

FARM AND ORCHARD

Some Interesting News for the Ruralist

SPOKEN OF IN THIS COLUMN.

A Few Sensible Hints to Suit the Busy Agriculturist.—Items That May Benefit Our Readers.

LINCOLN, Neb., Sept. 28.—Aside from disappointment over a smaller attendance from outside States than was expected, the conditions for the opening of the Sixth National Irrigation Congress were most auspicious. Thirteen States were represented this morning. Irrigation topics were discussed by such authorities as E. R. Moses of Kansas, Dr. George E. Young of Utah, Ex-Senator Carey of Wyoming, Dr. E. L. Kellogg of Colorado and C. H. Hamlin of Texas.

Special features of the present gathering will be an address by W. J. Bryan; a talk by Booth-Tucker on the Salvation Army colonization of lands. C. C. Wright the author of the celebrated "California act," after which the Nebraska law was copied, and Binger Herman, commissioner of the general land office, will also be heard. C. B. Booth of California will act as president until his successor is appointed.

President Booth called the congress to order at 2 o'clock in the assembly hall of the University of Nebraska.

Rev. A. J. Mailley offered prayer. Chairman Moses of the national committee announced the names of the secretaries, and Secretary Heintz read the call for the meeting. Gov. Holcomb welcomed the delegates in an address of some length.

E. R. Moses, chairman of the national executive committee, said in part:

"The people of the United States must know of their country in order to judge intelligently of the wants and needs of any part of it, and then they must have that love of country so strong in their hearts that they forget self, section, birth-place and state in their desire to build up America as 'the land of the free and the home of the brave.' When this is done there will be no longer a flaunting of the bloody shirt at every hustings, or in every spread-eagle speech, the constant repetition of 'a solid South,' and a 'wild and woolly West.' The time has come when this nation, like the other nations of the earth, must ever be alert in making due and ample preparation for the comfort and happiness of her people.

"This government, founded as it was upon that grand and paternal proposition, 'to secure the blessings of liberty and happiness to ourselves and posterity,' can no longer forget her posterity than a father can his children. Forget them. I say, by withholding from them for settlement the many thousands of homes that lie in this western country—homes that are their birthright, as much so as the homesteads that are now the castles of so many true, brave and noble American citizens. Heretofore this government has been most generous with her free homes for her people. The people living in this section are most patriotic, and to their borders many of the 2,000,000 or more idle and homeless in the over-crowded and congested cities of the east are looking for the time when these western lands are made available for settlement. Philanthropists and humanitarians see the great opportunity for solving one of the most vital and serious questions of the times—the settlement of the unemployed and homeless—upon these lands, while politicians and statesmen realize the fact, if they do not carry it into practice, that the safety and perpetuity of this government lies in having homes for its worthy homeless citizens.

"The time has come to the minds of all who fully know the condition of the east and the west that this country can no longer remain half settled and half-unsettled, any more than it could have remained half-free and half-slave. Individual and co-operative efforts have gone as far as they can go. Uncle Sam owns this unsettled land, and it has now come to the parting of the ways; either the government must open these lands for settlement, or turn them over in fee simple to the states and territories in which they lie, that they may open them for settlement. The settlement of the west means only that the products of the soil go east for the products of the loom and the factory; that the settling of the surplus population in the west relieves the east of great financial burdens, which give only temporary relief. The opening of the west will not only give homes to the present homeless, but to future thousands, instead of forcing them abroad as England, France and Germany do their homeless people for want of territory.

"If any bill is passed for the reclamation of arid and semi-arid America, it must first be drafted by this body or the people of the west. The last irrigation congress passed upon a bill, a very good one for a starter, known as the 'public land commission bill. It was introduced into the house of representatives near the close of the session, and awaits

resurrection. It has firm supporters in both houses, and with proper efforts on the part of this congress could become law.

"More acres are under cultivation by means of irrigation than ever before, and perhaps more miles of irrigating ditches have been built in the last few years than in all the previous years. Through these annual congresses an impetus has been given, and a line of industry that has worked night and day to perfect the pumps and machines to draw water from the bowels of the earth at such a minimum cost as to make it profitable to irrigate in this way. The ingenious mind has been set to work to conserve the storm waters that run in torrents to the sea. The eyes of the east and the south have been opened to the fact that we can ditch, drain and keep the water at proper times with better results.

"We irrigationists are satisfied that Congress will have to adopt our plan of preventing the overflow of large streams by the storage of water near the head of such streams at times of low water, and at other times to be used in irrigation, navigation and manufacturing industries; and in this way the damage to the areas in the vicinity of the streams will be prevented, and large tracts of arid lands can be reclaimed by these waters, and opened for settlement. The people of the nation would soon find it a paying investment if Congress would apply the appropriations annually made to prevent floods, temporary makeshifts, to the storage of the waters, as well as for the use of agriculture and horticulture.

"Following in the wake of irrigation, and closely allied to it, is colonization. The people of the west do not want these lands made tillable unless they can team with life and are settled with the best brain and brawn of the old and young, rich and poor, who desire homes in this sunset land of America."

State Board of Horticulture.

The executive committee of the State Board of Horticulture, consisting of R. D. Stephens, Sacramento; Ellwood Cooper, Santa Barbara, and Frank A. Kimball, National City, met at the office of the State Board of Horticulture, September 16.

The date for the holding of the next State Fruit Growers' Convention, under the auspices of the board, was fixed for November 16 to 19, inclusive, to be held in the senate chamber of the State capitol. It was also determined to hold a State convention of fruit growers at Los Angeles in March next, the date to be hereafter determined. This latter convention will first meet at Los Angeles for two days, then adjourn to meet at San Diego for one or more days, then at Riverside and Redlands, one day each. This will give the visiting horticulturists from throughout the state an opportunity to visit the different fruit-growing sections of the south, while attending the session of the convention.

Among the important subjects that will be considered at the state convention at Sacramento, in November, will be: Transportation of all California products to all markets; rates of freight, abolition of rebates or other means of giving one shipper an unfair advantage over another shipper; possibility of shortening the time for delivery to eastern points, and probability of eliminating the icing of cars, and thus in a large measure reducing the cost of transportation; the best system of distributing green and dried fruits to nearby markets; the distribution of green and dried fruits to eastern markets; the best system of distribution to foreign markets; should the production of deciduous and citrus fruits be checked until a more perfect system of distribution is effected? relation of the olive industry to the fruit industries of the state; possibility of this state to produce all the olives and olive oil consumed in the United States; adulteration of olive oil and the failure of the pure food law to suppress its adulteration, or to prevent the sale of imported oils which have been adulterated, or to prevent the sale of other oils as olive oil; adulterated foods and the influence of their sale on the productive industries of the State; the olive industry, including area in each county in the State adapted to the production of the fruit; probable increase in production.

At the last meeting of the State board of horticulture a committee was appointed to investigate and report at the coming convention on fruit transportation, freight rates, etc. This committee is composed of R. D. Stephens, Sacramento; B. F. Walton, Yuba City; Dr. Echeleman, Fresno; and M. F. Richter, Campbell. C. C. Thompson of Pasadena was added to this committee to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of William Boal of National City.

Alexander Crow, quarantine officer and entomologist of the board, was present at the meeting of the executive committee, and made an extended report of his visit to Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, San Bernardino, Riverside, San Diego and Orange counties. He reported that as far as crops are concerned, they are looking well, and prospects indicate a prosperous season the coming year, especially in citrus fruits.

Peaches Without Down.

William P. Winter, a retired carpenter who lives at 826 North Carey street,

has entered heart and soul into the wizard business with remarkable results, says the Baltimore American. In a cosy little yard back of Mr. Winter's home grows a peach tree that has produced annual crops of luscious fruit for a number of years. Two years ago Mr. Winter grew weary of the conventional covering of the peaches in his limited orchard, and determined at least to produce a peach minus that objectionable nap or down.

He began a series of experiments, and that year produced a peach clothed in the ordinary raiment of the banana; but, not satisfied with the result of his startling assault on nature, he has succeeded in producing a crop, which is just now ripe, that looks for all the world like a tree full of apples. The skin of the fruit is perfectly smooth and of a dark red hue, shading gradually into a yellow that Mr. Winter claims is a remnant of the banana skin.

"Next year," said he, "I will have an orange skin on them."

The method employed by Mr. Winter to produce these startling results is a profound secret, and he is preparing to copyright the scheme. Grapevines, as well as peach trees, tremble before the skill of the ex-carpenter, and among the curious things that thrive in the rear of 826 North Carey street is a vine of this sort that bears at this time ripe grapes as sweet as honey and unusually large, half ripe grapes, blossoms and buds, which Mr. Winter expects to ripen by Christmas.

Fighting Black Scale.

Prof. A. J. Cook, in Los Angeles Herald: As stated in last week's Herald, the black scale is unquestionably the most serious and destructive insect now working generally in the citrus, and I might add, olive orchards, of Southern California. It is also true that when not properly treated the loss to orchard and fruit is often by no means inconsiderable. That those orchardists who have learned how best to combat this pest are assiduous in putting in practice what they know are saving immensely is surely true.

That the various sprays, kerosene emulsions, resin wash and the various soaps all have vitruue is certainly true. It is probably true that if applied sufficiently thorough and often that they would keep the scale insects well in check. These substances kill by contact, and to touch every insect in trees with foliage as dense as that of citrus trees is by no means an easy task. It is quite probable that in young trees the first four or five years after setting, spraying is the cheapest and easiest way to fight these orchard pests. Coupled with a great deal of observation, that we may know when and how often to spray, I am sure from my own experience, that a young orchard may be kept almost entirely free from scale insects by use of kerosene emulsion, and that with no great labor or expense. A good article and great thoroughness are the absolute requisites to success. The steam power pumps used in San Diego and Santa Barbara are certainly a great aid toward the necessary thoroughness.

HORTICULTURAL NOTES.

Strawberries need a fertilizer containing potash, bone and muriate of iron.

Don't shoot the little burrowing owls. They are good mousers and destroy many injurious insects.

Preserve the "thalporcharis cocophagus," a little gray butterfly. The larva preys upon the black scale.

M. C. Allen, Point Loma, sprays his scale with sal-ammoniac, one pound to ten gallons of water, and retires the greedy scale from business effectually.

Tobacco men tell us there is no reason why good cotton cannot be raised in Southern California. The specimen plants raised at different points are thrifty and heavy bloomers.

Sow your peas as the rains come, in fact, plant everything for winter here as you would do in the east for early garden, such varieties as light frosts will not harm.

When you use buhac as an insecticide, put one ounce into three gallons of water and let it stand for twenty-four hours before using. If you dust it in dry form, use equal parts air-slacked lime.

Mr. Eisenhour, Pacific Beach, says it is a mistake to think that tobacco cannot be raised near the salt water. In Cuba it is grown so near the ocean the breakers almost splash on it. He will put in twenty acres at the beach.

The Los Angeles county horticultural commissioners have commenced a vigorous campaign against certain unscrupulous persons who have been shipping inferior and scale-covered fruit to eastern markets as choice Los Angeles county products.

An attempt is being made to revive the Yuma canal scheme of boom times, by which water was to be taken from the Colorado river twenty-five miles above Yuma and used to irrigate fifty miles of desert country this side of the line 100,000 across in Sonora. The Attorney-General of California some years ago gave an opinion that the waters would not be allowed to be taken out of the United States for irrigation purposes.

BIRTH OF THE BLOOMER.

It Is Forty-six Years Since They First Came Into View.

Forty-six years ago the bifurcated garment for female dress was ushered into a cold and critical world, and the mother of this now popular invention, Mrs. Amelia Bloomer, was thereby placed in the niche of deathless fame. Mrs. Bloomer's high social position and intelligence cannot be disputed. She was engaged in editing the Lily, a temperance journal, when her crusade in favor of dress reform was begun, and the columns of that paper fairly bloomed with the advocacy of her radical ideas.

The use of the bloomer is at present chiefly confined to athletic sports, but its originator intended it to have a more general adoption. It was to take the place, on every occasion, of the more cumbersome skirt, which at that time, was increasing in size to such an extent that, in the language of a contemporary English writer, the men were "beginning to ask what proportion of the geographical area the ladies meant to occupy." Her own first appearance in the new costume was at a ball, given at the house of one of the leaders of society in the town in which she lived, and she was the center of attraction during the entire evening.

The press of the country discussed the bloomer from all points of view and women in those days had not the moral courage to wear the garment. So it passed into a stage of suspended animation until fanned into life by the neces-



THE ORIGINAL BLOOMER COSTUME.

sities of women astride the bicycle. Mrs. Bloomer wore her garment until she died, but her personal following was small.

Within thirty-five miles of Philadelphia there is a community, a large proportion of the female population of which at one time wore regularly the "rational" garb. When in 1861 Charles K. Landis laid out and opened for settlement the town of Vineland, N. J., the inducements offered by him to intending purchasers of land early attracted a large influx of a very mixed element. Among them were the "Bloomers," in faith Spiritualistic and all firm adherents of the trouser cult. All were agriculturists and men and women alike labored in the fields, so that at a little distance it was a matter of some difficulty to distinguish the sex of the toiler. The dress of the women consisted of a sort of blouse, coming in some instances just above the knee, in others a little below it. Beneath this the inevitable trousers, reaching half way to the ankle, where they were met by a sort of woolen legging, covering the upper part of the shoe. This costume was generally of light cloth, usually of a faded reddish color, the whole surmounted by a broad-brimmed slouch hat, such as the Dunkards are accustomed to wear. Sometimes in summer linen would be substituted for the more weighty cloth, but the style invariably remained the same. At one time there were between twenty and thirty "bloomer" families living in and about Vineland, but at the present time only two representatives of the sect remain.

INHERITS A MILLION.

Euphemia McKay, a Cook of Long Island, Gets a Big Fortune.

Here is a portrait of Miss Euphemia McKay, the cook who has fallen heir to a large fortune. She has gone to her old home in Scotland to receive \$1,000,000 left to her under the will of her uncle, who went away to Africa years ago while she was a child to seek his fortune.

In time the child, growing into a woman, came across the ocean and settled in Canada. Twenty years of the drudgery of domestic service made but a little change in her. In the course of these years her father and mother died, and the uncle returned to Scotland with his fortune. Of late Miss McKay has been employed by Mr. Lawrence, of Bayside, L. I., as a cook. She says she has no higher ambition than to make her home in Flushing and help the poor.



EUPHEMIA M'KAY.

THE FIRST ELECTRIC CAR.

The Memory of Farmer, Its Inventor, Honored This Week.

The first electric passenger car ever made in the United States was displayed to the public for the first time at Dover, N. H., July 26, 1847. The fiftieth anniversary of the event, which occurred recently, has been fittingly observed at Elliot, Me., where lived the inventor of the car, Moses G. Farmer. His daughter still lives there, conducting a summer school of science and literature, and it was at her home that the event was celebrated by a company of electricians.

Moses Farmer was a native of New Hampshire and was born in 1820. He



MOSES G. FARMER.

received a college education and taught school. Of a mechanical bent of mind, he spent many of his spare moments in experimenting. He early became interested in electricity and the subject of applying this force to propel vehicles occupied his attention. His experiments resulted in the construction of a train of two cars, on one of which was mounted the motor and battery which furnished the current, the other being a passenger car.

The rails of the track as built in 1847 were of cast iron, and the ties, or sleepers, of wood. On these rails ran the two cars, one for carrying passengers, the other being the locomotive. The electric current was generated in forty-eight cells of a Groves battery, the



THE FIRST ELECTRIC CAR.

size of each cell being about one pint in capacity.

The cars were exhibited in various cities and attracted some attention, but the time was not ripe for electric transit and Farmer's scheme was not utilized. It formed the basis, however, upon which engineers subsequently built the electric cars of the present day. Farmer died in Chicago during the World's Fair in 1893.

WOMAN'S LONG RIDE.

Mrs. Margaret Le Long Wheeled from Chicago to San Francisco.

Mrs. Margaret Valentine Le Long is a plucky little woman with a long name who recently rode, alone, from Chicago to San Francisco, her home, on a bicycle. She was on the road ninety days, covering the distance, 2,000 miles, without a puncture. She made the journey not to save expenses, for it cost twice as much as by rail, but for the sake of the adventure and the experience. She had only one accident, a broken pedal, when she had piled herself up at the foot of a hill in the dark. She did her own washing, had the good sense not to try for a record, and rested when she was tired. Eighty-six miles in one day was her best performance. On the way she lost eight pounds, made a detour from Ogden to Salt Lake, rode the railroad track for numberless



MRS. MARGARET LE LONG.

rough and bumpy miles, and walked on an average ten miles a day. She is muscular as few women are, and is as brown as the proverbial berry, for she even tanned her hands through her thick chamolles gloves. But she is not the least bit footsore or weary, and she would do it again.

Slightly Daft.

"Bobson is certainly daft about that new baby of his."

"What has he done?"

"Why, we were all talking about the tariff at the office last Saturday, but Bobson only made one remark."

"What did he say?"

"He wanted to know if they had raised the duty on catnip tea."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.