

FARMERS' UNION A FACT.

Million and a Half Members Work Together to Control Prices of Products. The Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union of America now has a membership of 1,500,000 in the twenty-four states where it is organized. One of the objects of the union is to rush the construction of elevators in time for the handling of the wheat crop of 1909 when it is thrashed. The organization is the outcome of a project suggested by a Texas schoolteacher.

All the southern states have union organizations, as have Missouri, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Oklahoma and Washington. Two great crops, cotton and wheat, have received the attention of the union up to date. But this will not be the limit of the organization's activity in the future, the members assert.

It is the object of the union to make "standard" prices for everything raised on American farms, from a bale of cotton to a dozen eggs. As yet, however, there has been no scale of prices fixed to cover the whole list. That is a matter to be worked out by each state organization. There is a minimum and maximum price for wheat, the so-called "fair" or "standard" price for that grain being a dollar a bushel.

It is the purpose of the union to have elevators to store grain in, to be sold at such time and for such prices as the local may think best, provided that none be sold below the minimum price and that none be held for more than the maximum price. All sales are conducted through the business agents, the union being at work to eliminate the middleman.

This is attempted by having the business agent deal directly with consumers, so each business agent has a list of mills and grain buyers who want the actual grain for manufacturing or feeding purposes, and he keeps in touch with them by correspondence. Each local has a business agent, and there is one for each state and a national business agent.

A farmer who needs cash after putting his wheat in a union elevator is rided over his "tight place" by brother members of the union who are better fixed than he. The same sort of system is in operation in the southern states, where cotton instead of wheat is the great staple crop. The elevators and cotton warehouses are stock concerns, the par value of each share of stock being fixed by the local which erects the elevator, but the fact that a member holds stock in the union's enterprise does not give him any more extensive privileges in the organization or in the handling of his grain.

The association is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. Though it is not a real branch of that organization, there exists between the two what is known as a fraternal understanding.

The union operates several banks. The charter of the national union was issued by Texas, giving it authority to charter branches anywhere and engage in any business practically. A few union co-operative stores are in existence. Country girls more than sixteen years old and farmers' wives are admitted to honorary membership. The locals meet twice a month, and the social features are by no means the least important in the union.

Beet Sugar in the United States.

Beet sugar factories are now in successful operation in sixteen states. Colorado leads all other states engaged in the industry, having sixteen factories. In 1907 these produced 193,000 tons of sugar, or enough if it had been passed around to give all the people in the United States four pounds apiece.

California and Michigan follow Colorado at a respectful distance in the race for second place. Michigan has the same number of factories as Colorado, but their product is considerably smaller. California has only nine plants, but some of the latter are very large. From year to year the production of sugar is about the same in the two states.

Utah has five factories, and they are strong producers. Idaho and Wisconsin follow with four each, and there are ten states with one factory each.

The most eastern factory is that at Lyons, N. Y. Hamilton City, Cal., has the most western factory. Los Alamitos, Cal., the most southern and Billings, Mont., the most northern.

The largest factory in the United States and one of the largest in the world is the one at Spreckels, Cal., which is able to slice 3,000 tons of beets in a day, or a hundred carloads of thirty tons each.

The oldest successful factory in the United States is the one at Alvarado, Cal., which was established in 1879 and has been making beet sugar for thirty years.

Lambs, Rams and Mutton.

The time that elapses between service and lambing runs from 145 to 150 days. About 147 days will catch the great majority. As in mares, the males are carried slightly longer than the females. Old ewes, say from four to six years, will produce the most lambs and will save the most. There are more single lambs produced by young ewes than by older ones. Merino is the wool sheep, Shropshire the all purpose and Southdown the best mutton sheep.

Weeding Small Fruits.

Do your weeding among the small fruits with mulching of swale hay, straw or forest leaves. This will save a large amount of hard work in hoeing. It holds the moisture, keeps the weeds from growing, keeps the fruit clean while growing and ripening. The fruit will grow much larger and of finer quality and certainly will bring better prices.

BURNING BOODLE.

Yes, it's the old story—burning boodle for bargains. A friend paid \$75 for 150 pairs guaranteed mated Homers. They were antiques, and 221 were cooling roosters. A second bought a 250 egg incubator and brooder for \$12 and freight paid. They were junk. A third paid \$3.50 for 150 guaranteed White Orpington eggs. They were tested out eggs. A fourth got twelve birds guaranteed to win at any show for \$15. He cooked them. And so it is all along the line, multitudes investing in a wildcat gold mine.

The nearest way to success is not by steering. Start wrong, end wrong; buy cheap, accumulate junk; burn money, and if you don't quit you must go back and start all over.

Don't be caught by hot air picture books. Don't be mesmerized by the eloquence of silver tongued gold brick boodlers.

Don't burn boodle for bargains that are bubbles that "bust."

KURIOS FROM KORRESPONDENTS

Q. I was much surprised today to find a live hen with maggots crawling about her stuff. What are cause and remedy? A. Big breeds often get bunches of filth about vent. If not removed this causes inflammation, and sores and blowflies do the rest. Clip off filthy feathers, wash with warm water and soap and apply carboline to sores.

Q. Do you publish a poultry book? Please state price. A. We have received a number of letters asking this question and wish to state that we have no book on market at present. Many of our readers are making a scrap book of "Poultry Notes" and are thus accumulating reliable practical information for present and future use.

Q. I have a fully matured Light Brahma cockerel that has never crowded. What is the matter? Is he fit to breed from? A. Perhaps he is not fully developed. To be so he must weigh ten pounds. Perhaps there is something in his throat or he may have poor lungs. If he wheezes, it is the latter. Rather doubt if we would let him head the pen. Get some nearby fancier to examine him.

Q. Do hens always quit laying in molting season? How long do they stop? How soon after finishing the molt do they lay? A. The great majority. As long as molt continues—from two to six weeks; longer if very fat.

Q. How can I keep my chicks from overfeeding the first day? A. By first day you likely mean the second, as you should not feed for twenty-four hours after hatch. Do not keep feed before them all the time or give their first feed toward evening. Always feel their crops to see if they are getting too much or too little.

Q. Will you kindly tell me why I lost so many of my early squabs? They were hatched in February and March. A. You were fooled by the pretty weather, like more of the boys. Part of February and early March were very pleasant. You mated your birds then, and your squabs came out just in time to be caught by bad weather, which gave them cold and canker. Late in April is time for fancy matings.

FEATHERS AND EGGSHELLS.

No report was read with more interest by the public than that which declared experiments with alfalfa flour had resulted in the finest kind of delicious, nourishing bread. If alfalfa can make an ostrich, build a chicken and strengthen a horse to pull, why can't it build up a man?

There is an idea prevalent that salt kills chickens. It takes a teaspoonful of salt to kill a chicken. We flavor our mashes with just about as much salt as would make them palatable to a human being. If one of your flocks gets a dose of salt quickly give it the white of an egg and feed it on milk for a day or two.

The early chick gets the best growth, is least liable to disease and brings the big money. People look at our March hatched birds and ask, "You don't mean to say those are this year's chickens?" The later the chick the less liable to be raised and the greater the cost.

The eastern fanciers have had a pretty stiff time of it on the feed question. Wheat \$1.40, corn 85 cents, oats 65 cents, buckwheat 90 cents—that's too high in a region where free range is limited. Yes; those western alfalfa fellows have us licked.

It's a wise squab raiser who keeps on the good side of the physicians and trained nurses in his vicinity. They are often perplexed where to buy good birds. A breeder sent samples to a number of physicians and nurses and thus secured the trade of two large city hospitals.

The practice of driving vast flocks of geese to the London market still continues. To shoe them for the journey they are first driven over tar and then over sand to give them Tribby feet. This is tar and feathers with a vengeance.

Barley is not much used in certain sections on account of the price. Where it is grown and cheaper it brings more money from eggs than to sell it to the distilleries.

Rye is little used for poultry. The hens do not care for it. It ferments and causes sour crop. If rye is bad for the hen, old rye is much worse for men.

In the famous Fountain valley of Ohio geese are plucked four times a year, while in England their feathers are pulled five times.

L. M. Darnitz

WHAT TO WEAR AND HOW TO WEAR IT.

Our Special Correspondent Writes Entertainingly to Women.

FROM THE METROPOLIS

Dainty Summer Frocks—Modes for the Little Folks—Cool and Dainty Blouses—Triumph of the Milliner's Art in Bridesmaids' Hats—Sleeves and Model for Tub Frock.

BY JULES THEROW.

After all much of the smartness of summer frocks is embodied in the little details. They are the elements that qualify a frock for the supreme place in the ranks of fashion. This charming summer conception developed in sheer silky tulle is beautifully trimmed with embroidery gariands and valenciennes lace and insertion. It is a close fitting princess with tucks about the waist and running down below the belt line to the hips.



DAINTY SUMMER GOWN.

At the bottom of the skirt there is a deep flounce, shirred rather full and stitched on under a heading of insertion, edging and the embroidery medallions.

A most charming berth arrangement glorifies the waist, being composed of the lace insertion and embroidery. It is brought over the shoulders and down to the bust-line where it is knotted carelessly and the ends allowed to hang down.

The sleeves are formed entirely of insertion, connected with bias folds of the batiste, hand embroidered and ruchings or Valenciennes edges finish them at the elbows.

Summer modes for little folks are of especial interest to mothers at this season, for it is well to have the children's summer outfits ready as early as possible.

Two dainty examples of the house dress are illustrated, the first being of plain dotted cotton material, trimmed with hand embroidery. The bottom of the skirt and front of the blouse are ornamented with the hand-work. The frock is cut in one piece, including even the double sleeves, also finished with embroidery.

The second model is a slip of white linen with gumpe or figured dimity worn underneath. The



FROCKS FOR HOME WEAR.

sleeves and bottom of the skirt are trimmed with self-tucked bands, making a simple, yet effective finish.

One-piece and straight little yoke dresses play an important part in the little woman's summer wardrobe. They are made elaborate by the use of fine materials and quantities of lace and hand-work, but the models with flat work and no other decoration, save tiny frills of lace at the wrists and a few tucks above the hem are much worn, besides being inexpensive and easy to fashion by the home dressmaker.

For coolness and daintiness nothing excels a blouse of seeded muslin, such as is pictured here. It is rather more close-fitting than the average lingerie blouse and the tucked trimming and yoke of hand embroidery give it an air of dressiness more generally associated with lace chiffon or silk waists.

The yoke is formed of heavy embroidery, with medallions of the

same trimming around it in the form of flat revers. For the medallions



HAT FOR A BRIDE'S MAIL.

The plumes, which are arranged at the back to fall in the same direction also combine the colors selected by the bride of this occasion.

There are also very picturesque models of Louis seize calottes order, with soft draped crowns of net or lace and falling platings of the same trimming. Some of these rise to great height through the airy drapery of the net in the crown or great tucks of net or lace in front. Others are fairly high and are trimmed with plumes or flowers at any angle to please the taste of the bride.

Although much has been said of the long, close-fitting sleeves the majority of models for summer gowns are elbow length only and fashioned in the loose, generous way that provides comfort as well as chic.

In the group of sleeves pictured here, the most novel, perhaps, is the centre one, termed of frills of two different kinds of lace, above which are folds of the dress materia, trimmed with small, fancy buttons.

The others, with one exception, all show the fancy for draped effects



REV. MARION LE ROY BURTON.
Brooklyn, N. Y.—Dr. Marion Le Roy Burton is President-elect of Smith College, and when he takes office in September, 1909, will be the youngest college president in America. During the past year he has occupied the pastorate at the Church of the Pilgrims, in Brooklyn. He holds a Ph. D. from Yale, where he was for some time professor of theology. He has written a book called "The Problem of Evil."

INDIAN'S FEAT ON TRAIL.

Bloodhounds Baffled, He Follows and Captures Bandits.

Muskegee, Okla.—Willie Bryant, a full blooded Cherokee boy, nineteen years old, taking a trail that bloodhounds refused to follow, led the way for fifty miles through rough timbered country and with a posse surrounded and captured the two remaining robbers who made a futile attempt to hold up a train at Braggs, resulting in a fight in which one officer was killed and one of the robbers badly wounded.

The feat of Bryant is considered remarkable. He has inherited all of the instincts of his forefathers in the craft of the trail. Sheriff Ramsay took bloodhounds in an auto to the scene of the hold-up before the trail was six hours old, but the dogs refused to follow it. Then Deputy Sheriff Clark put young Bryant at the head of the posse. The Indian was given his head. The course is in the foothills of the Ozark Mountains and very difficult for travel. This distance was covered unerringly and swiftly by the Cherokee. Though the task of keeping the trail was difficult, the members of the posse found the greatest trouble in keeping in sight of Bryant. When Proctor was reached the posse men were utterly exhausted.

SHAVES IN LION'S CAGE.

Local Barber Shows His Great Nerve at a Tent Show.

Chillicothe, Mo.—Rather than take a dare Charles Goodner, twenty-four years of age, a nerry barber of Chillicothe, accepted a challenge issued by Capt. Cardova, a lion trainer with the Parker shows, giving a carnival here; and entering the steel arena, gave the captain a shave with a big lion perched on either side.

The tent where the feat was performed was jammed with those who were curious to see whether the captain's deft would be taken up. Goodner entered the cage, calmly lathered and shaved the captain and then shouted "next."

Pig Barks Like a Dog.

Saco, Me.—Fred M. Thim, of this city, a well-known electrician and railroad man, has at his home in lower Beach street a pig that barks like a dog. Mr. Thim has had many visitors to see the animal and hear it bark.

TOBACCO SENDS WOMAN MAD

Mrs. Alice Mullens Used the Weed from Childhood, Chewing Two Pounds a Week.

Alton, Ill.—Driven insane by the excessive use of tobacco, Mrs. Alice Mullens of this city has taken to Edwardsville after being pronounced insane by the Madison County Court. Mrs. Mullens, who is 35 years old, used tobacco from childhood, chewing it in great quantities. At times, it is said, her supply has reached two pounds a week. She began using the weed when a girl of 16, and at 30 she was a physical wreck. Since that time she has lived in Alton township and given the county authorities all sorts of trouble.

Mrs. Mullens is an attractive woman and her case is one of the strangest the officials have yet had to deal with. Persons who visited her in her home say that she often went to bed with tobacco in her cheek. She also smoked occasionally, a pipe preferred, although cigars did not come amiss when proffered to her. Scrap tobacco is her favorite, and six big packages were an average week's supply for her. A police matron who investigated her case reported she had not a bite of food in her house, but had a big market basket full of tobacco scraps on hand.

Mrs. Mullens is somewhat of a mystery to the police, who have been unable to ascertain if she has any relatives or where her home was before she came to Alton. She rented a house in East End place, a respectable neighborhood, and lived there alone.

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