

The Eye of the Government

By RYLAND BELL

For some time after the democratic uprising of 1848, which occurred all over Europe, the governments of Germany and Austria, which had been very nearly overturned by revolution, kept a strict record of strangers passing through their domains. Not that tourists are today ignored, but the methods are not now so obtrusive as they were then.

In 1852 William Starkweather of Albany, N. Y., while in Berlin was followed about by a man who was undoubtedly a spy of the government. Ten years later he had occasion to again visit Berlin. He remembered his previous experience and wondered if it would be repeated. He saw nothing, however, to excite his suspicions till he was leaving the city. He stepped into a compartment of a coach—each compartment was separated from the others at that time—in which there was no other passenger. Just before the train started a one eyed man carrying a valise entered the compartment and as he did so eyed Mr. Starkweather sharply.

"Here he is," thought the American. "He has but one eye, but for spying purposes it is quite as good as two."

The man took a seat as far away from Starkweather as possible, and instead of putting his valise in the rack overhead placed it in the seat beside him.

Starkweather reached a satchel from the rack, took out a book and began to read. He had perused several pages when, looking aside, he saw the single eye—the eye of the government he called it—looking at him.

As Starkweather looked up the man put his hand on the valise beside him, and since his expression indicated that he was ready to fight if necessary, the American thought that he was intending to open the valise and take out a brace of pistols. Starkweather, who kept what money he had with him in his right hip pocket, involuntarily put his hand there. The man started and put his own hand to his hip, keeping that single eye of his on his fellow passenger. Starkweather, inferring that the man supposed he had reached for a pistol, withdrew his hand in a way to avoid, so far as possible, giving that appearance. Nevertheless he dreaded lest the man, expecting that he would draw a weapon, should do so quicker than he and send a bullet crashing through his brain. However, when the other saw his empty hand he, too, withdrew his own and without anything in it.

By this time Starkweather, being alone in a compartment with a man whom he believed had been sent by the police to watch him and shoot him down if he attempted to play any desperate game, considered it quite time to disabuse his antagonist of his supposition as to his character. Fortunately he spoke German very well and thus addressed the one eyed man in that language:

"Since you seem to be interested in me, sir, I take it that you think me a revolutionist. I assure you that I have no interest in this country whatever. I am a citizen of the city of Albany, in the state of New York, in the United States of America. I beg you, therefore, to cease your attentions and let me alone."

This brief speech seemed to have a contrary effect on the one eyed man to what was expected. He glared at Starkweather, clutching his valise in one hand, while he kept the other under his coat in the region of his hip. When Starkweather had finished he made no reply, but looked about apparently for some means of stopping the train. Starkweather lost patience with the fellow and, forgetting to speak in German, blurted out in first rate American:

"What in thunder is the matter with you?"

"What in thunder is the matter with you?" was the reply in the same language.

"You understand English?"

"Of course I do. I don't understand anything else."

"Not what I said to you just now in German?"

"No. Who are you?"

"I'm William Starkweather of Albany, N. Y., U. S. A."

"Then you know me and have my secret."

"I don't know you, and I neither have nor wish to have your secret."

"I'm from Albany myself—145 G street. I live around the corner from you. I suppose you learned of my mission there and have followed me to get the securities."

"What securities?"

"That I'm taking home for the state government."

Starkweather burst into a laugh.

"What are you grinning at?" inquired the other.

"Do you know I've been taking you for a spy of the Prussian government who suspected me of being a revolutionist?"

"Why did you think that?"

"You looked at me when you entered the coach as if you had spotted me."

"I didn't like riding in a compartment with one other man, having \$200,000 in bonds in my valise."

"Oh, that's the explanation, is it? What's your name?"

"Philip Van Gelsen."

"Oh, you're the assistant state treasurer."

"Yes."

"Well, I'll be jiggered!"

NOT IN FAVOR OF MINIMUM WAGE BILL.

Lawmakers at Harrisburg Are Against Jeopardizing the Interest of State's Industries.

Harrisburg, April 1.—The admission made by Lieutenant Governor Barratt O'Hara, of the Illinois vice investigating commission, that it would be suicidal for one State to adopt a minimum wage bill unless all states adopted the same minimum, has caused a good deal of discussion at the capitol.

When the Illinois commission visited Governor Tener on its way to Washington last Saturday, Mr. O'Hara said:

"You can understand, Governor, that to have Illinois merchants and manufacturers paying higher wages than were paid in competing states in similar trades would put our people out of business."

Many legislators who, like the Governor, favor a minimum wage bill as an abstract proposition have been seriously disturbed by this confession that the bill now pending in the Legislature contains a possible drawback which may fall heavily upon those the measure is designed to serve.

It has been pointed out that comparatively few of the States have expressed any interest in minimum wage legislation as yet and that in several of those where it was adopted, it has been thrown out as unconstitutional.

There is said to be a strong and increasing sentiment among the lawmakers here against jeopardizing the interests of the most important manufacturing State in the Union by plunging heedlessly into drastic legislation of this kind without waiting to find out what other States are going to do.

UNITED STATES LARGE USER OF FINE CIRCASSIAN WALNUT.

The United States, says the department of agriculture, is probably the largest consumer of Circassian walnut one of the world's best known and most expensive cabinet woods. The high cost of Circassian walnut is due to the scarcity of the beautifully figured variety demanded for furniture and interior finish, for the tree itself is more widely distributed than almost any other of commercial importance. The demand for the best wood, however, has always outrun the supply. Even in the eighteenth century, when wars in Europe were frequent, so much Circassian walnut was used for gunstocks that the supply was seriously depleted. Early in the nineteenth century the wood of 12,000 trees were used for this purpose alone. Single trees, containing choice burls or fine bird's-eye figures have sold for more than \$3,000.

The tree is native of the eastern slopes of the Caucasus and ranges eastward to the foothills of the Himalaya mountains, from which it extends southward to northern India and the mountains of Upper Burma. It has been widely planted in Europe and the United States, in this country under the name of English walnut. The wood grows here, however, has not the qualities demanded by the cabinet and furniture maker. Much of the Circassian walnut now used comes from the Black Sea and from other parts of Asia.

According to a circular just issued by the forest service the demand for Circassian walnut has resulted in the substitution of other woods. Our own red gum is often sold as Circassian walnut and butternut is also similar in general appearance to the less highly figured grades. Many good African, Asian and South American woods resemble Circassian walnut, though none possess the magnificent figure, delicate tones and velvety texture of the latter. The circular discusses the supply and uses of Circassian walnut, and those who wish to know how possible substitutes may be distinguished can learn from the circular the distinctive marks which the government's experts have discovered.

CAN OLD LIME SULFUR BE USED?

One of the subjects of many letters of inquiry now reaching the office of State Zoologist H. A. Surface, at Harrisburg, is that pertaining to the use of old lime sulfur solution. Writers state that they have some of this solution, which was left over from the previous season, and ask if it can be used with good effect. To this inquiry Professor Surface replies as follows, in accordance with the results of his practical experience extending through several years:

"The lime-sulfur solution can safely be used for the destruction of the San Jose scale and other insects and plant diseases, without regard to its age, if it is thoroughly applied and used strong enough. After it has crystallized, there is a partial deterioration in its efficiency, but as long as any of the solution is left, it is all right to use for either the dormant spray or for summer spray when properly diluted. It is important, however, that it be tested with a hydrometer at the time of dilution."

An instrument for testing lime-sulfur solution, with full directions, can be obtained from the manufacturers for less than one dollar, and is simple, easily used and understood. I do not recommend any person to attempt to use any lime-sulfur solution, neither homemade nor commercial, fresh nor old, without testing it with a hydrometer at the time of its application."

The specific gravity hydrometer is coming into universal use for this purpose. The material can be stronger for dormant spray than directed in the hydrometer test, but if made weaker, it will not be satisfactory on dormant trees. When spraying trees in leaf as, for example with the Curculio or Codling moth, arsenate of lead must be added to the lime-sulfur solution, which at that time acts as a fungicide preventing plant diseases, instead of entirely an insecticide, although it has recently been proven that spraying just after the blossoms fall with dilute lime-sulfur solution destroys the Codling moth and has the same effect as though a poison were added, without the expense and possible danger to livestock from adding or carelessly using the arsenate of lead.

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS TEACH CORN TESTING

Teachers and Pupils of Rural Schools Shown How to Conduct Rag Doll Prize Contest—Plan of Crop Improvement Committee, Chicago.

[National Crop Improvement Service.] In the high school at Mankato, Minn., and in a number of other counties in other states, the testing of seed corn has been introduced, and after learning how to do it the boys are sent out to the different school districts in the county to show the teachers and scholars how to conduct the tests. Each pupil tests for a different farmer.

Standard framed pictures are offered by the Commercial club as prizes, the schools making the greatest number of tests getting the largest picture. On the following Saturday a small space is borrowed in all the show windows in town, next to the glass, to exhibit the prize winners from each district. The merchant adds a small prize for both the man who furnishes the seed ears and the pupil who makes the test.

TEST ALL SEED GRAIN.

No Grain Should Be Planted Which Tests Less Than 95 per Cent. Strong—Very Simple Method for Winter Evenings or for School Work.

By Prof. A. L. Stone.

[National Crop Improvement Service.] Every grower should test his seed before sowing. Age lowers its vitality. A determination of the seed's power to grow, is therefore absolutely necessary for the success of the future crop. Samples for the germination test, should be selected from grain which has been previously cleaned and graded. Cleaned to remove light and immature kernels, weedy seeds and foreign material. Graded to secure the plumpest and largest seed, a uniformity in size and maturity of the grain, will insure an even growth and maturity of the crop.

A tester for testing the samples can be easily made by using two tin plates, one slightly smaller than the other. Cotton flannel or blotting paper pads are cut of the same size as the inside of the under plate. The pads are soaked in water and squeezed to remove surplus moisture. A pad is put in bottom of larger plate and 100 kernels are counted and distributed over it. Another pad is placed upon the seed and the smaller plate inverted and used as a cover to prevent evaporation. This tester should be placed in a convenient place where the temperature is between 74 and 80 degrees F. Water can be added to pads when they become somewhat dry. Count sprouted seeds after one week.

There are a number of good commercial seed testers on the market. No grain should give a germination of less than 95 per cent. for the best results. The higher the percentage of germination the better. That all the grain germinates is not sufficient, however. The germination should be strong and vigorous resulting in a strong, rapidly growing young plant. As the success or failure of the crop depends upon it this is an important point.

Any child ten years old can make this test. Why not get your school interested at once?

"HALF LICKED" BEFORE THEY BEGIN.

Why It Pays to Grade Your Corn to Uniform Size.

(By Manson Campbell.)

[National Crop Improvement Service.] Some farmers will raise anywhere from 100 to 125 bushels of corn per acre while their neighbors who have just as good land will produce only from 20 to 30 bushels per acre.

"Why is this?"

The man who raised the 100 bushels per acre graded his corn and tested it before planting, and the man who raised 20 bushels per acre is the man who planted any old seed that he could get hold of. He will go out to his crib about the first of May, and take out some fairly good looking ears that have been frozen all winter, shell them and go and plant them.

Any person who follows this slipshod method of farming does not deserve as good a crop as the man who raises from 100 to 125 bushels, and who can be seen in the early husking time going through his field of corn and taking out the very best ears to use for his next season's seed. These ears are taken to the house or some other good warm building and thoroughly cured or prepared for seed, then during the winter the seed is tested or germinated to prove that it is of good quality, and the ears that show good strong germination and lots of vitality are shelled off and graded in a good seed corn grader. This class of corn will produce as high as 160 bushels per acre, and any man who will follow this method can increase his yield of corn as much as 80 or 90 bushels per acre.

"Will this pay?"

The way to make dollars out of corn is to grade it in a grading machine, to screen out the refuse, the tips, butts, imperfect kernels, and ungrainable particles—leaving only the pure, rich, ripe kernels that will grow—that's worth planting room.

TEST-DON'T GUESS

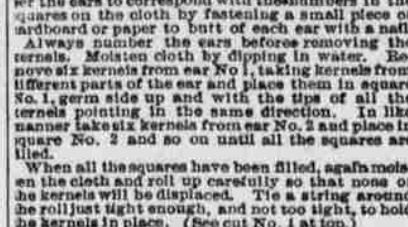


IMPORTANT
The germination cloth should be made 9 inches wide from good quality of and 50 inches long. This bleached muslin should be allowed about 18 inches at each end for rolling. sheets and pillow slips.

FOR TESTING ON THE FARM
Lay the ears out side by side on a board or table. Discard the cloth by fastening a small piece of cardboard or paper to butt of each ear with a nail. Always number the ears before removing the kernels. Moisture can be determined by dipping in water. Remove six kernels from ear No. 1, taking kernels from different parts of the ear and place them in square No. 1, germ side up and in the top of all the kernels pointing in the same direction. In like manner take six kernels from ear No. 2 and place in square No. 2 and so on until all the squares are filled.

FOR TESTING IN THE SCHOOLS
The boys and girls testing in schools, should number the ears to correspond with those numbers in the squares on the cloth by fastening a small piece of cardboard or paper to butt of each ear with a nail. Always number the ears before removing the kernels. Moisture can be determined by dipping in water. Remove six kernels from ear No. 1, taking kernels from different parts of the ear and place them in square No. 1, germ side up and in the top of all the kernels pointing in the same direction. In like manner take six kernels from ear No. 2 and place in square No. 2 and so on until all the squares are filled.

When all the squares have been filled, sprout the ears on the cloth and roll up carefully so that none of the kernels will be displaced. Tie a string around the roll just tight enough, and not too tight, to hold the kernels in place. (See cut No. 1 at top.)



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