

YOUR COUNTY AGENT AND HOW HE CAN HELP YOU

Farmers who do not use the Farm Demonstration Agent and find him a source of profit and information simple have not learned how to use him and what to expect of him. A farmer is occasionally heard to say "The County Agent cannot be of any service to me because I am a better farmer than he is." Such a statement shows a wrong conception of County Agent work. The County Agent is not employed to be the best farmer in the county any more than a doctor is called in because he is the healthiest man in the community. If we were always in case of sickness to call in the healthiest person in the community few doctors would be called and few cases scientifically treated. Now farming first of all is a business based on a knowledge of a number of sciences. A farmer may make money on account of his business ability and at the same time be losing a lot more money that he might make by applying a knowledge of some of the sciences bearing on agriculture. Whenever a problem is the farmers of a county, whether it be a problem of production or of marketing, it is the business of the County Agent to take full account of the problem, determine its scope and importance, and then bring to bear all the information in existence on that particular problem. His information is obtainable from the State Experiment Station and through the United States Department of Agriculture, from all the Experiment Stations in this country and in the world. The United States Department of Agriculture itself develops valuable agricultural information which is carried to the most distant farm through the County Agent system.

Now the agricultural press performs a wonderfully valuable service by carrying this information to its subscribers throughout the land. The County Agent, however, carries it there in a way that is peculiar to the County Agent system; that is, he carries information through dem-

onstrations. A farmer might read in a bulletin sent him by County Agent or in an agricultural paper, exact directions for pruning, worming and spraying a peach tree but it is not until the County Agent actually goes into the farmers orchard with his tools, and prunes, worms and sprays a few trees before the farmers' own eyes that the lesson is thoroughly impressed and permanently learned.

Of course, there are people who learn how to do things by reading but with the great majority of people, farmers or not, "seeing is believing." Hence the County Agent demonstrates scientific truths relating to agriculture. He bases his information not only on the work of the experiment stations of the world and of the great United States Department of Agriculture but also takes into account the experiences of practical farmers or of farmers' organizations everywhere. He is in a position to furnish the best information available on the various agricultural problems that arise. Of course, he cannot be an authority within himself on every farm problem but through his connection with the Extension system he can obtain any information that exists on a given farm subject. Moreover he is a scientifically trained man able to take facts from bulletins and reports and apply those facts as demonstrations so that people may observe the value of the results on their own farms or in their community. One of the greatest problems in Southern agriculture is the problem of soil fertility. County Agents attacked this problem by putting on demonstrations wherever a farmer would co-operate in the rotation of crops, using in the rotation such soil builders as alfalfa, clover, velvet beans, vetch, rye, etc.

If any farmer who happens to read this article happens never to have had demonstrated to him beyond the shadow of doubt the value of crop rotations in increasing soil productivity let him not postpone another month calling in his county agent and laying plans for some rotations that the agent will suggest for his particular land. The county

agents have learned from the Veterinary world and have demonstrated to farmers everywhere that Hog Cholera may be prevented through the use of the siren virus treatment. We do not hear much talk now of "hollow-tail" and "hollow-horn" in cattle, partly because county agents have demonstrated that most diseases that were formerly called by these names now respond favorably to the prescribed treatment for "milk-fever," or to the feeding of a properly balanced ration.

How to Use The Agent

First get in touch with the agent personally and lay your problem before him. His services are absolutely free to farmers. Do you want to start a home or commercial orchard or to properly prune and spray the old trees? Are you having trouble with your live stock in any way or is it that they are simply not profitable? Is there some bug or worm or spider attacking your field or garden crops? Are you dissatisfied with the seed you have been planting? Are you sure you are now following the best known method of fertilization for your type of soil and crop? Is the boll rot, cotton wilt, tomato wilt or other plant disease rendering your efforts at profitable farming in vain? Have you finally decided to grown enough feed and food crops for yourself and your family instead of buying them, and are you in doubt as to what crops and what acreages you should plant? Do you know the best method of preparing planting and harvesting each of the crops? If you know this, do you know where you can obtain the necessary amount of the best grade of disease free seed? If any of these crops happen to be legumes (and some of them will be) do you know where to obtain most economically and how to use properly the right inoculation for each legume? If you are thinking of buying some fertilizers, or lime, or seed, or pure-bred live stock, or wire fencing, had it occurred to you that the county agent might be able to assist you in making up a cooperative order with other farmers who have the same plans, at a saving to all? Is there anything you need that is obtainable from your State Agricultural College or from the United States Department of Agriculture? Have you got some boys that ought to be enlisted in a pig club or a corn club or some other kind of a club? Are you a progressive-minded citizen living in a backward community and wanting to enlist someone to help diagnose and remedy the trouble?

Call on your county agricultural agent. Have him to visit your farm and then go to his office some Saturday. Call him over the phone during the week. Don't expect him to call at your place unless you send for him. A good county agent is a very busy public servant and has not the time to pay many social visits. If he did have, it would be reason for investigating him as to how he uses his time. When he does call upon you, however, you may be sure that the plan he comes to lay before you is well worth consideration. If he asks you to meet him it is to enlist your services in building a better community and a better state.

Recently the great problem of marketing farm products has become perhaps the most colossal problem with which the American farmer has to deal. In the working out of this problem the county agents of the country are foreordained to play on indispensable part. Both the American farmer and the American public are anxious for the time to be hastened when a much larger part of the consumers dollar will go to the man on the farm. It will be advantageous to both. This time is going to be brought about through the organization of huge cooperative marketing associations which will tend to eliminate waste and inefficient distribution while improving the quality and standardizing the product. Much time and patience and study will, of course, be required to bring about these things and in bringing them about the county agent force of the country will represent the only paid organization which the farmers may freely call upon and mobilize to assist in conducting the necessary educational work.

"Mother's Memorial" is the name that will be borne by a magnificent new dormitory for women students to be erected at Southern Methodist University, in Dallas, at a cost of half million dollars.

TOLSTOY WROTE BY IDLENESS

Letter Written by Russian Philosopher Condemns Life Led by Indolent Men of Means.

The Vossische Zeitung prints the following letter by Tolstoy, written in 1884, with the remark that it has never before been published except in Russian, and that its value lies in the fact that as early as 1884 Tolstoy had about made up his mind to do what he did in 1910—leave home and live the life of a peasant. The letter reads in part:

"I am living in the country, involuntarily according to a new method. I go to bed early, get up early, write very little but work a great deal, either making boots or mowing hay. I see with joy (or possibly it only seems to me like joy) that there is something in my family. They do not condemn me; as a matter of fact, they seem ashamed of themselves.

"What miserable creatures we are and how we have all gone astray. There are a great many of us here, my own children and the children of Kusminsky, and nobody does a thing but gulp down food. They are all big and strong, yet they do nothing. People in the village are at work. My children eat and make their clothes and their rooms dirty and that is all. Everything is done for them by somebody else, yet they do nothing for anybody. And worst of all, they seem to feel that it is as it should be. But I have had my own part in building up such a system, and I can never forget it. I feel that for them I am a trouble-fete. But it is clear that they are beginning to see that this cannot go on this way forever."

HAD NO CAUSE FOR WORRY

Under the Circumstances Wash White Could Afford to Live Life of Elegant Leisure.

Senator Gronna of Dakota was analyzing a political opponent at a Dakota luncheon.

"The man is bad through and through," he said. "He's actually so bad that he mistakes badness for goodness—is proud of himself, in short.

"By Jove, he makes me think of Uncle Washington White. As Uncle Wash loafed in front of the poolroom one morning the preacher's wife stopped and said:

"Washington, why don't you go to work?"

"Old Wash White, as he puffed serenely on his corn-cob, answered:

"'Bekase Ah got a wife an' children to support."

"But," the preacher's wife impatiently interrupted, "you can't support them by loafing here in front of this poolroom."

"Excuse me, Miss Fo'thly," said Wash, with dignity. "Lemme finish mah remark. Wot Ah means to say is that Ah's got a wife an' chillun to support me."—Detroit Free Press.

New York Boys' New Game.

The game of marbles no longer holds a throne in boyville. Any New York side street where there's enough room between bluecoats and automobile traffic to play, will show you that a new game has taken its place.

"Sidewalk checkers," the boys call it. The new game really has the elements of both the old marble shooting days and checkers as played on a board. Checker men are used—red, black, blue—the color makes no difference. A ring is drawn with chalk and the object is to flip your checker man with enough force to knock your contenders out of the ring.

"Hully gee!" said a future Ponzi as he gathered up his winnings on Reade street near Broadway, "ain't I got enough lumber here to start me a paper mill?"—New York Sun.

Men Who Repair Skeletons.

There are two kinds of skeleton-menders—the bone surgeon and the skeleton-assembler. Art schools, medical colleges, and students of anatomy require an accurately constructed skeleton to aid in their work.

All the bones must be properly assorted and carefully put together. They are strung on fine wires. The skeleton-assembler must also pick out of the hundreds of odd bones that are sent him the 200 or more bones that belong to the particular individual being reconstructed. It is not an easy task, and the price of skeletons is justified by the amount of work required to construct them.—Popular Science Monthly.

May Use South American Wood.

The Pennsylvania railroad, owing to the unprecedented cost of railroad ties, has decided to investigate the adaptability of the hard woods of Central and South America for this purpose, it is announced. Normally the Pennsylvania system uses from 5,000,000 to 6,000,000 ties annually. The average net cost has risen fully 100 per cent since the beginning of the war. Furthermore, white oak, which the company regards as the most desirable wood for ties, is becoming scarcer. Therefore, the company has inquiries under way to determine the comparative cheapness and durability of southern hard woods for railroad ties.

The Useless Bell.

"The bell on your house has been out of order for weeks. I should think you would have it repaired."

"What's the use? Nobody ever rings it any more. Our friends just sit out in their cars and honk their auto horns until we come to the door."



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