

AGRICULTURE

- OF LOCAL INTEREST TO -

WAYNE COUNTY FARMERS

DAN RICE, APOSTLE OF SCIENCE, WINS.

His Apple Growing Methods Near New Bloomfield, Win Counts.

Dan Rice, of near New Bloomfield, Perry county, has proved, he says, that he can raise apples better by following the advice given by the Division of Economic Zoology than some of the farmers who live in his vicinity who went along for years with old methods and nearly lost their trees.

Some years ago Rice moved into the locality and the farmers were horrified when he announced that he intended planting an orchard on the top of a mountain where only weeds had grown before.

Rice's orchard bore better and more fruit than the orchards of the men down in the valley. His crops increased with the years while those of the farmers dwindled. Their fruit was small, runty and wormy. His was large, perfectly shaped and commanded twice as high a price as that of the farmers.

Finally the farmers went to Rice and asked him to show them the methods he used. Last spring he offered to take care of six of their orchards, provided that they give him one-half the crop. As their crops never had amounted to much they readily agreed. He sprayed and pruned their trees, according to the most advanced methods and the result was more and better apples.

In all the orchards the farmers in gathering their half crops received this fall more apples than they had when the entire crop was theirs, and the apples were larger and more perfect. Owing to the spraying the apples were free from fungus growths and it has been possible for the farmers to store their apples until such time as the demand will give them much higher prices than they have ever before known.

The farmers about New Bloomfield, who engaged Rice to do their spraying and pruning, have told him that he can continue to take care of their orchards in the future on the same basis.

Rice has a large vault which will hold 1500 bushels, and from this he is able to ship the finest grade of apples raised in that part of the state. The packing part is left to Rice's daughter, who has developed a work in a way comparable only to the methods used in the West.

THE WAY THE FARMERS FEEL.

Representing U. S. Agriculturists, the Grange Has Aided in the Fight Against Reciprocity.

When the Grange, in many states, took up the fight against Canadian reciprocity and declared that it represented the sentiment of the farmers of the country, there were many who loudly proclaimed that the farmers were being misrepresented and that the latter were "not really opposed to reciprocity."

Since then a perfect flood of letters from the farmers has poured in upon Washington, and no doubt any longer exists that the farmers of the country, as a whole, are against the measure, positively and unmistakably. How one Ohio farmer feels about it is seen in an episode before Deputy W. J. Edgerton, of Belmont county, and his congressman, which shows distinctly the Grange-farmer sentiment in that state. Mr. Edgerton wrote the congressman his views on reciprocity, expressed in a courteous, proper way. The congressman did not think it necessary to reply, evidently, but instead sent the usual congressional salve—a package of free seeds. This was a little too much for Brother Edgerton and he returned the seeds to the donor with the following letter:

"I see by your recent vote that you are more interested in the welfare and prosperity of the farmers of Canada than of those of your district. I am returning to you the seeds which came to my address this morning, with the suggestion that you send them to some of your Canadian farmer friends. It is an insult to any intelligent farmer to send him a bunch of cheap seeds after you have voted to rob him of markets rightfully his own. This is especially true when the seeds were purchased with his money and without his consent. Some of the statesmen (?) of to-day will later learn that for every dollar the purchasing power of the farmer is reduced the nation must suffer a two-fold loss. Allow me to suggest that you later may have plenty of time to meditate on the fact that farmers of your district believe in exact justice to all classes and will be content with nothing else. Your Grange constituents have gone to the square deal school too long to accept an apology."

Dr. Funk's Apple Bulletin Issued.

The State Department of Agriculture has just issued the second edition of Fruits for Pennsylvania, a bulletin of the department written by Dr. J. H. Funk, of Boyertown.

The first edition was written and issued a number of years ago and the supply of copies was long since exhausted. The last Legislature specifically authorized the second edition. All department bulletins are limited to one edition to prevent a repetition of the Warren bird-book scandal of the Harding administration and when a pamphlet is exhausted no further supply can be obtained unless a special act be passed.

Dr. Funk's new publication is along the lines of his former one except that it has been brought up to date. Dr. Funk treats of the theory and practice of fruit growing in Pennsylvania generally and treats

specifically of methods to be followed with apples, peaches, pears, cherries, grapes and other fruits. Spraying is also treated in some detail.

To Prevent Fires.

Here are a few don'ts that are especially applicable to the present holiday season and if observed may result in the prevention of fires during the Christmas season:

Don't leave oil lamps burning or draft on the stove or furnace while away from your home.

Don't decorate store rooms or windows with cotton or inflammable material.

Don't place anything that will ignite rapidly near a gas jet, steam pipe or electric wire.

Don't allow smoking around crowded store rooms or in cellars where boxes or packages are packed and unpacked.

Don't forget to make a careful inspection of stores or premises before closing up or retiring for the night.

Don't use cotton for decorating Christmas trees in the homes.

Don't allow children to light candles on Christmas trees.

Don't place candles on trees so that when burning the flames will ignite the decorations. Place the candles in a fireproof casing, not in celluloid casings that are generally used.

Don't allow matches to be within the children's reach.

Don't fill a bucket with water and put it where you can't find it in case a fire should break out, but keep it close at hand so it can be used promptly when needed.

LODGE NOTES

THE EXPENSE OF THE GRANGE.

Annually Costs County Nearly \$50,000,000, But It Is Well Worth the Expenditure.

A member of the order who is skillful with his pencil, has figured out that the Grange annually costs the country more than \$50,000,000 to maintain, which amazing total is reached by including the following as the principal expense items:

Cost of the members' time, nearly 800,000 members, attending 100,000 meetings every 12 months; cost of transportation to same, steam and electric cars, horses and automobiles; hall rent for 100,000 nights; 60,000 Grange suppers every year; time spent in preparation of 100,000 lecture hour programs in 30 states; printing; various incidentals necessary in the conduct of such a great organization, in its local, state and national aspects. Thus tabulated, the figurer is certain that his estimate is not too high when he concludes that it costs \$50,000,000 every year to maintain the Grange organization.

The other side of the question is then taken up, proving that in spite of its tremendous cost, the Grange is nevertheless a profitable investment for the country. Among its compensating benefits are mentioned these: Its service to agriculture, by increasing the efficiency of the tillers of the soil, promoting greater interest in the work and more courage for success; enlarging the social opportunities in rural communities; giving the opportunity for self-development afforded through the lecture hour; increasing purpose to bring out the best and most worthwhile side of life; co-operation with church and school in all commendable community undertakings; lending a helping hand to civic progress and the improved appearance of the local environment; an added organized factor for progressive legislation beneficial to the farmer and to all residents of the country towns; bringing a distinct element of helpfulness into isolated farm homes, awakening interest among the boys and girls of the country, stimulating wholesome rivalry, while promoting needed community co-operation.

In short, the Grange is declared to pay because it lives up to the best definition that has ever been given of the Grange, which is this: "The purpose of the Grange is to develop the individual capacity of each member for the good of the whole; and then in turn to organize the power of the whole for the good of each individual member." Surely if the Grange is living up to that purpose, along the lines that have been indicated, it is worth all it costs, no matter how great that cost may be. However, the "balance sheet" in question is interesting and will tend to give many people a new realization of the order, its size and its possibilities.

NON-POLITICAL GOVERNMENT.

Mayor Blankenburg, of Philadelphia, announced to the Pennsylvania Society in New York, at its thirteenth annual dinner last Saturday, that he proposed to give Philadelphia something it has never had before—a non-political administration.

Without question, Mr. Blankenburg means what he says. Loud murmurs of discontent from the "reform" leaders in his home city indicate that he has already started in to annihilate politics and incidentally the Keystone party—and himself.

Mr. Blankenburg has been asked to make certain appointments as a matter of policy. He refused on the grounds that policy ought to have nothing to do with appointments.

"I shall have absolutely no politics in my administration," he announced emphatically. "I propose to manage Philadelphia exactly as I would go about it if it were a private corporation, instead of a municipal corporation."

But does Mr. Blankenburg know of any private corporation in which politics does not play a conspicuous part? Do you? There is no walk of life, no vocation or avocation, in which politics is not played constantly. Ordinary tact is politics.

The word politics is derived from a Greek word meaning citizen. One of its definitions is "pertaining to a constitutional, as distinguished from a despotic, form of government." In other words, that which is of or belongs to the citizen is political in its nature. Nero might have been called non-political. George Washington was a politician.

A representative body is of necessity a political body. A question affecting the whole people is political. Tariff is political and can never be anything else, although new forms of dealing with it may reduce the log rolling to a minimum.

As a manufacturer and an employer of labor, Mr. Blankenburg must know as well as anybody else how important it is to play politics in his own office, to mollify this subordinate, to discipline that one, to reward here and punish there.

The father who induces his child to study or to work voluntarily and enthusiastically through indirect methods is playing politics. We have politics in the school room, politics in church, politics everywhere except in the grave.

"Ah! but that is politics in its best sense," you protest.

Not necessarily. Mr. Blankenburg's method of rewarding and punishing his employees in the factory may be very unfair and unjust. The father's devices for governing his children with the least possible friction may be unwise. Most of us know how often church politics is not "politics in its best sense."

And politics in its worst sense is only a good thing poorly or wickedly done.

When Mr. Blankenburg says that he will give Philadelphia an administration absolutely devoid of politics he tells us in effect that he will give Philadelphia a regime devoid of common sense, of tact and of good results. He tells us that he means to do something that neither he nor any other man can do. As well might he affirm that he will neither smile nor frown during his tenure of office, for both smiles and frowns are political in their effect. The one is intended to please for a purpose, the other to intimidate.

WILLIAMS' KIDNEY PILLS

Have you overworked your nervous system and caused trouble with your kidneys and bladder? Have you pain in loins, side, back and bladder? Have you a flabby appearance of the face, and under the eyes? A frequent desire to pass urine? If so, Williams' Kidney Pills will cure you—Druggist, Price 50c.

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The very opprobrium attaching to the word "politics" represents the best achievement of a particular kind of politics energetically played for the last decade or more.

Do not be a party to perpetuating this ludicrous error of condemning politics as anything unworthy, something intrinsically vicious.

On the contrary, it is basically good.—Harrisburg Telegraph.

Only Yearly Paper Printed in Alaska

In the bad old days the masters of the whaling vessels sailing from San Francisco to the far North used to give the Alaskan Eskimos raw "fire-water" in order to secure the valuable furs they had obtained during the long Arctic winter, says the January Wide World. Little they dreamed that these fierce children of the North would one day be so advanced as to print their own newspaper! After the terrible slaughter by the whalers of the alcohol-frenzied natives at Cape Prince of Wales in Bering Strait, it was a rather ticklish job for a white man to start a Bible class. Still, H. A. Thornon attempted it, but he was shot dead by a boy of 14, who was killed in his turn by his own kinsman. This affair happened in 1890. Two years after W. T. Lopp appeared on the scene with his wife. They settled at Cape Prince of Wales, and year after year, until 1903, they taught them boatbuilding, carpentering, etc., and, to put a final touch to his valuable work, he had a small press brought from the States, and it was not long after that his willing pupils were able to compose and print their own paper. This is probably the only yearly newspaper in the world—the Eskimo Bulletin.

When my daughter was 4 years old she sat gazing at the notes on a piece of music, when she suddenly looked up and said: "Mamma, here's a lot of little boys on a wire fence," and, looking down at it, said, after a moment's thought, "and some of 'em got hats on."—Exchange.

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