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## Making Pork at Four Cents a Pound

In a recent issue of the Roanoke-Chowan Times Mr. D. H. Brown tells how Messrs. F. P. and C. J. Shields made pork at less than four cents a pound on the Halifax county farm:

"It may seem hard for some people, who are inclined to be skeptical anyway, to believe that these men are able, every year, to grow hundreds of hogs without feeding them any, or very little corn. This is just what they are doing, however. Below is more of a detailed account of how they are able to do this.

"During the winter the pigs are allowed to run on bur clover and rye, in the spring they are pastured on crimson clover and rye; and during the early summer on rape and soy beans, late in the summer and early fall they pasture on soy beans and sweet potatoes and during the late fall soy beans and peanuts make up the ration. By this time they are ready to kill.

"Last year they had a special field fenced off as follows: The field contained 75 acres. In very early spring 10 acres were sowed in rape. By the time the pigs were done running on clover the rape was ready for them. Right next to the rape was a 20 acre field of soy beans, planted about the middle of April. A little later 20 more acres were planted in soy beans. The next 10 acres were planted in sweet potatoes. To finish out the 75 acres, 15 acres were put in peanuts. In order to get the most out of soy beans, they begin to pasture them about the middle of July, by the time the blooms appear. But they fence off a small portion of them to put the hogs on at first. They do not, as a rule allow their hogs to run on more than ten acres at a time. By the time they have cleaned up all the other beans, they put them back on the first 10 acre plot. In the meantime, they have put out new sprouts and have formed hard beans. Except when the hogs run on peanuts, they all have rings in their noses.

"The day I was on the farm, they were fencing off plots of crimson clover. On this they were going to put a fine lot of pigs which looked to be about two months old. They were indeed a nice looking bunch of pigs. I told Mr. Shields so. He said, 'You just wait 60 days and see those pigs and you will not know them. There is hardly anything which starts off a pig as well as clover.' Later he thinks there is nothing quite equal to soy beans for hogs. Every pig, every stock hog and every brood sow on the Shields farm is vaccinated against cholera. They used to be troubled with cholera, but since they have been treating them they have not been troubled with it at all."

Appealing to a lady for aid, an old negro told her that through the Dayton flood he had lost everything he had in the world, including his wife and six children, according to The Cincinnati Enquirer.

"Why," said the lady, "I have seen you before, and I have helped you. Were you not the colored man who told me you had lost your wife and six children by the sinking of the Titanic?"

"Yeth, ma'am, dat wuz me. Mos' unfort'nit man dat eber wuz. Kain't keep a fam'ly no-how."

## Germany's Reply to Inquiry Concerning Lusitania Assurances.

Washington, Feb. 27.—Germany has instructed Count von Bernstorff to inform the United States Government that the assurances regarding the future conduct of submarine warfare, given in the Lusitania and Arabic cases, still are binding, but that they apply only to merchantmen of a peaceful character. The German Government is understood to contend that armed merchantmen have without regard to the nature of their armament shown themselves not to be peaceful and therefore are subject to destruction without warning.

The instructions direct the German Ambassador particularly to tell Secretary Lansing that British merchantmen armed ostensibly only for defense have not assumed the character of peaceful traders, but that on the contrary they carry guns for the special purpose of attacking German submarines. To support this claim the Berlin Foreign Office has sent the Ambassador for presentation to the State Department a list of at least 20 incidents where it is claimed British merchant ships have attacked submarines.

Confidential advices received from Berlin state that German and Austrian submarine commanders already have been given their new orders and that from midnight Tuesday they will be authorized to sink without warning all armed merchant ships of the enemies of Germany. It was said also that many of the submarine commanders probably had left their bases of voyages, and then even should the United States request the postponing of the opening of the campaign, it would be impossible to get word to many of the submarines. It was stated, however, that so far neither the United States nor any other Nation had asked a postponement.

## Uncle Sam's Islands.

The American Boy.

It will probably surprise you to learn that the United States flag flies over 8,000 islands. According to a report received by the National Geographic Society, their population totals ten million. Four hundred million of dollars of American capital is invested in these islands, and each year they send to the United States products to the value of one hundred million.

Porto Rico, Hawaii and the Alaskan islands have shown startling development since coming under the Stars and Stripes. Fifteen years ago there was but one school house in Porto Rico. To-day nearly 200,000 boys and girls are attending school there. Three hundred and sixty-five thousand tons of sugar 65,000 under the Spanish regime. Hawaii has shown a similar prosperity.

## He Knew Boys.

The story is told in The Indianapolis News that there was a bad accident in the street of a big city. A surgeon happened to be at the spot and was soon rendering first aid. He did not have his medicine kit with him. He needed something and needed it quickly.

"Boy," he said to a youngster in the crowd, "hand me that string out of your pocket." And the string was forthcoming.

"How did you know that boy had a string in his pocket?" asked a spectator later.

"Why, every real boy carries strings in his pocket," said the surgeon.

## Laying Submarine Mines.

Popular Science Monthly.

The mines which have been chiefly used in the present war are automatic and mechanical, and are fired when the ship strikes against them.

Mines of this type are easily laid. When stowed away on the deck of a mine-laying ship the mine rests on the anchor which at the same time forms a little carriage which can be run along the deck and simply dropped over the stern of the ship.

Whether mines have actually been laid by submarines is, of course known only to the naval authorities. Patents have, however, been taken out within the last few years for specially designed mines to be laid by submarine boats with a series of chambers on each side for holding and launching mines. These chambers are disposed between double walls of the submarine and are made to form a smooth outline with the hull of the boat.

A mine is maintained at the desired depth in the water by means of an anchor in which the cable, one end of which is connected to the mine, is unwound from a drum suitably braked and mounted in the anchor casing. The rotation of the drum is controlled by a plumb weight attached to a short sounding line. When the plumb weight reaches the bottom of the sea the rotation of the drum is stopped and the mine is pulled down to the required depth. It is only necessary to determine at what depth below the surface it is desired to anchor the mine and to throw into the water the complete apparatus, namely the mine and anchor, whereupon the whole apparatus will take up its proper position, the depth of submergence being determined by the length of the sounding line.

## Potash in Ashes

"Is there potash in oak wood ashes?"

The percentage of potash in ashes will depend on the way they have been kept. If they have been under cover all the time and have not been exposed to rain good oak wood ashes may contain 100 to 150 pounds of potash in a ton and about 700 pounds of lime, with a small amount of phosphoric acid. If the ashes have been lying exposed to rain there will be little potash left, as it leaches out easily. —W. F. Massey in Progressive Farmer.

## Verdun Battle's Fury Shows No Signs Let-up

Dispatch of Monday.

The great battle raging around Verdun in which a half-million men are engaged is still being fought at some points with the same fury as characterized it several days ago.

Champneville, to the west, and fortified works of Bardaumont, to the east of Fort Douaumont, have been captured by the Germans. Berlin also claims to have captured the Cote de Talou, to the west of Douaumont, but according to the French official statement, the artillery fire coming from both sides has rendered this position untenable for either French or Germans.

The French are hurling attack after attack upon the Douaumont positions held by the Germans, who are declared to be maintaining themselves there with difficulty, but in the Woivre region, to the east of Verdun, the French advanced posts have been withdrawn.

Large reinforcements are being brought up probably by both forces, and it is reported that the British lines are being extended in Belgium and France in order that French troops may be released for the Verdun battle.

In the Vosges mountains the Germans also started a heavy offensive Southeast of Celles, but it was completely checked by the French. On the other extreme end of the line around Ypres a British attack was repulsed by the Germans.

Attacks on Rheims and a vigorous bombardment has been carried out against the German positions. Marine disasters are again a feature of the news. Several steamers have been blown up by mines and it is believed that the recent great storm along the coast of England and in the North Sea has set many powerful mines adrift.

Teacher: "Johnnie, give me a sentence to illustrate the use of the word 'notwithstanding.'"

Johnnie (promptly): "The boy wore out the seat of his pants not with standing."

"I want a man who doesn't smoke or drink."

"What are the wages?"

"Six dollars a week."

"Guess you want a man who doesn't eat either."

## Quit Using Fire

Wise and good old Dr. Knapp used to say that fools and fire are two of the most serious obstacles to better farming in the South, and a trip through the Cotton Belt at this time of the year will convince any clear thinking man that he was right. Everywhere blue smoke curling upward from burning corn and cotton stalks, grass, weeds and trash tells a story of soil depletion and exhaustion. We have seen grass and stalks so light and scattering that a hay rake was necessary to gather them in piles or windrows, where they were burnt. This often happens, too, on our thin, gullied hillsides that need vegetable matter if any land in the world needs it.

There's one thing we might all as well get right now: We are never going to have rich lands and profitable yields as long as such practices are kept up. It's a pitiful thing to see a farmer burning this material and then buying high-priced commercial fertilizers to make his crop. It has been found that on land that made 300 pounds of lint cotton, the stalks, leaves and burs contain at least 20 pounds of nitrogen, worth at present prices about \$5. Where corn stalks and grass are burned the loss is little less. Nor is this the only loss, for the humus value of this material is a very important item.

If you ever expect to become a rich-land farmer, keep fire out of the fields. Burn absolutely nothing that can be plowed under or used to stop weeds, and your land will soon respond with bigger and better crops.—Exchange.

## What Stevenson Thinks about Roads

The last statement made by Mr. W. F. Stevenson as to what Congress should do for a farming district like this was that it had spent \$475,000,000.00 on rivers and nothing on roads. It has also spent \$100,000,000 on irrigation projects, to water lands for less than 1,000,000 people in the West. Why not do something to take the water out of the roads in the South? In South Carolina the State and Counties and Towns and Townships spent in 1914 about \$1,000,000.00 on roads, and still of the 45,549 miles of roads in the State only 4,888 miles are surfaced and really improved—and that is the work of years. 40,661 miles are yet to be fixed, and all must be maintained. The Government carries mail over most of them; why is it not right for it to help fix them?

(Advertisement)

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## Germans Attack With Unprecedented Violence

Dispatch published Saturday.

Along the front in the region of Verdun the Germans and the French continue the great struggle which began several days ago with the Germans on the offensive and their aim evidently the great French fortress of Verdun.

Notwithstanding a heavy fall of snow the Germans to the north of Verdun have attacked with what Paris terms unprecedented violence and with large forces, French positions at several points but according to the French official communication the attacks were without success. Especially has this been true at La Cote du Poivre, about four and a half miles north of the fortress, the attainment of which would give the Germans a good vantage point from which to operate against Verdun.

The artillery on both sides along the entire battle front is keeping up an incessant bombardment of opposing positions. So intense are the detonations of the big guns that the sound of them has penetrated eastward to the left bank of the Rhine in Rhenish Prussia.

Heavy casualties are being inflicted by both sides and the Germans claim that they have taken many prisoners—the aggregate at last reports totalling more than 10,000.

## Cropped Ears for False Swearing—The Ancient Law

Statesville Landmark.

Reading in The Landmark about the record in Pasquotank county showing that a boy's ear had been bitten off by a horse, the record being made because it was a custom to brand criminals by cutting off their ears. Mr. R. F. Henry sends The Landmark a copy of the laws of North Carolina, passed by the General Assembly at Edenton in 1738 and 1739, and signed by Gabriel Johnson, Governor. In these acts there is the following: "And to the End such Negro, Mulatto, or Indians, bond or free, not being Christians, as shall hereafter be produced as Evidence on the Trial of any Slave or Slaves for capital or other crimes, may be under the greater Obligation to declare the Truth; Be it further enacted, That where any such Negro, Mulatto, or Indian, bond or free, shall, upon due Proof made, or pregnant circumstances, appearing before any County Court within this Government, be found to have given false Testimony, every Offender shall, without further Trial, be ordered, by the said Court, to have one Ear nailed to the Pillory and there stand for the Space of one Hour and the said Ear to be cut off and thereafter the other Ear nailed in like Manner, and cut off, at the Expiration of one other Hour; and moreover, to order every such Offender thirty-nine Lashes, well laid on, on his bare back, at the common Whipping post."

That was going some, as the boys say. If that law was in full force and effect in this good day there would be less false swearing or many folks would have their ears cropped.

"Uncle Zeb," said a young man who had recently come to live in the village, "they tell me that you remember seeing George Washington. Is that right?"

"No, it ain't" returned Uncle Zeb. "I uster 'member seein' him, but that wuz before I jined the church."

## Feeling Bad

Syrup Pepsin is an armor plate against bad feeling, such as you generally experience during the spring. Why not come in and get a bottle? We sell the 50c size for 45c. And for 25c we sell you the amount of quinine you've been paying 45c for.

When you need Croup and Pneumonia salve for yourself and family remember we always keep 3 kinds which we do not hesitate to guarantee fully.

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