

# THE FARMERS' COLUMN

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

## FACTS FOR DAILY USE

### EARLY HATCHED CHICKENS THE MONEY MAKERS.

Farmers and all others growing chickens either for market or as egg producers are strongly advised to hatch chickens early, by W. Theo Willman, poultry expert and one of the farm advisers and demonstrators of the State Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Wittman says: "Early means Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, and Rhode Island Reds, the months of March and April for Leghorns and perhaps the first part of May. There is such a thing as having chickens out too early. This is especially true of Leghorns intended for laying—the only thing that Leghorns are good for anyway. If Leghorn pullets are hatched anywhere in Pennsylvania before April 1 and are properly fed and handled they are sure to moult in the succeeding fall and stop laying the very season of the year that now-a-days is the season of high priced eggs, late fall and early winter.

It is now a well-known fact that no hen hatched later than May 1st or possibly May 15 according to the season, ever turns out to be a high producer or in other words a good layer. This fact is so generally recognized that all the big egg farmers of the State aim to have all of their chicks hatch in the month of April. This means a uniform flock of pullets in the fall of one age and of one size and all starting to lay in the month of October. Farmers can do nothing that will tend to make their own poultry better layers and money makers than to copy this practice making this exception if they have the so-called general purpose breeds, the Rocks, Red, or Dottes that they move this period ahead two to four weeks.

### WHEN THE BUTTER WILL NOT COME.

Numerous complaints of the failure of butter "to come" after hours and hours of churning have reached the department of Agriculture and L. W. Lightly, expert in dairying and animal husbandry, comes to the aid with some timely and valuable advice on churning. He says:

"There are a number of reasons for this complaint. The cream may be too cold. Use a good dairy thermometer, and if you had trouble the last churning, warm the cream up about five degrees higher and if that will not do, go still higher. Occasionally cream must be nearly to seventy degrees before it will churn, but then the chances are that the butter will not be very good.

"Another common trouble is that the cream is not properly ripened. The cream should be kept sweet and in good condition until we are ready for churning but it is not well to keep cream longer than three days. To get the cream ready for churning put it all in one vessel and set it into warm water and stir frequently until the temperature of the cream is seventy-eight degrees. Now add a starter. Any dairy supply house will sell you starter to ripen cream and the directions for use are on the package. It is just as necessary to use starter in your cream to ripen it, as it is necessary to get fresh yeast when your bread fails to raise. After the starter is added allow the temperature of the cream to come down slowly until it has reached seventy degrees. In twelve to sixteen hours the cream will be ripe, or in other words, it will be the right degree of sourness, so that butter will churn readily and have a fine flavor after churning.

Sometimes butter will not come because the cows are half starved and the milk they give is abnormal. The remedy is to feed the cows a full and balanced ration and in several days the milk will be normal and the cream will churn.

"Again the butter fails to come, because the cows are plastered with manure, the milk is careless and the filth that gets into the milk will cause a frothy fermentation causing the cream to froth up and not churn. The remedy here is plain. Be decent.

### B. & O. USED LOTS OF PAINT LAST YEAR

In painting stations and other buildings, freight cars and bridges, the Baltimore and Ohio railroad used 3,222,371 gallons of paint during the three years ended December 31, 1915. A standard color scheme for buildings, cars and bridge structures was adopted, so that throughout the entire territory the property of the Baltimore & Ohio is uniformly painted.

## HAS ACCEPTED POST AS AMBASSADOR TO RUSSIA

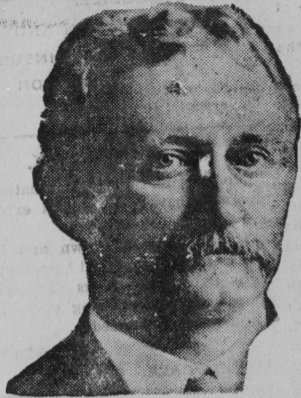


Photo by American Press Association. DAVID R. FRANCIS.

### ROAD BUILDERS IN SESSION

Thirteenth Congress Meets in Exposition Hall, Pittsburgh.

With the convening of the opening session in the Exposition building, Pittsburgh, after an informal get-together in Memorial hall, the thirteenth annual congress of the American Roadbuilders' association began its formal sessions, to conclude Friday afternoon. Congressman Dorsey W. Shackelford of Missouri, chairman of the house committee on roads, was the principal speaker last night. He described the pending appropriation of \$25,000,000 annually for state aid in highway construction. Philander C. Knox was another speaker, dwelling on the importance of improved roads. James Francis Burke was chairman of the meeting and W. S. Brown, chairman of the chamber of commerce entertainment committee, introduced the former congressman. Preceding the speaking there was a musical program. An audience which taxed the capacity of Memorial hall was present.

### BRIDEGROOM ROBBED

Robbers Get \$128 From Clarksburg (W. Va.) Man.

Although the community has been searched thoroughly and bloodhounds put on a trail, Clarksburg (W. Va.) officers have failed to find highwaymen who held up and robbed W. H. Costello, aged twenty-one, an employee at the Pitcairn Coal Mining plant, as he was crossing a hill in the southern limits of the city.

The highwaymen, who were masked, held revolvers in the faces of Costello and his brother Robert, and took \$128 from the former and \$6 from the latter. W. H. Costello was on his way to Fairmont, where he was to be married.

### PORK PRICES RAISED

Berlin Butchers Can't Get Hogs at Fixed Figure.

The magistracy of Berlin has raised the maximum pork prices at request of the butchers, who are unable to secure swine at existing prices. The new prices run from 80 pfennigs a pound for a head without jowls to 160 pfennigs for fresh hams, 150 pfennigs for belly, shoulder and similar cuts, and 240 pfennigs for tenderloin and cutlets. Portions of dressed hogs which may be converted into sausage, have been further reduced.

### MARKET QUOTATIONS

Pittsburgh, Feb. 29.  
Butter—Prints, 38@38½c; tubs, 37@37½c. Eggs—Fresh, 26c.  
Cattle—Choice, \$8.40@8.65; prime, \$8.10@8.35; good, \$7.75@8; tidy butchers, \$7.35@7.85; fair, \$6.60@7.15; common, \$5.50@6.25; choice heifers, \$6.50@7.50; common to fair heifers, \$4.50@6; common to good fat bulls, \$4.50@7; common to good fat cows, \$3@6.50; fresh cows and springers, \$35@75.  
Sheep and Lambs—Prime wethers, \$8.75@9; good mixed, \$8.25@8.65; fair mixed, \$7@8; culls and common, \$4@5.50; lambs, \$7@11.75; veal calves, \$11.50@12; heavy and thin calves, \$7@8.  
Hogs—Prime heavy hogs, heavy mixed, mediums and heavy Yorkers, \$9.10@9.15; light Yorkers, \$8.40@8.50; pigs, \$7.75@8; roughs, \$8@8.25; stags, \$6.50@6.75.

Cleveland, Feb. 29.  
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@11.25; 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.  
Calves—Good to choice, \$11@11.50; fair to good, \$9@11; heavy and common, \$6@9.  
Hogs—Yorkers, \$8.65@8.70; mediums, \$8.75; mixed, \$8.70@8.75; pigs, \$7.50; roughs, \$7.75; stags, \$5.75.

Chicago, Feb. 29.  
Hogs—Mixed and butchers, \$8.35@8.75; good heavy, \$8.55@8.70; rough heavy, \$8.30@8.45; light, \$8.15@8.70; pigs, \$7@7.90.  
Sheep—Natives, \$8@8.40; western, \$8@8.50; lambs, \$9.25@11; western, \$7.50@11.35.  
Wheat—May, \$1.09. Corn—May, 78% c. Oats—May, 44% c.

## TEUTONS SLACKEN IN VERDUN BATTLE

Five Attempts of French to Retake Douaumont Repulsed

### NEW ATTEMPT NEARER PARIS

Teutons' Drive Has Reached Within Five Miles of Verdun Proper, Say Berlin Reports—French Optimistic.

Reports from Verdun, where the big battle has been raging for a week, indicate that the German attack has shifted to the east and southeast of Verdun. Heavy artillery fighting continues on the east bank of the Meuse, where, according to the German statement, the French forces have been driven entirely out of the Meuse peninsula, formed by a loop in the river just north of the Verdun forts.

West of the Meuse the German bombardment has decreased in intensity, while along the railway running south through Elix and Fresnes (between Verdun and Etain) a new attack has developed with some success, according to German reports. Some twenty miles west of Verdun, in the Champagne district, the Germans began an attack which gained for them a mile of French front north of Souain and about 1,000 prisoners. An offensive in this region, when considered in conjunction with the heavy German attacks east of Verdun, seems to indicate that Count von Haesler has given up a frontal attack on the Verdun fortress and instead is endeavoring to break the French line both east and west of it in order to turn the position.

This is the same plan precisely as used by the Germans in their advance on Paris before the battle of the Marne and which did not then succeed particularly because of the strong French defensive on the heights east of the Meuse known as the Cotes Lorraines.

The situation at Fort Douaumont, which has been obscure owing to conflicting statements from Berlin and Paris, is made clear by the French communique which says the fort is closely encircled, meaning, of course, that it is held by the Germans. The village of Douaumont, however, which lies north of the fort, is in the hands of the French, and this indicates that the German troops who stormed the fort are surrounded. The French communique says that the Germans made several unsuccessful attempts to drive them from this village.

West of Douaumont the Germans report progress in the direction of the towns of Vachereauville and Les Trois Villages. These villages lie south of the Cotes de Poivre, which is held by the French. In this neighborhood the French war office tells of severe hand-to-hand fighting with the repulse of a small force of the enemy who had succeeded in gaining a foothold in a redoubt.

Italian Hospital Ship Sunk. The sinking of the hospital ship Marchiaro near San Giovanni di Medua, Albania, is reported in a dispatch from Rome to the Exchange Telegraph company. The vessel is said to have struck an Austrian mine. It is reported there were numerous victims.

The Italian steamship Marchiaro, 412 tons gross and 175 feet long, was built at Ancona in 1912 and was owned at Naples.

The bodies of eight sailors and the captain of the Wilson liner Dido, which was sunk on Feb. 28, were washed ashore at Donna Hook, Lincolnshire.

### MINE AGREEMENT NEAR

Operators and Men Expected to Reach Decision This Week.

Developments that will go far toward removing the uncertainty in the coal mining industry of the country are expected this week when conferences to arrange wage schedules in bituminous and anthracite fields will be resumed.

The most serious obstacle to an agreement in western Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois has been the demand of the United Mine Workers for the adoption of the run of mine system of paying the miners.

Western Pennsylvania coal companies were strongly opposed to it, but have decided, it was said, to accept it with provisions such as are in effect in Ohio, which will guarantee them clean and merchantable coal. The Indiana miners want the mine run basis with the standard of rates now in effect in the Danville (Ill.) district.

With the mine run question out of the way, the demands calling for wage increases of 10 and 20 per cent for the several classes of workers will be considered.

1916 MARCH 1916						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

## ONE OF PRESIDENT'S ABLEST ADVISERS

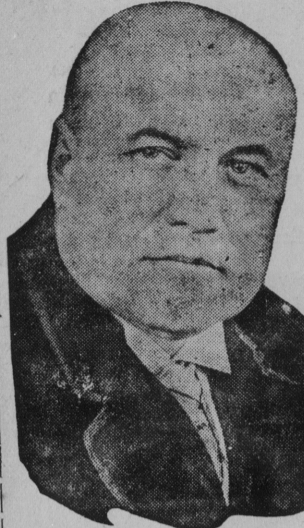


Photo by American Press Association. FRANKLIN K. LANE, Secretary of Interior.

## A GENERAL SURVEY OF THE WAR

An official Petrograd statement says that at the capture of Erzerum the Russians took prisoners 235 officers and 12,735 men. They also captured 323 guns, three standards and large stores of munitions and provisions.

Russian transports in Black sea landed army for the drive on Trebizond.

German aeroplanes raided Kent and killed three persons.

German attempt to cross Yser canal failed.

French in six air battles wrecked a Zeppelin and four German aeroplanes.

English house of commons votes \$2,100,000,000 for war.

The Turks abandoned Bitlis.

President Wilson has rejected proposal of congressmen to prohibit Americans from traveling on armed merchant vessels.

German prize crew brought British steamship Westburn and crews of seven vessels to Santa Cruz de Tenerife. Later the Germans scuttled the ship outside the harbor.

In the fiercest battle since 1914 Germans have forced back French line to within two miles of Verdun fortress.

Portugal has seized thirty-six interned Teuton vessels.

The Persian city of Kermanshah, on the high road to Bagdad, has been successfully stormed and captured by the Russian armies, according to a Petrograd dispatch.

The Rome correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph, London, states that word has been received from Zurich that a cholera epidemic is spreading through Croatia. Thousands are stricken with the disease. Most of the victims are women and children.

### HUGHES NOT A CANDIDATE

Justice Refuses to Enter Political Discussion.

In a letter to Henry A. Wise Wood of New York, Justice Charles E. Hughes reiterates his declaration that he is not a candidate for the presidential nomination. Mr. Wood had requested a statement as to Justice Hughes' position on preparedness. Justice Hughes replied in part:

"In view of my judicial office I do not feel that I have any right to take part in any political discussion or to make statements of the sort that would be expected from candidates for office. I am not a candidate, actively or tacitly, and as I do not wish to do anything which would justly be regarded as an attempt to obtain political support I must ask to be excused from answering your inquiry."

### CONSTABLES ARRESTED

Armed With Warrant For Liquor, Stopped by Revenue Officers.

A car of whisky consigned from Vinton, O., over the Kanawha and Michigan railroad to the W. R. Johnson Coal company at Smithers, W. Va., was entered by several deputy sheriffs and constables of Fayette county, who had in their possession a warrant for the contents, issued by a justice of the peace.

United States deputy marshals had hidden in the car to learn the identity of those who claimed the liquor. The county officers were placed under protective arrest, but liberated until proceedings charging conspiracy are begun in the federal court.

### SLAYS WOLF WITH KNIFE

Michigan Man Will Receive \$25 Wolf Bounty.

A wolf which sprang from bushes on the side of the road and snapped at the leg of a horse driven by Thomas Carey near Ralph, Mich., was stunned by a club in the hands of one of two men who were with Carey. Carey then cut the animal's throat with a pocket knife. Carey will receive a wolf bounty of \$25.

## BERLIN REJECTS U. S. CONTENTION

Submarines Will Sink Armed Ships Without Notice

### WANTS AMERICANS WARNED

Foreign Office Ready to Discuss Question With Washington, But Will Put Program Into Effect Wednesday

Count von Bernstorff has received from his government an outline of Germany's position regarding her announced intention of torpedoing all armed enemy ships without warning after Feb. 29.

As hitherto forecasted, the memorandum may open the way for a discussion of the whole question of the distinction between merchant ships armed for defense and those armed for offense; but, contrary to expectations of the state department and the embassy, the communication does not offer to suspend the operation of the new submarine campaign pending this discussion.

In form the memorandum, it is learned authoritatively, is merely an answer to an observation made to the ambassador eleven days ago by Secretary Lansing. On that occasion Mr. Lansing received from the ambassador two documents, one a memorandum from Berlin agreeing to a settlement of the Lusitania controversy "substantially," on the terms laid down by the United States. The other was the copy of a circular warning sent out by Germany to all neutral governments advising them that after Feb. 29 German submarines would be directed to torpedo all armed enemy merchantmen without warning.

Mr. Lansing observed to the ambassador that this circular notice appearing to be inconsistent with past assurances given by Germany, that "liners would not be attacked without warning and without measures being taken for the safety of non-combatants on board, provided these liners did not attempt to resist or escape capture," he desired to inquire of Germany whether she was prepared to stand by her past assurances. He added that pending a settlement of this point he would hold the Lusitania matter open.

In the memorandum the Berlin foreign office directs Ambassador Bernstorff to inform the American government that Germany is prepared to stand by her past assurances and does not regard her coming campaign against armed enemy craft as nullifying these assurances.

The attention of the American government is called to Germany's understanding that the Lusitania controversy in no way dealt with armed liners; that the first American note on the Lusitania case, dated May 13, 1915, specifically referred to the ship as being "unarmed." On the other hand, the ambassador is directed to say, Germany's position consistently has been that merchant vessels have no right to arm, mere restrictions as to the extent of armament affording no guarantee that ships armed for defensive purposes only will not be used for offensive purposes under certain circumstances.

In this connection attention is called to the communication of the German foreign office of Oct. 15, 1914 to the American government, transmitted through Ambassador Gerard at Berlin, protesting against permission being granted by the United States for the arming of merchantmen of a belligerent country clearing from any of its ports as a private ship.

In support of the German contention that the character of armament on merchant vessels does not insure its use merely for defense, Ambassador Bernstorff is directed to lay before Secretary Lansing two sets of evidence. The first includes alleged circumstances in about twenty-five cases investigated by the German authorities showing where enemy merchantmen have used their armament to attack German submarines and other German war craft on sight or after warning had been given the merchantmen to haul to and submit to visit and search.

### SPAIN BUYS CARTRIDGES

Order For 250,000,000 Rounds Placed With Alton Firm.

Spain has placed an order for 250,000,000 eleven-millimeter cartridge with an Alton (Ill.) cartridge company, estimated to cost \$1,500,000 (Three Spanish government representatives have completed negotiations for the order, which supplements a large order recently filled by the same company for Spain.

### WOLVES IN OHIO

Farmers Organize to Exterminate Pack.

Farmers of Hocking and Ross counties, O., have organized a posse to kill a pack of five wolves, which have appeared there and terrorized the entire neighborhood. At least two farmers have been attacked and residents are so badly alarmed that they will no longer leave their homes at night.

Asphyxiated by Gas Stove. Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Carter of Port Huron, Mich., were found dead in Piqua, O., of gas poisoning. They had spent the night in a room where a natural gas fire was burning.

## 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.

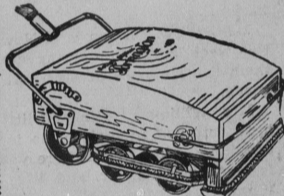
And yet it will take out as much dirt from the carpet as when father puts his strong muscles behind it.

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 Princess to keep the carpets and rugs in apple pie condition the year round



### FREE TRIAL

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FOR SALE BY LUKE HAY, 413 Main Street.

### -ROOFING-

I have bought a car load of No. 1 Galvanized Roofing and will sell at the lowest possible figure and guarantee the price till this car is sold, should it drop before March 1st, the customer shall have the benefit. Also the best price on No. 1 Bangor or Sea Green Slate as cheap as shingles. Spouting, Ridging, Nails and Valleys. Write for Delivered Prices to any Railroad Station. All Work Guaranteed and Done to Order.

### J. S. WENGERD

MEYERSDALE, R. D. 2 PENN'A.

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No. 1

### No More Backache

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## Armstrong's Linoleum

is made in patterns for the parlor as well as the kitchen. Fits the needs of the bathroom and the bedroom.

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