

## GOSSIP

## AGRICULTURAL NOVELTIES

A recent issue of The Independent says:

"Alfalfa has been the one chief agricultural wonder, the revelation of the age. It gives three crops to the year, even in the Northern States, reaches its roots down thirty feet and so becomes the best subsoiler that we have; it takes nitrogen directly from the air and feeds it to the soil, so that it never exhausts the soil, but fattens it; it serves admirably as a cover crop, to be plowed under in the spring to make humus. In fact, it is so far ahead of any of our old forage plants as to be out of comparison. The variety that we have been growing in the States was, however, indigenous to a hot climate, and has not proved entirely satisfactorily in the Northern States. The Department of Agriculture has spent three years searching the world over, and reports that it has now found a new variety that it is believed will prove harder and more generally adaptable to the Northern States—possibly to the Southern States also. Professor Hansen, whose name is very familiar among fruit growers, was sent to search out the whole earth, if necessary, and he has done it. Last year, while wandering among the nomadic tribes of Siberia, living with them and sharing their huts and food, he discovered in latitude 68 north, what he wanted. He has been selecting seed from the latitudes 50 and 55 north, where the winters are very cold and the summers very dry, and sending it to Secretary Wilson. It is believed that this new alfalfa will be of immense value to our farmers, and will not fail to grow in any quarter of the United States. At the same time Professor Hansen has picked up a good many other very choice things, to be added to our gardens and orchards. Among the rest is a new blackberry of high quality; a new grape, of which he thinks very highly; a new hardy clover, and several hundred other plants to be tested. Here is an addition to the wealth of the United States, probably an annual addition to our assets, equal to the cost of army and navy. The appropriation for the department of agriculture is, we believe, only about thirteen millions for the current year. We could afford one hundred millions.

## PALESTINE WHEAT

F. W. Gulland sends the following paragraph clipped from an American monthly magazine:

"Millers are inclined to look upon a botanical discovery recently made in Palestine, as having a very important bearing on the wheat situation in the United States. A German scientist has discovered a plant in Palestine, which he believes to be the ancestor of the modern American wheat plant. Under present-day conditions of agriculture the wheat plant has lost its quality of self-propagation, and but for the preparation of its seed-bed by man it might become extinct. The Palestine plant is so hardy that it can hold its own in any combat with weeds, and it is hoped that by cross-breeding with the American wheats a new variety may be built up, which will possess all of the productive qualities of existing varieties, together with the qualities of hardness possessed by the newly discovered Asiatic plant."

[Note: We have no knowledge of this discovery, and therefore cannot say whether or not the report is correct. Editor.]

## U. S. IMPORT REGULATIONS

The United States Department of agriculture issues the following statement respecting the new import regulations for live stock:

"In order to enforce more thoroughly the provisions of the farm law, relating to the importation of live stock, the department has determined and entered into the secretary of the treasury what are recommended as and purebred animals, and which customs officers are to examine what animals may be imported, and the customs free of duty for breeding purposes, the secretary of agriculture

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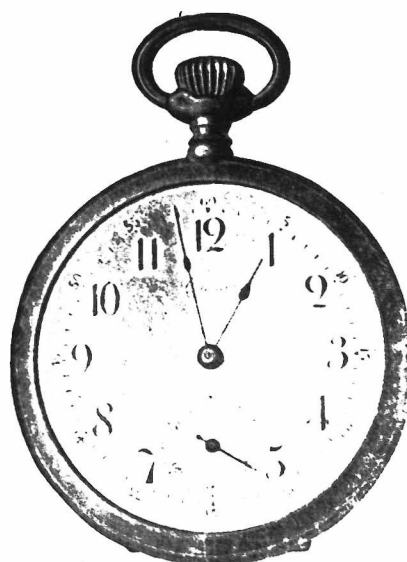
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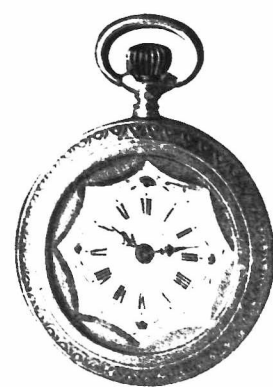
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has revised the regulations on the subject.

"In order to be entered free of duty, all animals imported into the United States by citizens of the United States for breeding purposes on and after January 1, 1911, must be accompanied by certificates of the Bureau of Animal Industry that the animals are purebred of a recognized breed and duly registered in the foreign book of record established for that breed.

"The new regulations will be published within a few days, and this statement is being distributed to give importers of breeding animals and others concerned ample notice of the matter. These regulations do not modify or change in any respect the regulations now existing relative to quarantine restrictions on account of contagious diseases. Persons intending to import animals for breeding purposes after January 1 from any foreign country where quarantine regulations of this department permit such importation, should apply to the Bureau of Animal Industry for application blanks for official certificates. The use of these blanks is necessary to enable the department to have full information concerning each importation.

"The new regulations supersede Bureau of Animal Industry Order 136 and its amendments, and have been drawn with the greatest care. The breeds certified are the same as under Order 136, with a few exceptions. Animals registered in the Canadian National Records will be certified for several breeds, where the provisions of those records are in harmony with the rules of the American books and the policy of this department. The list of certified British breeds remains practically intact. On the continent of Europe Percheron, French Draft and Belgian draft horses, Friesian, Netherland and North Holland cattle, and Swiss and Belgian dogs are certified.

"All American books of record are omitted on the ground that the provisions of the law under which these books have been certified in the past do not give the department authority to certify studbooks and similar publications in the United States.

"Under the new regulations each foreign pedigree certificate will be carefully examined in the Bureau of Animal Industry and the animal itself will be inspected to determine whether it is the identical animal described in the pedigree certificate."

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A deputation representing the pork packers of Canada waited on the Dominion government recently and asked that when live stock are condemned by government inspectors, the government bear two-thirds of the loss. At present the packers stand all the loss.

## BACK TO THE FARM

A farmer's fossiliferous Who thinks his cows corniferous Will ever be lactiferous?

On hay or grass or hay, Each barnyard covered over, And a "bale" made of clover, With a fair percent of "stover" Is the only modern way.

In raising corns all farmers One fact is rarely forgotten, The need of the "leguminous."

Is something one should know, Unless from plants endogenous From a place where hydrogenous Extract a lot of nitrogenous?

You can't make them grow.

And that is rather strange, As a matter of fact, you can't, In a field of corn supplying, The soil with nitrogenous.

But, what if that potato leader's Claim is true, who says from growing Corn, you can get the knowing?

It is a fact, and it is true, That corn can't be used at all, Unless it is accompanied with A certain amount of alfalfa, Or some other leguminous, For the corn will not grow, Unless it has the nitrogenous, And that is rather strange, As a matter of fact, you can't, In a field of corn supplying, The soil with nitrogenous.