

The Farm and the Farmer

By William R. Sanborn

ROADS AND SALES

The country roads are pretty well cut up and there is mud everywhere. This affects long distance driving to farm sales, but the mild weather has helped to bring out bidders and a very few of the men who have recently held sales are complaining of lack of interest and attendance.

J. A. Hockett, living two miles south of Richmond on the Liberty pike, held a cleanup sale on Tuesday. He is to remove to town, having decided to quit farming, as his sale ad announced. Mr. Hockett had a bunch of good cows and these were in demand at fair prices, the average running better than \$90 per head. There were eight head in the herd, a mixed lot, including two or three good grades, and one fine Holstein with calf at side which topped the sale at \$125.00. Mr. Hockett said the cows brought satisfactory prices, but that he had a dandy team of horses which should have brought considerably more money than \$277.50, which was the high bid.

"Taking the sale as a whole," said he, "we did pretty well. To my mind, some of the things went too cheap, as is always the case at farm sales, but as the total figured around \$2,500, I am pretty well satisfied."

A part of the 1,000 bushels of corn in the Hockett crib was reserved. The rest was divided around at from 73 1/2 to 75 cents per bushel. Ten tons of mixed hay brought going sale prices and the farm implements sold according to value. No hogs, excepting 34 head of 50 to 60 pound pigs, were in the sale and these were quickly sold at better than market figures.

The Vornauf Hog Sale.
The fanciers of red hogs had a chance to pick out a lot of them at the Vornauf Brothers' sale of Durocs, as 94 head of all sizes and ages were killed to go under the hammer on Tuesday afternoon. Included in the lot were 12 registered tried sows, six fall yearling sows, and 25 spring gilts, all of which were bred to good males. In addition were 50 head of fall pigs, including 30 pure-bred gilts and 20 head of feeding shots. The entire offering had been immuned and was in first class shape. Spring gilts are said to have averaged about \$35 while the tried sows brought a little more money. No exceptionally high prices were recorded. The sale was held on the C. J. Vornauf farm, two and one-half miles northeast of Hagerstown.

The big mail order houses are claiming that agricultural conditions were greatly improved in 1922. One concern claims to have added nearly a million new accounts in the year and to have increased its sales 24 percent as compared with 1921. This Chicago house, second largest in the west, reports gross sales of \$92,474,182 last year, compared with less than \$76,000,000 in 1921, when the business, owing to scaling down of its stores, showed a heavy loss. A profit of \$4,562,000 was made in 1922.

The manager of the house referred to is an optimist on the outlook and says: "There is nothing in the nature of the business we have been getting that would indicate the farmers are buying merely to supply necessities that they have been doing without for the last year or two. Apparently they are supplying current needs. Last year they found it necessary to buy in smaller quantities, which resulted in more frequent and smaller orders. It is my opinion that business in general in 1923 will be better than in 1922."

Crops Heavy, Prices Low.
Extra large carlot shipments and low prices is the record for fruits and vegetables in 1922. In the case of some of the lines farmers claimed to be taking losses instead of profits during the rush season. In addition to carlot shipments to central markets berry and truck growers raised banner crops almost everywhere adjacent to consuming centers and if the public didn't get supplies at reasonable prices the blame is to be put on marketmen and retailers generally, as both fruits and vegetables were in abundant supply and wholesale prices to growers were surely low.

The principal fruits and vegetables may be divided into two groups, the first consisting of those the shipments of which are continued into the spring from the crop of the previous autumn, and the second including those which are produced and nearly all shipped or entirely marketed within the calendar year.

To the first class belong potatoes, apples, cabbage, onions, sweet potatoes and celery. The second group includes grapes, watermelons, cantaloupes, peaches, tomatoes, lettuce, strawberries and pears.

During the six-year period, 1917-1922, the total average shipments of 14 products were 524,457 cars. But in 1921 the total movement of fruits and vegetables was 598,380 cars, and in 1922 the number climbed to 690,806 cars, a tremendous amount of stuff to be added to farm and home garden and orchard products.

The mild weather so far this winter over most of the hay-consuming territory has weakened the alfalfa market generally and also has reduced the demand for timothy in a number of markets. The only severe weather reported of late was in New England, where the demand kept hay prices firm.

Center-Split Hogs.
"Why not center-split the hog?" asks C. T. Conklin, specialist in meats, in his second of a series of butchering hints. "Packers always split the hog through the center of the back. After cutting off the ham, shoulder and bacon, there then remains the back or loin cut. This cut is highly prized by the city trade. The choicest chops and roasts are secured from it, and it brings three to four times the price per pound of the live hog. Many farmers, on the other hand, chop out the backbone. This results in a choice piece of back strap, but badly mutilates the loin. In roasting the juices seep out and much of the flavor is lost, whereas in the case of the center-split carcass the roasts are encased by the backbone and ribs on two sides and by a thin layer of fat on the remaining side."

Perry Crane to Talk.
You can see a seven-reel movie of farm life, for one dime, at the Hagerstown farmers' institute on Friday night. The session opens on Friday morning and runs for two days. Perry H. Crane, secretary of the state farm bureau, is billed for a talk during the meeting. Dr. J. J. Rae of Richmond will deliver a brief address on Saturday night at which time there will be a program of instrumental music and songs.

William A. Burnett, the Tennessee agricultural authority and a champion of his county agent, says: "County agent work has not been altogether without some criticism, and if the writer should be called upon to pass criticism, he would feel inclined to say that most of the trouble or cause for complaint is the direct result of overburdening the county agent, giving him more work than he can possibly handle in the proper manner, and in

FRENCH CAVALRY LEADER AT ESSEN



General Lampont.

General Lampont, one of the most brilliant French cavalry leaders, was one of the first to enter Essen at the head of the invading forces. He commands the French cavalry division stationed near Essen.

Some instances calling upon him to perform work of a character that he is not supposed to perform.

"The law under which the county agent works is very clear, and there should be no misunderstanding. The appropriation is made to promote cooperative agricultural extension work, and the law says that this work shall consist of giving instructions and practical demonstrations in agriculture and home economics to persons not attending or resident in said colleges in the several communities, and imparting to such persons information on said subjects; and this work shall be carried on in such manner as may be mutually agreed upon by the secretary of agriculture and the state agricultural college receiving the benefits of the act."

Feeding Cottonseed Meal.
"When you can buy a ton of cottonseed meal for the price of 100 bushels of corn, then it probably pays to use the meal along with corn in fattening steers." An extension specialist in animal husbandry at the Ohio university gives this as a rough rule, and proceeds to point out that corn in Ohio has recently reached a level that, according to this general rule, makes cottonseed again worth feeding.

Indiana experiments show that cottonseed meal added to a corn, hay and silage ration makes the cattle put on an extra pound every three days, and "finishes" them to an extent that adds 15 cents a hundred to their value on the Chicago market. But even these advantages, with corn at 45 cents a bushel and cottonseed meal at \$50 a ton, do not offset the additional cost of the meal. At such prices, those prevailing earlier in the year in Ohio, 100 bushels of corn fell five dollars short of paying for a ton of the meal, and the net loss from feeding the meal was reported by Indiana as \$2.75 a steer.

"Cottonseed is now quoted around \$60 a ton, an advance over the above figure. But corn is up about 70 cents a bushel, and a hundred bushels of corn will therefore buy more than a ton of meal. Today, it takes only about \$5 bushels of corn to buy a ton of cottonseed, and it will pay feeders to consider this," so feeders say.

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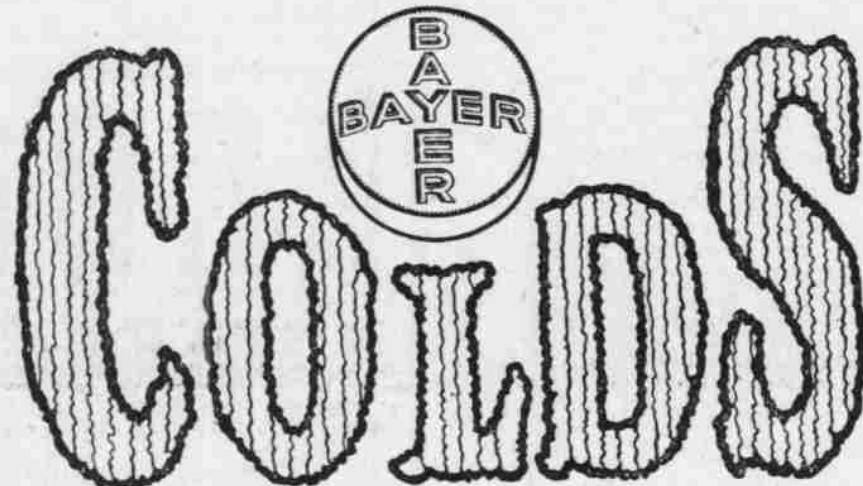
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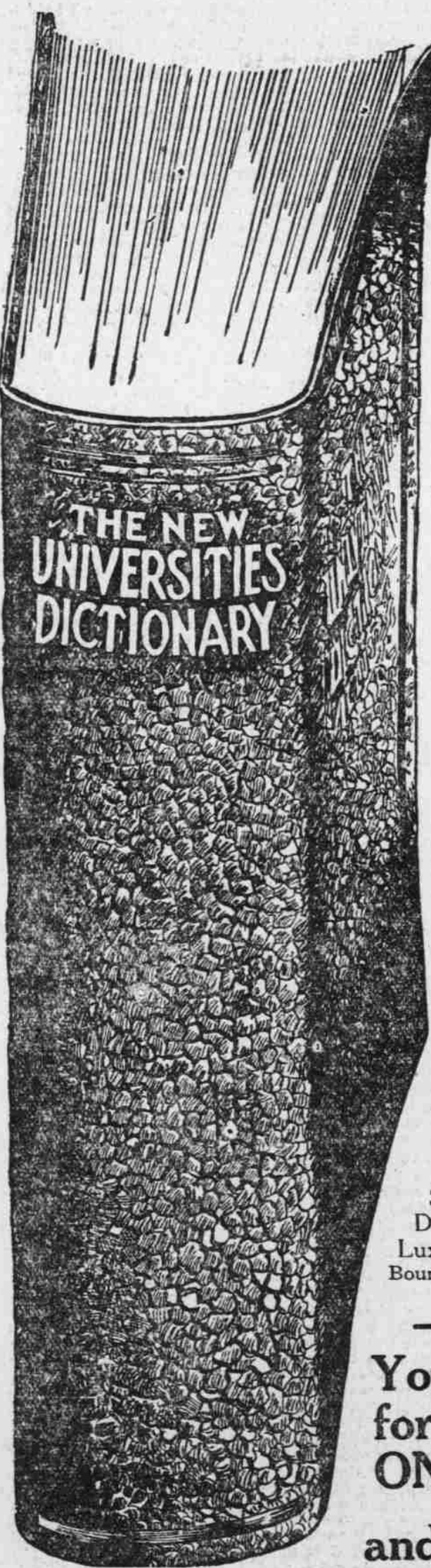
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