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Frank Willard, who has written a number of magazine articles on tramp life, asserts that fully 5000 boys are associated with professional tramps in the hobo life.

A Chicago poultry dealer figures that 3,350,000,000 chickens and 13,000,000 eggs were produced in the United States last year, the value of which he places at \$290,000,000. As a bird, in the face of this showing, how insignificant does the old eagle appear.

The Clyde yachtmen anticipate victory for the Irish America's cup challenger. That, of course, is the right spirit for them to display. But at the same time we are equally convinced the other way about. We are satisfied that the better boat will win. But we are confident that ours will do the trick.

Major-general Hutton, commanding the militia forces of Canada, can give her Majesty's standing army points on military discipline and etiquette. The general harbors a conviction that mutual admiration societies are not provocative of increased efficiency in the profession of arms. He has, therefore, issued a general order forbidding all expressions of approbation or censure, of whatever sort, by officers or soldiers aimed at their superiors, and forbidding commanding officers to permit "subscriptions for testimonials in any shape to superiors on quitting the service or on being removed from their corps." No more complimentary militia banquets, swords, loving cups, addresses or things. Now look out for Canada's militiamen if they ever go to the wars.

The future happiness and prosperity of the great republic is based upon the scientific education of the people touching agriculture, philosophy, the St. Louis Star. The man who succeeds in inducing two blades of grass to grow where only one grew before will be the benefactor. Great farms must give way to smaller ones, and smaller ones to those of still lesser area, until the farm, as now thought of, will not be known—an acre, a half acre, a fourth of an acre, a lot, a patch of ground will constitute the extent of the farms of the not very distant future. When that time comes, if education, precept and example are properly inculcated the acre will produce more than does now the 160 acres, and the patch will be more prolific than is now any of the small model farms of from 10 to 40 acres.

The mint bureau of the treasury declares that the world's production of gold for the year 1898 was about \$275,000,000. This is \$77,000,000 more than the output of 1895. The prediction of the government experts is that it will exceed \$300,000,000 in 1900, and that it will grow for at least a century. In 1898 the United States alone produced \$65,000,000 worth of gold. Supposing all of this gold to be made into solid blocks, each an exact cubical foot in dimensions, the \$65,000,000 worth of yellow metal would furnish 909 such blocks, which, if piled neatly, one on top of another in a single stack or column a foot square, would be nearly twice as high as Washington monument. It would be quite a job to pile up these blocks in the manner described, inasmuch as each of the 909 would weigh exactly 222 pounds.

USELESS INFORMATION.

A single bee collects only about a table-spoonful of honey during a season.

A blind bat avoids wires and obstructions as easily as if it could see perfectly.

The best watchmakers' oil comes from the jaw of the shark. About half a pint is found in each fish.

The egg of the queen bee is about one-sixteenth of an inch long, and as large round as a fine cambric needle.

The goldfish is a great coward, and a tiny fish with the courage to attack it can frighten it almost to death.

TRAMP BOYS.

Remarkable Phases of Life in Hoboland—Seven Thousand Lads "Snared" and Forced to Lead a Migratory Existence.

BY JOSIAH FLYNT.



EXPERTS declare that there are about seven thousand boys in the United States who live, from one end of the year to the other, exclusively in tramp life. It is impossible to take an exact census of all—they are too migratory—but I base my estimate on over ten years' acquaintance with American tramp life, and on travels with tramps which have taken me into thirty States. In winter, there are easily five hundred tramp boys in New York City alone. Of course, there are more than this number who have to pick up their living in a more or less tramp fashion, but I refer to the lads who actually belong to the tramp fraternity and are part and parcel of its manifestations. They are called "kids" and "prushuns" in the hobo's vernacular, and when they take tramp names, always have to add the suffix "kid" to the name of the town from which they claim to have come, and by which they are distinguished, but they are known to the general public merely as tramps and "incorrigibles."

No one acquainted with the tramp world, however, would mistake them for anything but what they are. Stylish clothes and a bath which do not change their shuffling gait, rounded shoulders, harsh voices and exaggerated "tough" manner. Even upon the youngest the life has had its effect, and a tramp could easily single them out in a miscellaneous collection of boys. Their average age is about fourteen years, but there are some nearly eighteen and others not yet ten. They are in tramp life, to use a homely expression, because the tramp "needs them in his business." The tramp, as a class, or the hobos (hantes-beaux), as I prefer to call them, came upon the scene not long after the Civil War, and many of them soon discovered that it was much easier for a boy to excite sympathy than for a man, and they began to entice youngsters into the life. It was immaterial to them where they found the boys or who were their parents, so long as they were quick, intelligent and willing. These are the necessary qualifications for a successful "prushun," and although there are some boys much more willing and active than others, the great majority of them are bright and attractive. Rich and poor alike contribute to their class. A millionaire's son, if a hobo can catch him near a railway watering tank and fascinate him with interesting stories, is as liable to conscription as the young hopeful of a poor workman. The only thing necessary is that the lad should have a romantic temperament. If he has gone through a course of "dime novels" before the hobo meets him it makes it all the easier for the latter to fire his imagination with accounts of wild Western life, but there are youngsters unable to read that he has influenced.

In New York City it is the boy of the slums that the hobo is most likely to reach. While in the city he spends most of his time in the congested districts, they are the best places for him to find charity, as well as to "hide his vagabondage, and he naturally sees a great deal of the local boys. If he is in search of one to take away with him on his travels, he prowls about the streets, acquainting himself with the boys' playgrounds and gathering places. Before long he is sure to find a collection of lads which he thinks he can influence, and then he tries to get the boy who seems to him the most promising. Watch him at his preliminary work. He is seated on an ash barrel, a crowd of gamins gazing up at him with admiring eyes. When he tells his stories, each one thinks that he is being talked to just as much as the rest, and yet, somehow, little by little, there is a favorite who is getting more and more than his share of the winks and smiles; soon the most exciting parts of the stories are gradually devoted to him alone, but in such an artful way that he himself fails to notice it at first. It is not long, however, before he feels his importance. He begins to wink, too, but just as slyly as his charmer, and his little mouth curls into a return smile when the others are not looking. "I'm his favorite, I am," he thinks. "He'll take me with him, he will, and show me things."

He is what the hobo calls "petrified," which means as much as anything else, hypnotized. The stories that he has heard amount to very little in themselves, but the way they are told, the happy-go-lucky manner, the subtle partiality, the winning voice and the sensitiveness of the boy's nature to things of wonder, all combine to turn his head. Then his own parents cannot control him as can this slouching wizard.

In the country the favorite gathering place for boys likely to be attracted by tramp life as well as for the hobos is the railway watering tank. For over twenty years the hobos have used the railroads as thoroughfares, beating their way on trains and sleeping at night in box-cars,

and houses and at camp-fires near the track. The watering tank is their "depot," because they can board freight trains here while the trains are taking water.

In our provincial towns it is well-known to the boys that there is generally a collection of interesting wanderers to be found at the watering tank, and during the long summer months, when time often drags heavily on their hands, they like to join the hobos and listen to their tales of adventure. If one of them appeals to some member of the gang who is looking for a "prushun," the same process of "petrifying" is gone through as in the case of city boys, and it is often possible to get a lad from the country to run away more quickly than one of the metropolitan training, because he is less suspicious.

Once "on the road," the life of these boys is only belittled to that of slaves. Their duty is to do exactly what their "jockers," the men who have enticed them on to "the road," command, and they are expected, if necessary, to find their "jockers" meals, clothes and even lodging house money. Some become expert beggars in a few weeks, and are much prized by the men with whom they travel to the end of their "prushun" apprenticeship, and there are others who require a year and more before they are successful even in finding their food. Once trained, however, and if they are carefully exploited, many of them take in as much as \$5 a day, the money going, of course, to their "jockers," and eventually to the saloon-keeper. During the process of getting trained they are kicked, slapped and generally maltreated, and on occasions they are loaned, traded and even sold. It avails them very little to run away from a cruel "jocker," for unless they return home, which most of them are ashamed to do, they are sure to be picked up by some one else before they have gone far. Not all hobos travel with boys, but there are so many who do that it is useless for a runaway "prushun," who remains in the life, to keep free of them. They are bound to run across him somewhere, on a freight train or at some popular "hang-out," and they either persuade or compel him to take up a "prushun's" burden again.

This burden has to be carried until the boy is able to defend himself and come off victorious in a fistfight with his "jocker," or until he has reached an age when he is obviously too old to travel any longer as a "kid." The age limit varies in different cases, but it is seldom that one finds a boy in the "prushun" class after he has passed his eighteenth year. Once emancipated, to use the hobo word, the boy is supposed to go and look for revenge. Some do this and some do not, but all are told that the revenge when they get it will offset all the misery and trouble they have had to put up with as "prushuns." Indeed, this is the one reward held out to them. From the time they get into tramp life, as boys, until they enter into the joys of the emancipated, they are led to believe that when emancipation comes they can go and "snare" some other boy of romantic temperament, and make him slave for them as they have slaved for others. West of the Mississippi River there is a regular gang of these "ex-kids," as they are called, and the bulk of them are supposed to be looking for revenge. In certain parts of the country, thanks to the intelligence of magistrates and court judges, who have learned what it means when a boy is found in the company of a hobo, it is very dangerous to attempt any "snaring," or to be arrested with a boy "in tow," because very severe sentences are meted out to men who travel with youngsters, and this is one of the reasons why some "ex-kids," as well as a number of the hobos, have given up "prushun" companionship. Another reason is that some find the business heartless and cruel. There are so many, however, who favor the custom that tramp life in the United States is continually being recruited from the boys of the country, and every year a number of them take the places of those who have finished their apprenticeship. Those who come to New York generally arrive in winter, the time their "jockers" travel to the large cities to get the benefit of lodging house shelter and cheap restaurant living. They also put in an appearance in summer for a day or so, but at this time of year the bulk of them are scattered along the different railroads. They are the most difficult lads in the world to locate and get hold of. Excepting during the coldest months, and even then, if they go South, they are continually on the move, and it is impossible to keep track of them long enough to do them much good. When they have committed a crime and are put in such prisons as the Tombs to await trial, they get the benefit of that very worthy institution, the Tombs School, and come under the good influence of men and women connected with such reforms, but only a small number commit crimes sufficiently grave to be lodged in jail, and the reform school seems also to have but very little effect on their natures. The great majority of American tramps have spent

a part of their boyhood in reformatories, but they went on tramp life again when released. It is exceedingly hard to reform a boy who has once been in tramp life, and I fear that the most of those who are now "prushuns" are destined to develop into full fledged tramps. It is possible, however, to prevent a great many boys from ever becoming "prushuns," or learning much about life among tramps, and my purpose in writing this article is to call attention to the methods which I believe will accomplish this end. I have referred to the fact that some magistrates are acquainted with the position of the boys in Hoboland, and punish their seducers very severely. It seems to me that this is the best remedy that can be applied. The boys themselves have sinned against more than they do seem fair, and, as has been stated, in many cases ineffectual. If it were recognized, however, throughout the tramp world that every man caught in company with a boy, who was known to be his "prushun," would receive, say, a year in the penitentiary—such sentences have already been given for this offense—tramp boys would not be so numerous as they are to-day, and Hoboland would be deprived of one of its main resources in keeping up its strength. As yet there is no uniform legislation in all the States by which a severe punishment can be given tramps who travel with boys, but it is at least possible for magistrates to give tramps the full benefit of the law as it applies to vagrancy, and in some communities this is now so severe that special legislation is unnecessary to secure the desired ends.—New York Independent.

NEWS AND NOTES FOR WOMEN.

The Popular Use of the Ruche. A detailed description of the varied uses of tiny ruches which flourish as a dress decoration would more than fill this column. Yards and yards of this pretty and popular garniture adorn the fashionable toilets and costumes of both French and American designers. These ruches, made of every width and color, are used alike on skirts, bodices, collars and cuffs, revers, necks, sleeves and vests. On white or black gowns, or those in black and white mixtures, black and white edging laces are combined to form very effective ruches, and those of soft black tulle are used with equally good results on toilets of pale pink, green or blue Indian silk, veiling, tulle or foulard. They edge the ruffles, outline or decorate the actual overdress, and they garnish and daintily finish the most elaborate gowns of lace or jet-embroidered net. The most satisfactory thing about them is the fact that they are sold at all the fancy dry-goods houses ready to apply, making them not only of great aid and value to the high-class modiste, who utilizes them in most artistic and ingenious ways, but also to the amateur and home dressmaker, to whom they are of great service.—New York Post.

The Summer Hats. Hats for the summer season are truly "fearfully and wonderfully made," and many of the early importations are built of so many different materials that they look as if they had been constructed from the odds and ends of the family piece box. The large tarban effects seem to be the idol of the hour and they are built of straw, tulle, choux, ribbon bows, feathers, aigrettes and flowers. As yet a simple straw hat with a possible decoration of flowers has not appeared. Straws are embroidered with paillettes and applied with figures of lace. The double straws appear again, and they are found in black lined with white, butter-color with cream, lavender with green, red with white and host of other combinations. Flowers will be more used than feathers for hat ornamentation. Gray tulle is much in favor and toques composed of it are ornamented with jet four-leaf clovers. All shades of purple and lavender will be employed in the construction of hats. A large turban-like affair of coarse purple straw has a tulle crown, and at the left side is a huge bunch of purple and yellow pansies. A popular shape is called "Directoire." It sets back on the head, the sides turned up, making a point over the face, and the brim behind is cut to fall down on the hair. A dainty "Directoire" model of white straw is embroidered with jet paillettes and decorated with violets. Many of the hats have strings of black velvet coming from under the brim in the back. Another model is of black straw lined with white. Under the rolling sides are soft pink roses. A dainty hat of white straw, lined with black, has a brim that rolls upon one side to show a chon of black velvet. The brim is trimmed with pansies and velvet. A distinctly new feature this season is a hat of cloth. A chic creation has a brim of black velvet and a soft crown of jetted cloth-of-gold.

HIGH PRICE FOR A MADSTONE.

Warm Competition Over an Helestone Credited With Remarkable Cures.

For a piece of stone which for a century and a half has been credited with marvellous properties in healing the bites, scratches and stings of animals nearly \$700 was paid at an auction held in Loudoun County, Virginia.

The stone is known as the Loudoun madstone, and its apparently wonderful cures are numbered by the thousands. The stone was obtained from the Indians by Ferdinand Fred, a German, who settled in Loudoun County at the foot of Catoctin Mountain, not far from where the battle of Ball's Bluff was fought in the Civil War. There is no lack of faith in the stone among those who have investigated. Many have come thousands of miles to have it applied, while on several occasions, it is said, the stone has been conveyed to a distance by a member of the family, and its application proved beneficial, especially in cases of dog cat and rattlesnake wounds.

The estate of the Fred family went into court last fall for final settlement, and there was considerable litigation over this stone, which old Fred had especially stipulated in his will should be kept in the family and its use given free. Judge Nicol finally decided that the stone should be sold, and it was bought in by an heir for \$450. It was auctioned off again and was bought by Dr. Turner, of Snickersville, for \$682.50. It is said that there were several bidders from elsewhere, but the feeling was so strong against allowing the stone to go out of the county that only heirs of Fred were bidders. Some encyclopedias have a history of this stone, which has long been considered a remarkable one.

Hints on Advertising.

When an advertiser drops out of the papers for three or four months he must renew acquaintance with readers who lost sight of and interest in him.

It is far better to occupy small space and keep it filled with oft-changed matter (the oftener the better) than it is to come out at long intervals with big display advertisements.

A writer in Printers' Ink deprecates the fact that advertisers are seldom able to get their ads. displayed properly because of the unwillingness or inability of proprietors of printing offices to purchase an adequate supply of type faces.

Quantity, not variety, should be aimed at in stocking the advertisement composing-room. Better a few series and "poster" fonts, than a multiplicity of light cases and much picking. And, besides, simplicity and directness in display are gained—to say nothing of economy in buying.

There is too much striving after the original, the brilliant, the truly novel, in advertisement writing. The impression is too general that it is somehow discredit to utilize the idea of others. The advertising man who makes a scrap-book of good advertisements clipped from exchanges, or otherwise lays by a fund of material for adaptation, will save wear and tear on his gray matter, more expeditiously meet every demand, and besides serve his patron to his entire satisfaction.

Too Old to Like New Ways.

Uncle James Slightham and wife, a good old-fashioned couple living over in Liberty Township, Mo., have done their cooking for the past fifty-five years in the old brick fireplace, the same method that was employed by the pioneers in the early part of the century. The other day their children surprised them by sending to the house a magnificent modern steel range, which was put up solidly by the workmen. The old people stood it two days, then had it removed to the smokehouse and went back to their old fireplace to do their cooking, because it was "more convenient and the meals seemed to taste better cooked by it."—Kansas City Times.

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School Girls Adopt Dress Reform.

Tight lacing and everything else in the way of personal attire that might be detrimental to health are to be discarded by the girl pupils in the High School of Newark, N. J. Abandoning stays and tight fitting waists, the girls will wear pretty, loose shirt waists. "Dress reform" is now apparently the motto of the High School. The girls are enthusiastic over it, and the teachers are delighted, for they have argued long and persistently for it and have made it the subject of lessons and talks in the class rooms, and of private talks to pupils whose health they feared was being injured by tight lacing. The reform has been hastened by the preparations for the physical culture classes, soon to be started.

The methods of dressing most popular among the school girls have long given the teachers cause for worry. Recently a young woman pupil was asked to return home and arrange her clothing so that her waist measure would be added to by several inches. This was deemed necessary for her health and comfort at study. With most of the girls, the trim, neat belt, fashionable and pretty, appears to be an irresistible temptation and to pull in just another notch was the easiest thing in the world for them to do. Arguments in favor of ample breathing space were made, and everything is now satisfactorily settled. The girls are to wear to school a pretty, loose shirt waist, part of the gymnasium costume which has just been adopted, and in which the basket ball class will appear at practice. The entire suit is of black material, and includes bloomers, which are to be worn only in the gymnasium and black stockings and slippers. The shirt waist is to have red braid trimmings. The suit is pretty and practical, and the girls are much pleased with it. The bloomers are very full and graceful, not being a blouse, is proper to be worn in the class rooms. An adjustable collar makes it possible to give the waist a "dressed up" appearance.

Linon Costumes For 1899.

Linon costumes will be worn very much. Some of the heavier qualities of linen are made up in the coat and skirt outfits like the piques, but there are also the thinner linens like grass cloth, made up very elaborately. These last are made up over-skirt, and have silk

or lawn petticoats; and also in the drop-skirt style, and trimmed with bands of heavy insertion. A smart grass-linen gown, with a pink and white sateen stripe, has the skirt cut in circular shape, and trimmed with three broad bands of heavy guipure lace. The skirt is cut so that it flares very much below the last band of insertion. The waist, which fits tightly in the back, is rather loose in front, and has a square-yoke effect, encircled by a ruffle of the guipure lace. The lace also edges the fronts of the waist, and falls in a jabot on either side of a very narrow tucked front of pink Liberty silk. There is a ribbon belt of pink silk, and tied in at the wrists are little bows of pink silk showing through the lace ruffles. A very fine grass linen with no color is made up over a light green lining. This is trimmed down the front breadth with rows of lace insertion. The back is plain, rather on the circular-skirt effect, with no fullness in the back at all, except where it flares out at the bottom, but the long petticoat is made with a very full ruffle flounce, and is so wide that it looks full and yet clinging. The waist is almost tight-fitting, quite tight-fitting at the back and sides, and in front is trimmed with a lace barbe that goes around at the back, comes down the front of the waist, and then is slipped through two bands of the linen, the ends falling down over the waist on to the skirt. This waist has a vest of green Liberty silk very finely pleated. A dark blue linen, almost like a lawn—it is so light in weight—is a very attractive gown for traveling or for hard wear. It is trimmed with bands of red and white Russian embroidery; the waist is cut in an Eton jacket with long pointed fronts, the fronts one mass of the Russian embroidery, and there is a vest of red crepe cloth. This is a very curious combination, and is made still more curious by a little row of gilt buttons down the front of the jacket.—Harper's Bazar.

Rape For Sheep.

We have always had some doubt about the profitability of growing rape seed for sheep to feed off during the summer. The rape is a branch of the mustard family, with small seeds and needs to be put in soil that is made very mellow by cultivation. It grows rapidly and has large leaves for so small a seed. But our experience in feeding down sown grain with sheep is that they will trample down twice as much as they will eat. We find this to be true even of clover, and it is much more true of any plant that grows in soil easily poached by sheep in a wet time. The sheep's foot is very small. It will sink into cultivated soil, especially in a wet time, and it will spoil all the herbage the hoof touches.

Sorghum as Green Feed.

Select a good piece of land, not too rich, as it will lodge badly on a very fertile soil. Break as early as possible, preferably sod, and as soon as all danger of frost is over. Prepare thoroughly by harrowing and dragging or rolling, but never rebreak. Then have the seed perfectly clean. I prefer the red top variety of sorghum. For seeding I use an ordinary eight or nine hoe wheat drill, and stop up all the holes except the second one from the outside on each end. Set the drill to sow about one-half bushel of wheat per acre. You may think the crop will be too thin, but if your seed is good, time will prove that it is all right. Commence on one side and drill back and forth, as in sowing wheat, except that the wheel must run about ten inches from the other wheel track, instead of in the last hoe track, as in sowing wheat. I prefer sowing east and west, as the crop shades the ground and keeps it moist. Cultivate the same as corn, keeping down all weeds and grass while it is small. Commence feeding as soon as it is in bloom and feed as long as it lasts. Cut it close to the ground and feed it either as it leaves the field or cut into two-inch lengths and feed in that condition. Cut each day only what you want to feed that day, and if you take it to the barn, don't lay it down, but set it up, as otherwise it will heat rapidly. If you cut it shorter than two inches the stalks will get crosswise in the cow's mouth and make it sore. When there is danger of frost, cut and shock the same as corn, and you can feed it until Christmas. I don't think it a good plan to feed after that time, as the stalks have generally begun to sour. I feed it to hogs, horses and cattle, and all get fat. There is nothing better than a field of sorghum to help out pastures in the fall until you want to put your stock into winter quarters. The seed makes one of the very best feeds for poultry. I have been raising it for a number of years, and I believe I can get as much feed from one acre of sorghum as I can from two acres of the best corn. Where you first commence cutting your cane it will sprout up very rapidly, but don't let your cattle get to it, as it has been known to kill them.—J. W. Smith, in the American Agriculturist.

Green Manuring and Nitrogen.

The nitrogen of the soil is the only one of its valuable constituents which is subject to serious loss by natural agencies. Whatever the form in which nitrogen is applied to the soil, whether in farm-yard manure, in dried blood, in ground fish, ground bone, tankage, or nitrate of soda, it sooner or later is so changed by natural agencies as to become soluble and in this form the soil cannot hold it. With heavy rains it is dissolved in the downward sinking water, and with it is carried ultimately into the streams and rivers and to the ocean. None of the other valuable elements of plant food are subject to this loss by leaching to anywhere near the same extent. This loss of nitrogen can be prevented in a large measure by the growth of green manuring crops. The agencies of nature which convert nitrogen into the soluble form are most active during the later summer months. At the close of summer there is commonly present in all fertile soils a large quantity of nitrogen in soluble form. If the field be left bare during the autumn, winter and early spring this soluble nitrogen will be washed out of the soil. The only practical method of preventing this is to cover the field with a growing crop. For this purpose those crops which grow late into the fall will be found best, although even those which are killed by autumn frosts will before their death have taken a considerable share of this soluble nitrogen out of the soil. It will have become a part of the vegetable tissue. In such form it is not soluble and will not be subject to waste until this vegetable tissue rots, as it will do with the advance of the warmer weather of the following season. It should be the aim of the farmer to leave his fields bare just as little as possible. Keep the fields covered, keep the soil filled with feeding rootlets of growing plants. These hungry rootlets will take up nitrogen which would otherwise be lost. It will be locked up in vegetable tissues and safely kept to meet the demands of the growing crop of the next season. Green manuring, then, may be made an important means of saving or conserving soil nitrogen.—Prof. W. P. Brown, in Orange Judd Farmer.

Two Chickens From One Egg.

A double yolked egg was hatched by a hen near Crystal Lake, Penn., recently. The farmer was greatly amazed to find two little chicks grown together after the fashion of the Siamese twins.

Green Manuring and Nitrogen.

The nitrogen of the soil is the only one of its valuable constituents which is subject to serious loss by natural agencies. Whatever the form in which nitrogen is applied to the soil, whether in farm-yard manure, in dried blood, in ground fish, ground bone, tankage, or nitrate of soda, it sooner or later is so changed by natural agencies as to become soluble and in this form the soil cannot hold it. With heavy rains it is dissolved in the downward sinking water, and with it is carried ultimately into the streams and rivers and to the ocean. None of the other valuable elements of plant food are subject to this loss by leaching to anywhere near the same extent. This loss of nitrogen can be prevented in a large measure by the growth of green manuring crops. The agencies of nature which convert nitrogen into the soluble form are most active during the later summer months. At the close of summer there is commonly present in all fertile soils a large quantity of nitrogen in soluble form. If the field be left bare during the autumn, winter and early spring this soluble nitrogen will be washed out of the soil. The only practical method of preventing this is to cover the field with a growing crop. For this purpose those crops which grow late into the fall will be found best, although even those which are killed by autumn frosts will before their death have taken a considerable share of this soluble nitrogen out of the soil. It will have become a part of the vegetable tissue. In such form it is not soluble and will not be subject to waste until this vegetable tissue rots, as it will do with the advance of the warmer weather of the following season. It should be the aim of the farmer to leave his fields bare just as little as possible. Keep the fields covered, keep the soil filled with feeding rootlets of growing plants. These hungry rootlets will take up nitrogen which would otherwise be lost. It will be locked up in vegetable tissues and safely kept to meet the demands of the growing crop of the next season. Green manuring, then, may be made an important means of saving or conserving soil nitrogen.—Prof. W. P. Brown, in Orange Judd Farmer.

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