



TEACHER SHOWING PUPILS HOW TO TEST CORN—Courtesy Rural Life.

**AGRICULTURAL KINDERGARTEN**  
(Continued from Page One.)

end of the ear is sound, while the other will not grow.  
A like number of kernels are taken from ear No. 2 and placed in the square marked 2, and so on until all the squares have been filled. After this is done the cloth is again moistened by sprinkling and then carefully rolled up to avoid displacing the kernels. Then tie a string around the center of the roll, just tight enough to hold the kernels in place.  
After preparing one or more Rag Babies in this manner place them in a bucket or pail of warm, but not scalding water. A ten quart pail will hold ten or fifteen rolls. They should not be packed in too tight. After standing for three or four hours the water is poured off and the pail wrapped in plenty of old newspapers.  
In about two days the newspapers should be removed, the pail again filled with warm water and left to stand for five or ten minutes. The water is then drained off as before and the covering of newspapers replaced. It is very important to see that the rolls are not allowed to freeze. If left in a cold room overnight they should be protected with extra coverings.  
In seven or eight days the sprouts will be about two inches long and the Rag Babies are then carefully unrolled for examination. The good and the bad seed can be distinguished at a glance. If one kernel out of any square has not begun to grow, or if any of the sprouts are weak or mouldy, it means that the ear cor-

responding to that square is unsafe for planting and should be thrown out. From twelve to fifteen ears are required to plant an acre. As a general thing, three or four ears out of every dozen are shown by the Rag Baby test to be too weak for planting. Consequently when only enough ears to plant one acre are to be tested, it is advisable to use a longer piece of cloth and to mark off twenty squares, an upper and a lower row of ten each. Out of the twenty it is likely that enough good ears will be found to plant an acre.  
It is important to take good care of the ears after they have been tested, and it is better not to do the testing until two or three weeks before planting time. In shelling the tested ears it is considered best to remove the small or irregular kernels at each end, as these kernels do not usually germinate and grow as well as those in the middle, and their irregular shape also prevents uniform dropping in the planter.  
There are three reasons why teachers, especially in the rural schools, should be interested in seed-corn testing as a school exercise: It furnishes an easy and interesting study in seed germination and plant growth; the extended use of a good method has vast economic value in improving the productiveness of American agriculture, and the teaching of it in the rural schools exerts a strong influence toward increasing the confidence of the parents in the permanent worth of good school work. The teacher who once begins intelligently to try some simple exercises in agricultural nature study will not long be left in doubt as to the responsive interest which she can awaken in any kind of productive school work. Children love to do things—especially things that are obviously useful. And they need only judicious direction in order to turn this instinct into various forms of self-education, which is the only kind that sticks.  
It is recommended that each school have seed testing contests, with suitable prizes for the boys and girls. When the Rag Baby method has been taught, the children are requested to go to fathers, brothers, or to neighbors who have no children, and ask for enough ears of corn to make a Rag Baby test. These ears are to be selected by the farmers according to their best judgment. They are also supposed to become the "partners" of the children to whom they have given the corn. In this way each farmer is pitted against his neighbor as to his ability to pick good seed corn. This re-doubles his interest.  
After the Rag Babies are prepared they are kept at school until ready

to be examined. A day is chosen for this, and as they are unrolled one by one the score of each is kept on a sheet of paper, with the name of the child and his man partner at the top. Each ear is marked according to the results shown by the test. "Good," "Weak," and "Dead." Ten points may be allowed for each kernel that shows strong germinating power, or a maximum of sixty points for any one square in which all of the kernels are strong. In the same way five points may be allowed for each weak kernel, while the dead ones are marked zero. The winners are decided by adding up all the points. In every case the score cards should be taken home by the children and shown to their partners. The latter are requested to substitute good ears for the bad ones and then a final test is held at which all of the farmers are invited to be present.  
Carrying out the plan still further, this acre which has been tested in school should be planted and harvested in partnership, and introduced in the corn contests the following spring as a joint produce of the man and child.  
An acre of corn if planted in check rows, hills three feet and six inches apart, has 3556 hills; and, with three stalks to the hills, contains 10,668 stalks. If one stalk in each hill produces a ten-ounce ear, the yield per acre will be 31.7 bushels. The average yield in the United States is but twenty-six bushels. From this it will easily be seen that on the average two stalks out of each hill do not produce ears at all or are missing. What is immensely more important than large ears is a field of corn in which every stalk produces a good eight or ten ounce ear. Three eight-ounce ears per hill will practically triple the present average yield. If care is taken in selecting only choice ears, and then testing them, long strides will be made in increasing corn yields.—Rural Life.

**WYOMING CONFERENCE**  
**AT WILKES-BARRE.**  
Wilkes-Barre, April 17.—Following the opening of the sixty-second conference of the Methodist Episcopal ministers of the Wyoming district, Bishop Joseph F. Berry, D. D., LL. D., who is presiding, announced that he had brought with him from Philadelphia Rev. Dr. Munhall, a noted evangelist, who will speak each morning at 8:15 in the First M. E. church on Franklin street, where the conference is being held. He explained that these sermons by the evangelist will be an extension of the campaign recently waged by Rev. "Billy" Sunday, and that the public would be admitted.

The sessions opened Wednesday morning at 9 o'clock and the sacrament of the Lord's supper was administered to the ministers and the Christian folk present. The sacrament was administered by the four district superintendents of the Wyoming conference, Rev. L. C. Murdoch, D. D., Rev. H. C. McDermott, D. D., Rev. J. A. Hensley, D. D., Rev. O. S. Severson, D. D., assisted by Rev. Charles E. Guthrie, pastor of the church where the conference is being held.  
At the request of Bishop Berry, Dr. Munhall, of Philadelphia, who is to carry on the evangelistic work during the conference week, described the tankard used during the communion service, which was of unusual historical interest. The receptacle was used in the first Methodist conference ever held in America, which was in Philadelphia in 1773, in the house of Hannah Burke. Rev. Francis Asbury was the first American bishop, and he presided over the little conference that numbered nine members. The tankard is now the property of Attorney E. A. Smith of Philadelphia, a relative of the bishop.  
As a preliminary to the conference there was held Monday and Tuesday evening in First M. E. church examinations of candidates for the ministry and a double anniversary session of the board of Sunday schools and Epworth leagues. The examinations were conducted during the day in the Sunday school building, the anniversary observance last night in the main portion of the church. Rev. E. B. Singer, of Sherburne, N. Y., president of the conference Epworth leagues, conducted the evening meeting. The speaker was Rev. L. C. Hartman of Chicago, a member of the national M. E. board of Sunday schools.  
Rev. Mr. Hartman's address to Sunday school teachers was a plea for them to secure an artist's concep-

tion of their work. His address was eloquent.  
Dr. G. A. Place, formerly of Honesdale, presided at the examinations. The classes were distributed in groups in the Sunday school rooms. Those register were:  
Candidates for admission—Leonard D. Armlin, Walter R. Williams, Clair F. Littell, Harry J. Rines, S. J. Callender, S. S. Robbins, William G. Charbonnier.  
First year studies—Fenton E. Weller, Little Meadows, Pa.; E. W. Morrison, New Milford, Pa.; Charles C. Volz, of Morris, N. Y.; Harry E. Wheeler, Wellsbridge, N. Y.; Edgar L. Cook, W. Falls Hunter, Rush, Pa.; Wesley L. McKelvey, Francis L. Blish, Susquehanna, Pa.; Palmer L. Taylor, Pleasant Mount.  
Frank E. Moyer, formerly of Damascus, Wayne county, will probably go to another denomination.  
Second year—Robert E. Fletcher, Tioga Center, N. Y.; William E. Elward, LeRayville, Pa.; W. B. Arnold, Lackawaxen, Pa.; A. R. Rines, Whitney's Point, N. Y.; W. E. Dodge, West Exeter, N. Y.; G. M. Griffiths, Maple, Pa.  
Third year—John G. Frey, Clark's Green, Pa.; P. N. Taylor, Springville, George R. Savidge, Lisle, Broome county, N. Y.  
Fourth year—R. E. Austin, Harpersville, Pa.; Charles Adams, Davenport, N. Y.; W. T. Schenck, West Nicholson, Pa.; George Farnsworth, Maine, N. Y.; E. D. Cook, Lanesboro, Pa.; W. H. Horton, Sanitaria Springs, N. Y.; O. G. Russell, Hamlin, Pa.; George V. McAllister, Appalachin, N. Y.

Among those who conducted the examinations were: George H. Prentice, E. A. Martin, D. S. MacKellar, F. W. Young, J. W. Nicholson, N. B. Ripley, G. N. Underwood, J. S. Crompton, R. L. Clark, C. B. Henry, Sidney E. Hunt, G. M. Bell, C. H. Newing, Geo. S. Connell, B. M. Johns, R. H. Boyce, Albert Clarke, R. W. Lowry.  
Dr. Charles E. Guthrie, pastor of the First Methodist church, planned every detail of the present sessions with the utmost care and has exhibited a grasp of conditions that shows a thorough knowledge of the needs of a great convention.  
A large room is equipped with writing tables where stationery is provided free of charge, and where the Underwood company furnishes free stenographic service. Typewriters are also placed for use of guests. A post office is equipped with up-to-date arrangements.  
Another appreciated feature is a rest room for visiting wives and relatives of the ministers.

**BEACH LAKE.**  
Beachlake, April 17.  
Richard Brock, of East Beachlake, has been quite ill.  
On Sunday, April 6th, Wesley Van Wert and family spent the day at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Oliver of Genungtown.  
Mrs. Mervin Gavitt and son Harold, of Waymart, have been home visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Treverton of this place.  
On Wednesday, April 9th, James Gregory, of East Beachlake, had the misfortune to lose one of his fine colts.  
Wm. Rosevere of Boyds Mills, has been spending a few days here at the home of his uncle, Edward Pomeroy.  
Mrs. Halle Doyle, of the West, is here spending some time with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wells.  
Mrs. Alex Crosby of Central Beachlake, spent Friday afternoon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ellery Crosby.  
Miss Lizzie Davey, who has been spending some time in Honesdale, is home visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Judson Davey.  
On Wednesday, April 9th, William F. Wood of this place made a trip to Philadelphia.  
Mrs. Margaret Crosby, of Lake Huntington, spent a few days here last week visiting friends and relatives.  
Mrs. Wm. H. Wilson of Valhalla Cottage, and Mrs. William Marshall of Alcona Farm, spent the day on Thursday at the home of Mrs. Howard Bishop of East Honesdale.  
Mrs. John Gregory, who has been quite ill, is able to be out again.  
There will be a box social held for the benefit of the Beachlake band at the home Thomas Oliver on Saturday evening, April 19th. Each lady is to bring a box containing lunch for two, which the gentlemen will buy. Everyone is invited to come and help the boys.  
Charles Barnes of this place is working for Mr. Spry of Indian Orchard.  
Rev. Wm. J. Seymour left for conference on Tuesday. Owing to his absence Rev. C. T. VanGorder will preach in the M. E. church Sunday morning, April 20.  
Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Budd and Mrs. John Budd spent Tuesday at Honesdale.

**WAYMART.**  
Waymart, April 17.  
Miss Margaret Ryan is suffering from a severe attack of lagrippe.  
Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Moylan have returned home after spending the past month with their son in Philadelphia.  
Mrs. John Ryan and sons, William and Matthew, of Carbondale, were guests of friends in this locality Sunday.  
Master Nicholas Savage is recovering from a slight attack of eczema.  
Miss Amanda Thorpe was the guest of Honesdale friends one day during the past week.  
Wm. Sheehy is seriously sick at this writing.

**LAKE COMO.**  
Lake Como, April 17.  
Mr. and Mrs. Mills have returned to the Lodge after spending the winter at Binghamton.  
Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Knapp spent Monday in Hancock.  
George Brain spent a few days last week at Pleasant Mount.  
The base ball boys had a box social in the hall last Friday night and cleared about \$30.  
Mrs. Ferguson visited friends in Hancock last week.  
Rev. German is attending conference at Wilkes-Barre this week. Hope he may be returned to us.

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