

AN OPTIMIST ON CROPS.

SHALL WE EVER HAVE ANOTHER HARVEST FAILURE?

The Secretary of Agriculture's Predictions as to the Future of American Grain Production and What the Grain Trade Thinks of Them.

A recent interview with Secretary of the Agricultural Department attracted considerable notice in the grain trade. In 1903, the trade had begun to predict disappearance of the United States from the list of wheat-exporting nations. Secretary Wilson, in the interview referred to, now declares that there will be no more "crop failures" of a general scope, and that "in 1910 the production per acre will be twice as great as it was in 1900."

The Secretary's interview was shown to a number of experienced members of the New York grain trade and their judgment solicited. It was the consensus of opinion that Secretary Wilson was decidedly optimistic. Some were inclined to think that the Secretary had been misquoted; indeed, many of the statements made in the interview in question are so rose-colored as to create skepticism.

Unquestionably crop results have in recent years been far more uniform and certain than they were previously. Primarily this improvement is attributable largely to the fact that great improvements have in late years been made in agricultural machinery. Wheat that is sown by a drilling machine to a depth of four inches or more is far better able to withstand the vicissitudes of weather than if it was sown broadcast by hand, according to the old-fashion method.

It also manifest that farmers nearly everywhere are showing greater intelligence in their farm work, and there are many dealers who admit freely that Secretary Wilson deserves credit for the improvements along this line. The experiments made by scientific experts on behalf of the Department of Agriculture have doubtless been highly beneficial to those farmers who have common sense enough to realize that in order to be profitable their farms must be conducted in a businesslike manner, as has been clearly demonstrated on the vast farms in the far West, where the work is supervised by capable men having accurate knowledge of what is required and a capacity to conduct affairs in a systematic way.

It has been clearly demonstrated by scientific investigation that the soil needs a rest now and then as well as animals and human beings, and it is also well known that soil is rested in a sense by sowing to grain of a different description. Thus farming has been made profitable even on lands that were formerly unproductive. There is a wide difference in the natural fertility of soils. Some do not produce well from the beginning unless particular attention is given to making them productive; others produce large crops for a short time, and then rapidly diminish in fertility; while still others, known as "strong soils," remain productive for many years without the giving of any attention to their fertility.

But even the strongest soils will wear out in time unless they are intelligently managed. It is perhaps little known, except to those directly interested, that plants in their growth make use of thirteen mineral elements, nine of which they secure directly from the soil. These are called the mineral plant foods. They are: Phosphorus, potassium, calcium magnesium, sodium, iron, silicon, chlorine, and sulphur.

The fact that one kind of grain consumes or makes use of certain of these chemicals while another makes use of different chemicals, shows why the constant sowing of one kind of grain will exhaust the supply of certain chemicals, whereas by frequent rotation the supply is not so quickly exhausted. It is especially worthy of note at this juncture that destruction by animal life is far more noticeable in fields where one kind of grain has been planted continuously for several seasons, showing that rotation is destructive to the chinch bug, Hessian fly, and other insects.

But notwithstanding the improvements cited, there are decidedly few experienced dealers who agree with Secretary Wilson that the yield per acre in 1910 will be twice as great as it was in 1900. The average production per acre should show important increase, inasmuch as in the past the yield has been entirely too small. In 1900 the average yield per acre was placed at 12.3 bushels, while in 1905 the average was approximately 14.5.

It hardly seems credible, however,

that this can be increased in five years to 24 bushels, although it would cause no wonderment should the average be brought up to 20. This would not be considered a particularly high production in foreign countries. In the United Kingdom, for instance, the yield per acre is frequently over 30 bushels; in France about 20, Germany 28, Belgium 33, and Holland about 28. These comparatively large yields show beyond a doubt what can be done with old soil provided the ground is properly cultivated, and the right kind of fertilizers, etc., are used, it should be borne in mind at this juncture however, that a large percentage of our wheat is raised on soil that is either nearly virgin or has little if any fertilizer in it. This would suggest that many fields in old or eastern States that are now idle

or used only for grazing might be made to produce good crops if properly tilled and well manured.—New York Post.

PORFIRIO DIAZ.

Mexico's Ruler as an Englishwoman Sees Him.

Mrs. Alec Tweedie has had the assistance of uncompromising enthusiasm in her effort to become the biographer of the Mexican President. To her Diaz is "the greatest man of last century." He is, at all events, a very remarkable personality. Born the son of an innkeeper of Indian blood, he soon showed signs of an adventurous and determined disposition; and in boyhood traveled two hundred miles to join the revolutionists, found himself too late and went back to study law. Later on he entered the military ranks during the civil war and won his way step by step to regimental command by the age of 30.

The coming of the Austrian Maximilian was hotly resented by Diaz, who, imprisoned by the French supporters of the European ruler, refused to be led forth to meet him. By and by he had his revenge. He escaped in exciting circumstances and kept the flag of revolt flying in southern Mexico. Pueblo presently fell before his arms and Mexico City surrendered to him. Diaz loyally gave the city to the Republican Government of Juarez and retired to the neighborhood of his birthplace, until the spirit of revolution, which seems perpetually latent or loose in Southern American politics, upset the power of Juarez.

Diaz felt he was the man for the hour; and quietly presented himself at the capital November 23, 1876. "Next day he made his triumphal entry into the city and rode up to the palace, where he established himself practically for life." For nearly thirty years the authority of the able and courageous ruler has remained unmoved. His regular reelection to the Presidential office has become a commonplace of history. The enormous territory under his strong and faithful control has reaped a hundred benefits. From anarchy its political and social conditions have passed to those of prosperity and peace.

He is a personal ruler, refusing himself to none, and giving attention to any credited applicant. Mrs. Tweedie claims to speak from her own knowledge of his character, and finds him "calm, quiet, reserved, strong, determined, thoughtful and fair seeing." An uncrowned king, he offers to the world the amazing spectacle of a South American republic apparently firmly established on the ashes of continual civil conflict; an autonomy without a tyrant. Diaz has, we learn, sanctioned the writing of this biography, and assisted the author by lending her his private diaries. Mrs. Tweedie's choice of subject has made her the historian of a distinctive epoch in the progress of Western liberty and democracy and of a striking public career.—London Globe.

THESE BULLETS DO NOT KILL.

Paris Invention That Permits Practice With Human Targets.

Walter Winans, the American marksman, describes tests made in Paris with a new patent bullet which hits, but does not kill. The invention promises to revolutionize rifle and revolver practice.

The bullet, which was invented by Dr. Deirliers, is hollow, and can be used several times. Mr. Winans and several others practiced with it with one another under duelling conditions. The pistols used were furnished with steel guards resembling a sword hilt, to protect the hands, because the bullet, although it does not penetrate the clothing will wound the naked flesh. All wore motor goggles.

Two hundred and seventy-two shots were fired and 202 hits were recorded. Mr. Winans and Commandant Ferens made full scores, finally shooting each other over the heart.

Frenchmen regard such practice as splendid training for duelling, as the experience of firing at and being fired at by a living opponent has unique value, it being totally different from aiming at a target. Men who never missed a target were quite disconcerted at first when the opponent's arm was raised to fire.

It is necessary to observe the rules not to aim at the face and keep the pistol raised until both men have fired. One of the combatants inadvertently lowered his pistol and received his opponent's bullet in his thumb, compelling a surgical operation.—London correspondence, New York

A Woman's Way.

A ward patient in Roosevelt Hospital grew gradually weaker without any apparent reason.

"She's fretting herself to death about something," said the nurse. "If she would confide in me I think she would get better."

By and by the patient did open her mind and heart.

"If I could only see myself," she wailed. "I'd feel different. I know I must look like death, or you'd let me have a looking glass."

It was against the rules to supply patients in that ward with mirrors, but the nurse, recognizing the gravity of that particular case, smuggled in a small hand-glass. The result was miraculous.

"Why, dear me," said the sick woman, "I don't look half so bad as I supposed I did."

And from that hour she began to improve.

The Girl Who Hopes To Be Successful Must Also Be Punctual

By Beatrice Fairfax.

RE you punctual?

If not you will never amount to anything.

Not only does the unpunctual person live in a state of turmoil and discomfort herself—she also keeps every one else disturbed and inconvenienced.

She is late for every engagement and lives in a constant state of flurry and hurry.

She begins the day by being late for breakfast and never makes up for the time lost.

The time wasted during the year by an unpunctual person is deplorable.

Nothing is in its place, and there is no regular time for performing any duty.

If you are in business and want to succeed you must be punctual to the minute.

When you are late in keeping an appointment you not only waste your own time, but that of the person waiting for you also. It is a double offense.

If you live on One Hundred and Twenty-fifth street and have to be on Twenty-third street at 2 o'clock you can't be on time if you leave home at five minutes of 2.

When you have an engagement to keep begin to get ready in good time; don't start dressing at the moment you should be leaving the house.

Nothing is more annoying to a punctual person than having to wait for one who is unpunctual.

If you are invited out to dinner and arrive half an hour late you entirely spoil the dinner and the pleasure of your hostess in seeing you.

Begin the day by being on time for breakfast. Get up early enough to allow yourself sufficient time to dress.

And all through the day order your work so as to be able to punctually meet all your engagements.

It simplifies things wonderfully if they are done at the right time.

But if you leave everything half-finished because you have not allowed yourself proper time to do it in you will be in a sad muddle by the end of the day.

Keep a level head and do your work calmly and systematically.

Flurry spoils everything.

Don't think you can save time by doing things in a slipshod, slovenly manner. Half the time the work has to be done over again, and there is great loss of time and energy.

A proper appreciation of time and its value will help you wonderfully with your day's work.

As far as you are able have a stated time for every duty.

Be prompt in keeping engagements; have some regard for other people's time if you have none for your own.

If you have any ambition to make a success of yourself remember that you positively must be punctual in everything.

"Ye of Little Faith."

By Graham Hood.

HE faith that might move mountains has been exhibited in this world in a hundred different ways during the past century. Always, however, it has performed more useful services, all of which stands forth today as magnificent samples of what faith can do in the way of inspiring mankind to accomplish great deeds.

If he has perfect faith in his own capacity and a similar degree of faith in the project in which he is about to engage there is practically nothing that man cannot hope to achieve. He has aimed high in the past, but as he has pierced the bull's-eye straight through the centre he cannot have aimed too high. In fact, if the past is any criterion, there is no point so high that man may not aspire to reach it. To attain this, however, one must have a goodly store of ambition, and ambition without faith is impossible. He must have faith in himself—faith to believe that he can actually accomplish anything that he sets out to do; and he must have faith in his purpose—to believe that it is the one thing in the world that it is best for him to do.

History is filled with personal examples of the truth of this statement. One has only to turn its pages to find many stories of men who have accomplished great deeds with no other incentive than absolute faith in themselves. Napoleon stands out as one example. A Corsican Lieutenant in the French army, he made himself emperor of France and just failed of becoming master of Europe. When he graduated from the military school anybody would have said that such an ambition was beyond all bounds of reason. Napoleon did not find it an impossible ambition, and he might have gone on soaring to still greater heights if Waterloo and an attack of indigestion had not occurred on the same day.

Napoleon is not the only example in history, however, even if he is one of the most striking. There are many other illustrations, some of men who maintained their greatness until they died, but all of them teach us the same lesson. They show that we are masters of our own destiny; that we can make of ourselves whatever we will; that ambition and steadfastness of purpose represent the material from which we must build success as we are to attain in this life, and that faith is the corner stone without which it is impossible for us to erect anything like a permanent structure.—New York Globe.

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THE OLD AND NEW EDUCATION.

By President Hadley, of Yale.

HE old curriculum was a sort of initiation into a learned society. Euclid was the ladder up which the candidates climbed, Greek the blanket in which they were tossed. If they had good luck and passed through the preliminary stages successfully, the ability to quote Latin more or less correctly was the badge of full membership.

From the ritual of this society, as is the case with every other ritual, some of the candidates got much benefit, some got little, some got none.

The really valuable thing was not the discipline, but the life of which that discipline was a condition and an incident; not the initiation, but the society itself; not the ritual of the society, but the purpose by which that society was animated.

The old college, with its faults, was a place where private aims were subordinated to public ones in a way that would have been impossible in any purely technical or professional school; a place where each man felt an intense interest in the work of his fellows; a place which had the spirit of true democracy and formed the trusty kind of preparation for American citizenship.

Whether we will or no, we are bound to provide undergraduate courses of study which appeal to the taste and temperament of different men. But I believe that, in spite of all these changes, we can emphasize the public purpose in our college life and college training as the essential thing and treat the general culture as an incident. I go further and say that because of these very changes we must emphasize this public purpose even more than before.

With the diversity of studies and pursuits introduced under the new system, combined with the inequalities of property and diversities of habit due to the growth of wealth throughout the country, there is a great danger that college life will lose the close coherence which it had of old, and that individual culture rather than public service may become its dominant aim.

THE LYNX-EYED SPIES OF RUSSIA.

By Vance Thompson.

USSIA is preeminently the land of spies. Democratic and socialist France has raised the spy-system to a state function, but in Russia it is the very soul of the state. In Moscow, in the streets, agents of the police are stationed every five hundred yards; in addition, secret agents watch the houses day and night—one being allotted to every four houses; and in every house is another spy, the porter. Go where you will, you are never out of the watchful eye of the police. You brush against spies in your hotel, as in the theatres; in a restaurant, as in the drawing-room of a friend. It is ridiculously easy to recognize those you meet in the fashionable resorts. They have evidently been instructed to disguise themselves as gentlemen, and for one of them the livery of a gentleman is a frock coat, a silk hat, and, always—by rain or sunlight—an umbrella. The famous third police! A stranger might fancy that, in an open cab—talking French or English to his friend—he would at least be safe from surveillance; but his friend will touch him significantly and speak of the weather. The fat cabby on the box, somnolent with white hair and good paternal eyes, may be a spy, more skilled in the language than the traveling stranger; and if the cabman has been found loitering near the great clubs, the hotels, or the embassies, the chances are strong that he is. A subtler police than that of the third section—the akraana, which has its ramifications in every capital in Europe and America—completes this great system of espionage. Its mesh is over every man in Russia; no one goes unwatched.

Kasav only old Count Tolstol.—Success.

THE KEYSTONE STATE

The Latest Pennsylvania News Told in Short Order.

Francis Morris Winterbottom, a 12-year-old boy, of Lenni, was awarded a verdict of \$3000 damages by a jury in Media against the central division, Philadelphia, Baltimore & Washington Railroad Company for the loss of a leg.

Norrisson sent the first installment of \$6,000 of its \$9,000 relief money raised to aid San Francisco, to James O. Phelan, of that city.

F. B. Coleman, of Philadelphia, was fined \$10 and costs for running an automobile through Norristown at an illegal speed. He was observed by the police while traveling along one of the marked courses.

Forest fires which prevailed in the mountains north of Pine Grove were quenched by the heavy thunder showers of Wednesday night. I. H. Hummel, a constable, has offered a reward for information which will lead to the arrest of the persons who started the fires.

John P. Martin's general store at Pine Grove, was robbed of shoes and other articles to the value of \$140.