

FARMS OF AMERICA

Now Worth 30 Billions, Showing 44 Per Cent. Increase.

Orange Judd Farmer's Bulletin Says North Central States Must Practice Better Conservation—Decade Shows Gain.

"Taking the United States as a whole, the land in farms, with their buildings, implements and live stock, is today worth almost \$30,000,000,000. This is 44 per cent. more than in 1900, the figures for that year showing an increase of 25 per cent. over the previous decade," says a bulletin sent out by the Orange Judd Farmer, telling of the census of American agriculture to be published in its January number.

The census is gathered by practically the same means employed in the government census, and it is considered reliable, say the publishers.

After compiling the figures and showing how the number of farms has grown from 1,000,000 in 1850 to nearly 7,000,000 in 1910, and that each decade showed an increase in value, the report says: "No such increase in agricultural land values was ever before known in the history of the world in any country."

The report shows that the lands have been classified into sections, where climatic conditions and agricultural products make certain areas have about the same increase or decrease, as the case might be. The most remarkable figures presented show that the western section, which includes New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming and Montana and other states, has within the last decade shown an increase in the number of farms of 100 per cent. At the same time the value has increased 98 per cent. and products 211 per cent.

Against this increase of 98 per cent. in values of farms is shown an increase of 58 per cent. in the south central and 43 per cent. in the north central states. Even in the North Atlantic states there has been an increase of value of 13 per cent.

After presenting statistics concerning the total production of the several groups into which the states are divided, which show the north central states to have gained \$5,000,000,000 in the value of farms in the last decade, the report says:

"Observe, however, the stupendous totals of farm values in the north central states, including Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, the Dakotas, Nebraska and Kansas. This vast group has gained almost an even \$5,000,000,000 in the fair worth of its farms compared to ten years ago.

"Observe further the remarkable fact that this gain represents fully half the total gain in agricultural values for the whole country during the decade just closed. Also the total value for these farm lands exceeds the total of all the rest of the country put together."

The figures show that there were 250,000 farms in Illinois, which gave \$27,000,000 worth of products. Only Texas and Iowa exceed Illinois in production.

A reason is given for both the great increase in farm values and products by the higher prices which have prevailed to a great extent, for "few people realize that the productions of the farms in the United States during 1909 conservatively represent twice the value of 1899."

The wonderful recovery from the lower basis of produce values which characterized the last few decades is called to the attention of the public.

"The farm produce of the year just closed was worth almost four times as much as the product of 1899. A four-fold increase in the value of farm productions within 20 years is also something unprecedented. The crop years 1899 and 1909 were characterized by fairly good average conditions of climate, weather, etc., taking the country as a whole. Therefore the comparison is a fair one, not influenced by a so-called bumper year.

"Conditions have changed. American agriculture must change with these conditions. Population is over-taking consumption. Even with this increase in quantity and value of farm productions the United States exported during 1909 a smaller quantity of agricultural products than in 1900, though the value of such exports was \$22,000,000, compared to \$267,000,000 for 1900.

"The farm of the north central states must practice better farming, better conservation of soil and climatic resources, or its productive power will decline, and therefore, its farm values."

Light Convicts' Pipes. Leavenworth, Kan.—An order that guards in the federal prison here light the convicts' pipes when the prisoners desire to smoke has been issued by Warden McCloughrey. The guards are not pleased, as they say it makes them the body servants of the convicts. A few days ago some one of the prisoners nearly set one of the prison barns afire by careless handling of matches and the new rule is the consequence.

Bath for Mine Mules. Wilkesbarre, Pa.—A shower bath for mules in the Henry colliery is a novelty installed by the Lehigh Valley Coal Company. The mules take a bath at the close of each day's work and enjoy it so much that it is hard to drive them from the shower to their stalls.

INFLUENZA IN RARE FORM

Micrococcus Catarrhalis Extremely Busy at This Season of Year in British Capital.

London.—The epidemic of an unusual form of influenza among London children appears to be on the increase.

A typical case of this influenza outbreak is reported by a correspondent from Bromsbury. "Until a few days ago my little boy, aged eight, was perfectly well and healthy," he writes.

"Then, although he was protected in every way from getting chill, he became feverish, lost his appetite, and was put to bed.

"His temperature rose to 103 degrees, and so serious was the case, that my doctor called in a specialist, to see him. After a few fateful hours his temperature went down and the crisis was over.

"Throughout the illness my son did not complain of any pain, although he could not eat anything.

"There are several cases of this kind in the neighborhood. What is the cause of its origin?"

An experienced medical man connected with one of the hospitals was seen.

"There are some six or seven different forms of influenza," he said. "The present mild epidemic in London is probably one of the least malignant forms.

"How does a child catch it? Simply through infection from the micro-organism of this form of influenza. How and when a child catches the ailment cannot be exactly defined.

"Children who are run down in health, or just recovering from some illness, are especially susceptible to the germ.

"The particular germ causing the epidemic in London is the micrococcus catarrhalis, well known as the cause of common colds and also of more serious ailments, such as influenza, bronchitis and pneumonia.

"At this time of the year colonies of these germs usually make their appearance in London, and just now they appear to be more than usually numerous.

"My advice to parents is: Do not keep your children too much indoors before a fire; let them wrap up and go out in the air and have plenty of exercise, so as to induce a healthy circulation of blood.

"So long as they are in sound health the evil micrococcus catarrhalis will have no effect upon them. The germ will pass on to the weaker and less robust children."

AMERICAN FARM IS UNTIDY

Head of Oxford Agricultural Department Gives His Views on Agriculture of United States.

New York.—Prof. William Somerville, head of the department of agriculture at Oxford university, is in New York after a long study of forestry and agriculture in the United States.

"A British visitor is seriously impressed," he said, "by the slovenly character of the agriculture of the United States. The farm generally is untidy and confused. Fences and ditches frequently are in need of repair and little attempt is made to keep down weeds. Undoubtedly this is due largely to the cost and scarcity of labor.

"Agricultural colleges in England are overwhelmed with admiration and envy of the magnificent opportunities your government places at your disposal. Of course, your colleges and experiment stations are not all equally efficient, but the result accomplished is tremendous."

Sewing Machines for Schools. Vienna.—Opposition has been aroused by a decree of the ministry of education introducing instruction on sewing machines for girls in the schools. The city health department has protested because of possible injury to delicate girls, especially in the absence of the school physicians, as it is difficult to prevent weak pupils from working the machines at the cost of too much exertion. The measure is condemned also as tending to lead to the exploitation of girls in the labor market. Protests have proved unavailing, however, and the sewing machines will be introduced at the beginning of the new year.

Bags Santa Claus Letters. New York.—More than 800 letters for Santa Claus received in the New York post office were held up and forwarded to the dead letter office.

"Letters to Santa Claus should not be put in the regular mail," says Postmaster Morgan. "There is a much better way and I want to tell all the New York children about it.

"Leave your letter in the chimney so that Santa will come himself and get it. It is safer to tell mother that it's there, so that she won't be scared if Santa should make a noise in the chimney when he is looking for the letter."

Peanuts and Broom-Corn. Fort Fort, Tex.—More peanuts and more broom-corn will be raised on the farms of Wichita county next year, if the campaign waged by the business men of that section counts for anything.

Meetings are to be held over that section of the state by men who are interesting themselves in the movement, and farmers will be invited to attend. Special emphasis is to be laid on the peanut and broom-corn feature, and figures will be submitted showing the cost of the production of each and the revenue from the harvested crop.

WASTED MUCH COAL

Railroads Use One-Fifth of Total Production of Country.

Enormous Amount of Fuel is Lost That Under Ideal Conditions of Operation Much Could Be Saved.

Washington.—Ninety million tons of coal, one-fifth of the total product of the country, were consumed by the 51,000 locomotives in the United States in 1906 in hauling freight and passenger trains. This fuel cost the railroad companies \$170,500,000.

This enormous consumption of coal by the railroads led the United States geological survey through its technical branch, to conduct a series of tests on a locomotive to determine whether or not there could be a saving to the country in the amount of fuel used and the results have just been announced in a bulletin of the survey.

Prof. W. F. M. Goss, now dean of the University of Illinois, who had charge of the experiments, makes the statement that of the total 90,000,000 tons of coal used, 10,080,000 tons are lost through the heat in the gases that are discharged from the stacks of the locomotives; 8,640,000 tons are lost through cinders and sparks; 5,040,000 tons are lost through radiation, leakage of steam and water; 2,880,000 tons are lost through unconsumed fuel in the ashes, and 720,000 tons are lost through the incomplete combustion of gases. In addition, 18,000,000 tons are consumed in starting fires, in moving the locomotive to its train, in backing trains into or out of sidings and in keeping the locomotive hot while standing.

"Under ideal conditions of operation," says Prof. Goss, "much of the fuel thus used could be saved, and it is reasonable to expect that the normal process of evolution in railroad practice will tend gradually to bring about some reduction in the consumption thus accounted for. The loss represented by the heat of discharged gases offers an attractive field to those who would improve the efficiency of the boiler. The fuel loss in the form of cinders passing out of the stack is very large and may readily be reduced. A sure road to improvement in this direction lies in an increased grate area. Opportunities for incidental saving are to be found in improved flame ways such as are to be procured by the application of brick arches and other devices. Such losses may also be reduced by greater care in the selection of fuel and in the preparation of the fuel for the service in which it is used. It is not unreasonable to expect that the entire loss covered by this item will in time be overcome. The fuel which is lost by dropping through grates and mingling with the ashes is a factor that depends on the grate design, on the characteristic of the fuel, but chiefly on the degree of care exercised in managing the fire. More skillful firing would save much of the fuel thus accounted for.

"Locomotive boilers are handicapped by the requirement that the boiler and all its appurtenances must come within rigidly defined limits of space, and by the fact that they are forced to work at very high rates of power. Notwithstanding this handicap, the zone of practical improvement which lies between present day results and those which may reasonably be regarded as obtainable is not so wide as to make future progress rapid or easy. Material improvement is less likely to come in large measures as the result of revolutionary changes than as a series of relatively small savings. It is apparent that the utilization of fuel in locomotive practice is a problem of large proportions, and that if even a small saving could be made by all or a large proportion of the locomotives of the country it would constitute an important factor in the conservation of the nation's fuel supply."

Chicago Is Village. Chicago.—Chicago must take a back seat. After priding herself with being the second city in the United States, it has been found that she is a mere village compared with Minneapolis and St. Paul.

The truth was discovered in a letter Capt. Wood of the detective bureau received from William Thorpe of Big Lake, Minn., who wanted the captain to send him a servant.

"The reason I send to Chicago for a girl," wrote Thorpe, "when I could get one in either Minneapolis or St. Paul, is that I want one who will stay. I am afraid if I get one from such a large city as St. Paul or Minneapolis, she will get homesick and leave, so I thought I would get a Chicago girl and she will not get so lonesome."

\$25,000 a Ton for Land. Ludington, Mich.—Mining fever prevails in and near Branch township because of the announcement that A. A. Shoup, a farmer, has discovered gold on his land, and already the owners are forming a combine, headed by Shoup, to protect the alleged "pay dirt."

Shoup says he found the rich earth several weeks ago, but did not announce it until he had received a report from the Chicago assaying office, to which he sent a sample.

The report, he says, pronounces his gold land worth \$25,000 a ton, which is more valuable even than the famous Cripple Creek strike.

EGG PLANTS END A ROMANCE

Lead Romeo and Juliet to Court and Separation—Wife Cuts Husband with Knife.

Beverly, N. J.—A too great fondness on the part of the husband for egg plants led to a twentieth century Juliet slashing her Romeo the other night, and after the couple's troubles had been aired in Squire Stevenson's court the Juliet in the case returned to her mother. A few weeks ago Cornelius Pace, an enterprising shoemaker, outdid the feat of his historic fellow countryman by climbing an arbor and stealing his sweetheart from her bedroom, where she had been imprisoned by her mother, who objected to his attentions, and the young lovers were married by Mayor Roberts.

Their happiness lasted but two weeks, then Pace had his wife arraigned before Squire Stevenson for goosling with neighbors and obeying her mother instead of him. They were advised to go home, kiss and make up. The advice did not do any good, for the other night, his fingers nearly severed, Pace had his wife arrested for slashing him across the hands with a butcher knife while at supper.

"Squire," she explained, "he didn't give me anything to eat. We hadn't had nothing on the table but egg plants. He bought a whole basket of 'em for a nickel. For two weeks it's been egg plants for breakfast, dinner and supper. He loves 'em, but I hate 'em."

"Your honor," Pace interrupted, "she lies. I bought a quarter peck of potatoes last week."

"But he wouldn't let me touch 'em," retorted Mrs. Pace. "He didn't love me or he wouldn't try to make me eat egg plants." She made no denial that during the wrangling both had used knives, but said she was forced to do so because her husband tried to force the despised food down her throat. Squire Stevenson imposed the costs upon Pace, but Mrs. Pace refused to go back and live with him, and moved her belongings to her mother's home.

OXEN SWUNG UP AND SHOD

Thirty Years Ago It Was Common Practice in East—Now Attracts Much Attention.

Phoenixville, Pa.—One of the few blacksmith shops in Chester county where oxen were swung up and shod is the smithy at Embreeville, in Newlin township, where every winter a few oxen have their hoofs protected with iron shoes.

The shoeing of a yoke of oxen now attracts to the shop a considerable portion of the neighborhood, though 30 years ago it was a common sight to see many of these cumbersome animals awaiting their turn in the stocks.

Only in a few communities in Chester county are oxen still used on the farms, and the number is yearly growing fewer. Seldom is an ox team met on the highways, and the passing of one is a curiosity.

Horses, broken to automobiles, locomotives and the other terrors of their tribe, rear and plunge at an ox team.

GAME SHIPPED FROM MEXICO

Company Organized in Texas to Bring It Over Border in Carload Lots.

San Antonio, Tex.—As a result of the ruling of the attorney general that game from Mexico can be imported without violation of the game law, a company is being organized here for the purpose of shipping game from Mexico by the carload lots. This applied particularly to duck and deer. In the Tampico section, state of Tamaulipas, duck and deer are so plentiful that they are ravaging the crops, doing great damage. Professional pot hunters will be put to work and the game will be in cold storage at Tampico, where it will be kept until a car has accumulated. It will then be shipped to San Antonio, Dallas and other places to the markets. Deer and duck will now probably be a common delicacy on the menu of the Texas hotels.

'Chief' Taker Sky Bound. Osborn, O.—H. H. McGill, the town's one-armed marshal, has lost his job. At a meeting of the village council the members said that since Marshal McGill spends most of his time cavorting around in the skies in a balloon, they thought it best to drop him and get some one who would attend to the duties of marshal.

It appears that several chicken coops have been robbed recently in broad daylight. McGill was flying and could not answer the summons.

When asked what he would do, McGill said he didn't know and would not until he got another gas bag.

Comb Exploded in Hair. Pittsburg, Pa.—Mrs. Margaret Slinger Milligan, a rich young society woman, was burned at her home on West-ern avenue, north side, by the explosion of a comb which she was using in her hair. The hair was burned from her head and she was otherwise seriously scorched. Mrs. Milligan is a daughter of W. M. Slinger, the late Pittsburg steel king, former partner of Andrew Carnegie.

Record Shipment of Autos. Dallas, Tex.—A solid train of automobiles, consisting of 41 cars with 127 machines, has arrived here from Flint, Mich. This is said to be a world's record shipment for automobiles to any one dealer.

VIRGIN GOLD FOUND

Starving Miner Discovers Ore That is Almost Pure.

Poor Cornishman Picks Up Nugget Weighing 200 Pounds, Worth Nearly \$50,000—Some Strange Tales from Australia.

Spokane, Wash.—Among the thousands who flocked to the Victorian gold fields in the early '50s were two Cornish miners, John Deason and Richard Oates, who staked out a claim near the village of Mollaque. They set to work with vigor, confident that within a few months they would be able to retire to their native Cornwall rich men; but their expectations were doomed to cruel disappointment. Not only months, but many years passed, and found them still as far removed from fortune as at the beginning, and by 1869, 15 years after they began their search for gold, they were reduced to the last straits. Starvation stared them in the face, and the crowning misfortune came when the local storekeeper refused to supply Deason with a little flour until he produced the money for it.

In despair the miner seized his pick and wandered away to the outskirts of the gold field, and as he wandered, downcast and heavy-hearted, he noticed a gleam of yellow in a rut made by a peddler's cart. Lifting his pick, with a few frantic blows he brought to light an enormous nugget, which, with all his strength, he could barely raise an inch from the ground. The nugget, which was soon known to the whole world over as the "Welcome Stranger," actually weighed nearly two hundredweight, and it was sold for nearly \$50,000.

A few years later another monster nugget made its appearance at Ballarat. A party of miners had worked a claim to a depth of 60 yards when one of them struck with his pickaxe a hard, irregularly shaped mass, which, on being unearthed, proved to be a block of almost pure gold 20 inches long, 12 inches wide and 7 inches deep. Its weight was almost a hundredweight and a quarter and its value was close to \$50,000.

It was the periodical discovery at Ballarat of these monster nuggets which first fired the blood of the entire world in the far away '50s and made even prosaic Yorkshire farmers dream nightly of gold. But even Ballarat has no other romance to rival that of the discovery of two huge nuggets within a few days in the same claim. The story runs that four miners had worked their claims down to a depth of about sixty feet when one of them brought to light a nugget weighing nearly a hundredweight, and worth \$27,500. In their joy at such a rich treasure trove the men abandoned the diggings and took their nugget with them to England. They had scarcely left Ballarat when their successors to the claim, with almost the first stroke of a pick, turned over another nugget, heavier than the first, and valued at more than \$35,000.

Of all the romantic stories told of gold discoveries in California, not one is more remarkable than that of which Oliver Martin and a companion named Fowler had been prospecting for gold to no purpose. Worn out by hardships and half dead from starvation, they were on the point of abandoning the quest in despair when fate administered her last crushing blow.

They were overtaken by a terrible storm, in which Fowler was drowned. Martin, weak though he was, set to work to dig his fallen comrade's grave at the foot of a tree, and had dug down barely two feet when his spade struck a hard, unyielding substance, which, to his amazement and delight, proved to be an enormous nugget, the largest ever found on the American continent. The "Oliver Martin chunk," as it came to be known, weighed 151 pounds 6 ounces, realized something over \$35,000, and was the nucleus of a fortune of a million dollars which Martin accumulated in later years.

It is impossible to read far in the story of mining without being amazed at the large part luck has played in it. There is scarcely a gold field in the world some of the chief treasures of which have not been revealed by a trivial accident. The famous Pilbarra field in West Australia might still hold its riches in concealment if it had not been for such an accident. A boy one day picked up a stone to hurl at a crow, and was so struck by its weight that, instead of throwing it, he examined it and found it covered with yellow specks, which, even to his inexperienced eye, suggested gold. He took the stone home, his father submitted it to a miner and thus was discovered the clue to the hidden treasures of Pilbarra.

Big Gifts to Columbia. New York.—Columbia university has received this year gifts totaling nearly \$5,000,000, believed to be a record for educational institutions in the east. The largest single contributions were \$1,500,000, from the estate of George Crocker, and the \$2,250,000 bequest of John Stewart Kennedy, New York banker.

Translate Bible into Koranko. New York.—Work on the translation of the Bible into Koranko, an African tongue in which no book has been printed, is being done here by missionaries. The Koranko tribe lives in the hinterland of Sierra Leone, West Africa.

War on Smuggling. New York.—Thirty of the largest wholesale diamond firms in the Maidenhead district have formed an association which purposes to help stop the smuggling of gems, especially diamonds and pearls. The dealers will notify federal authorities of shipments of diamonds which appear suspicious.

Buys Farm with Tips. St. Louis.—With tips received while an usher at the Union station, Frank Bernely, until recently in charge of the usher corps, has purchased a farm near Branson, Mo., for \$2,000. Bernely was employed at the station for seven years.

NEW YORK VACANT LOT FARMS

Rochester Amateur Gardeners Secure 1,600 Bushels of Choice, Marketable Potatoes.

Rochester, N. Y.—The summer is past, and the harvest has ended, at least so far as the miniature farms cultivated under the auspices of the vacant lot gardening commission is concerned. The broad results are gratifying, as the amateur gardeners and farmers have secured at least 1,600 bushels of choice, marketable potatoes, besides large quantities of other vegetables. The potatoes found their way into the cellars of 80 families, thus materially aiding in supplying the winter's provender.

It is understood that the commission now has \$250 worth of garden utensils and general small farm equipment, which it is hoped to increase materially during the coming winter. It will thus be possible to establish an increased number of garden patches in the coming spring and extend the useful work of the commission.

It is not alone from the actual fruits of the small gardens that benefit accrues. The example is infectious. There are thousands of city dwellers with bits of land which are practically going to waste, and which might be made to afford profit, wholesome exercise and ornamentation, through intelligent and well directed intensive farming.

KING ROOSTER KILLS HIMSELF

When Dethroned from Hen Roost Jealous Bird Beats Head Against Post Until Dead.

West Caldwell, N. J.—Dethroned as king of Jeremiah O. Dolanbeck's hen roost by a younger rival, Chet, known as the handsomest rooster in north New Jersey, could not bear the disgrace of being placed in a small inclosure with five bantams, and after killing two of them and disabling the other three, he pounded his dead against an iron post until he dropped dead.

The feathers on Chet's head and neck changed in color from a dull red to a bright scarlet. The feathers on the body were of a greenish blue, beautifully shaded, and his tail feathers were gorgeous. Chet knew he was handsome and he delighted to parade about the chicken yard and listen to his praises being sung by the hens. When young he was named Chesterfield, but had since been called Chet for short.

A young rooster was placed in the coop. The intruder was immediately attacked by Chet and for this the old rooster was removed to the coop containing the bantams. This was merely a temporary move, but after an hour the bird was dead.

The old rooster will be stuffed and have a prominent place in the Dolanbeck home.

CERTAINLY DONE HER SHARE

New York Woman Gives Birth to Triplets Once, Twins Five Times, and 12 "in Single File."

Niagara Falls, N. Y.—Rice suicide has never reared its grim visage in the home of Mrs. Silvia Webster, 42 years old, of No. 1114 Center avenue. Married twice, Mrs. Webster's unique and unusual contribution to the propagation of the human family is one set of triplets, five sets of twins and 12 other children.

And throughout most of the 26 years of her married life, Mrs. Webster has been obliged to work hard for the support of herself and family. The triplets died shortly after birth and the twins did not live long," said Mrs. Webster. "There are only seven of my children alive now, three are at home and the rest are grown up and scattered in different parts of the country."

Mrs. Webster has been a resident of Niagara Falls for the past 31 years. She was married at the age of 18 to John Bright and by him had six children, one set of twins. The twins did not live. Later she married William D. Webster and by him had 19 children.

Beavers Build Dam. El Reno, Okla.—Beavers, the first to be found here in many years, have taken up their abode in Issue Pen lake, on the Darlington Indian reservation, and are constructing an immense dam over the lower end. Hunting parties returning from the lake told of finding the dam partly completed and a number of trees cut down by the industrious little animals. The Indians say that the beavers were once plentiful along the North Canadian, but they were thought to have become extinct in this section of the state. Where the present colony came from is a mystery.

L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS

Advertisement text in French at the bottom of the page.