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FARM INSTRUCTION URGED BY LEVER

Congressman Makes Plea Before Soil Fertility League for More Scientific Agricultural Methods.

Chicago, Ill., July 11.—Congressman A. F. Lever of South Carolina, chairman of the House committee on agriculture and author of the Lever agricultural extension bill, was the guest of honor at the Union League club yesterday at a luncheon of the National Soil Fertility league. He advocated direct education of the individual farmer with a view to conserving the soil resources of the United States, before a large gathering of financial leaders, economists and agricultural educators.

That the latest investigations of government experts show a decrease in proportion to population in recent years the amount of ground devoted to the raising of food products was disclosed. Statistics were quoted to prove that the farm land in America is producing only one-third as much per acre as land in Europe which has produced crops for more than 1,000 years.

The famous advice of Horace Greeley to the young men of America was reversed by the Congressman, who declared that the land of prosperity for the youth of this generation is the awakening South.

"During the early history of this nation there was more or less attention paid to agriculture by the government heads," said Congressman Lever. "Washington, Jefferson and other early Presidents endeavored to stimulate a proper regard in the minds of the people toward agricultural conservation, but nothing was done in the way of federal support of the agricultural industry of this country until the passage of the Morrill act in 1862, establishing the land grant for state agricultural colleges. Twenty-five years later came the experiment stations. Now we propose to establish and maintain a public service of tremendous value to every interest in the land when we place a skilled farm demonstrator in every agricultural county.

"The Lever agricultural extension bill, which has the unqualified and keenly active support of the National Soil Fertility league, provides for this service, the federal government appropriating a sufficient fund, also the states, and apportioned according to the rural population. From observation of foreign and occasional domestic application of these methods it will be a tremendously profitable investment.

"I desire to say a word for my own section of the country. If Horace Greeley were here today, I am satisfied, with his keen observation and practical conception of things, that instead of his famous utterance, 'Go West, young man, and grow up with the country,' he would turn and say, 'Go South, young man.'

Here we see 100,000 people each year going into Western Canada, yet we have in the South millions of acres of magnificent farm land as good as anywhere in the United States, which could be purchased at from \$5 to \$12 an acre, and I assert on absolute proof and record that we can produce as much grain and raise as much live stock of as fine a grade as anywhere in the United States.

"In my own state of South Carolina we hold the corn producing record per acre of the United States; in my own state we have the original alfalfa-growing tract of land. Your great Western ranges have been cut up and are being cut up into farms, and the South will become the natural and radical meat producing section of the United States.

"Our race and labor problems nature can take care of itself. All this agitation and disturbance is due to the individual endeavoring to make capital, and is largely and almost invariably the effort of some local disturber or demagogue. We ask you Northern and Western business men and community leaders to support the Lever agricultural extension bill—to help us, and we will help you. Turn the tide of immigration, keep our people under the old flag. Come South and we will welcome you and we will make you rich."

President H. H. Gross reviewed the work of the league during the last two years, in which its principal efforts have been devoted to the support of the Lever agricultural extension bill which in a measure provides for the establishment and maintenance in every agricultural county in the United States of a skilled farm adviser, who will bring to the individual farmer the fund of valuable knowledge gathered and developed by the Department of Agriculture, the state agricultural colleges and the state experiment stations. Mr. Gross expressed the belief that the measure would pass Congress at the present session, or without doubt in the early days of the next regular session.

PLAN EXTENSION OF PARCEL POST

THE IMPROVEMENT IN SYSTEM AND REDUCTION IN RATES ANNOUNCED.

IS A LONG STEP FORWARD

Postal Experts Estimate That The Proposed Changes Will Add to Revenue of Department—First Step Toward Universal Extension.

Washington.—Plans for the extension, improvement and reduction in rates of the parcel post were announced by Postmaster General Burleson. The changes, which are to become effective on August 15, include an increase from 11 pounds to 20 pounds in the maximum weight of parcels; a material reduction in the postage rates in the first and second zones, and the abandonment of the parcel post map as a means of computing rates and the substitution for it of a rate charge individualized to every postoffice in the United States. The plans contemplate the purchase of a large number of automobiles to be used exclusively for the delivery of parcel post matter.

While, for the present, the maximum weight limit of 20 pounds and the reduction in rates will apply only to the first and second zones, from any given postoffice—a distance of about 150 miles—the change directed constitute the first long step towards a universal extension of the system and a general reduction in the rates of postage on parcel matter.

"It is my expectation and belief," said Postmaster General Burleson, "that eventually—and it may be 15 or 20 years—the postal service will handle practically all of the small package transportation business in the United States. The maximum weight limit, extended now from 11 to 20 pounds, I expect to see increased to 100 pounds and experience may demonstrate the practicability of handling the parcel business at even lower rates than we now propose.

"In the making of extensions and reductions of rates it is necessary for us to proceed with caution, so as to afford ample opportunity to prepare for the increased business. For that reason we have made the changes proposed apply only to the first and second zones. I appreciate fully the sentiment for an increase in the weight limit and a reduction in rates to all zones, but it is necessary for us, in a sense, to feel our way."

National Policy Toward Nicaragua.

Washington.—A new policy toward Nicaragua involving the actual control of affairs of that republic by the United States through a protectorate similar to that exercised over Cuba, was outlined by Secretary Bryan, at a private conference with members of the senate foreign relations committee. Mr. Bryan's proposal, coming as a complete surprise to most of the members of the committee, has been taken by many senators as the first pronouncement of a general policy on the part of the administration to extend American control over the countries surrounding the Panama canal, and to assure that stability of Central American republics and the domination of the United States of their relations with other great powers.

The Father of the Trolley.

Stephen Dudley Field, known as "the father of the trolley," died at his home in Stockbridge, Mass., on May 18, at the age of 67. He was the nephew of Cyrus W. Field, who laid the first Atlantic cable. His first work with the electric car was in 1880, when he built an experimental line on his own grounds in the town of Stockbridge. His car took current from a central third rail. He also took out patents on conduit and trolley systems. One of the earliest inventions was the hotel annunciator, the first one of which was installed in the Palace Hotel, San Francisco, in the early sixties. In 1874 he produced the multiple call district telegraph box, and in 1879 created a revolution in telegraphy by the invention of the dynamo. The following year he developed the dynamo quadruplex telegraph, and in 1899 he applied his system to the cable between Key West and Havana. He was also active as a pioneer in long-distance telephony and electric lighting.—Scientific American.

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How to Cure Pea Hay.

Begin mowing when the peas turn yellow in the pods. Mow in the mornings till noon; if possible, run a tedder right after the mower to keep the hay tossed up and hasten the wilting. Rake into windrows that afternoon. Next morning turn the windrows with the rake while the mowers are running on other parts. That afternoon put this hay into cocks as narrow and tall as will stand well. Then, as soon as you can take a handful of the hay and twist it and can wring no sap to the twi t, haul the hay to the barn and let it settle with its own weight without tramping, and then let it alone and it will cure all right. If it heats some, let it heat. If you go to stirring it to cool you will let in germs of mold from the air and will have moldy hay.

Now, I have cured it in this way many years and never made any moldy hay, but had it come out with the leaves on and green in color, and far better feed than the usual assortment of sticks that many make by letting the hay lie in the sun to bleach and the leaves to get dry and crisp. In fact, I have found curing peavine hay as easy as any other hay if you simply let it cure and do not "monkey" with all sorts of scaffolds and contrivances that merely dry the hay and lose the leaves, the best part of the hay.—W. F. Massey, in The Progressive Farmer.

High Price for Straightness.

One of the most difficult problems in practical mechanics is to make a straight edge. How difficult it is may be judged from an incident that occurred in the shop of a celebrated astronomical instrument maker.

A patron asked what would be the price of "a perfect straight edge of glass 36 inches long."

"It cannot be made perfect," said the instrument maker; "but it could probably be made with a limit of error amounting to only a fraction of a wave length of light."

"How much would that cost?"

"About forty thousand dollars."

It turned out that the customer wanted the straight edge for a scraper and that an error of one sixty-fourth of an inch would not bother him.

A Good Investment.

W. D. Magil, a well known merchant of Whittemound, Wis., bought a stock of Chamberlain's medicine so as to be able to supply them to his customers. After receiving them he was himself taken sick and says that one small bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy was worth more to him than the cost of his entire stock of these medicines. For sale by All Dealers. adv.

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