

Organize and Educate.

FARMERS IN LEGISLATION.

The force which has been behind most of the pure food legislation of the U S the past 15 yrs has been the farmer. Since he engaged in the battle for honest food products most of our pure food legislation has been enacted. The dairy commissions of the several states have been brought into life because the farmers demanded not only laws, but the machinery to enforce them. When the American farmer is roused he keeps everybody busy. He may be childish sometimes, but nobody accuses him of being weak when he stirs his class to action in a movement that is right. The American farmer can get along without flattery. He ought not to get along without justice. He sometimes nods and sleeps over public questions, but when he goes at it in earnest to take a hand in their settlement, political rings are broken, unwise political bosses go up in the air, golden collars become a rope of sand and popular judgment is crystallized into law. Farmers in different sections of the country may have temporary aberration of mind and take up fads exploited by agricultural demagogues that are prejudicial to the public good. They may sometimes be led into unreasoning denunciation of wealth, of political parties, of courts and of other classes, but the great bulk of farm judgment to-day is stronger and better than it ever was, because it is more intelligent. It can be relied upon if it can be secured.

As long as many men are smart and some men dishonest, the food of the people will be mixed, colored, coated, polished and poisoned, and watchful state care will be needed to limit the evil. But this question of the character of the food supply of 75,000,000 of people is not one to be settled by doctrinaires or hair-splitting constitutional lawyers. It will not be settled by all the money and all the brains that are at the command of the manufacturers of counterfeit products. It will not be settled by ridicule, abuse or misrepresentation of the men who till the farms of the nation and produce most of its food. It will not be settled by court decisions that in effect deny the statement of Judge Harlan, that the constitution of the United States guarantees to no man the right to perpetrate a fraud. It will not be settled by the pleading of any class for the privilege of plundering somebody. It will not be settled by chemists and experts hired to give opinions. It will not be settled by legislators who do not care for the public good and who do not fear public judgment. It will be settled, as it is being settled, by the voice of the consumers of food products, demanding laws which compel these products, if sold, to be honest and healthful, and by the American farmer claiming the right of way for the honest products of his labor.—[H. C. Adams, Wis Dairy and Food Commissioner.

IMPROVING THE FAIR.

Farmers often return from their annual "outing"—the fair—complaining of being "more tired out than if I had stayed at home and worked." Of course some new ideas and stimulus have been gained, but not enough to lift from the ruts of daily routine and its consequent depression. Could this be done, as it might, we should hear less about the monotony and loneliness of farm life.

If I were a director I should provide two large tents (permanent buildings will come later) with ample seating capacity for a crowd. I should employ all suitable local talent and also experts in their several lines. I would organize two schools, classes or institutes which should be carried on partly by farmers, their wives and children. Questions should be freely asked, answered and debated. In connection, lectures, concerts or a good play would give variety and interest. One of these schools should be devoted to agriculture in all its branches, the other to housekeeping, artistic work, etc. Men or women should be allowed to attend each at option. A small fee might be charged if thought best. Sessions should take place only in afternoon and evening. Arrangements should be made so that farmers may camp during the fair, and an adequate force should guard against thieving. Political speeches have no place at fairs.

Questionable games and vulgar amusements should be rigorously excluded. The fair should be for the farmers' rest for the body and food for the mind. If the promoters take hold of these ideas intelligently, wisely and enthusiastically, the fairs will possess new zest and be looked forward to with pleasure by the busy workers of the farm. They will go home full of new ideas, energy and happiness.—[Mrs M. S. Sibley.

The Course of Study in public schools is being attacked by men of high reputation as educationists. It was long ago condemned by those having their eyes and ears open to see and realize the requirements of the times. The conservatism of those having charge of the educational department has prevented it keeping step with the advancement of modern ideas. There has been a strong protest lately against compelling young children to devote the major portion of their time to solving mathematical problems which are intricate enough to puzzle mature heads, and which are useless to those who have to hustle for a living along the common roads of life. It is urged, and with apparent wisdom, that less attention should be paid to mathematical puzzles and more given to domestic science. There are a good many things that could be taught in the public schools which would aid every individual in the common occurrences of every-day life.—[An Elgin Co (Ont) Reader.

The Savings Bank in my native town in Denmark was organized by the whole township in general, three directors being elected, one acting as treasurer. The directors met every other Monday, transacting business, when they would receive deposits and make loans. Any child or person could deposit 50 ores (14 cents) or more, the amount being written in the depositor's bank book every 6 mos and 4 per cent interest being added to the capital. Money is loaned to individuals on notes, jointly signed by two or more responsible parties, which notes bear 6 per cent annual interest, payable each 6 mos. At the end of each year the bank's surplus, of which there always is a snug one, is appropriated to some good cause, mostly, I believe, to help some poor young man or woman to get a higher education. All the expense of operating the bank is a small fee to the directors for each meeting.—[R. S. Wilson, Grand Forks Co, N. D.

To Build Up the Pacific Coast, build and open the Nicaragua canal. The economies incidental to the opening of the canal are estimated to exceed \$400,000,000 annually. Valuable time would be saved and immense transportation charges greatly reduced. Pacific coast fruits now taxed \$50 to 60 per car for refrigeration alone, would be taken in refrigerated bottoms to Europe for less than one-fifth present freight charges to New York or Chicago. The greatest gain would come in the ready access to the home markets of the east.—[Prof L. M. Haupt.

The Young Man who is working industriously on his own land to get a start, who is putting up buildings and making improvements, is generally the man who has the respect and confidence of the community in which he lives. He is the man who in the future will be considered a stable and reliable citizen. There may be those who think he is missing the pleasures of life because he does not spend his wages in useless extravagance and his time in idle amusements, but in all probability those same people will be the ones who later in life will wonder why property is so unevenly distributed in this free and prosperous country of ours.—[W. J. Casson.

The congressional appropriation bill for the department of agriculture carries an appropriation of \$15,000 for continuing investigations concerning the feasibility of extending the demands of foreign markets for American farm produce and to secure a change in the methods of supplying farm products to foreign countries.

It is far better to be rich in a small place than poor in a large one. Don't long to live on a heavily encumbered farm.—[W. J. Casson, S. D.

Large and Small Fruits.

PRUNING THE ORCHARD.

The kind of pruning one should give a fruit tree will depend principally upon two things. First, the class of tree we are dealing with and second, the place or locality in which the tree is situated. Apple, plum, cherry and peach trees require different kinds of treatment. Supposing one is living in central Iowa and growing apple trees, I would prune these much less than if a resident of N Y or N J. The trees should be properly shaped in the nursery row, should be headed back when set in orchard and should have the branches thinned somewhat each year for 4 or 5 yrs after setting. Of course it goes without saying that interfering branches should be removed. If this kind of care is given regularly very little heavy pruning will be necessary. Where apple trees have been neglected it is best to do the heavy pruning in winter or during the dormant season. The cut surfaces should be painted in order to prevent the wood checking and to prevent the ingress of spores of fungi.

Apple and cherry trees in Ia require but little pruning; interfering branches should be removed, but in the case of American plums it is frequently desirable to head back the long straggling growths which young trees are prone to make; after they begin to fruit, the strain of fruit production regulates the growth and precludes the necessity of pruning. Peach trees should be headed back annually. This is best done during the dormant season, preferably in late winter. The amount of heading back will depend upon the amount of growth.—from one-third to one-half of the young wood should be removed. As in the case of plums this will be less necessary as the tree advances in years and comes into fruit bearing. It is a practice, however, which should not be given up in the peach, as this class of fruit tree is much inclined to form long, bare poles with tufts of foliage and clusters of fruit at the ends only.—[Prof John Craig, Ia Agri College.

A Few Choice Grapes, clean and well-developed, for home use can be obtained by slipping common 2-lb bags over the bushes and tying. If tying with twine is too slow work, cut some wire into 2 in lengths, bend in V shape, draw mouth of bag close around the stem with fruit inside the bag, set the V wire astride the gather of paper and give it a turn with thumb and finger.

The Organization of Prune Growers in Cal for mutual protection will cause a rise in the price above what it would be without organization of about 1½¢ p lb upon all grades, writes an extensive grower and he does not think any prunes weighing less than 1 lb to 120 prunes will be shipped, but will be utilized in some other form. The matter of a certain proportion of the growers not having signed the contracts of the association will cut no figure as regards price, as those outside the association, being a small minority, will of course hold for association prices. The Cal prune is what is known as the Petite or French prune, being sweet and sun-cured. The prunes raised in Wash and Ida are Italians and are tart and evaporated by artificial means. The average crop of Italian prunes is probably about 1200 carloads per annum. This year's crop will not exceed 300 cars, but chances are favorable for a good quality of fruit as trees are not overloaded.

Current Bushes are easily propagated by cuttings taken off in August and planted in open ground. Make them of about 9 in length and set 6 inches in the ground. They will be well-rooted by fall.

Second Quality Apples should never be placed upon the market in their natural condition. They should be put into an attractive form either by evaporating or canning. An orchardist who has 500 bbls or more of second quality apples, or can buy them at low values from his neighbors, can dispose of them to the very best advantage by evaporating them by the use of steam. A plant for this purpose can probably be established for \$500. This would last many years, and only the interest and usual wear need be considered in the cost of each year's product. Evaporated apples will keep any length of time with slight deterioration in qual-

ity or value if kept in cold storage through summer. The crop can be easily kept until market conditions are right for its sale.—[F. H. Rollins, Franklin Co, Me.

Plums for Northern Ontario were recommended by W. Warnock before the Gooderich horticultural society as follows. Saunders, early, extra hardy, fruit fine and large, a regular and heavy cropper and free from rot. Washington bears a heavy crop each year of excellent quality and large size; tree a thick, strong grower and hardy. Bradshaw is an old standard sort with large, juicy fruit, tree vigorous, hardy and productive. Yellow Egg is a grand market variety, fruit being of large size, tree a strong grower and hardy. The Lombard is an old standby that never fails to produce a crop even when others are idle. It must be thinned or will overbear, tree hardy and fruit large is the latest ripening first-class plum, and attractive. Reine Claude de Bavay is the latest ripening first-class plums, very productive, bears early and fruit of good size. Its quality is superb.

Legislation Against Insects—The well-known fact that it is impossible to keep fields clear of weeds or orchards free from insect pests, while neighbors are overrun with both, is now being recognized by legislatures. The local legislature of Ontario at its recent session passed an act empowering municipal councils to pass by-laws dealing with noxious insects and to appoint inspectors to enforce the same. If the owner of the orchard does not do the work when notified, the inspector may do it and have it charged in the tax bill. This act is the result of pressure brought to bear upon the government by farmers in fruit-growing sections who have been battling in vain for years with insect pests because some neighbors kept their orchards as breeding grounds for them.—[F. H., Ont.

New Apples Are Appearing in considerable quantities, but the market, as usual at this time of year, is unimportant. Choice southern apples are meeting fair demand, but the markets are flooded with inferior stuff which nobody wants. A settled condition cannot be expected until the season is further advanced.

The Neb exper sta is trying to find varieties of apples of good quality, late ripening and hardy enough to withstand the severest winters. The great trouble of the best varieties now growing is they grow late and do not properly mature the wood. Last spring, the station horticulturist hybridized over 500 sorts of recognized hardiness with others of excellent keeping qualities, with the idea of uniting the good qualities of the two sorts in one. Similar work is also being done with plums, cherries, peaches and grapes.

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