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Just Wanted to Know

Larry—Is Edna's father—er—Mr. Robinson at home?
Servant—Yes, sir. Just step in this way.
Larry—Er—I'll be back some other time.

Nothing jolts an ignorant man quite as much as being forced to say, "I don't know."

Many a poet has accumulated money by keeping his fancies to himself and doing other work.

Optimistic

"What are you fishing for, little boy?"
"Whales."
"But there are no whales in this pond."
"No, nor anything else, so I might just as well fish for whales."

After the verb "to love," "to help" is the most beautiful verb in the world.—Von Suttner.

We may be personally defeated, but our principles never.—Garrison.

Use Nature's Law to Save Clover

Develop Strains That Are Immune or Highly Resistant to Disease.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Farmers of Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee have it in their own power to save the red clover crop from further decline and destruction in these states, says A. J. Pieters, agronomist of the United States Department of Agriculture. All that is necessary is to harness the old law—the survival of the fittest—and develop strains of red clover that are immune or highly resistant to the anthracnose disease.

Acreage Decreased.
The acreage in red clover in these states has not kept pace with the demands for hay and forage during the past 25 years. While there are many causes for clover failure, the one cause generally responsible in this area is anthracnose. On limed and fertile soils anthracnose is almost surely the only cause of failure here.

There is only one remedy, says Doctor Pieters, and that is the use of anthracnose-resistant strains. Experiments by the department, as well as observations of work done by farmers, have shown that it is entirely feasible to develop such strains. However, they must be developed by selection of the resistant plants in fields where the disease is consistently very severe. At present there seems to be only one known resistant strain—the one developed by the Tennessee experiment station several years ago, but not much seed is yet available.

Save Resistant Seed.
There is reason to believe that some clover now growing in this infected area is resistant. It should be located and saved for future seedling. When a field is severely attacked the plants surviving will likely be somewhat resistant. In such cases it may seem that the field is worthless to cut for seed, but it is at just such times that nature has pointed out the resistant plants.

By following this practice year after year until all susceptible plants have been eliminated by the disease and only resistant ones remain, it will be possible to develop strains that are much superior for local needs than any now in existence.

Proper System of Swine Sanitation Cuts Losses

A system of swine sanitation developed by specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture in McLean county, Illinois, has gradually spread until it is widely used in hog-growing states. The method used greatly reduces losses caused by roundworms, and extension workers in Iowa, Nebraska and other states have been active in acquainting swine growers with it. The bureau of animal industry, United States Department of Agriculture, says that many hog men, using the system, are now raising as many pigs as formerly with about two-thirds as many brood sows, being equivalent to reducing pig losses one-third. The method, though directed principally against roundworms, is so effective in controlling other disease conditions that death losses from any cause are rare and runtiness is seldom observed.

The foregoing results show the practical application of scientific work which at its outset was extremely technical and involved a detailed study of the worm's life history and characteristics. Although methods are now well established, the bureau is continuing its experiments with other parasites and related diseases.

Copper Carbonate Found Not a Virulent Poison

An experiment was recently carried on at the South Dakota state agricultural station to obtain direct evidence whether wheat and other grain treated with copper carbonate was poisonous or harmful to animals.
Laying hens were fed exclusively for two weeks on wheat which had previously been treated with copper carbonate, and these fowls were in as good condition throughout the period as similar birds fed exclusively on untreated wheat. The results may be regarded as a bit of direct evidence, indicating that copper carbonate is at least not a virulent poison.

FARM NOTES

Deep cultivation after the plants have become established injures the roots.

Dairy cows that have to run to get away from the flies have little time to do justice to the milk pail.

Clover hay should be cured in the windrow or cock to save as many of the leaves as possible.

Success in the dairy business depends upon the cow and the man. If you are sure of yourself, then test the cows.

The one-crop wheat farm furnishes profitable employment only 60 to 100 days out of the year, or not more than one-third of the time.

Sheep frequently suffer for want of water. A sheep needs one to six quarts daily, depending on the feed received, the condition of the pasture, and the weather.

Helium Solidified

The solidification of helium gas has been one of the ambitions of Prof. Kamerlingh Omnes, who maintains a large laboratory at The Hague. Many unsuccessful attempts were made to convert helium into a solid. Recently Professor Keessom of Leyden university, who was working in Omnes' laboratory, succeeded in such an experiment. By using very strong pumps Keessom subjected the helium to a pressure of 150 atmospheres and a temperature of 4 1/2 degrees absolute, when the gas solidified.

His Conclusion

Aunt Matilda—Josiah says he is going to have his house wired.
Uncle Hiram—Yes, to keep that wife of his at home, I suppose.—New Bedford Standard.

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Add to Agricultural Products of America

Avocado, chayote, dasheen, pebbaye and telfaeria are words that mean nothing to most of the people in the United States, says the Hudson Star. They are, however, worth knowing about and may become familiar ones in the market place. They are new fruits and vegetables that have been introduced into the United States by a group of agricultural explorers employed by the government to search the world over for new farm and garden products for America. Among other advantages possessed by the United States is the remarkable one that somewhere within its borders are conditions of climate and soil in which any plant may be grown. In the last twenty-five years they (the agricultural explorers) have introduced into the United States more than 51,000 new grains, fruits, forage crops, vegetables and other plants.

Oh, Well!

Bishop Benjamin Brewster said at a Portland reception:
"Most of the religious quabbles that fill the newspapers and empty the churches are as absurd as—well, as this story:
"A family lost its pet parrot, and little Jimmy said:
"Poor parrot! He's an angel now."
"He ain't no angel, nuther," said little Bill ferociously.
"He is so!"
"He ain't, I tell you! Only human beings can be angels."
"Well, what is he, then?"
"Why a Bird of Paradise, of course."

Railroad Safety Device

After working 16 years, Arnold Zukor of New York city claims to have perfected an invention which can eliminate grade-crossing deaths. The device, attached to the side of an engine, utilizes an arm which trips a signal block, which in turn closes crossing gates while the train is half a mile away.

Rural Delicacy

Subbubs—Don't you think we ought to return some of the things we borrowed?
His Wife—Well, I wouldn't like to offend the neighbors; they might consider it a hint that we want back the things they borrowed of us.

Couldn't Blame Willie

"Willie, your essay isn't neat."
"I told pa so, but he didn't have time to write it over."

What do you suppose will satisfy the soul except to walk free and own no superior?—Walt Whitman.

Ventilation in Pyramid

Inside the great pyramid it is considerably cooler than the outside air. It is, however, excessively hot. L. Dow Covington, who cleared out one of the ventilator shafts leading from the king's chamber, succeeded thereby in permanently lowering the temperature several degrees, and there is an Arab tradition that if the other shaft were also cleared out the current of air circulating through these passages would not only cool the interior still more, but there would be generated beautiful harp-like music.

Not Mutual

"If you're not feeling well, why don't you go to your doctor? Can't you trust him?"
"Oh, yes, I can trust him, but he's not altogether willing to trust me."
—Tit-Bits, London.

There is no gathering the rose without being pricked by its thorns.—Pilpay.

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