ALFALFA GROWING AND ITS GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ILLINOIS FARMERS

Illinois Alfalfa Growers' Association.

Seated, left to right: A. N. Abbott; Morrison; Mr. Stewart, Winchester; Secretary H. A. Wenger, Springfield; President A. P. Grout, Winchester; F. L. Hatch, Spring Grove; F. I. Mann, Gilman.

By A. P. GROUT,
President Alfalfa Growers' Ass'n.

It is impossible in a short article like this to discuss many things pertaining to agriculture, but I do desire to call the attention of my readers to a movement which I believe to be of great importance, and which, if developed to the extent that it may be, will add more to the wealth of Illinois than any other one thing that can be done. Concerning it ex-Governor Hoard of Wisconsin says: "The alfalfa movement is the most important agricultural event of the century."

Concerning alfalfa and its significance to Kansas, where the latest reports show in round numbers 1,000,000 acres in cultivation, and more than all other tame grasses combined, a prominent gentleman of that state says: "Were I called upon to say what single product of the soil would probably assume the greatest importance in our state in the near future, I would say, 'alfalfa.' As Beecher said about the strawberries, doubtless God could make a better forage plant than alfalfa, but in my opinion he never has. As a forage plant for general use, so far as I know, it has no equal. This may be said not only in regard to the ease with which it can be grown, its hardiness under trying circumstances, its productiveness, its power of improving the soil, but as well in regard to its excellence as a feed for all kinds of farm animals and especially its value in fattening cattle and hogs for market. It is as near a perfect forage plant as it is possible to obtain."

It has been successfully grown and fed in every part of Illinois, as well as the United States, and with the greatest of satisfaction. Almost everything possible has been said and written in its praise and of its great value as a forage plant, yet not one farmer in a thousand in Illinois is growing it or giving it a thought.

After I have given you my own experience and that of many other reliable growers, I will let you answer the question why more farmers in Illinois do not grow alfalfa. I first saw alfalfa growing in the valleys of Wyoming and Utah in 1882. I knew very little of the plant or its value at that time, but the beautiful dark green alfalfa meadows of that dry and arid country were delightfully refreshing and pleasing to the eye. Later on, about twenty years ago, I tried the experiment of growing it in Illinois. I sowed about two acres and secured a fair stand and grew a fairly good crop for four or five years.

I was almost entirely ignorant as to the proper care and management of it, and after a time the blue grasses and other grasses crowded it out and I plowed it up, but immediately regretted the act and proceeded to secure a fair stand, but soon discovered that that part of the field which had first been seeded to alfalfa did much better than the newly seeded part.

It was about this time that I began to read about alfalfa bacteria and the necessity of applying inoculated soil to the soil from an old field where alfalfa had been grown. I found that the Illinois experiment station of the University of Illinois was experimenting in the growing of alfalfa and that inoculated soil had been brought from Kansas for use in the experiment. I immediately secured a few hundred pounds for use on my own field. The effect was almost magical.

In the meantime I had discovered that when the plant reached a certain growth of its development it should be cut, and if the cutting was delayed it was very detrimental to the future growing of the plant. Then the necessity of cultivating the growing fields of alfalfa, because known, in order to prevent the growth of blue grass and other grasses and weeds. At first it was not an easy matter to get this done. Repeated instructions to the men on the farm to disk and harrow would result in such light work that it was almost impossible to detect where the disk or harrow had been used on the field.

Almost in desperation I determined to superintend the job myself. I sent the disk to the field and followed in its rear with wagon and watched the work. At first the disks were run so straight that they barely made a mark on the ground. I instructed the driver to push the lever up a notch, and then another and another until there were no more notches, and I pretty nearly had a mutiny on my hands. I was informed by the driver that no man could do that kind of work for him, but when I suggested that it was my alfalfa and that I would stage the loss he reluctantly consented to go ahead.

The result was wonderful. The next year I got better and more thrifty than ever. It was a case where man have to be shown and where they cannot be made to believe without demonstration.

LUNCHEON FOR EIGHT

PUZZLED HOUSEWIFE WILL FIND THIS OF INTEREST.

Elaborate Menu Composed of Some Old Dishes in New Form and Some That Are Really New—Rector Leaf.

Rector Leaf.—Remove pulp from four grapefruit, add one-half powdered sugar, two teaspoonfuls of orange, curacoa, one teaspoonful each of lemon juice and Kirsch, and a speck of salt. Chill and serve in coupe glasses with mint leaves.

Cream of Watercress Soup.—Wash, pick over and finely chop one bunch watercress, add to three cupfuls of white stock, bring to a boiling point and let simmer ten minutes; then strain through double thickness cheese cloth. Melt three and one-half tablespoonfuls of butter, add four tablespoonfuls of flour and add to stock. Cook until mixture thickens add one cupful of heavy cream, season with salt and pepper and color with cooking juice; then triangular pieces of toasted bread.

Scallops en Brochette.—Clean scallops, season with salt, dip in shrivel, drain and dry. Put on skewers alternating with small slices of bacon; broil in hot oven until bacon is crisp and brown. Arrange on serving-dish and garnish with cucumber pickle, olive cubes of cucumber, lemon and parsley.

Sweetbreads.—Parboil four pairs of sweetbreads in milk, twine to which is added one onion, ten slices carrot, three stalks celery, one teaspoonful salt and seven-fourth teaspoon pepper-corns 20 minutes. Drain sweetbreads and glaze in butter to which is added sugar and water. Arrange on pieces of sauted bread and pour over a thick sauce made of four tablespoonfuls each of butter and flour, two-thirds cup each chicken stock and cream, yolk two eggs, salt, pepper, cayenne and lemon juice to taste. Dip a fork in beef extract and trail through the sauce. Garnish with strips of cooked ham and green peppers.

A Basket of Mushrooms.—Cook long strips of green pepper in boiling salted water, drain but do not rinse with cold water. Stick small skewers through each end, dredge in three-fourths cup cream. Cook five minutes.

Pineapple Salad.—Remove skins from eight small tomatoes and let stand until chilled. Arrange lettuce leaf on a plate, in center put one tablespoon salad dressing, on dressing place a tomato which has been cut almost in strips with celery and green peppers at regular intervals. Sprinkle with finely chopped parsley.

Waltham Salad Dressing.—Mix two teaspoons each salt and sugar, one teaspoon mustard and one-eighth teaspoon pepper. Add one egg slightly beaten, one-fourth cup vinegar and one-half cup cream. Cook in double boiler until mixture thickens.

Siberian Charlotte.—Line individual moulds with lady fingers brushed over with rum. Cover bottom and sides with orange too to the depth of one-half inch; then add enough whipped cream sweetened and flavored with vanilla to fill mould. Place small moulds in a pail or larger mould. Cover, pack in salt and ice, and let stand one and one-half hours.

Lady Fingers.—Beat whites three eggs until stiff, add gradually one-half cup fine sugar and continue the beating. Then add yolks two eggs beaten until thick and lemon colored, add one-eighth teaspoonful vanilla. Cut and fold in one-third cup flour mixed with one-eighth teaspoon salt, add strips of thin sheet covered with unbuttered paper, using a pastry bag and tube. Sprinkle with powdered sugar and bake in a slow oven.

Scalloped Fish.

Take any boiled fresh fish, as trout or whitefish; pick into flakes and be careful to free from all bones. Butter the shredded fish in the bottom of an earthen dish, cover with a layer of cracker crumbs, then a layer of fish, put in a little pepper and salt, if necessary; add a teaspoonful of melted butter, then a layer of crumbs, then of fish, seasoning, and so on until the dish is nearly full. Have a layer of crumbs on top, and cover the whole pour enough milk to cover. Put a small plate on top and bake for 40 minutes. Take off the plate and begin taking off the plate to let it brown.

English Dumplings for Stew.

These are very good. Sift ten times out of twelve unsestable. The following one time out of twelve: Take one cup of flour (or more, according to quantity needed), two heaping teaspoons baking powder, half teaspoonful salt, mix with about three-quarters cup of milk to make a dough very soft. Flour pastry board and knead this lightly as possible, drop in pieces on top of stew (stew desired). Leave cover off stew pan for 5 minutes, cover for another 15 minutes and send to table immediately.

PECULIAR LINE OF COMFORT

Most People Who Have Been Afflicted With Colds Will Recognize This Type of Human Hyena.

Binks—Get a cold, I see.
Jinks—Yes, a little one.
"You ought to be very careful. That cold needs attention."
"Think so?"
"It has a regular graveyard sound."
"Good gracious."
"And such dangerous time for colds, influenza, pneumonia and quick consumption everywhere."
"Eh?"
"Yes, a friend of mine took a cold, not half so bad as yours, last week, and in three days he was dead."
"My stars!"
"Fact. The doctor said my friend might have pulled through if he hadn't worried so much. "Take my advice and try hot to think about it."

TO KEEP THE SKIN CLEAR

For more than a generation, Cuticura Soap and Cuticura Ointment have done more for pimples, blackheads and other unsightly conditions of the complexion, red, rough, chapped hands, dandruff, itching, scaly scalps, and dry, thin and falling hair than any other method. They do even more for skin-tortured and disfigured infants and children. Although Cuticura Soap and Ointment are sold by druggists and dealers throughout the world, a liberal sample of each, with 32-page book on the care of the skin and hair will be sent post-free, on application to "Cuticura," Dept. L, Boston.

Self-Sacrificing Essential.

"You don't claim to be a party leader?"

"No," replied the quiet citizen. "Everybody wants to be the leader of the party. It strikes me that somebody ought to be willing to be the party."

Important to Mothers

Examine carefully every bottle of CASTORIA, a safe and sure remedy for Infants and children, and see that it

Bears the Signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher*

In Use For Over 30 Years.

Children Cry for Fletcher's Castoria

Referred to the Lexicographer.

"To Renege—Not to follow suit.
To Reno—To begin suit.—Life.

Cole's Carbolisalve quickly relieves and cures burning, itching and torturing skin diseases. It instantly stops the pain of burns. Cures without scars. 25c and 50c by druggists. For free sample write to J. W. Cole & Co., Black River Falls, Wis.

Anyway, a spinster can pretend that she would rather be her own boss.

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY

Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. E. W. GROVE'S signature is on each box. 25c.

Most people look at trouble through a microscope.

Smokers find LEWIS' Single Binder 5c cigar better quality than most 10c cigars.

There never was a man so important as a bride expects her husband to be.

BETTER FOR MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN THAN CASTOR OIL, SALTS, OR PILLS, AS IT SWEETENS AND CLEANSES THE SYSTEM MORE EFFICIently AND IS FAR MORE PLEASANT TO TAKE.

SYRUP of FIGS and ELIXIR of SENNA

IS THE IDEAL FAMILY LAXATIVE, AS IT GIVES SATISFACTION TO ALL, IS ALWAYS BENEFICIAL IN ITS EFFECTS AND PERFECTLY SAFE AT ALL TIMES.

NOTE THE NAME

CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO.

in the Circle, on every Package of the Genuine.

ALL RELIABLE DRUGGISTS SELL THE ORIGINAL AND GENUINE WHEN CALLED FOR, ALTHOUGH THEY COULD MAKE A larger PROFIT BY SELLING INFERIOR PREPARATIONS. YET THEY PROMPTLY RECOMMEND THE GENUINE, BECAUSE IT IS RIGHT TO DO SO AND FOR THE GOOD OF THEIR CUSTOMERS. WHEN IN NEED OF MEDICINES, SUPPORT DRUGGISTS AND THEY WILL ALSO DO WELL WITH US. YOUR LIFE OR HEALTH MAY AT SOME TIME DEPEND UPON THEIR SKILL AND RELIABILITY

WHEN BUYING

Note the Full Name of the Company

CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO.

PRINTED STRAIGHT ACROSS, NEAR THE BOTTOM, AND IN THE CIRCLE, NEAR THE TOP OF EVERY PACKAGE OF THE GENUINE. ONE SIZE ONLY. FOR SALE BY ALL LEADING DRUGGISTS. REGULAR PRICE 50¢ PER BOTTLE.

EFFECT OF THE GENUINE SYRUP OF FIGS, IS THE ONLY PERFECT FAMILY LAXATIVE, BECAUSE IT IS THE ONE REMEDY WHICH ACTS IN A NATURAL, STRENGTHENING WAY AND CLEANSES THE SYSTEM, WITHOUT UNPLEASANT AFTER-EFFECTS AND WITHOUT WEAKENING, HABIT FORMING OR CONSTIPATING. THEREFORE DO NOT HESITATE IN ANY WAY WITH BUSINESS OR PLEASURE. IT IS RECOMMENDED BY MILLIONS OF WELL INFORMED FAMILIES, WHO KNOW OF ITS VALUE FROM PERSONAL USE. TO GET ITS BENEFICIAL EFFECTS ALWAYS BUY THE GENUINE, MANUFACTURED BY THE

CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO.

GRAIN SMUTS AND THEIR TREATMENT

By E. M. M'DONALD,
University of Illinois.

The loose smut of wheat, loose smut of oats and stinking smut, or bunt, of wheat are all fungous diseases of the crops upon which they grow.

The loose smut of wheat ripens at about the flowering time of the uninfected heads, and is composed of a loose, dusty mass of spores, or reproductive bodies, together with the mass of fungous threads within the plant. Both the grain and chaff are affected. The spores are widely distributed by the wind and by handling during harvest. According to recent investigations it appears that infection may take place in uninfected heads during the flowering period. The fungous growth resulting from such infection retains its vitality within the seed of the wheat and resumes its growth with the germination of the grain. This growth continues throughout the development of the wheat plant and reaches its fruiting, or spore ripening stage, as indicated above.

The loose smut of oats, like the loose smut of wheat, ripens at about the ordinary flowering time of the grain. Infection follows the germination of the coleida spores at the time of germination of the seed oats. The coleida spores are produced from spores carried on the seed grain. Infection may also take place by the distribution of spores at the blossoming time of the uninfected plants.

The stinking smut of wheat, or bunt, as it is commonly called, differs from loose smut of wheat in that the kernels of grain, instead of being replaced by a loose mass of spores, remain entire and are larger and more irregular in shape than the healthy kernels. These smutted kernels are filled with a mass of dark brown spores and are easily broken in the processes of harvesting and threshing. The smutted grain emits a disagreeable and characteristic odor from which the name "stinking smut" is derived.

As in the case of loose smut of oats, infection takes place from spores sown with the seed. The fungus grows within the wheat plant throughout the winter and spring.

The loose smut of oats and stinking smut of wheat may be controlled by the formalin treatment. Formalin is the commercial name for a commercial 40 per cent. solution of formaldehyde. Formalin used at the rate of one pound to from 50 gallons of water is sufficient to kill the smut spores. The solution may be applied by sprinkling or by dipping. If the grain is to be sprinkled, it should be spread out on a tight floor or on a canvas and moistened with the solution. The moistened should be retained on the grain for about two hours. This may be done by shoveling it into a pile and covering it with canvas or burlap.

The formalin treatment is fully as effective as the hot water treatment and is much more easily applied. It will not, however, kill the fungous growth within wheat kernels. Infected with loose smut.

For loose smut of wheat the hot water treatment is recommended. The grain should be soaked in cold water for four hours; allowed to remain wet four hours more, and finally dipped for five minutes, but not longer, in water at 132 degrees Fahrenheit. This treatment will probably injure the vitality of the wheat and is used most often for small fields from which clean seed may be harvested the following year. About one-half more seed should be sown than would be sown in vitality.

There seems to be no necessity whatsoever for the burning of straw or stubble from smutted grain fields, as the infection, after harvest time, is carried on almost entirely on, and in the seed grain. Additional precautions may be taken by disinfecting the bins, sacks, and seeder with the formalin solution. For dipping the seed, about one gallon of the solution per bushel of grain will be needed. For sprinkling, a somewhat larger quantity will be required.

WELCOME WORDS TO WOMEN

Women who suffer with disorders peculiar to their sex should write to Dr. Pierce and receive free the advice of a physician of over 40 years' experience—a skilled and successful specialist in the diseases of women. Every letter of this sort is the result of careful consideration and is regarded as sacredly confidential. Many sensitively modest women write fully to Dr. Pierce what they would shrink from telling to their local physicians. The local physician is pretty sure to say that he cannot do anything without "an examination." Dr. Pierce holds that these distasteful examinations are generally needless, and that no woman, except in rare cases, should submit to them.

Dr. Pierce's treatment can be used in your own home. His "Favorite Prescription" cures hundreds of thousands, some of them the worst of cases. It is the only medicine of its kind that is the product of a regularly graduated physician. The only one good enough that its makers dare to print its every ingredient on its outside wrapper. There's no secrecy. It will bear examination. No alcohol and no habit-forming drugs are found in it. Some unscrupulous medicine dealers may offer you a substitute. Don't take it. Don't risk with your health. Write to World's Dispensary Medical Association, Dr. R. V. Pierce, President, Buffalo, N. Y.,—take the advice received and be well.

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Cures by Injection. Cures Gonorrhoea in 3 to 5 days. Cures Gleet, Whites, Leucorrhoea, Inflammation, Ulceration, Irritations, Nonspecific Diseases of Mucous Membranes. Prevents Contagion. Positively Stops Discharges in 24 hours. Cures Sore Throat, Coughs, Colds, Influenza, Bronchitis, Pneumonia, Fever, Mumps, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Typhoid Fever, Pneumonia, Rheumatism, Kidney Disease, Bladder Disease, Dropsy, Liver Disease, Indigestion, Constipation, Nervous Prostration, Insomnia, Neuralgia, Sciatica, Lumbago, Pleurisy, Tonic for Weak and Run-down Women, Tonic for Weak and Run-down Men, Tonic for Weak and Run-down Children, Tonic for Weak and Run-down Horses, Tonic for Weak and Run-down Cattle, Tonic for Weak and Run-down Poultry, Tonic for Weak and Run-down Pigs, Tonic for Weak and Run-down Sheep, Tonic for Weak and Run-down Dogs, Tonic for Weak and Run-down Cats, Tonic for Weak and Run-down Birds, Tonic for Weak and Run-down Bees, Tonic for Weak and Run-down Fish, Tonic for Weak and Run-down Everything. Sold by Druggists, Dealers, Agents, Peddlers, Jobbers, Wholesalers, Retailers, Consumers, Everybody. Sold everywhere. Sold everywhere. Sold everywhere