

"AN AGRICULTURAL KINDERGARTEN"

By Robert Moulton in Rural Life

Illustrated Article Reproduced by Courtesy of This Popular Publication--Excellent Letter From County Superintendent J. J. Koehler.

Will "Rag Babies" be the salvation of the corn crop? Put this question to the average farmer...

A growing boy is quick to comprehend his environments. Adverse conditions appear magnified in his eye, and he becomes discouraged very readily.

The so-called Rag Baby is a simple device for testing seed-corn--so simple that any boy or girl can learn all about it in a few minutes--and by its use any farmer, anywhere, is guaranteed an increase of ten bushels an acre in his corn crop.

Many boys go wrong, not so much because they are bad at heart but because they have no sustained interest in any specific useful thing.

While it is true that in recent years many farmers have come to realize the importance of testing their seed corn before planting...

Good schools in rural districts, with an enriched course of study, are an important factor to bring about better conditions.



J. J. KOEHLER, Superintendent of Wayne County Schools.

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state, State normal school, and college in succession on his own earned capital. He completed a technical course in the last named institution...

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How much better it would be if father and growing son were companions on the farm, in the town, and the father make an effort to help interpret life for the boy in terms of the former's profitable experience...

Next take up ear No. 1, and, with the point of a pocket knife applied to the edge of kernel, remove six kernels from the ear and place them in square No. 1.

When the preacher delights in reading the light of salvation into the souls of his hearers; when the teacher finds joy in helping the child to unfold his mind, to know himself and to get a larger vision of life...

Every kind of work is drudgery just so long as the individual finds no joy in it, whether it be preaching the Gospel, teaching school or raising corn.

Contests among the boys are good stimuli; contests among the boys with a co-operation of wise parents and thoughtful teachers are better.

My chief concern is not the corn, but the boy. He gets out of life what he puts into it. He reaps what he sows.

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body except gray-haired aged people. Schools are very small. If you stop to ask those people the cause of all this emigration, they will give you various answers.

Not all boys raised on the farm are adapted for farm life. It is not the aim of national social workers to keep all boys on the farm but to make rural life shine forth in its true glory and retain the young people who are adapted for farm life...

Good schools in rural districts, with an enriched course of study, are an important factor to bring about better conditions.

Rural schools with a constant change of teachers, professionally unprepared, can not contribute very much to the solution of those problems, nor can township high schools, unless experienced teachers are secured and retained...

High school boys and girls can not be very much inspired by cut and dried college and university ideas, nor can these same ideas influence the farmer to contribute liberally in the nature of taxes.

We have been aping higher institutions of learning too long. It seems to me that just as much beauty, symmetry, charm, mental discipline, culture, and poetry can be found in the study of growing corn as in the study of mosses, their classification, committing their horrible foreign names, and in the romantic search for them over rocky slopes and precipices.

Pity the poor child of fourteen or fifteen years whose time in Botany is spent in committing columns of foreign names of fungi, mosses, etc., who knows very little of the nutritive value of the common crops, or their economic value...

The teacher of agriculture ought to teach all the related subjects. The proposed corn contest has a tendency to create an interest in corn culture and, no doubt, will result in a greater acreage of corn as well as a study of varieties adapted for different localities.

If prizes are given at all, they should be so distributed that they are within reach of different districts and communities. The county ought to be divided into districts, each having common conditions.

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WYOMING CONFERENCE.

Bishop Berry Talks on Amusements--Election of Officers. Wednesday afternoon's session was devoted to the receiving of statistical reports of the conference.

Last night Rev. Dr. O. L. Severson, superintendent of the Oneonta district, gave his celebrated address on "The Battle of Gettysburg" for the benefit of the superannuated preachers' fund.

Bishop Berry addressed the night session on "Amusements." He said that while the Methodist church goes no farther than any other church in respect to the abuses of amusements and recreations, it does go farther in specifically stating what cannot be done under its rules.

"Because of our attitude," the bishop said, "because of our prohibitions, because we are so firm in specifying regarding these amusements, we are under obligations to indicate to our people the proper recreations that they may enjoy without violating our rules."

Bishop Berry told of his own boyhood under the guidance of his father who was a Methodist preacher for sixty-one years.

"Our people are renowned for our singing," the bishop said, "for our happy hearts, for our jollity, and while we denounce the abuses of amusement we believe in recreation of the proper sort."

The following officers were elected: Rev. B. P. Ripley, recording secretary; assistants, Rev. T. M. Pury, of Scranton; Rev. G. H. Prentice, of Wanaque; Rev. W. R. Crawford, Rev. E. E. Pearce; statistical secretary, Rev. C. R. Hickok, of Scranton; assistants, Rev. R. Floyd Lesh, Rev. Robert S. Boyce, Rev. Lloyd A. Curry, Rev. John T. Tutthill, Rev. Frank J. Niles, Rev. G. B. MacAllister, Rev. George Varnsworth, Rev. W. N. Fulcomer, Rev. Ernest Z. Gillespie, Rev. L. Sanford, Rev. W. I. Randall, Rev. C. E. Sweet; treasurer, Rev. S. E. Van Hoesen, of Luzerne; assistants, Rev. E. E. Pearce, Rev. T. W. Welles, Rev. E. A. Austin, Rev. W. B. Arnold, Rev. D. G. Frey, Rev. H. W. Thomas, Rev. William MacAlpine, and Rev. W. C. Wolcott.

Death of Mrs. Bone. Mrs. Selma Bone, widow of the late Frank Bone, died at her home in Wilkes-Barre on April 14, aged 78 years, of general debility.

CANAL A PART OF THE U. S. Judge Holds Residence There Entitles One to Naturalization. Judge Thompson in the naturalization court at Philadelphia recently decided that the canal zone is a portion of the United States and that residence in the canal zone permits a person to seek naturalization in this country.

The decision was given in the case of Louisa Kurath. The government sought to bar the woman from naturalization, although she had been employed as a government nurse in the canal zone for the last six years.

THE CHAMPION HEN IS FOUND. Fowl Lays Three Eggs Which Weighed Total of Fifteen Ounces. Hens of all colors and breeds throughout the country have been outdone by a big white Orpington pullet owned by C. W. Fox of New Stanton, Pa.

Fox exhibited three eggs recently laid by his champion pullet, which measured a trifle over six inches in lesser circumference and eight inches in greater. The combined weight of the three eggs was fifteen ounces.

Live Stock Markets. Pittsburgh, April 17. CATTLE--Receipts light, market steady; prices: \$2.00 to \$2.50; good, \$2.50 to \$3.00; medium, \$2.00 to \$2.50; common, \$1.50 to \$2.00.

MARKET REPORTS. New York, April 17. BUTTER--Steady to firm; receipts, 11,800 packages; creamery, extras, lb., 25 1/2c; firsts, 24 1/2c; seconds, 23 1/2c; thirds, 22 1/2c; state dairy, tubs, finest, 23 1/2c; second, 22 1/2c; common, 21 1/2c.

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FINAL VOTE ON BOND ISSUE WILL BE SOON

MEASURE IS BEING URGED BY PEOPLE OVER THE ENTIRE STATE.

Amendments Made in the House Will Be Concurred in by Senate To Let the People Decide--No Danger of Hold up in the Senate.

The measure that will provide the funds for giving Pennsylvania good roads is facing the final stage in its passage through the Legislature.

Action of the House of Representatives Monday night in recalling the bill from the roads committee and passing it on second reading left nothing except the vote on final passage between this measure and its submission to the people at the polls.

The vote of 166 to 18 in favor of the resolution on second reading indicates that it will have a safe majority on final passage, but does not necessarily insure this, because oftentimes members reserve their opposition to a measure until it reaches the final stage.

Because of a typographical error in the printed copies of the resolution, it has been necessary for the House to make a slight amendment, to make it conform exactly to the resolution that passed the last Legislature.

Returning it to the Senate for concurrence in the amendment after the House has passed it, but there is no danger of its being held up in the Senate, which is overwhelmingly in favor of adopting this business-like plan of financing the greatest and most needed public improvement ever undertaken in Pennsylvania.

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UTILITY BILL FACES WAYNE POWER COMPANY

IT IS STATED THAT PUBLIC UTILITY MEASURE WAS WRITTEN FOR CORPORATIONS.

Company Generating Electric Power Near Hawley Said to Be Seeking Right to Pass Through Towns Without Asking Permission.

Harrisburg, April 14.--The impression is growing that the public utility commission bill, amended by agreement between Attorney General Bell, representing the administration, and William Draper Lewis, and Henry G. Wasson, acting for the Progressives, containing many features aimed to benefit the corporations and especially a syndicate of capitalists who seek special privileges.

It is known here that the clause which would give utility companies virtual eminent domain rights, street railways excepted, was inserted for the purpose of aiding a syndicate generating electric power in Wayne county to pass through cities, towns and boroughs without the permission of the respective authorities.

The corporations have been given the best of the provisions of the bill. It is planned by those engineering the bill to hold a hearing of the subcommittee of the judiciary general next Tuesday, make a number of slight amendments and then jam the bill through without giving another public meeting.

Because of the attitude of this committee dominated by those representing the interests, it is likely that unless the tactics are changed that the House will either amend it greatly or defeat it entirely.

The bill in its present form is clearly a corporation measure. The interests of the public are only slightly protected, while the corporations have obtained all they seek. It must be said in justice to the Republican machine that the amended bill has the sanction of the practical politicians of the progressive movement.

C. Elmer Brown, assistant city solicitor of Pittsburgh, who has made a long study of the public utility situation, declared recently that the bill was written at the behest of the corporations.

TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION MEETING. The Spring or semi-annual session of the Wayne County Teachers' Association will be held at Lakewood on May 9th and 10th, in the High school building.

Superintendent J. J. Koehler, after three years' effort, has succeeded in securing Dr. J. George Becht, secretary of the State Board of Education at Harrisburg. Dr. Becht stands high in the educational forces of the state and the association is to be congratulated in getting so valuable and sought after a man as Dr. Becht.

The first session will be on the evening of the 9th when Dr. Becht will deliver a lecture on some popular educational theme. On the morning of the 10th he will speak upon "Methods." The lecture will be free and it is hoped that the people of that section of Wayne county will take advantage of the opportunity and turn out and hear this talented educational worker.

BOY SCOUTS ELECT OFFICERS. Honesdale Troop of Boy Scouts met Tuesday evening and elected officers for the ensuing year as follows: President, Clarence Bodie; vice president, Irwin Morrison; secretary, Earl Hulbert; treasurer, Walter Robinson. This is the third year for the scouts and the enthusiasm is greater now than when organized. It is the first boys' organization that has kept together for this length of time in Honesdale in twenty years.

Since organization the troop has lost one member owing to being disrespectful to the Scout Master. The Scouts accepted the invitation extended to them by the Board of Trade committee in charge of the Gurney celebration parade, which will occur on the evening of the 23rd.

WAYNE'S SONS ALWAYS MAKE GOOD. When Lackawanna county was created by slicing off a good-sized piece from old Luzerne, that county became a judicial district by itself. As a part of the court machinery they had to have a stenographer, for court stenography was just coming to the front. They took a former Wayne county man for stenographer, and H. H. Coston was his name.

All of those years he has been on the job, reporting the various grists that passed through the grinding mills of justice, and his services have always been paid for on the per diem basis. By order of the Court of Lackawanna, signed by Judges Edwards, Newcomb and O'Neill, dating from April first the pay will be a fixed salary of \$3,000 per year. The same action was also taken with W. D. Coston, a regularly employed court stenographer. The Coston brothers were born at Seelyville.

NO SNOW--NO WORK. Owing to the light fall of snow last winter, making it impossible to draw acid wood, J. G. Hill told a Citizen representative to-day that he would be compelled to close down his acid factory May 1st. This is unusually early to suspend work. The factory will remain closed until October 1st.

ROWLAND'S New store in the Schuerholz building, opposite the New Postoffice will be ready for occupancy about May 1st. From now until then 10% discount. ROWLAND JEWELER OF QUALITY.