration of the manufacturing process and sugar yield. The name gentiobiose was given to the by-product because up to this time the gentian root had been known as the only source.

—Subscribe for the Watchman.

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