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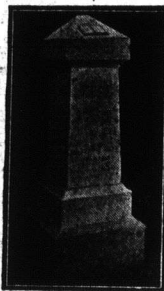
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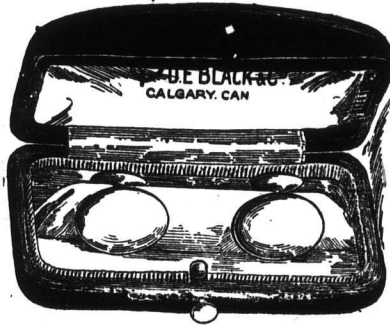


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Sweet Clover

"Sweet clover, once regarded as a weed, is worth a billion dollars to South Dakota, because it is one of the greatest soil improvers and stock feeders," asserts J. G. Hutton, associate agronomist, at the South Dakota State College. He says:

"Sweet clover helps to maintain the nitrogen supply in the soil, it makes good hay and it produces a large amount of valuable seed for which there is a ready market. There is no danger whatever of its becoming a field weed, which has been demonstrated by experiments where sweet clover is followed by a cultivated crop, such as corn or potatoes.

"When the agronomy department advocated the utilization of sweet clover as a forage crop a few years ago, there were many who doubted the advisability of using it, and a few who were openly opposed to it. The experience of the last few years has shown that it is one of the most valuable of the legume crops in South Dakota. Cattle have been learning to eat it in the pastures and feeding tests have placed it next to alfalfa as hay.

"The more valuable food substances are those containing large quantities of the element nitrogen. Grain crops and all others, except legumes, take this element from the soil, but are unable to draw upon the large supplies in the air. Sweet clover draws most of the nitrogen it requires from the air and furnishes it to stock in a usable form. If the manure from sweet clover is returned to the soil, the nitrogen supply is increased. If the sweet clover is plowed directly under, the nitrogen supply is increased still more.

"If the supply of nitrogen in South Dakota soils is to be maintained—and it must be—legume crops must be grown on every farm. At least one-fourth of every farm should be in legumes every year. This is not theory, but fact. Sweet clover is well adapted to this purpose.

"Sweet clover is worth a billion dollars to South Dakota. Let us hope that every farmer will try to get his share of the billion."—Geo. A. Starring.

A Concrete Ice House

I think I have the best ice house around here. It is ten feet square, five feet above ground and five feet below ground, with three strings of drain tile laid just flush with the top of the earth in the bottom, then eight inches of broken tile and brick, then coarse gravel filled in. Then I put about eight inches of sawdust on the bottom.

The house is made of concrete, a twelve-inch solid wall four feet in the bottom; then from there up it is a hollow wall four inches of concrete, air space, and four inches more of concrete. At the corners it is solid, and at the centre on each side it is solid, to tie the walls together—not much reinforcing in it. It is 14x16 outside, leaving a 12x14-foot space for ice. I usually leave about eight or ten inches around the sides for sawdust.

This year we cut our ice 18x24 inches, set it on end, and the house holds 480 cakes of 12-inch ice. A door in the centre at each end is provided. I made a form out of 3x12 planks, and put barn battening strips on, to make it look like blocks 12x24 inches. We put it up two feet at a time, then raised the form, first allowing it to set one way. In other words, we put up two feet each day. We used a five-to-two mixture of coarse sand and cement. As it is in the shade we put a burlap gravel roof on, in place of shingles, as shingles do not last long when in the shade of trees.

We have filled this now the third time, and have had ice to take out each year. One year we packed against the wall; but when warm weather came, it melted next to the wall, so we pushed the sawdust over. This is a handy way to pack, but takes quite a lot more ice, as the outside is sure to melt.

F. E. Palmer.

To Men Who Live Inactive Lives.—Exercise in the open air is the best tonic for the stomach and system generally; but there are those who are compelled to follow sedentary occupations and the inactivity tends to restrict the healthy action of the digestive organs and sickness follows. Farmer's Vegetable Pills regulate the stomach and liver and restore healthy action. It is wise to have a packet of the pills always on hand.

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