The Furrow

News and Views About the Farm

Secretary of Agriculture Evolved Philosophy from the Gift of a Pig

Humble Gift from His Father Developed Qualities Fitting Him for Big Field

Edwin Meredith, Secretary of Agriculture, began his life as a farm boy himself. His father gave him a pig, and from the gift young Meredith evolved a philosophy of helpfulness that has endured to this day.

Because of this pig he came to realize what it meant to a boy to own something—to have a stake in his own labor. He believes that one of the most essential things connected with agriculture is to keep the boys on the farm, and he believes that individual ownership of something that grows on the farm will do much in this direction.

Meredith has made it a practice to loan any boy money to carry on farm work. A boy can borrow from $25 to $100 from him to buy a pig or a cow or whatever he may want in the way of something to feed or cultivate on the farm. The boy gives a note. If through some mischance he cannot meet it, the loan is renewed. He also loans money to young men who are working their way through college. He has lost but little on account of investments in farm boys or the young college men, and he feels well repaid for having given them a start in life

Effect of the Drum on Soldiers

The measured beat of drums may serve a useful purpose by keeping up the spirits of soldiers and helping them to forget their fatigue, but, curiously enough, it does not help them to keep in step.

On the contrary, as science has lately proved by a series of interesting experiments, troops on the march keep step far better when there are no drums to mark time for their feet.

The soldier marching beside the drummer or immediately behind him has no difficulty in keeping in perfect step. But as you go farther and farther away from the drum you will find a steadily increasing variation between the movements of the feet and the rythmic beat of the drum.

A soldier 265 feet in the rear of the drummer will almost invariably prove to be just one-fourth of a second behind time with every step. His foot will be still in the air while that of his comrade in the front rank is already on the ground.

The explanation of this odd feat is quite simple. As sound travels at the rate of 1060 feet per second, it takes one-fourth second for the drumbeat to be audible at a distance of 265 feet.

Soldiers march 120 steps per minute or half a step every one-fourth second. Thus the soldier who is 265 feet from the drum and hears it beat one-fourth second late cannot help falling just one-half step behind.

You can prove all this for yourself by watching a long column of marching men. When the drum begins they lose perfect step at once and the feet are seen to strike the ground in receding waves as the sound passes down the line. But within two or three seconds after it stops the men get into perfect step again, and go with a sway and swing absent at other times.

Old and Highly Valued Letters of Sir Walter Scott Found in California

Eminent English Novelist Pays Large Sum for Relics of His Countryman's Misfortunes

The long arm of coincidence, stretching across an ocean, a continent and a century of time, has selected San Francisco as the one spot on the earth's surface for Hugh Walpole, the eminent English novelist, to stumble squarely on his heart's desire.

By one of those freaks of chance that makes the life of the collector a continued extra-hazardous romantic risk, Walpole is now the proud owner of a literary treasure for which he has hunted many years—ever since he began to amass England's largest collection of old editions and manuscript of Sir Walter Scott.

Nearly 150 pages of Sir Walter Scott's letters and memoranda, written to John Gibson, his attorney, during the famous financial battle which ended Scott's life, will leave San Francisco in Walpole's trunk when he departs.

In consideration he will leave behind him a round sum, something under $5000, but not very far under.

Several days ago Walpole dropped into the rare bookshop of John Howell on Post street, San Francisco, to keep a luncheon engagement.

On Howell's desk lay a stack of neatly written letters in a strong handwriting, by no means easy for modern eyes to read. Walpole glanced at the pile of papers and exclaimed:

"Where on earth did you get those?"

Howell replied that they had been brought in two days before—only two days—by a gentleman whose grandfather had been Scott's lawyer.

"You don't mean these are Scott's letters to John Gibson, who handled Scott's affairs after the famous failure of James Ballantyne and Archibald Constable. the publishers?" asked Walpole.

"That's precisely what they are," replied Howell. "Gibson's grandson terday. He said his mother had had the letters all her life and now wanted to sell them."

"H'm," remarked Walpole. "You may not know that I possess the largest collection of Scott's manuscript and letters in England. If these particular letters are what they seem to be they're the ones I've wanted the most of all."

Sir Walter, as shown by the Gibson letters had legal obligation of $150,000 as a firm member of James Ballantyne & Co., printers. When the house failed for $600,000 he would not agree to bankruptcy proceedings, or a partial settlement, but pledged himself to repay every dollar. It killed him; the debt was finally paid from his life insurance.

Among the letters is one that shows the cheery spirit in which Scott took even such a matter as the sale of his furniture:

"I ask it to be advertised as the furniture in No. 39, lately occupied by Sir W. S. Your delicacy, I know, would boggle at this, but mine does not. My displeasure is that I am unable to pay everyone their own—not on the measures necessary to effect payment. I have some reason to think that if the public are aware it is mine, better prices may be given. Some folks are anxious to have even trifling articles belonging to those who have right or wrong, made some noise in the world. I heard a fellow passing the house say:

"'Oh, I'll have one of his chairs if it costs me 20 pounds.' Others may have a similar whim; and if so, why should they go to brokers, to give them the advantage, which would be gained by the creditors?"

The death of Lady Scott, when matters were at their worst, is mentioned in the same heroic spirit. And when his health began to break under the strain of frantic writing, he wrote:

"The hyasyenus which I was obliged to take for the gravel deranged me a good deal, and I believe was the cause of some inaccuracies of the copy; for one day I could neither write nor spell. This is over, thank God. I return proofs and copy for 'Woodstock'—I hope they will not smack at the apoplexy."

There are dozens of such letters, with Gibson's replies, and Scott's own memoranda of business matters. They were handed down to Gibson's daughter, and now will leave San Francisco to take their place in Hugh Walpole's library of Scott.

From Typist to Editor's Desk

The success of Doris Schroeder as a writer of motion picture scenarios should be an inspiration to every young girl with imagination and ambition.

Miss Schroeder who is in her early twenties, has created a score of successful screen stories, and for the past three years has been one of the most valued members of the Universal scenario department.

A graduate of the Girl's High School of Brooklyn, she took a business course and accepted a position as secretary to Rollin Sturgeon, now director at Universal City, but then chief of production at the Vitagraph Studios in New York City. Between answering letters and typing notes, Miss Schroeder found time to write a comedy for John Bunny, which was accepted by the scenario editor. This encouraged the young girl and she turned out several more short stories which were accepted by the scenario writer and used for one and two-reel features.

About four years ago Miss Schroeder was transwerred to the Western studios and later joined the American Film Company, writing scenarios for William Russell and Gail Kane. She then allied herself with the Triangel Company as continuity writer.

About that time Rollin Sturgeon joined the Universal staff of directors and suggested the engagement of Miss Schroeder. Her work since then has been of such quality that she has been entrusted to the adaptation of many important stories.

Among Miss Schroeder's scenarios scheduled of early production at Universal will be "Togs," "Jewel," and "Virginia."

Daylight Saving Merely a Device

Daylight saving is a fairly successful device to delude busy people into thinking there is more time than there is. It takes the place of will power and lends to the daily routine an illusionary air of rationality, almost as though civilization were really intelligent. Just look, we say, we have noticed that the sun rises earlier in summer. Isn't it clever of us?

But daylight saving doesn't give many modern city people enough time. Nothing, perhaps, could do that. The crowning age of time-saving devices is also the age in which nobody has any time to spare. Rapid transportation enables us not to travel short distances. The telephone does not save steps; it merely enables other people to interrupt us at our meals. We can go farther, see more, get more work done, amuse ourselves in more ways in a day than we could even five years ago, but it uses up all our time. There is so much to read that we have no time to read it, so much to do that there is no time to do it.

There is an old anecdote of a father who, having nothing else to leave his son, left him instruction to go into the orchard and devote half an hour to uninterrupted thought. The half hour's thought was the turning point in the son's life, and he became a railway president, or postmaster general, or whatever he wanted to be. But most of us didn't have time to think. We are hurried gasping through life with almost no chance, and in the end no inclination, to ask what it is all about.

The oriental error is in the opposite direction, and consists in too much meditation and too little action. Their god is Buddha, who sits with half-closed eyes and reflects upon eternity; ours is Thomas Alva Edison, who invents the phonograph before breakfast and the incandescent lamp after breakfast and never sleeps more than four hours in any night; or Theodore Roosevelt, who, when he was not fighting Congress or running for office, had to be hunting elephants or discovering lost South African rivers!

The Orient has all the time there is and does nothing; we do a great deal but haven't time to find out why we do it. The Orient understands the universe; we tinker everlastingly with it without understanding. In some centuries or thousands of years (there is plenty of time for that) a golden middle course may be discovered.—San Francisco Call.

Independen

One of the little known by-products of the war has been the advance in the United States of the manufacture of medicines. Once we were obliged to buy most of these supplies abroad, from Germany usually and, since we had to have them at any price, the Germans charged us outrageously. Some of these chemicals used to cost $70 an ounce, so that a single dose might cost $10. When the supply ceased at the beginning of the war our own chemists set to work to discover the secrets. Years of work followed, but today there is scarcely a chemical product we cannot manufaiture for ourselves and usually, at a low price. The medicine which used to cost $10 a dose now costs one dollar.

Scheme For Giving Chance to All

The way to succeed is to do something. That, in a brief sentence, is the creed of Andrew H. Green, Jr., one of detroit's greatest employers of labor. His idea of giving a man a chance is to put him on the job and let him work out his own salvation. If he does things, he is given more chances. If he fails to show any action, he is dismissed.

"Mistakes are human," he says. "I make them. So do my subordinates. The thing I demand is initiative. When a man hasn't that he will never go far. If he acts, but makes mistakes in his problems, it proves that he hasn't analyzed them correctly, or enough. When confronted with a strange situation, the thing to do is to sit down and figure it out."

Plans are under way for building two 1000-foot oil burning ships which will make the distance from New to Liverpool in four days.

Great Britain lost 4000 prominent athletes in the great war.

Planting of ensilage corn last, instead of first, is an expensive mistake very generally made in the northern portions of the United States, according to specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture, who recommend that strong germinating seed of ensilage varieties from regions farther south be planted two or three weeks earlier than homegrown seed which is planted for grain production. Such a planting program works to the decided benefit of dairymen and all other growers of ensilage corn in the Northern States.

When large varieties of ensilage from as far south as Virginia or Missouri, for example, are planted in regions farther north late in May, they make a rapid long-jointed ,tender succulent growth, and are so so green when fall frosts come that they are heavy to handle, low in feeding value, and make ensilage which is sloppy and too sour. But when planted in April or very early in May, they make a slower, harder growth; they better withstand spring frosts and summer droughts, reach better maturity, and produce more grain than when planted later. Fall frosts, not spring frosts, are the most to be feared.

Early-maturing, home-grown varieties do not need such early planting and will not be benefited in the way that large ensilage varieties are. The latter, though somewhat dwarfed by very early planting, make ample stalk growth and yield more and riper grain and make richer and sweeter ensilage. The early planting supplies the age necessary for maturing and reproduction. Reproduction is. in this case, grain production.

In growing ensilage crops in the North one should judge the crop by its feeding balue, not by its height or weight or the amount of labor necessary to silo it.

Early cultivation pays, as it dries and warms the soil surface. If the soil remains wet, it stays cold and the young corn cannot grow, whereas stirring causes the surface to dry rapidly, after which it will absorb heat and feel firm to the hand—a condition favorable to good growth.

Charcoal, Grit, and Oyster Shell

Charcoal is a great corrective of the evils of injudicious overfeeding, and a good remedy for bowel disorders of poultry. As it has wonderful absorbent powers, especially for gases, it should be kept in a thoroughly dry vessel with a close-fitting cover, so as to exclude the air. It is a good plan to mix powdered charcoal twice a week in the mash. If charcoal is well heated before it is given to the poultry, the heat will have a tendency to drive off impurities which may have become absorbed, and the heated charcoal will be equal to fresh charcoal.

Grit must be hard and sharp. Oyster shells are too soft to serve this purpose. Oyster shells furnish lime for the making of egg shell. There should be a supply constantly within reach of the fowls.

Marking the Layers

It has been my experience in the poultry business that an early laying pullet, especially one that begins production under six months of age, is wroth marking for the breeding pen. To discover these early layers I use the trapnest; then I pull a small band around one leg of each pullet. After that, I watch the pullets closely to see if they continue their good work.

Occasionally one fails to keep it up but more often they all make good layers. Those that lay continuously for a year, or until the next molting season, I mark with a band around the other leg. I find that these birds make the best breeders. Occasionally a pullet that starts producing later than six months of age and keeps up a steady flow of eggs throughout its pullet year, makes a good breeder, but I have found this to be the exception rather than the rule.

The breeding pen should contain nothing but the best layers, in my opinion, as it is a waste of time and money to breed with poor stock. In order to breed successfully, I am compelled to watch my poultry closely and make use of the trapnest, but I have found that it pays big returns.

P. E. S.

To Preserve Eggs

Select fresh eggs that are clean, but not washed. Use infertile eggs if possible. Take nine quarts of water that has been boiled and cooled, and add one quart of water-glass (sodium silicate). Place the mixture in a five gallon crock or jar. This amount of liquid will preserve fifteen dozen eggs. For large amounts, mix the solution in the same proportion. Clean the crock thoroughly before using.

Place the eggs in the solution. If the poultry yard has not supplied an adequate quantity of eggs for immediate use, they may be added from time to time. See that at least two inches of the solution covers the eggs at all times. Place the crock or jar in a cool, dry place, well covered to prevent evaporation. Wax paper placed on and tied around the top of the jar will serve the desired end.

As a substitute for water-glass, this method has proved good: Dissolve two or three pounds of unslaked lime in five gallons of water that has previously been boiled and allowed to cool. Let the mixture stand until the lime settles and the liquid is clear. Place clean, fresh eggs in an earthenware crock or jar and pour the clear lime-water into the vessel until the eggs are covered.

Earthenware crocks are good containers. They must be clean and sound. Scald them and let them cool completely before use. A crock holding six gallons will accommodate 18 dozens of eggs and about 22 pints of solution. Crocks that are too large are not desirable. Eggs put in the crock first should be used first. Replace with cooled boiled water any water that has evaporated.

Fight it Through

In your work and in your play,
Fight it through!
Hang right on like yellow clay
Fight it through!
When a job you once begin,
Through the thick and through the thin,
Set your heart and mind to win!
Fight it through!

What if others may have failed,
Fight it through!
Though by powerful odds assailed,
Fight it through!
Refuse to be an "also ran,"
Square your shoulders like a man,
Grit your teeth and say "I can!"
Fight it through!

Well, suppose things do look bad,
Fight it through!
Show a little pep, get mad!
Fight it through!
When you know you're in the right,
It's your duty, boy, to fight,
So go in with all your might!
Fight it through!
—The Cave Scout in Boys' Life.

Clothing Allowance

When making out a budget, approximately one-sixth to one-fourth of the family income should be apportioned for clothing. Seventy per cent of the clothing allowance will be needed for our outer clothing such as coats, suits, dresses, shoes, etc., and 20 per cent might be allowed for accessories, and 5 per cent for cleaning and repairs.

Pittsburgh sporting men plan an arena to seat 10,000 to meet the increasing popularity of the manly art there.

Poet's Lofty Position

Among the British men of prominence probably the one who most frequently refused money was Robert Browning, the poet. During the last 25 years of his life editors offered large sums for a short poem from his pen. But Browning said "No." He told his friends when they pointed out the unwisdom of this course that he was determined not to thrust his poems down the throats of people; that if they wanted to read him they could buy his books.

Marines Shot Well

From a shooting standpoint, the year just passed was the most successful in marine corps history, according to advices from marine corps headquarters here. Over 87 per cent of the marines who fired the prescribed range course in 1919 qualified as marksmen or better.

Owing to the many new conditions brought out by the war, a standard course of instruction embodying the most modern methods of small-arms firing is being adopted for future use by the marine corps.

On the Watch

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—Adv.



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Outlook for the Motors

IN the general rehabilitation of nation-wide transportation facilities,the motor industry has before it a commercial opportunity that is the subject of a leading article in a current number of our Market Review. In this connection there is specific reference to conditions surrounding three important motor industries:

General Motors
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A copy containing this article will be sent to anyone interested on request for X-502.

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