

# PLAN MOVING OF BIG GRAIN CROPS

### Railroad Administration Giving Careful Consideration to Necessary Measures.

## EXPECT GREAT WHEAT YIELD

### Tonnage of Grain Will Exceed That of Last Year by Large Margin—May Try Permit System Again.

Washington.—The railroad administration is giving careful consideration to the measures necessary for the satisfactory transportation of the anticipated large crops of grains, according to a statement authorized by Walker D. Hines, director general of railroads. The department of agriculture has estimated that the yield of winter wheat will exceed 900,000,000 bushels. A fair estimate of the yield of spring wheat approximates 900,000,000 bushels. The total yield of wheat this year will in all probability exceed the total of last year by from three to four hundred millions of bushels. No estimate of other grains is, of course, possible at this time, but, barring unusual climatic conditions, it can perhaps be properly expected that the tonnage in grain that will be produced this year will exceed that of last year by a considerable margin.

The stable price fixed last year by the government on wheat naturally provoked a desire on the part of the producer to realize his earnings as quickly as possible, and since a stable price has again been fixed by the government for this year's crop it is assumed a similar condition will obtain. Last year this economical condition, coupled with more or less disarrangement in ocean tonnage and consequent disruption in shipping, resulted in such an acute situation at the interior grain markets and at seaports, that it became necessary to install the so-called "permit system," which was early made operative at the ports, and in September, 1918, at the principal interior markets.

### Controlling Traffic.

The permit system is a highly beneficial system of controlling traffic at the sources to prevent serious congestion on the road and at destination. This system prevented in the fall of 1918 a serious transportation paralysis of former years due to widespread congestion of traffic which had been shipped but which could not be disposed of at destination. This paralysis of traffic in former years was most apparent in the East, but its injurious effects were felt throughout the country.

While the permit system at the ports is still in operation, it was suspended a few months ago at the interior markets, due to improved ocean shipping and the fact that the bulk of the grain had been moved. It is, however, to be expected that the system will again be inaugurated with the opening of the new wheat season, and in view of that possibility the railroad administration is already preparing the necessary machinery so that it may be prepared to act without delay at the proper time. Conferences have already been held with representatives of the grain corporation.

As graphically illustrating the necessity of regulating the transportation of this tonnage, and the results obtained from such regulation, the following facts are of value and interest: For the nine months of the crop year, July 1, 1918, to May 1, 1919, there passed through the grain handling facilities of the country—elevators and mills—a total of 3,440,230,000 bushels of all grains, although the highest point of grain storage of all kinds at any one time in that period was 490,000,000 bushels. That is, in nine months the flow of grain was seven times the quantity which accumulated in storage at the highest point during that period. This is a direct illustration of the necessity of keeping the grain-handling facilities of the country liquid to avoid the distress to all interests that would follow the blocking of this flow of grain.

### Reinaugurate Permit Plan.

The permit system as operated last year contemplates the closest co-operation between the railroad administration and the United States food administration grain corporation. The local representatives of the grain corporation were in daily contact with the grain control committees at each market, and in view of the very comprehensive data and information in their possession as to storage facilities, anticipated movements out of markets, the needs of different sections of the country, not only as to wheat but as to other cereals that flow coincidentally with wheat, etc., were of invaluable aid in the accomplishment of the permit system with a minimum economic disturbance. The same character of assistance is being arranged for from the grain corporation, or the wheat director, in anticipation that it will be necessary to re-inaugurate the permit plan within the next one or two months.

The wheat director is as vitally interested as the railroad administration that the tonnage shall be handled with as little possible friction as possible, and that the railroad may with the least delay be able to meet the needs of the country.

## LIVE ON GRASS ROOTS

### Tale of Cannibals in Armenia Is Confirmed.

### Starvation and Misery Prevail Among Armenian Refugees in Caucasus Region.

Constantinople.—Starvation and misery prevail among Armenian refugees in the Caucasus region, according to a telegram sent to Herbert Hoover in Paris by Howard Heinz, American food commissioner for the near East, who is in this city.

Mr. Heinz has returned from a trip of inspection in the Caucasus, on which he was accompanied by Walter George Smith of Philadelphia, former president of the American Bar association and a commissioner of the American committee for Armenian and Syrian relief, which has charge of the greatest part of the relief work there.

Mr. Heinz says reports that some of the refugees, driven frantic by hunger and suffering, have resorted to cannibalism are true in his opinion. He says that food for 500,000 in that territory will have to be provided by outside sources for another year.

"The lack of food is so serious," says the telegram, "that the women are forced to go into the fields and obtain grass roots, which they cook into a kind of broth and serve as boiled greens, occasionally getting a bit of rice to mix with it. This constitutes the principal diet of many. The little children, naturally, get the worst of this situation, because they cannot eat such material, and it is among the children that the death rate is the highest.

"It is difficult to make comparisons as to the degree of destitution and distress in different districts of towns, but I think the worst situation that came to my knowledge was in Igdir, where there is a larger proportion of sickness and a higher death rate than in either Erivan or Alexandropol.

"Regarding reports of cannibalism which have come out of this district from Con I have been forced against my will to believe these reports to be true. I saw with my own eyes mutilated remains of corpses which had been exhumed from newly-made graves. I did not see anybody who had actually witnessed the eating of human flesh, but there is so much circumstantial evidence that I personally came to believe it true.

"Typhus has been epidemic during the winter, and has taken away thousands, but with the moderation of the weather it is now decreasing; but cholera is making its appearance, and the outlook is threatening."

## DAUGHTER OF CLEMENCEAU



New and unpublished portrait of Mme. Jacquemette, daughter of Premier Clemenceau. She has been twice decorated for excellent services rendered during the war for France. She has received the Croix De Guerre with palm and the Medal of Honor.

## MANY OWN FARM LOAN BONDS

### Treasury Report Shows 1,050 of 1,102 Hold Amounts of Less Than \$25,000.

Washington.—Registered bonds of farm loan banks were held by 1,102 individuals and institutions, of whom 1,050 each had less than \$25,000 worth, according to the latest tabulation by the United States farm loan board.

Only three holders had more than \$500,000 in registered bonds, 36 between \$25,000 and \$100,000, and 13 between \$100,000 and \$500,000. Average holdings of coupon bonds were believed to be even less than the \$9,800 average of the registered bonds, being more preferred by small investors.

Interest charges on the \$10,821,425 total of outstanding registered bonds amounts to \$510,036 annually, most of the bonds paying 4 1/2 per cent, and some 5 per cent. Most of the bonds have been issued in the middle West.

## MOST DEADLY OF ALL WAR GASES

### Ten Tons a Day Being Made When the Armistice Was Signed.

## DISCOVERED BY PROF. LEWIS

### Ten Airplane Loads of This Super Poison Sufficient to Have Destroyed All Life in Berlin—Known as "Methyl"

Washington.—At the educational exposition, illustrating the wartime and reconstruction activities of the department of the interior now being held there is being shown under guard a sample of the most terrible super-poison gas known, the discovery of Prof. W. Lee Lewis while in the employ of the bureau of mines at its American university laboratories.

This gas, formerly called "Lewisite," later known as "methyl," because the latter name meant nothing to curious persons, was being manufactured by the war department at the rate of ten tons a day when the armistice came.

The gas is being variously described as "the climax of the country's achievements in the lethal arts" and as "the most terrible instrument of manslaughter ever conceived." The department itself declares that it is the most deadly of all war gases, much more deadly than mustard gas, which heretofore was known by chemists as "the king of poison gases."

### Most Deadly of All.

It is said that ten airplane loads of "methyl" would have been sufficient to destroy all life in Berlin, if such extreme measures had been necessary, and that a single day's output would have been sufficient to snuff out the 4,000,000 human lives on the island of Manhattan.

This gas was not only discovered by Professor Lewis, but was also developed by him to a point where it was ready for production at the American university while those laboratories were still under the control of the bureau of mines, one of the organizations of the department of the interior. When this work was first taken up by the bureau in behalf of the military authorities Professor Lewis was called from his civilian duties as professor of chemistry at Northwestern university, Evanston, Ill., and at the request of the bureau was commissioned as captain in the ordnance department and assigned to the gas warfare service of the bureau of mines. While acting in this capacity Professor Lewis discovered and developed this gas, and 18 days after the gas work of the bureau of mines was transferred to the jurisdiction of the war department an 11-acre plant for its manufacture was started near Cleveland, O., where the work was conducted under the strictest military secrecy.

### "Mouse Trap" Plant.

This plant, which was dubbed by the workmen the "mouse trap," because, in order to prevent the leakage of information, it was understood that the men who entered would not leave until the war was over, was in operation within a miraculously short time, and plans were made by the war department to have 3,000 tons of this most diabolical gas at the American front by March 1, 1919. When the armistice came the plant was well ahead of its production schedule, but the opportunity had not come for the use of the gas at the battle front. Thus the Germans did not have a chance to obtain a first-hand experience with this most frightful of all poison gases, of which it is said that a single drop on the hand will penetrate to the blood and soon reach the heart, when it kills the victim in great agony. It is declared that among the 800 men at the plant there was not one fatality, this immunity being largely due to the providing of all employees with gas masks, protective clothing and extreme precautions in operation.

## Whisky Still Found in Top of Huge Tree

Knoxville, Tenn.—It is nothing unusual to find illicit distilleries hidden in caves, cellars or in dense undergrowth of mountain laurel, states T. E. Ivins, veteran moonshine rider of the internal revenue department. But to find one perched in the top of a towering oak tree is quite a novelty, he says.

Mr. Ivins located a large copper still in such a place when conducting a raid in the famous old Tenth district, or Sevier county, Tennessee. The outfit was dislodged and destroyed.

### Oldest Customer in Nation.

Columbus, O.—The oldest dry goods customer in Ohio, and likely the oldest customer of any store in this country, was claimed by E. M. Thirkield at the Ohio Retail Dry Goods association convention. He said he was connected with the department store of E. B. Thirkield & Sons company at Franklin, and that James McLean, one hundred and four years old, made his first purchase in that store March 10, 1834, 85 years ago; and that he is still a good customer.

## BECOMES THING OF SPLENDOR

### Evolution of the Butterfly From hideous Worm to Beauty Matter of Only Short Time.

The butterfly poetically lives on the nectar of flowers. Just as a person changes his tastes as he becomes more refined so does that lovely creature of the air adopt a different menu when he dons his wings. Take, for instance, the mourning cloak butterfly, sometimes called the Camberwell Beauty; in his original state he is hideous, even for a worm, black, covered with white spots and stiff tufts of hair. He is an object to make women scream and to be avoided by everybody who does not know what he is going to be later on. In this condition he crunches leaves greedily and is a veritable glutton until the time comes for him to hang himself up by the tail and await developments. Then, behold, he comes out some fine morning in a creature of great splendor. Through inches does he measure from tip to tip of his seal-brown velvet wings which are handsomely bordered with yellow and ornamented with purple spots edged with black. Newly born and innocent as he is nature already has given him the instinct to protect himself, not by fighting but by strategy. He can feign death with the success of an opium addict playing the same game, and this he does when fearing an attack from a bird, for he knows, somehow, that his foe cares only for living prey. So the butterfly skims about through the air sipping the sweets of the flowers, kissing the rose and the carnation, no longer in danger of encounters with Paris green and finding the world a paradise.

## FIRST TO MAKE STEEL PENS

### Before Samuel Slocum's Invention These Articles Sold at \$3 a Dozen Wholesale.

The first machine for the manufacture of pens was the invention of an American, Samuel Slocum, who was born 127 years ago. As a result of his invention steel pens, although made by hand long before, came into general use and soon displaced the quill. Before Slocum's machine began turning out pens in large quantities steel pens sold at wholesale for about \$3 a dozen, but by 1830, thanks to the improved process of manufacture, the price was reduced to about 18 cents a dozen, an exchange states. The ancient Egyptians used a brush or reed pen in writing on the delicate membrane obtained by unrolling the stem of the papyrus, a water plant once abundant along the Nile. The ancient Greeks and Romans also used a reed cut to a point similar to the modern pen. In the middle ages a metal stylus was used to write on wood coated with wax. Quills were first used as pens in the fifth or sixth century and their use became general. "Iron pens" were made as early as 1685, but the quill held its vogue until the invention of machinery for pen making placed pens within the reach of all.

### Sugar From the Garden.

Gardeners who cannot raise sugar cane may be interested in the following description, which appears in Chambers' Journal, of the process of extracting sugar from beets. The amateur must exercise great care in harvesting the roots that the tender skin be not broken. The first operation is to remove all dirt by washing, after which the beets are boiled in water until the skin peels off easily. They are next cut into thin slices, placed in a pan, just covered with water, brought to a boil once more and then left to simmer for ten hours. The resulting pulp is put into a muslin bag and squeezed until all the juice is extracted. The juice is boiled down to a very thick syrup that makes a good substitute for commercial sugar. As the syrup will not keep for more than a few weeks, it is advisable to make only a small supply at a time. The pulp, however, can be stored for a long period without deteriorating if they are kept dry and free from frost.

### Youth's Companion.

Letting the sun shine for a given time upon the blackened cover of a box filled with water or some other liquid, and noting the rise in temperature, affords us a method of approximating the amount of heat given off by the sun. By such a method it is estimated that the earth receives every second from the sun enough heat to raise 800,000,000 tons of ice water to the boiling point, or to melt 490,000,000 tons of ice without change in temperature. If this is the amount that the earth receives, think of the amount that must be passing off into space and other planets. This amount has been computed to be 2,200,000,000 times as that which the earth receives. Scientists have shown that the amount of heat received by us from the sun may vary as much as five per cent in less than a week.

### Marvelous Birds.

"Speaking of hens," said an American traveler, "reminds me of an old hen my dad had on a farm in Dakota. She would hatch out anything from a tennis ball to a lemon. Why, one day she sat on a piece of ice and hatched out two quarts of hot water!" "That doesn't come up to a club-footed hen my old mother once had," said one of his hearers. "They had been feeding her by mistake on sawdust instead of oatmeal. Well, she laid twelve eggs and sat on them, and when they were hatched eleven of the twelve were woodpeckers."

## Founded on Fact

### By PETER HOPE

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To the forty-odd children of adolescent age Miss Graham, freshman English teacher in room 124 of the Peabody High school, was the embodiment of wisdom. To their unfiled minds, looking to the nearest pinnacle for a desirable goal, Miss Graham's knowledge, ranging from an easy familiarity with Chaucer to unconscious freedom with dactylic verse, was indeed the very highest rung on the ladder of education.

But it was fortunate for the estimable lady that these youthful mentalities did not demand that so superior a being dress in fashions of the minute, not that even passing good looks were an accompanying requisite. For it must be admitted that while Miss Graham was a most excellent teacher of English, she was an abominable dresser, and her straight hair combed straight back near Mr. Streely's side made-instructor at the school, scurrying many a morning to his gymnasium, where he worked his classes extra hard in an effort to eradicate the unpleasant impression.

"For tomorrow's assignment," Miss Graham was saying in her usual dry, high-pitched soprano on this balmy fine afternoon toward the close of the summer semester, "each pupil will bring to class an original composition founded on fact. It need only be an incident, but it must be true, for any successful writer will tell you that realism is the foundation of all fiction. I shall impose a penalty of forty lines



She Was an Abominable Dresser.

of scansion upon those who fail to produce this evening's home work at tomorrow's class."

As was her habit after a long speech, Miss Graham crossing her long, thin arms akimbo over her scant expanse of bosom and taking in the entire room with a single glance as if to detect any some hidden culprit, sharply asked: "Is there any point not clearly understood?"

As a rule the bulk of her instruction, couched in bookish language, sailed over the heads of her pupils who forbore availing themselves of her offer to further explain, as they had learned their questions resulted only in a repetition of instructions. But contrary to the usual habit, a miss of fourteen, with twentieth century written on her face in unmistakable signs of powder-shouting defiance to the unwashed neck below, arose timidly from her seat.

"Miss Graham," came in the self-conscious voice of a child hearing itself in a room where whispering was a penal offense, "may the incident we tell be about love?"

Miss Graham's arms sank limply to her side. It is not on record that any one had ever tried to determine just how long ago she was fourteen, but it is safe to surmise in that day love was not included in the public school curriculum. There was difficulty in answering this precocious pupil, and, of course, ignorance even of such a subject must not be admitted.

"It is only necessary for me to repeat," was the response in the metallic tone of years' habit, "that the incident upon which your story is founded is true."

And feigning lest she be unable to answer further questioning as safely, Miss Graham rang the gong for dismissal. As the children filed from the room in an orderly line she dejectedly sat down, elbows on the desk, with chin cupped in the hollow of her palms and pressed her eyelids with the tips of long, lean fingers.

"May the incident we tell be about love?" sounded in her ears, and eyes tightly shut, again saw this growing child entering girlhood asking permission to write about that which had somehow passed her by.

"Passed me by," repeated Miss Graham mentally, "No, not while memory lasts."

Loud voices of the moment as the boys wrangled over their "mibs" and the less intelligible jumble of jingles which time immemorial has associated

with rope jumping, came in through the open windows on the summer breeze. The setting sun, bathing the red walls of the schoolhouse in a wilder tone of blatant blood-red, aroused her from her reverie and sent her hurrying boarding houseward.

The next afternoon, like every school afternoon preceding it, found the forty-odd pupils seated in their respective places, all eyes intent upon "teacher" and ears equally divided between pupil reading "homework" and whatever else there was of immediate interest. The range of subjects, from "My Trip on a Houseboat" to "My First Party Dress," found Miss Graham professionally attentive, and with abnormal memory with respect to grammatical errors. But it was the romantic girl with her paper entitled "My Uncle's Love Story" which brought the model instructor to rigid attention.

"What was it this child was saying? The voice, not yet decided whether it would be soprano or alto, rose and fell in dramatic cadences. "And my uncle loved this pretty lady very much, and the lady loved my uncle. But one day they had an awful quarrel and the pretty lady sent my uncle away mad." Surely this was not the Miss Graham of but a moment before? Was this woman, standing back of her chair tilted perilously forward, the same composed automaton of years' habit?

"The child continued in words unaccountably plagiarized. "And pride kept them apart. Although my uncle cared a great deal for his sweetheart, he would not admit he was wrong, nor would the lady. And as the years passed by they lost track of one another."

The child paused in the rapid reading to catch breath. "But my uncle could never marry another," she went on, her brow furrowing as she found difficulty in deciphering her own script, "because he loved only this girl. He always says he knows she is waiting for him, too. And he prays every night that some fine day they will meet again."

The child sat down and was immediately followed by a stuttering lad who diverted attention from the tears welling in the eyes of her instructor.

After school the authoress of "My Uncle's Love Story" was a very proud little girl as she imparted to her bosom pal Miss Graham's self-invitation to her home that evening. "And," she went on in a theatrical manner at the unusual opportunity that gave her the center of the stage, "she asked me my uncle's name. And when I said 'Robert Devon,' she added with a grandiloquent sweep of her arm, 'I thought she would faint!'"

But of no less interest was the scene enacted the following morning for the edification of this same audience with the addition of Mr. Streely just entering the courtyard on his way to the gymnasium.

"You, Sarah, will be my Uncle Robert and I'll be Miss Graham."

Mr. Streely stopped. The super swaggered up, holding imaginary skirts in one hand while with the other she pointed dramatically. "Rob," she shrilled coming on Sarah, to the danger of Sarah's equilibrium. Mr. Streely listened. "Now you must say," was the whispered prompting, "to find you after all these years, my dear."

Mr. Streely stared in open-mouth amazement. And when the words had been properly repeated, Sarah was the recipient of a loud kiss. "Just like they did," was the announcement by way of a finale.

"Did you ever?" ejaculated Mr. Streely.

## FORGET THE NON-ESSENTIALS

### Their Pursuit Takes Time That Might Far Better Be Devoted to Seeking Higher Things.

A political writer has said that formerly, when our forefathers became dissatisfied, they pushed further into the wilderness; but that now, if anything goes wrong, we run howling to Washington after special legislation. In the same spirit our age is turning to surface conditions for strength and peace, remarks the Unpopular Review. "Poor but free," was everywhere written with chalk or charcoal on the houses of Florence when it was besieged, and in the streets of the city there was kindness, generosity and the absence of thought of self. The insistent phrasing of our "moral and social right to all the ease and splendor of the world which we can make our own has its place. We have altogether too much needless and shameful poverty; but we need to remember, nevertheless, that poverty has been the school of some of the finest attributes and the best achievements of the race. Equalizing the outward condition of men cannot be an adequate substitute for the ancient discipline of hardship and self-restraint.

Essentials are few. He who is content with them saves from the pursuits of nonessentials time which he can devote to fitting others to attain essentials; and that, we take it, is about the noblest use that can be made of time.

### Has Two Floral Emblems.

Australia is the only country that possesses two floral emblems. Besides the "wattle" she has the waratah, described by her earliest botanists as the most magnificent plant which her prolific soil provides. At one time this national flower figured on Australian postage stamps and postcards. The botanical title of the waratah (Telopea), was suggested by the great distance at which the brilliant crimson blossoms can be seen. Australian black men suck these flowers for the copious honey they contain, and thus in war time they defied their food controller.