

Farm Interests

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LARGER CROP YIELDS—WHY?

Three important points are illustrated in this chart.

(1) In Illinois the yield per acre of wheat, oats, potatoes and hay were not much more than half the yields produced in Germany.

(2) Illinois is far in arrears in the production per acre of these same crops in comparison with the four other northern states, namely, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York.

(3) The systems of farming practiced in Illinois have not obtained or maintained as high a standard of yield as have the systems followed upon the older farms in the eastern part of this country.

There is surely a reason for this superiority of yields in the eastern states of this country, and in Germany. Why have they exceeded the production per acre of the rich soils of the state of Illinois?

Undoubtedly, one of the important reasons is that both Germany and the eastern states of this country, after giving thorough attention to drainage

COMPARATIVE YIELDS BU. PER ACRE

Table with columns for crop type (Wheat, Oats, Potatoes, Hay) and location (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Illinois, Germany). Rows show average yield per acre for each.

and tillage of soil, as well as to maintenance of organic matter in it, have paid close attention to balancing the plant food ration of the soil so as to make up the deficiencies of the soil and to meet the needs of the crops grown thereon.

It is high time for the Illinois farmer to give careful thought to the methods of soil tillage and fertility maintenance followed in both these eastern states, and in Germany. In many cases, at the present time, the money invested in his farm is not returning a paying interest.

IMPORTANCE OF SOUNDNESS IN WHEAT KERNEL

The wheat kernel is the infant wheat plant. Any injury that comes to it, or any weakness that it inherits is just as injurious to its growth and development as are injuries or weaknesses to the human or animal offspring.

Some men believe that wheat seed is all right if it is cracked, or even if parts of the kernel are broken off, granted that those parts do not include the germ of the wheat. Now, any injury to the body of the kernel is just as detrimental to the wheat plant as cutting off a leg or an arm would be to the child.

Many experiments with sound wheat and broken wheat have proven this to be the case. Moreover, the first food supply for the tiny plant is wrapped up in the body of the seed. Therefore, if the seed is broken, part of the early food is taken away. A broken kernel of wheat, attempting to grow, is in just the same position as a child trying to develop on starvation rations.

The tiny plant has to feed upon this food supply wrapped up in the seed till it can send hair-like roots into the soil in search of food.

The only way to separate the broken and shriveled wheat from the sound wheat is to fan and sift the seed thoroughly.

LEGAL STATUS OF THE WOMEN

Men Are Much Better Than the Laws of Many States

By request, we are publishing this week and next, a paper read by Miss Bertha Seass at the W. C. T. U. institute held in Bethany last week.

There are many people, no doubt, who do not know that old English common law, which was framed for a society centuries ago, is still partly in effect, in this much-lauded land of the free and home of the brave; that it is still a part of our law in Illinois except when changed by our statutes.

It was also rather startling to some people who contend that women do not need enfranchise because their interests are so well cared for, that our laws are now so favorable to women etc., to know that many injustices of this old law are still unchanged. To be sure conditions have changed greatly and woman's advancement has been marked, but there is still so very much to be done.

If the majority of the men were not better than some laws, I presume women would be quite aware of the existence of some old laws they never even heard of. For instance, not many women, I fancy, have had the experience of the young mother, whose sad case was related to me a few years ago.

Before her child was born, the father died after making a will giving his child to his parents who lived in Germany. After the birth of the child they came over and took possession of it, and took it away from the mother who was powerless to prevent it, because the law of her state gave her husband the right to will away from her, her child, even before it was born.

Fortunately, not many men have been heartless enough to take advantage of such a law. It may be not many have known they could. Perhaps it would be just as well for them not to be enlightened. Thank fortune, Illinois has gotten rid of that law, through the untiring efforts of our dear Catherine Waugh McCullough, who has done much for the women of Illinois and is still spending her time and energy so generously in our behalf.

To her we are also indebted for much of our information concerning these laws. To those who may wish to know more about them than can be given here, I would recommend her book, "Ill. Laws Concerning Women."

Until 1907—only twelve years ago—the husband in this state was the sole guardian of the child during his lifetime. He alone had the legal right to select food and clothing for the children, to give them medicine, to punish them, to select their schools and churches, to consent to the marriage of minor children, or even to give his children permission to take a ride.

If the mother should attempt to take a child out of the custody of the father, she was guilty of abduction and laid herself liable to a year's imprisonment and a fine of \$2,000.

washing or scrubbing, their husbands cannot legally take their wages. However, these earnings of women, while being legally their own, may be seized for debts and family expenses, including necessities for husband and children. Therefore, if a judge considered whiskey or tobacco a necessity for the husband, the wife's wages could be taken to pay for it.

Women may now receive and convey their own property, providing the husband can be induced to sign with them, deeds to real estate. A woman may will her property away, providing she does not will her homestead away from her husband and has left him legal shares in her estate.

A woman may now possess her gifts and savings (if she can save anything). The life work of many women consists of a round of daily services for their husbands, for which they are legally entitled to only board and clothes. Since some husbands are more generous than the law requires, you occasionally meet a woman who is given an allowance aside from her board and clothes, and if she can save anything from that allowance, of course the law would allow her to keep it.

A wife's rights of inheritance and rights to divorce are now the same as her husband's, which is a marked advance from the time when a wife might be left in beggary or divorced for no reason whatever, while there was no possible escape for her from a husband who wished to hold her.

We must decide that present custom is less kind than the law, when we find men all around us buying property in their own names with money that the wife through years of toil has helped to earn and save. There is no legal nor moral reason why the title should not come to them jointly.

If death comes to him first, she may have her dower. Thus in her great bereavement she gains some property rights, but even then, not financial justice.

Don't dare mention this to your husbands for they may not know it, but if you women should take boarders, the money belongs to your husbands and their creditors, so the courts declare.

You are entitled to your own wedding gifts, which were made to you personally. The old rule gave the husband ownership of the wife's clothing. The Illinois law now gives the wife the family clothing at the husband's death, which makes one suspect that she doesn't own her own wearing apparel before this event, though the supreme court has not decided this weighty question.

Usually a woman may not testify in a suit in which her husband is involved. Exceptions to this rule being in cases of divorce proceeding, and where the husband fails to support her, or "assaults and batters" her. In ancient times she could make no complaint about this last offense so long as the stick he used was no thicker than his thumb.

So you see women's privileges have increased quite perceptibly. The law now even allows a woman to enter into a partnership, providing her husband does not object.

In Illinois a woman may be a notary public, a receiver or master in chancery. In fact, for centuries past, women have been eligible to appointive offices. But ordinarily you can be sure that no woman will get any appointment if it is anything at all desirable to the male population.

If there is a chance for any financial remuneration you may be sure there will be so many voter applicants a judge wouldn't think of appointing a woman.

Pittsburgh Perfect Fence advertisement. Features text: 'The Fence made entirely of No. 9 Wire is the Cheapest you can buy. Read why.' Includes an image of a fence and Pittsburgh Steel Co. logo.

Dr. J. M. Mullins advertisement. Text: 'PAY WHEN CURED. Dr. J. M. MULLINS THE CHICAGO SPECIALIST WILL BE AT THE EDEN HOUSE, SULLIVAN, ILL., Tuesday, June 3rd, Hours 9 A. M. to 8 P. M.' Includes a portrait of Dr. Mullins.

BARNES' Imported Stallions advertisement. Text: 'BARNES' Imported Stallions. Percheron and Belgian. Percheron No. A 2875. Belgian, No. A 5984. Breeders, Take Notice.' Includes an image of a horse.

Chronic Stomach Trouble advertisement. Text: 'Chronic Stomach Trouble. You are irritable in disposition—easily angered. You have plenty of ideas, but never carry any of them out. You are always tired. You have to force yourself to accomplish anything.' Includes a portrait of Dr. Mullins.

Percheron and Belgian advertisement. Text: 'Percheron No. A 2875. Belgian, No. A 5984. Breeders, Take Notice. The Belgian I had last year did not prove to be a sure breeder, and I changed him for another of the same breed and color. Read this letter from a man who used him the season of 1911.'

Rich Man Will Pilot Car advertisement. Text: 'RICH MAN WILL PILOT CAR. DRIVER LOVES THE SPORT. CALES BRAGG. Caleb Bragg is another member of the millionaire-sportsmen's class. Since 1906 he has been in the public eye as a racing pilot.' Includes a portrait of Caleb Bragg.

WABASH advertisement. Text: 'WABASH. NORTH BOUND. SOUTH BOUND. No. 30—Mail to Danville... 8:55 a.m. No. 70—Local Freight, leaves... 3:55 p.m.' Includes Wabash logo.

Spencer Wishart advertisement. Text: 'SPENCER WISHART. Spencer Wishart, millionaire sportsman, has been entitled to drive in the third annual 500-mile International Sweepstakes Race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, May 30, as a member of the Mercer team which will be headed by Ralph DePalma. Wishart is scarcely more than a boy but so brilliant is his record that he is given a place among the veterans of the game.' Includes a portrait of Spencer Wishart.

ILLINOIS CENTRAL advertisement. Text: 'ILLINOIS CENTRAL. NORTH BOUND. SOUTH BOUND. \$Peoria Mail and Express... 7:55 a.m. \$Peoria Mail and Express... 3:15 p.m.' Includes Illinois Central logo.

