

THE FARMERS' COLUMN

Some Practical Suggestions Well Worth Knowing From the Department of Agriculture.

FACTS FOR DAILY USE

PEACH TREES TO PLANT FOR LONG SUCCESSION.

An enterprising farmer of Lancaster county has written to the Department of Agriculture, stating that he intended to plant 250 peach trees in the spring, and asking for a list of varieties that will give ripe fruit over the longest possible period in order to have a continued sale.

Zoologist H. A. Surface names the list of peach trees to give succession from very early until very late as follows: Mayflower 15; Carmen 20; Belle of Georgia 25; Captain Ede; 21; Elberta 65; Chair's Choice 25; Late Crawford 25; Smock 25; Iron Mountain 10 and Salway 15 15.

Prof. Surface says that this will give as long a period of ripening as is possible to have good fruit and at the same time gives rather close succession so that you will have almost no interval in which you will not be able to be gathering and marketing some fruit.

However in view of the present situation as to overplanting of peach trees, and the actual loss sustained by growers by too heavy production, it requires a great deal of determination to plant more peach trees at the present time. I think that practically all growers will agree that from a commercial standpoint this is not advisable. To plant a few for strictly local market is different and must depend on conditions.

VALUE OF STABLE MANURE.

For general purposes stable manures give best results all around. They have the vegetable matter as well as the nutrient qualities. In some kinds such as cow, sheep manures etc. the nutrient qualities are more quickly available than in horse manure. Horse manures as usually procurable, have a tendency to be either all straw which is more of a mulch than a nutrient, or dry burned out, due to lack of proper care, or mixed with green wood shavings or sawdust which will sour the ground unless for just surface dressing. All those who have stables and want to get the best of their stable manure when they clean their stables every day, should make a layer of about two inches deep, cover this with about two inches of dirt and continue this until the pile reaches four or five feet high. Have this pile turned over into a new pile every three months. Be sure the water can get to it once or twice a week to prevent heating. When ready for use none of the valuable ammonia has escaped and the entire mass is unsurpassed by any fertilizer.

STATE AGRICULTURAL NOTES.

Co-operative buying by farmers is a paying proposition for the Lancaster County Farmers' Association, that recently declared a six per cent dividend and added the sum of \$2,000 to the surplus.

Altoona business men have organized the Pennsylvania Hog Company with a capital of \$25,000 and will go into extensive hog raising business on a 471 acre farm.

An increased acreage in potatoes is expected during the coming season on account of the high prices of potatoes. It is a practice among potato growers not to plant from their own crops but to exchange for those grown on other farms. Farmers are now looking for good seed potatoes.

Registration of commercial fertilizers with the State Department of Agriculture show that potash is limited in guarantee to ten per cent. Last year the limit of potash was about three per cent, but the shortage of potash on account of the German supply being cut off by the war has led to the reduction this year. In many cases listed brands contain no potash at all.

The Department of Agriculture will strictly enforce the meat hygiene law which calls for the protection of meats, displayed in stores or markets from flies and handling. The first first prosecution in Blair County recently resulted in a retail meat dealer being fined 12g.

Fifteen miners were killed and fifty three injured in the tenth bituminous district, including Blair and Cambria counties last year according to the report of Joseph Williams, mine inspector of Johnstown. One man out of every 364 employed in and around the mines met with a fatal accident, and 1 out of every 103 was hurt.

FOLEY FAMILY WORM CANDY
Always Successful - Children Like It

MINER'S LOT IS MUCH IMPROVED

Men Make Good Wages and Have Excellent Surroundings. Long Rows of Smoke-Grimed Houses Things of the Past

SAFETY IS FIRST RULE OF MODERN MINING CONDITIONS

Ash-Strewn Dooryards Are Replaced by Pretty Lawns and Garden Plots; Playgrounds, Swimming Pools and Recreation Halls Make Communities Congenial Social Centers

The fact that both the bituminous and anthracite miners are now negotiating with their employers over a new wage scale brings to mind the fact that the lot of the coal miner is greatly improved over that of even a few years ago.

Coal mining today is attended by fewer hazards and with greater comfort after hours than was the case before safety first and welfare work became a watchword. Today the miner is not only better paid than ever before, but he is also able to live better. The pay of a coal digger often is greater than that of men in many other occupations that might appear to be more desirable.

In the Connellsville coke region of Pennsylvania the miner is found at his best. Safety first has been the watchword of that region for the past twenty years or more; as a matter of fact the movement originated in that region, following a disastrous mine explosion, when the late Thomas Lynch, then general superintendent of the big H. C. Frick Coke company, issued a set of rules, the keynote of which was "Safety is the first consideration." There has been a marked decline in the number of accidents since that time, and it is pertinent to note that there hasn't been a serious mine disaster at any of the Frick plants since.

Not Grimy Towns.
A coke town or mining village brings to the mind of the average man a picture of a squalid, desolate, dreary community; the air smoke-filled, and the houses grimy and dirty. A few years ago this picture would have been correct. Today the houses are found to be freshly painted, surrounded by attractive lawns, and on the vacant space in the rear will be found productive gardens. The filth-filled streets have been eliminated, and now concrete drains carry off the storm water and the surface drainage. Running water is found in many of the houses, and along all of the streets, while at many of the plants all of the houses are lighted with electricity. Some of them are equipped with modern plumbing and boast of bathrooms.

Practically every plant has its playground, and many of them are also proud of recreation centers, such as swimming pools, gymnasiums and auditoriums. The coke region has found that contented employees are an asset, and the various companies have not been niggardly in the expenditures for welfare work of every character.

Street Cars Are Near.
Unlike many mining districts, the Connellsville coke region is located in a populous section of western Pennsylvania. Virtually every plant is along a street car line, and such thriving towns as Connellsville, Uniontown, Scottdale, Mount Pleasant, Brownsville, Masontown, Greensburg and Latrobe are in such close proximity that they can be reached in a very short time. This is a particular advantage for the miner who desires to make the most of his opportunity in buying food, clothing or other articles, or who has a growing family and wishes to take advantage of the excellent educational advantages offered by those communities. There are graded schools near all of the plants, and some splendid township high schools close to many of them. The street car line, however, puts the miner and his family in close touch with the towns.

In common with a majority of the mining companies, those of the coke region maintain company stores. These have attained a particularly high standard. That the quality of their goods, and the standard of prices are fair is attested to by no less an authority than Ida M. Tarbell, the noted magazine writer, who in a recent magazine article, discussing the "Golden Rule in Business," declared that regardless of what might be said of company stores elsewhere, those of the Connellsville coke region maintained a high standard of quality, and charged a price as low, and in many instances, lower than that asked by outside merchants.

Wages Above Average.
With safe working conditions, desirable surroundings and a standard of living made as reasonable as can be obtained anywhere, the remaining and most important problem for the coal miner is that of wages.

The coal miner of today is a well-paid workman. Wages in the Connellsville region are dominated by the H. C. Frick Coke company, and strange as it may seem, the ultimate consumer does not feel the burden when they are advanced. The combined in the region is made into coke, which in turn is used as a fuel for the blast furnaces. It is used in the manufacture of pig iron. The ultimate consumer, referring to the small buyer, never really feels the price fluctuations in this trade. His individual purchases of steel products are not extensive.

The wages of the coke workers and coal miners of this region are largely regulated by the price of coke, although the H. C. Frick Coke company does not sell a ton of it. Its coke is consumed by the United States Steel corporation, of which it is a subsidiary. The independent operators of the region sell their coke in the open market, but they follow the lead of the dominating interest when wages are fixed. It has been the policy of the region to reduce wages only when absolutely necessary. Despite the dull period of 1914, when steel production was at low ebb and coke in small demand, the 1911 wage scale, up to that time the highest that had ever been paid, remained in force. On Feb. 1 of this year wages were advanced 10 per cent, to the highest level they have yet attained.

Long Layoffs Unknown.
The average wage of the men paid by the day by the largest company in the region, under the new scale, is over \$3. This includes the pay of trapper boys, day laborers, coal miners, machine men, inside and outside employees, and fire bosses. It does not include the mine foremen, stable bosses, superintendents, clerks and those who are paid by the month. On the basis of 290 working days in the year, the record of 1912, which was only a moderately busy period, the average yearly earnings of coke region employees totals \$854. This compares with \$525 a year for employees of the anthracite region, under the existing scale, and 206 working days in 1912. General suspensions for weeks at a time are unknown in the coke region, as they are being eliminated for the first time this year in the anthracite district.

The basing of wages on the price of coke has had the result of practically eliminating labor disputes. There has not been a serious strike in the region for years.

Labor employed in the mine as mule drivers and track layers now commands \$3.05 a day, under the new scale, while on the coke yards coke drawers are earning \$3 a day. Pick miners can earn from \$3.50 to \$4 a day without great effort, while machine loaders make \$5 and over. Men who can run a mining machine expertly earn as high as \$6 and \$8 a day, although the average will not be over \$5.

Every mine in the region has its first aid team, while at several plants rescue stations are maintained, where trained helmetmen are ready for any emergency. In addition to the strict state inspection as to the safety of working conditions, many of the companies have their own inspectors, who are even more exacting than the state's agents.

Special interest is taken in the welfare of the employee and his family. When the miner emerges from the depths after his nine hours of toil, he will step into a locked room where shower baths enable him to wash the grime from his body, and don clean, dry clothes. At his home, in season, the chasses are that his table will be set with vegetables from his own garden. It is estimated that during last year garden truck to the value of \$200,000 was raised in the yards of coke town employees. Prizes are awarded each year by many of the companies, both for the most productive garden and the most attractive lawn, while as an added inducement, full market price is paid at the company stores for any produce offered for sale.

Fertilizer is furnished without charge, and in nearly all of the plants garbage is removed regularly several times each week.

Nearly every plant has its baseball team. The H. C. Frick Coke company awards the Lynch Trophy Cup to the winning nine each season. Other companies also encourage these sports.

Children are encouraged for those who desire to improve their minds, and scores of miners each year are able to qualify for state certificates as fire bosses and mine foremen.

Taken as a whole, the lot of the coal miner is much better than a few years ago, and there are few lines of activity in which a man can do better for himself or his family. The work is not burdensome for a man with a normal amount of brawn, and it pays better than many other lines of activity. Unskilled labor finds it particularly attractive, because the remuneration is generally much higher than contract work and affords greater comforts after hours.

The coke region generally works a six-day week; never more than that. The trouble mine operators have experienced is that many of their employees prefer to work only five days.

REPORT SAYS HE WILL BE SECRETARY OF WAR



Photo by American Press Association.
DAVID F. HOUSTON.

A GENERAL SURVEY OF THE WAR

Four German seaplanes made a raid over the east and southeast coast of England, according to an announcement made in London. The total casualties are given as two men and one boy killed and one marine wounded. Considerable material damage was done.

Erzerum, in Asiatic Turkey, has been captured by the Russians, with a garrison estimated at 100,000 men, with 1,000 pieces of artillery. The Russians have followed up the advantage by marching on the Black sea port of Trebizond, where some minor indecisive engagements have been fought.

Petrograd dispatches indicate that definite results are earliest expected from the movement to the north, where another Russian force is working along the Black sea coast in the direction of Trebizond, toward which the Russian forces from Erzerum also are pushing.

The rapid advance of the Russian forces is complicating the task of the Turks in efforts to reform their scattered forces.

On the western fighting front the British are struggling with the Germans for small trench sections and the edges of mine craters in the sector from Arras north to the Yser canal in Belgium.

British attempts to gain at Ypres have been repulsed with heavy losses, according to a Berlin story.

Berlin declares that a British hand grenade attack on the position on the canal recently taken by the Germans was repulsed, as was also an attack along the Lens-Arras road. The official statement likewise records a backward push for the British south of the edge of a German mine crater.

Aerial raids along the Franco-Belgian front are reported by both sides. Paris also announces some artillery activity near Verdun and the repulse of two local attacks with hand grenades by the Germans northwest of Hill No. 140 in the Artois.

A minor success for the British on the German East Africa border is announced in London. General Smuts, commander of the British forces, reports the repulse of a German attack on a post on the Uganda border.

Premier Asquith announced in the British house of commons that the war is costing England \$25,000,000 a day.

The United States has rejected Sweden's request to join with that country in a protest on British mail seizures at sea.

The United States has declared that the German proposal to torpedo armed merchantmen without notice after Feb. 29 is contrary to the terms of the Lusitania and Arabic promises made by Berlin.

Austrians captured an outpost of Durazzo, assisted by Albanian irregulars.

WON'T SEND GERMANS MILK

Secretary Daniels Says He Can't Send Supplies on Warship.

The request of Dr. Edmund von Mach of New York, for the United States to send a warship to Europe with a supply of milk for the babies of Germany has been denied by Secretary Daniels. The secretary said he could send no naval vessel into the war zone without authorization by congress.

The committee has made public an analysis of the probable milk situation in Germany, prepared by C. W. Larson, professor of husbandry of Pennsylvania State college, showing that there is an actual shortage of 609,542,200 quarts of milk per year in Germany. The amount needed for 7,401,000 German babies, Professor Larson says, is 2,958,792,200 quarts per year, whereas the total available milk in the empire is 2,349,250,000 quarts per year. The daily consumption of milk in New York city is over 2,000,000 quarts.

AMERICA DEFIES GERMAN DICTUM

Merchant Ships May Arm for Defense, Says Lansing

UNARMED ATTACK ILLEGAL

Bernstorff Informs Berlin of American Stand, Holding That Notice Given Contravenes Promise in Arabic Case.

The United States has taken the position that merchant vessels have a right under international law to carry armament for defense. All American diplomats in foreign countries have been notified of this stand.

The formal announcements by Germany and Austria that they will after Feb. 29 sink on sight armed merchant vessels of their enemies is thus defined by the United States as contrary to accepted laws of nations.

Ambassador Bernstorff has notified Berlin that the United States will accept nothing short of a complete agreement covering all points for which it has contended as to assurances that the warfare in the future will be conducted in accordance with the established principles of international law.

It is understood that the ambassador informed his government that the United States considers Germany's declaration of its intention to sink armed merchant ships without warning after Feb. 29 inconsistent with the assurances given in the Arabic case. It was said that he told the Berlin foreign office that Secretary Lansing has informed him that the United States desires the German declaration regarding armed merchant ships to be modified and that the tentative communication designed to end the Lusitania case will not be formally accepted by this country until assurances regarding the future conduct of German submarine warfare is given.

In Teutonic diplomatic circles, it was stated that the Berlin foreign office would not modify the declaration of intention to sink armed ships or inform this country that previous assurances were binding unless Great Britain should give assurances that a submarine which warns a British ship carrying defense armament would not be fired upon.

Sweden has informally advised the state department that in consequence of the announced intention of Germany and Austria to sink armed merchant vessels without warning after Feb. 29, it will notify its nationals not to travel on such ships.

It was explained that the legation of Sweden here that there would be no general warning, but that all Swedish consuls and legations throughout the world have been instructed to warn their subjects whenever it was known that they contemplated taking passage on armed ships of the allies.

Land Open For Homesteaders.
President Wilson withdrew 434,000 acres of land from the Ozark National forest in Arkansas for settlement by homesteaders. Many desirable tracts already have been settled, but that still available will be thrown open April 20.

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Pittsburgh, Feb. 22.
Butter—Prints, 37@37½c; tubs, 36@36½c. Eggs—Fresh, 25c.

Cattle—Choice, \$8.35@8.60; prime, \$8.10@8.35; good, \$7.75@8; tidy butchers, \$7.35@7.55; fair, \$6.50@7.15; common, \$5.50@6.25; choice heifers, \$6.50@7.50; common to fair heifers, \$4.50@6; common to good fat cows, \$3@6; fresh cows and springers, \$4@8.

Sheep and Lambs—Prime wethers, \$8.50@8.75; good mixed, \$8@8.50; fair mixed, \$7@7.75; culls and common, \$4@5.50; lambs, \$7.50@11.50; veal calves, \$11.50@12; heavy and thin calves, \$7@8.50.

Hogs—Prime heavy hogs, heavy mixed, mediums and heavy Yorkers, \$8.60@8.65; light Yorkers, \$8.25@8.35; pigs, \$7.90@8; roughs, \$7.50@8; stags, \$6@6.50.

Cleveland, Feb. 22.
Cattle—Choice fat steers, \$7.50@8.25; good to choice butcher steers, \$7@7.50; fair to good butcher steers, \$6@7; good to choice heifers, \$6@7.25; good to choice butchers, \$6@7; good to choice cows, \$5.50@6.25; fair to good cows, \$4.50@5.50; common cows, \$3.25@4.25.

Sheep and Lambs—Good to choice lambs, \$11.25@11.35; fair to good, \$9.50@10.50; good to choice wethers, \$7.50@8; good to choice ewes, \$7@7.50; mixed ewes and wethers, \$7.25@7.50; culls, \$5.50@6.50.

Hogs—Yorkers, \$8.50; mediums \$8.65; mixed, \$8.50@8.65; pigs, \$7.50@7.75; roughs, \$7.50; stags, \$5.75.

Calves—Good to choice, \$11.75@12; fair to good, \$9@11; heavy and common, \$6@9.

Chicago, Feb. 22.
Hogs—Bulk, \$8.15@8.30; light, \$7.75@8.35; mixed, \$7.95@8.40; heavy \$7.90@8.10; roughs, \$7.90@8.10; pigs \$6.25@7.40.

Cattle—Native beef steers, \$6.75@9.65; stockers and feeders, \$5.65@7.30; cows and heifers, \$3.20@8.25; calves, \$8.50@11.

Sheep—Wethers, \$7.75@8.30; ewes, \$5.50@8.25; lambs, \$9@11.50.

Wheat—May, \$1.24½. Corn—May, 76½c. Oats—May, 46½c.

DAUGHTER CAN USE IT



As well as Mother

Its smooth running, roller bearing and rubber tired wheels make it one of the easiest running cleaners on the market.

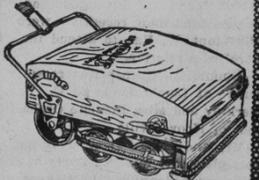
And yet it will take out as much dirt from the carpet as when father puts his strong muscles behind it.

Strength isn't necessary to operate one of these



and get good results.

That's why hundreds of women who never could stand the hard work of sweeping with the old fashioned broom, have been able with the use of a Torrington Superior to keep the carpets and rugs in apple pie condition the year round



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