St. Mary's Enterprise.

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IMPORTANT NEWS QUICKLY TOLD

Happenings In Various Sections of Old Maryland

NEWS ITEMS FOR OUR READERS

Frostburg.—Frostburg State Normal School, No. 2, has an enrollment exceeding that of last year. Four counties are represented.

The increased enrollment is attributed to the advance in pay for teachers authorized by the last Legislature.

Sharpsburg.—Vernon Wolf, a large man, who was arrested on the charge of beating his frail wife and putting her and her child out of the house by nailing boards across the doors, was fined $5 and costs by Justice Blackford for assault. Wolf's wife did not appear against him and the charge of wife-beating was dropped.

Cambridge.—George Willis, 55 years old, farmer, of Church Creek, killed himself at his home. He was found by members of his family, who were away when he killed himself. He shot himself with a shot gun. No reason is assigned.

Surviving are a widow, Mrs. Grace Willis; two daughters, Mrs. Hilda Moore and Miss Cleora Willis, and two sons, Russell and Vivian Willis.

Chestertown.—At a meeting of the board of visitors and governors of Washington College held here three members of the board resigned to make room for new members who were nominated. Those who resigned were Dr. Edward J. Clarke, Dr. Frank B. Hines and Philip G. Wilmer.

Those nominated in their places were Albert D. Mackey, of Elkton; John J. Coulbourne, of Philadelphia, and Strann H. Moore, of New York.

Rockville.—Joseph Paxton Iddings, long-time resident of the Sandy Spring neighborhood and widely known as a geologist, died a few days ago at Grove Hill, his home, near Sandy Spring. He was 63 years old. Mr. Iddings was a native of Baltimore. He was a graduate of Yale University and later studied at Heidelberg University. For a number of years he was professor of petrology at Chicago University.

Hagerstown.—The fifth case of infantile paralysis in Washington county was reported to the County Health Board.

The last victim is Naomi Michaels, 17-month-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin B. Michaels, Ernstville. Dr. F. W. Rich, Clearspring, who is attending the child, stated that he was called in 10 days ago and found the patient had lost the use of its hands and legs. The other four cases are in Williamsport.

Port Deposit.—Returning to her home after a week's automobile trip to Philadelphia and other cities, Mary Hawkins died at her home here. "Aunt Mary," as she was known, was a character in upper Maryland. Born in 1813, she would have cast her first vote on her one hundred and seventh birthday had she lived until election day. "Aunt Mary" was splendidly educated by her old master, Col. Edward Wilmer, and through the papers kept abreast the times. She was the proud possessor of a coin given her by General Lafayette on his departure from a three-day visit to Port Deposit in the early 40s.

College Park.—The imperative need of strengthening the farm organizations in the Stae of Maryland will be emphasized at the annual meeting in Salisbury Agricultural Society in Salisbury, November 9 to 11, according to Dr. Thomas B. Symons, secretary of the organization and director of the University of Maryland Extension Service.

"The farmers of Maryland are beginning to realize that in order to keep pace with other sections of the country where co-operative marketing and buying is making rapid strides, the local county and State organizations in Maryland must be strengthened," says Dr. Symons. "During the past year a noticeable trend toward co-operation has been manifested in the State. Many communities formerly lacking organizations of any kind have been welded together in farmers' clubs or associations."

Hagerstown. — Ernest R. Darby, chemist and engineer, member of the firm of J. B. Ferguson & Co., Hagerstown, was thrown down by the Wall street explosion in New York. He arrived home Friday. He said:

"There was a blinding flash, followed by a terrific shock. I found myself lying under a man in overalls at the bottom of stairs leading into a barber shop, with my nose bleeding."

First reports received here were that he had been either killed or seriously injured.

Mr. Darby stated that he had just turned the corner of the block off Wall street and was walking to the next corner, close to the scene of the explosion, when he saw the flash. After the blast he was carried back and forth by the panicky crowd, he said. Later he entered a building and washed the blood from his face, he says.

STATE CAPITAL

Annapolis.—Governor Ritchie, in the Executive Mansion, surrounded by heads and other members of State departments and others in close touch with his administration, outlined plans which he has in view for reforms and economies in the State governmnet. He called the conference early in order that ample time may be given for working out problems which he has in view.

In his speech the Governor paid especial attention to public schools, agriculture, oysters, Baltimore police force, general State revenues and other questions.

Governor Ritchie said:

In several State departments, including, to illustrate, the Public Service Commission, no changes are contemplated. There are, however, within departments in which advances may be made. There is the Conservation Commission which faces new problems. The time is not far distant when a great constructive work will and must be done by this commission. It is not sustaining. We want it to be kept supporting. I trust that the commission prior to the next legislature will work out plans for securing more revenue and for doing some great constructive work.

The creation of a racing commission in Maryland is a new department. It, too, has its problems. I am anxious that racing shall be so conducted in Maryland that it will appeal to reformers; that it will lead the way to the breeding of higher standard of horses. We have our road system well organized. We have inaugurated a system by which counties are compelled to pay their share of the expenses. The people are demanding good roads and they must have them. We must not overlook the high costs. We certainly cannot afford to pay $53,000 a mile, a sum in one of the recent bids.

We must consider our prisons. We have several problems which the next legislature must solve. We are familiar with the recent complaints by the Federal Government. I am from Missouri. If conditions are in the Penitentiary as claimed by a Federal inspection we must go minutely into these conditions.

We are asking for this Federal report in order that we may correct them. We want the truth, the whole truth. It is only fair that the Federal Government should give us this report. We want confidence of the public restored in our prisons if that confidence is improved. We have got to solve before the next Legislature the question of labor control. This problem has been partially solved by permitting prisoners to work on public roads for corporations and for farmers. The question is whether there is sufficient work of this kind for continual employment of our prisoners. We want to know if there is a substitute for contract labor.

It is not desirable to remove the Penitentiary to Jessups Cut and there combine it with the House of Correction. A model farm to supply work and food for all the prisoners might be established. This problem should be studied before the next Legislature meets. The best thing that the last Legsilature did was to substitute one for three Police Commissioners. The result has been satisfactory.

Addressing Police Commissioner Gaither, the Governor said he was anxious to have promotion free of influence. The Governor congratulated the force on its high standard.

I am not so interested in complaints of the past, as enumerated by Mr. Yellott, continued the Governor, as I am in future improvement.

I am not entirely satisfied with the present system of appointing county school commissioners. There ought to be some check on the names submitted. I would like to see this combined University of Maryland a big success. I would like to see great coordination among our colleges and schools.

Discussing the merit system, the Governor said that it is a new proposition that will work itself out to the final satisfaction of the people of the State. If faults are found, he said, they will be corrected. The Governor said that he will get the best qualified man to be found to be State purchasing agent.

Among those who attended the dinner were John N. Mackall, of the State Roads Commission George L. Eppler and Joseph B. Harrington, of the Industrial Accident Commission; Secretary of State Perlman; State Comptroller Lee; Ogle Marbury, chairman of the Board of Prison Control; Joseph P. Kennedy and E. Clay Timanus, of the Racing Commission; Bank Commissioner George W. Page; Insurance Commissioner Thomas J. Keating; H. W. Vickers and Edward O. Weant, of the Conservation Commission.

Automobile Commissioner Baughman, Dr. John S. Fulton, secretary of the State Board of Health; Edward M. Parrish, of the Parole Board; Osborne I. Yellott, the newly appointed State Employment Commissioner; Adjutant-General Reckford, Charles F. Macklin and Dr. George Heller, of the Board of Motion-Picture Censors; Dr. Hugh H. Young, of the Lunacy Commission, and Police Commissioner Gaither and Max Ways, of the Board of Election Supervisors.

HOW SCIENTISTS EXAMINE SOILS

Survey of Important Work of One of Branches of Department of Agriculture.

STUDIED VARIED ACTIVITIES

Bureau Took Active Part With Geological Survey in Nation-Wide Search for Deposits of Nitrates and Potash.

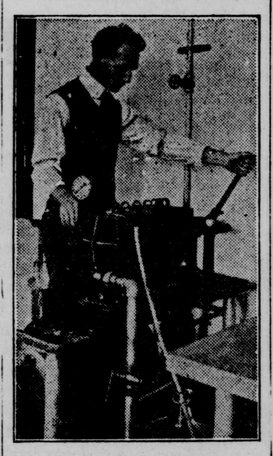
During the twenty years of its existence, the bureau of soils, United States department of agriculture, has studied the chemical constituents of the soils of all parts of the country. It has investigated these constituents qualitatively and quantitatively, showing their relation to one another and to plants, their solubility and permanency, and the manner of their functioning. It has studied the problem of alkali—that condition arising where soils contain an excess of soluble salts—and devised methods for measuring the content of alkali in the field and for eliminating it under field conditions. It has studied hardpans, explained the manner of their formation, and suggested the means of improving lands affected with the different sorts. These various activities have involved the making of thousands of analyses and the devising of much apparatus.

Public Given Advice and Counsel.

Advice and counsel is given by the bureau to the public on all matters connected with soil chemistry. The bureau has also investigated the physical properties of soils. It has devised apparatus for measuring the temperature of soils, the movement of water and of air and other gases in soils. The absorption of water, the extent and rate of capillary action, the effect of pressure on the concentration of the nutrient solution, and on the retention of that solution in the soil, the relation of soils to erosion, and many kindred problems have been worked upon.

The bureau has also worked upon the problem of the fixation of nitrogen found in the air in its experimental factory at Arlington, much advance having been made. Carried to its logical conclusion this move will result in supplying easily all the nitrogen the country needs in agriculture and industry.

Soil surveys have been made in all the states of the union. The surveys are of two kinds; detailed surveys on the scale of one inch to the mile usually covering county units, and reconnoissance surveys much more general in character, made on scales of four to six inches to the mile and covering large areas. At the close of the last fiscal year an area of 331,487,-



Filter Press, Used in Soil Investigations.

360 acres had been surveyed in detail and 322,760,960 acres on a reconnoissance basis. These surveys involve the identification and classification of the many types of soils found in various parts of the country, a study of their agricultural value, and a determination of their relation to the various crops and systems of agriculture.

Advancement of Agriculture.

The results of the soil survey work form a basis for the logical advancement of agriculture through experimentation of scientific workers in all its varied lines.

The land classification work of the bureau is done in co-operation with the forest service and other departments of the government, and has for its purpose the exclusion, from the national reserves, of lands that are suited for agriculture.

An interesting special investigation in connection with the potash supply has to do with the extraction of this salt from the giant kelp of the Pacific coast. A fully equipped factory has been operated at Summerland, California, for the last two years, and thousands of dollars worth of potash has been sold to the fertilizer trade or direct to farmers.

The plant will be operated during the coming fiscal year, a careful study being made of the practicability of recovering various by-products, so that the industry may be able to compete with imported potash and the kelp beds may become a permanently valuable asset of the nation.

HINTS FOR BUILDING ICE HOUSE FOR FARM

Erection of Structure Depends Much on Local Conditions.

Size of Building and Difficulty of Obtaining Ice Are Important Factors—Other Details Must Be Considered.

Construction of a farm ice house depends to a great extent upon local conditions, the size of the house, and the difficulty of obtaining ice. These factors help to determine the sum that may wisely be spent for such a building. Where ice is expensive or hard to obtain, a better constructed and insulated and therefore more expensive ice house is advisable. Where natural ice can be harvested and stored cheaply a cheap structure is usually satisfactory and the loss from melting ice is a small consideration.

The cost of harvesting and storing, the interest on the money invested, and repairs and depreciation on the building are to be considered in rela-

A Good Ice House, Well Filled, Is a Real Asset to the Modern Farmer.

tion to the ice loss from melting; and the type of house to be built depends upon these factors. It never pays to build permanently in other than a substantial manner, and careful thought should be given the matter before erecting a cheap makeshift that will not give adequate service.

Various types of ice houses, how to build them, and other phases of the subject are discussed in Farmers' Bulletin 1078, "Harvesting and Storing Ice on the Farm," which can be obtained free of charge from the United States department of agriculture.

OATS ARE ECONOMICAL CROP

Not Generally as Profitable as Some Other Grains, but Needed in Good Rotation.

It is sound farm business to sell some crops for cash. Farm management surveys have shown that the safest and soundest practice is to have about one-fifth of the total receipts on the farm come from sale of crops. The other four-fifths will come from the sale of live stock or live stock products.

The crop that can usually be sold for cash most economically is oats. Oats are not generally as profitable a crop to grow as some others, but a good rotation needs this small grain in it. It makes a very satisfactory connecting link between the corn crop and the hay crop. Corn, if sold as a cash crop, makes a larger return to the acre, but corn can usually be fed more profitably than it can be sold for cash. It is ordinarily a cheaper feed than oats. Hence, if any crop is to be sold, it should be the oats.

WEIGHTS PER BUSHEL

A bushel is regarded as a definite weight rather than a cubic measure in the estimates of production and prices made by the bureau of crop estimates. The weights which are regarded as a bushel for various products are as follows:

Wheat, 60 lbs.; corn, 56 lbs. if shelled, 70 lbs if in ear; oats, 32 lbs.; barley, 48 lbs; rye, 56 lbs.; buckwheat, 48 lbs.; white (Irish) potatoes, 60 lbs.; sweet potatoes, 55 lbs.; apples, 48 lbs.; pears, 48 lbs.; peaches, 48 lbs.; walnuts and hickory nuts, 50 lbs.; beans (dry), 60 lbs.; onions, 57 lbs.; turnips, 55 lbs.; clover seed, 60 lbs.; alfalfa seed, 60 lbs.; timothy seed, 45 lbs.; Kafir corn, 56 lbs. Estimates of yields and prices in tons are always on the basis of 2,000 pounds.

TESTING SOIL FOR ACIDITY

Experiment Station Will Tell How Much Limestone to Apply for Crop of Alfalfa.

It is a waste of time and money to sow alfalfa on sour soil and if you are not sure whether your soil is acid or not test it for acidity or send a sample to your experiment station and have it tested. The experiment station will not only tell you whether the soil is acid or not, but will also advise how much ground limestone to apply per acre in order to put it in good condition for alfalfa or other legumes. The lime may be applied next winter if time does not permit of applying it this fall.

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