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HOME CLASSES IN PRACTICAL FARMING

A plan whereby ten or twelve farmers or farm women can form home classes in agriculture or domestic science and receive the text-books, lectures, lantern slides, laboratory and cooking equipment necessary to conduct them has been devised by the United States Department of Agriculture in co-operation with Agricultural colleges of certain States.

The object of the plan is to make accessible at home to men and women who have not time or means to attend the regular courses at the colleges, practical short courses in agriculture and home management specially adapted to their districts. These courses, which will consist of 15 to 20 lectures, and will consume five or more weeks, can be arranged to suit the spare time and convenience of each group of people.

The courses to be offered at first are poultry raising, fruit growing, soils, cheese manufacturing, dairying, butter making and farm bookkeeping; and for the women especially, courses in the preparation, cooking and use of vegetables and cereal foods. The Department will supply lectures and lantern slides covering these subjects, and the States which have agreed to co-operate in the plan will lend to each group laboratory and cooking apparatus valued at \$100 and a reference library. The text-books and lectures will be made so complete that each group can safely appoint one of its members as study leader to direct the work of the course.

When a group has decided to take up the work, the State which co-operates sends an agent with the Department's representative to organize a sample class and assist the leader whom they elect in laying out the work and in showing him the best methods of procedure. The classes commonly are held from 8:00 to 12:00 in the morning and from 1:00 to 4:00 in the afternoon, two or three days each week. The sessions are held every day, so that the members will have time to attend to their farm duties in between the sessions, as well as well as before and after the instruction period. The classes meet commonly at the most convenient farmhouse. During the morning hours, text-book work is done. In the afternoon laboratory work is conducted, and the women who have elected to take the domestic science courses have practical lessons in cooking.

As soon as a class is established, the State organizer withdraws to start a class in some other district. The work thereafter is left in charge of the leader, who receives assistance by mail from the college or the Department in carrying on the work. As there is no regularly paid instructor, classes can be carried on all over the State as rapidly as the college organizer can visit the groups, and as quickly as the laboratory sets supplied by the college become available. The local leader will preside during the reading of the lectures and references, for which full text-books and lantern slides are supplied by the Department. He will also be responsible for the laboratory equipment. Every one who completes the course will receive a certificate from the State college.

Not all of the States have yet agreed to co-operate in this plan. Last winter experiments along these lines were carried out successfully in Pennsylvania, and this has stimulated an interest in

the method in other States. In one of the Pennsylvania classes more men applied than could be accommodated and all of the 20 men and 15 women who began the course completed it. Pennsylvania is now arranging for more classes, while Massachusetts, Michigan, Vermont and Florida expect to take up the work. Other States such as Maine, New York, New Jersey, and Delaware have signified their willingness to co-operate.

Ordinarily a college in a State usually applies to the Department seeking its co-operation, when sufficient interest has been shown in the plan in several communities where ten or more people have sought the instruction. For financial reasons, certain colleges are not so able to engage in the work as are others.

The advantages claimed for the new home courses with local leaders and laboratory equipment over the ordinary correspondence courses is that only a small percentage of those who take the individual course finish it. Studying in a group, with laboratory work and a leader, seems to stimulate the interest and add a social feature which lead the members of the group to follow the work conscientiously and complete it. Experiments with free correspondence courses show that while many individuals gain advantages from them, many others, because the material is furnished free, do not feel the same obligation to complete them as they do when they pay a substantial sum of money for the instruction.

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A SUMMER OF SHOWERS

There has been no general precipitation since early May or April. The showers that have fallen this summer in Kentucky have been heavy rains, in some places, in point of the amount of water per square inch. But they have not been general rains, and while one section of a county or one county has enjoyed a relief from drouth, the adjoining section has remained dry.

What has been needed, and is still needed, is a general rain of several days duration. The deepest springs are showing the effects of a long continued absence of adequate water supply. Farms which have an abundance of good stock water—and green pools in the rock long unfed by surface water or springs are not good stock water—are very much the exception to the rule.

Next winter will be a hard one on owners of stock. Feed will be high and many farms that are abundantly productive in ordinary seasons will be short of grain feed, hay and "roughage." In many places oats was so short it had to be cut with a mower because it could not be bound by a binder, and where there was more or less grain there was very little straw. Corn has been cut short in many counties, and the farmer who has plenty of wheat with which to feed his hogs is in luck this year.

There is little compensation for farmers in the fact that live stock prices are high enough to make it profitable to sell "stocker" cattle and stock hogs in the market. This year emphasizes the value of dairying, poultry raising and fruit growing as offsets of crop shortage in short years. Of course dairy cattle and poultry must be fed, but they return a constant profit.—State Journal.

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ITEMS OF INTEREST

President Yuan Shi Kai of China sends his daughter to a mission school in Peking.

Thirty year ago the Southern Baptists raised less than \$100,000 annually for foreign missions. This year they apportion that amount to the churches in Texas alone.

In 1911 the total circulation of the Bible, either in part or whole, in India and Burma through the agency of the British Bible Society, was more than a million copies, as compared with 570,000 ten years before.

There are said to be over 2,000 natives of India now residing in England, having come to study for the legal, medical and engineering professions.

The demand for the Scriptures in Korea becomes more and more astonishing. In a single month 50,000 copies were sold, more than twice as many as were sold in the same month last year.

The most recent figures show that while three years ago Russian Baptists numbered only 31,127, they have reached an aggregate of 60,295. That is in the Baptist register of the world Russia now stands fourth—the United States being first, Great Britain second, and Canada third.

More than half of the Japanese in America are located in California. There are 8,000 Japanese children of school age in California and they are increasing at the rate of 1,500 annually.

There are said to be about 230,000,000 Moslems in the world. They occupy mainly Morocco, Tunis, Algeria, Tripoli, Egypt, Turkey in Europe, Turkey in Asia, Persia and Java, one-fifth of the area of India, and one-thirtieth that of China. One person out of every seven in this world is a Mohammedan.

There are now thirty-four Presbyterian churches among the Dakota Indians, with 2,000 Indian communicants. These Indian homes have borne entirely the salaries of the native missionaries laboring among them, contributing a total of \$9,807, of which \$4,322 went directly for missionary objects.

Lead or steel will kill a man but false friendship assassinates him.

Do you go to church?

FACTS THAT COUNT

Africa is the second largest continent in the world.

There are perhaps 150,000,000 people, of whom, while 50,000,000 are Mohammedans, not over one million are Christians. Every tenth man in the United States is a black man. Every seventh man in the world is a black man. Surely he is the white man's burden!

"Nearly one-half of the women of the world belong to the great empires of China and India. The women conserve the ancient religions and superstitions of their country; and what can a man do when the women of the household are against him?"

During the past generation the native population of South Africa has doubled, but the native Christian population has increased five times.

Sixty years ago there was only a handful of Christians in the Teluga country of India; now there are more than 300,000, and the change has meant a wonderful uplift to the people.

About a thousand children from Moslem homes are attending Protestant mission schools in Persia—only one indication of the tolerance of Mohammedans.

In Africa there are 500 mission fields, of 10,000 square miles each, without a single missionary. This vast region of 5,000,000 square miles contains 70,000,000 souls.

The Moslems are making vigorous efforts to win Africa. In Cairo, Africa, is a Moslem student body numbering 10,000, hundreds of whom become missionaries.

According to the Missionary Review of the World, missionary work has added another method to its means of support. Missionary trees are established, when profit goes entirely to missions. Three instances are given: A Roxborough farmer has a golden pippin apple tree which helps to support the Chinese missions. A Florida woman has an orange tree which helps to uplift the cannibals of New Guinea. A California nut farmer devotes a walnut tree to the spread of Christianity in Zanzibar.

Nineteen college men have been presidents of the United States, and sixteen of the nineteen have been trained in Christian colleges.

According to some figures by Dr. J. L. Weber, of Memphis, Tenn., given in an article recently appearing in the New York Christian Advocate, the Southern Methodist church has gained in the last quadrennium 168,499 members, and 245,589 Sunday School scholars; it has advanced to the sum of \$907,714 for ministerial support, and \$210,790 for missions and church extension; it has gained 767 houses of worship, and has an increase of \$15,473,751 in the value of parsonages and houses of worship.

Satan is always very civil to folks who have money to burn.

Do you go to church?

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