St. Mary's Enterprise.

ENOCH B. ABELL, Editor.
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IMPORTANT NEWS QUICKLY TOLD

Happenings In Various Sections of Old Maryland

NEWS ITEMS FOR OUR READERS

Crisfield—The annual convention of the Somerset County Sunday-School Association was held in Mount Pleasant Methodist Protestant Church here, with morning and afternoon sessions.

La Plata—Wilmer Willett, the three-year-old son of Bernard Willett, of Waldorf, was drowned by falling in a 90-foot well in the yard at his home. The well was covered with a loose boarding. The child went to look down the well and slipped and fell.

Frederick—Stricken with heart trouble while the body of his daughter was being carried to the hearse, Lewis E. Crum, died at 9 A. M. The child was eight years old and died on Sunday morning of diphtheria. During the funeral the father was nervous As the casket was carried from the home Crum screamed and fell into a chair. He died before a physician arrived.

Hagerstown—Causing a loss of between $6,000 and $7,000, the large bank barn on the farm of David A. Easterday, near Breathedsville, was totally destroyed by fire of unknown origin. Between 600 and 700 bushels of wheat, representing the season's crop; 40 tons of hay and farming implements were destroyed. A valuable bull was saved from the flames by Mr. Easterday. All other live stock was gotten out before the blaze had gained headway.

Centerville—At a meeting held in Centerville of the Queen Annes County Farmers' Federation Mrs. William E. Rolph, of Centerville; William J. Keith, of Queenstown, and Sudler J. Cockey, of Stevensville, were named a committee to solicit exhibits to be shown at the Salisbury Agricultural Fair in the name of the Queen Annes County Farmers' Federation. The show will be held November 9, 10 and 11.

Rising Sun—At a meeting of business men and citizens of the town subscriptions to $21,000 in bonds to insure the transmission of electric curhent from the plant on the Susquehanna at Holtwood were pledged.

The company will take over the entire equipment of the municipal lighting plant, paying the town $8,000 for it. The pole line has reached the town limits and it is expected Rising Sun will be connected up with the Susquehanna plant in a few days.

Salisbury—Miss Polly Culver, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Handy Culver, of Delmar, this county, was attacked by a negro in her home as she was preparing to retire. A pistol was thrust in her face with orders to make no outcry. Wrestling with the negro Miss Culver nearly succeeded in wrenching the revolver from him. She finally escaped and gave the alarm, calling several neighbors.

Allen Williams, alleged to be the negro who committed the attack, was caught in a short time, mainly through S. N. Culver, of Delmar. He met the negro on the street after the occurrence, acting in a manner that aroused Culver's suspicions. Being informed of the attack Culver suspected Williams and brought about his capture.

Centerville—Although the drive for funds for a county health nurse for Queen Annes county has been in progress for more than two weeks, only about one-sixth of the amount of money necessary to make the proposition a success has been obtained.

The amount to be raised by the county is $3,000. The nurse will be a graduate approved by the Red Cross. The salary will be $1,500, with car traveling expenses and equipment.

Winchester Crumpton and Centerville have made their returns in part, and other sections of the county are still working to raise their quotas. Benefits are being given throughout the county to help swell the funds, and in many instances the children have helped with fairs.

Centerville—After having defied the devastating encroachments of the Chesapeake Bay for centuries, one of Maryland's oldest landmarks has at last yielded. A few days ago the last bricks in the old farmhouse on the Love Point Farm washed down the bank and the site became a part of the Chesapeake Bay.

The old house which has finally disappeared under the waters of the Bay was occupied for years until the advancing tides made its further repair unprofitable. It then fell into a state of dilapidation and was abandoned.

The washing away of the land in this neighborhood has been particularly rapid. Many residents of Kent Island can recall when a large field and an orchard separated the house from the shore line. The barns and outbuildings, all built west of the house, near the shore, have long since gone. Their former site is now hundreds of yards out in the Bay.

STATE CAPITAL

Pheasants Are Thriving Here.

Annapolis—

E. Lee LeCompte, state game warden, is in receipt of reports from his deputies in the several counties that the thousands or more pheasants distributed by them are thriving on Maryland soil. According to reports they are taking to the woods. It is also said that they are on friendly terms with partridges. The pheasant is a pugnacious bird. It had not been expected that he would associate with the native birds. Mr. LeCompte reports that the elimination of woodland and sage fields is detrimental to the life of game birds. At the same time he says that reports show an increase in wild birds.

Mr. Le Compte's chief deputy, Charles F. C. Smith, is displaying activity in enforcing the fish laws. Said Mr. Smith:

We are blessed with one of the largest and greatest bodies of water of the world—the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Its production is countless in value, and yet we have among our midst so many who show little if any appreciation for the great gift which we possess.

We have an element which finds great sport in the game and they want the laws upheld, and they are always ready and willing to co-operate with the state game department, in enforcing the laws. That element is the useful element which gets much pleasure out of the game with a clean conscience.

Then again we have another element which has no regard for the laws, and no respect for themselves. I refer to that class who would hook a fish two inches long and put it into their basket rather than throw it back into the water and thereby conform with the law. That is the element we must watch, and those little fish are going to cause a big fine to be imposed on some of the would-be sports. This same element engage themselves at times by hauling seines in violation of the law. They empty their seines on the beach, pick out the large fish and leave the small ones there to die. And sooner or later they are going to pay for this.

Then again we have an element which takes the privilege of gunning without a license, which cost them only $5.10 for a state-wide license, and, rather than to pay this small cost, they take the chance of being arrested, which means a fine of $1,500 and costs. This element is termed the cheap element, and it is time for such an element to sit up and take notice, that if they want to enjoy the privilege, it will be necessary for them to comply with the law. State Game Warden E. LeCompte is fully determined to break up this practice, by having the force of local deputy game wardens increased, and Chief Deputy Warden Charles F. Smith will be on the job in every instance with his force of deputies to see that the violators are punished to the full extent of the law.

Farmers to Discuss Plans.

Collebe Park—The marketing of farm products, admitted to be one of the most vital problem with which the Maryland farmers are at present confronted, will occupy an important part on the program of the annual convention of the Maryland Agricultural Society, which convenes at Salisbury, Md., on November 9 for a three-day session.

Dr. A. F. Woods, president, and Dr. Thomas B. Symons, director of extension service, and Dr. F. B. Bomberger, assistant director of extension service, of the University of Maryland, were today unanimous in their opinion that the many conditions which have recently served to upset the farmer's marketing plans will give subjects that are presented for discussion in this connection peculiar force, in view of the fact that farmers all over the country are dissatisfied with present marketing conditions. Consumers, it was shown, have also been complaining of the high prices as well as the unsatisfactory system of distribution. It was intimated here today that while Maryland farmers at the coming convention would not be able to readjust conditions outside the state, it is expected that they will be able to improve the situation in Maryland.

Salisbury—State's Attorney Long caused the arrest of a stranger, a white man, who has been living in a shack built in the woods between here and Delmar on John H. Tomlinson's farm.

The man had been seen by passers-by on several occasions acting, it was said, in a suspicious manner. When arrested and lodged in jail he refused to divulge his name, home or other information about himself. Search of his person revealed a scrap of paper which it is believed, will throw some light on his identity.

The State's Attorney is under the impression that the man has been hiding from the law and is possibly an army deserter, as two addresses of men who served in France were found on the paper.

PRODUCTION OF CATTLE IN WEST

Investigations Conducted in Nebraska Show Wide Variation in Figures.

FEEDING PERILOUS VENTURE

Buying Right and Selling Right Are Controlling Factors—Some Farmers Carried Animals Through With Profit.

According to cost of production investigations conducted by the United States department of agriculture in co-operation with the University of Nebraska in parts of Nebraska during the past two years, the average cost of corn-fed cattle laid down at market was $14.91 per hundredweight for 2,293 head fed in the winter of 1918-19, $13.83 for 3,641 cattle in a survey study during the winter of 1919-20, and an average of $13.39 for an additional 795 cattle upon which detailed cost figures were secured during the same winter. The costs upon some droves were found to vary widely from these average figures, with the major portion going to market the first winter (1918-19) carrying an expense bill of from $13 to $18 a hundredweight, while in 1919-20 the costs of most of the cattle were between $11 and $17. The facts thus far brought out by the investigation would indicate that during the past two years, in the district covered by the survey, cattle feeding was a precarious venture, more likely to be unprofitable than not. There was an average loss per head of $3.17 on the cattle for which records were obtained in 1918-19, and of $10.69 and $14.57 on two groups for which records were obtained in 1919-20.

These figures are the results of the first two years' work of a five-year study of the basic factors of the cost of fattening cattle, which is being conducted in Nebraska by the office of farm management and farm economics, in co-operation with the University of Nebraska and the bureau of animal industry, United States department of agriculture. Similar studies are being conducted in Iowa, Missouri, Illinois and Indiana, and preliminary reports on the work in these states will be forthcoming shortly.

Good Pastures and Good Stock Are Essential for Profitable Beef Production.

Feeding Plays Minor Part.

The greater part of the Nebraska cattle covered in the survey work of 1918-19 made their gains at a cost of from 20 to 35 cents per pound, with extremes ranging from 12 to 48 cents, while of the cattle covered the next year the greater part made their gains at from 15 to 35 cents per pound, with an extreme range of from 8 to 53 cents. While economical feeding is shown to be the major factor in the cost of fattening after the steer is bought, the investigation substantiates the fact that feeding usually plays a minor part in determining profit or loss, and that buying right and selling right are more often the controlling factors.

The cattle in question were bought at about the same figures in both years of the investigation. In 1918-19 three of the droves were bought at between $6 and $7, but most of the cattle covered in the study went into the lot at between $8 and $12. Of the 21 droves covered by the detailed cost-accounting method, 11 cost between $10 and $11. The weight of the feeders varied rather widely, averaging about 750 pounds with but few over 1,000 pounds or under 500.

Feed, the most important factor of the cost of fattening the steer after purchase, was found to constitute from 75 to 90 per cent of all the expense involved in handling the steers after being put on feed.

Wide Variation in Cost Factors.

The wide variation in the factors affecting cost was reflected in equally wide variation in the total cost of the finished cattle. During both of the years of the study the cost of the cattle covered in the surveys ranged from about $8 to $22 per hundred fattened, the average for 1918-19 being $14.91, and for 1919-20, $13.83. The droves covered by the cost-accounting method showed a much narrower range, from $10 to $18 with an average of $13.39.

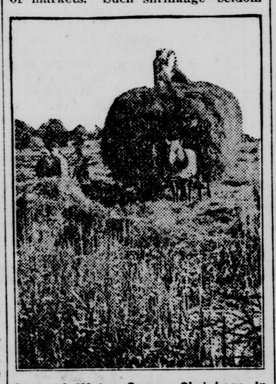
The financial return varied widely, ranging from $50 profit or more per head, reported for 40 head in 1918-19, to $50 or more per head loss, reported for 155 head in 1918-19 and for over 200 head in 1919-20. As has been stated above, on the average there was a loss incurred in handling cattle each year, reaching $14.57 per head as the average loss of the 795 cattle on the detailed route in 1919-20. However, a number of farmers carried their cattle through with profit.

SHRINKAGE OF GOOD HAY DOES NO INJURY

Loss of Water Does Not Affect Feeding Value.

Properly Cured Product Has Bright, Natural Green Color—Information Soon to Be Given Out by Department of Agriculture.

Shrinkage occurring in good market hay is due almost entirely to a loss of water, which has no feeding value, say specialists of the United States bureau of markets. Such shrinkage seldom causes an actual money loss to the farmer, because any loss in weight in baled hay is borne by the shipper, who usually receives the hay as soon as it is baled.



Loss of Water Causes Shrinkage in Weight of Hay, but Does Not Injure Feeding Value.

If the shipper stores baled hay for speculation, there often will be a money loss caused by shrinkage, because he has purchased an excess amount of water.

There is practically no loss of dry matter in market hay that has been properly cured. Proper curing is indicated by a bright, natural green color. Improperly cured hay may lose dry matter, but such hay is not in demand in any of the terminal markets.

The water content of hay at different periods of curing and storage, methods of making hay to prevent excessive shrinkage in storage, methods of determining shrinkage on individual farms, and other general shrinkage information of interest to all agencies engaged in the production and marketing of market hay is given in a publication soon to be issued by the department of agriculture.

MARKETING SHEEP AND HOGS

Figures Furnished by Department of Agriculture Show Cost of Loading, Feeding, Etc.

Of 54 carloads of sheep, including 11 single-deck and 43 double-deck cars, the cost of loading and bedding cars average $0.019 per 100 pounds live weight, according to figures furnished the general trade commission by the United States department of agriculture. Other marketing expenses, including freight, varied from $0.239 to $1.97 per hundredweight. The shrinkage in weight varied from 3.53 to 8.57 per cent, the majority of the shipments averaging approximately 8 per cent.

Similar records on 253 carloads of hogs showed the cost of loading and bedding to average 1.5 cents per 100 pounds live weight; feed at market approximately 8 to 9 cents; commission charges, 4 to 10 cents; miscellaneous expense, 2 to 10 cents, averaging approximately 5 cents; and the total cost of marketing including freight from varying districts approximately from 33 to 50 cents. The shrinkage in weight on 873 carloads of hogs varied from 9.88 to minus 4.59 per cent.

LATE MOLTERS ARE FAVORED

Hens That Undergo Transformation During July and August Are Not Best Layers.

It has been observed that the best layers usually molt during the latter part of September or the months of October, November and December. Hens that molt during July and August are not the profitable hens, as they rest for three or four months while they grow their new feathers and will not start in laying until the following February or March. These hens are not the kind to use either in the breeding pen or the laying pen. In some cases, the early hatched pullets of the year previous will start molting during June, and a little judgment should be exercised in such cases. A check should be made with other tests.

PROPAGATING RHUBARB ROOT

Plants Which Have Not Done Very Well This Season Should Be Dug—Replant Next Spring.

Rhubarb which has not been giving very good results during the past season, should be dug this fall, and the roots allowed to remain in the open during the winter. In the spring as soon as the ground can be prepared, the large root or mother root should be divided into from six to eight parts and planted. A root four to five years old becomes root bound and produces small stems.

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