

HORRIBLE MINE FIRE CAUSES 300 DEATHS

Most Appalling Accident of Its Kind in Country's History Occurs at Cherry, Ill.

MEN DOOMED IN FLAMING PIT

May Being Taken Down by Engineer Becomes Ignited from Cap Lamp and Blasts Follow.

HEROIC DOCTOR SAVES MANY

Fire Is Smothered and First Rescuers Afterward Sent Down Find No Bodies, Alive or Dead.

The most appalling mine disaster in the history of the United States occurred Saturday afternoon in the little town of Cherry, Bureau County, Ill. A fire that started in the main shaft of the St. Paul Coal Company's works choked out the lives of 300 men working there. Thirteen rescuers who went down into a blazing shaft were roasted alive to a man. A few scores of survivors, blackened by smoke and singed by flame, crawled from reeking crevices in the earth to tell an incoherent story of almost inconceivable horrors in the corridors below. The rest—there were 545 human beings in the mine when the fire broke out—perished in the flame-swept works.

Saturday night the exits of the mine, from which smoke and flame had belched since 1:30 in the afternoon, were battered down. This heroic remedy was decided on as a last means of extinguishing the fire in the works beneath. Above a seething furnace, in which three-fourths of the male population of the community is imprisoned, the town waited in silent dread for the dawning of the morning. When day came the hatches were to be opened and the toll of death begun. The cry of the widow and the orphan rang dolefully on the ear.

The fire broke out at about 1:30. Engineer John Cowley, who is in charge of the elevator running from the surface to the higher of the three veins in the mine, had descended with a load of six bales of hay. On the way down the hay was ignited by his torch. Reaching the level below him he dragged the bales out of the car and attempted to hurl them into the sump of the second shaft, at the bottom of which is a pool of water. Before he could do so both the first and second shafts were afire. A strong draft coming up to the surface turned the two shafts into red-hot funnels. Almost before the danger could be realized the mine was ablaze everywhere, and the main avenues of escape cut off.

The Cherry disaster, like every great disaster in America, developed its men of the hour, its heroes. There is in Cherry one man who is deserving of all the glory that the highest personal bravery and self-sacrifice merit. He is Dr. L. B. Howe, the St. Paul Mining Company's physician. To him twenty-five of the rescued miners owe their lives. Escaping by a miracle from a red-hot lift in which twelve of his companions were roasted like quail on a gridle, he returned six times alone into the seething inferno of the shaft, and each time came to the surface with a group of men he had saved. He desisted from his efforts only after it had become apparent to every one that to descend in to the shaft again would be certain death.

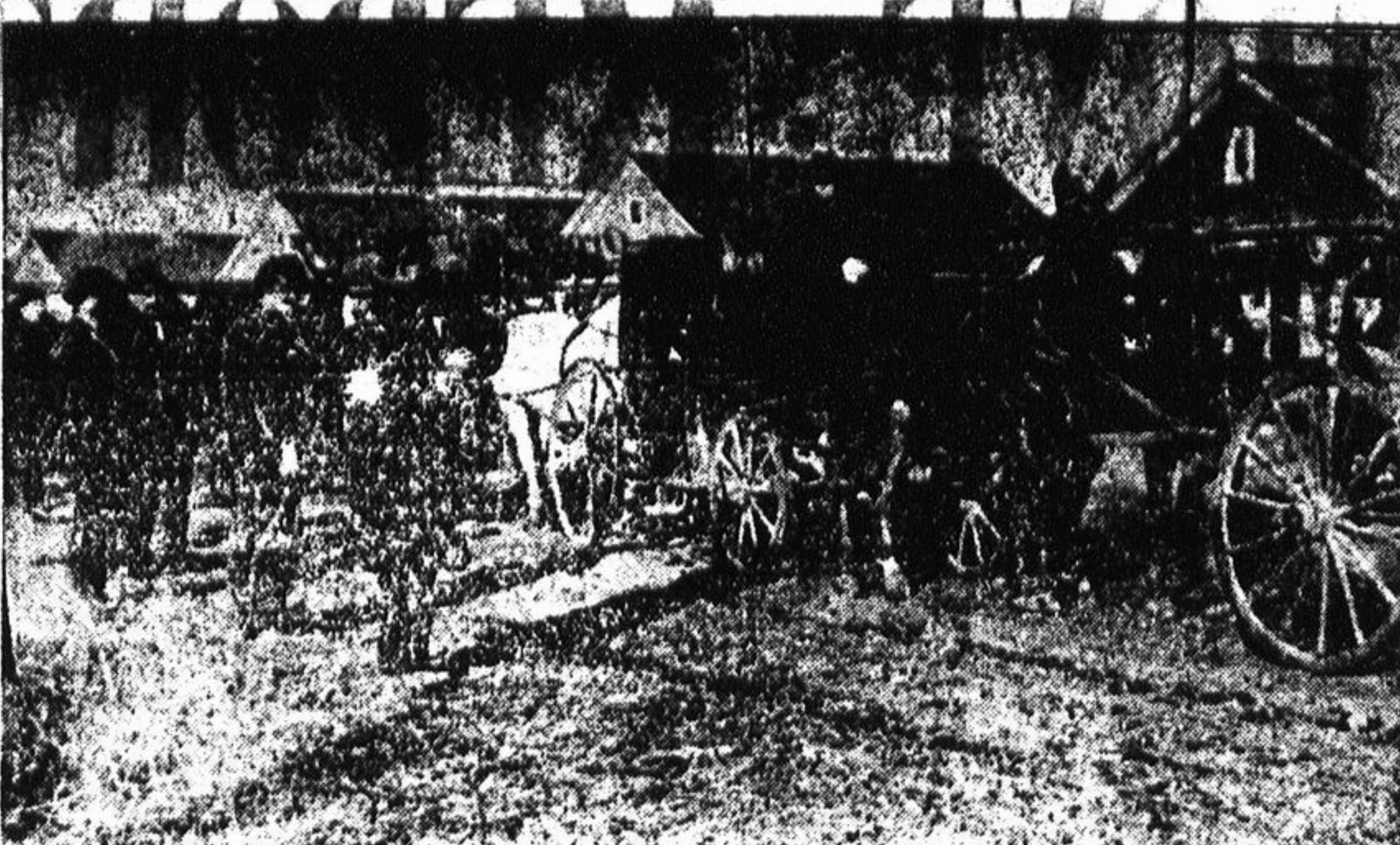
Exploration of the mine was begun Sunday. Volunteers, equipped with oxygen helmets, essayed to explore the shaft. Two of them in a bucket were lowered three times down the air shaft. They found no bodies, living or dead. At a depth of 370 feet the temperature of the mine was found to be practically normal—84 degrees—indicating that the fire had burned itself out.

Mine Still Burning. Fire in the Cherry mine continued Monday and Tuesday to block all efforts at rescue of the 300 or more entombed miners or recovery of their bodies. The pit remained sealed, and, although every effort to fight the fire was made, it probably will be several days before the shaft can be opened with safety. Temperature taken at the top of the burning mine Tuesday registered 108 degrees Fahrenheit. This was in the wet surface sand and indicated that the fire below is intense.

Meanwhile the hopeless mourners were giving part of their attention to the rites over the victims whose bodies had been found. Funerals of eight of the miners were held Tuesday, and the surviving miners and families of the dead filed through the streets behind the hearse, which were driven in line. Several of the dead were taken in funeral trains to Ladd and other near-by towns. Special funeral trains were ordered and hearses were provided from Ladd, Spring Valley, La Salle and Mendota. Officials of the mine workers' unions took an active part in the burial ceremonies.

More Children Die in Mine.

How many of the underground workers who perished in the Cherry mine holocaust were mere children—boys who had been harnessed up in the industry in their first years. That is but one of the problems confronting the investigators. While the mine of details in question have declared that the child labor laws had been violated, and that no boy under 16 years of age perished in the flames of the holocaust, there are some who say that in grief-stricken voices



MINERS WITH BARED HEADS WATCHING FUNERAL OF MINE VICTIMS

HEROES LAID TO REST.

Men Who Died in Effort to Save Others in Cherry Mine Buried.

Heroes of the Cherry mine disaster who lost their lives by going into the burning shaft to save the men entombed below went to their last resting place Tuesday, to be followed soon by those for whom they sacrificed their lives. Tender hands lowered the bodies into the earth, while thousands of people in churches and homes in and near Cherry offered prayers. The funerals made keener the grief not only among their own kin, but among the relatives of the men still in the mine, kept from human reach by the sword of the fire demon.

DRIVEN FROM HOMES BY FLOOD

Suffering Is Caused in Eastern Kansas by High Water and Cold.

Many rivers and smaller streams in eastern Kansas are higher than ever before at this season of the year because of torrents of rain during three days. The small towns of Frankfort, Centralia, Vilets and Vermillion are flooded and many residents sought shelter on the high bluffs Monday night. The weather was cold and raw, causing much suffering among the people driven from their homes. At Lawrence the Kansas river is higher than it has ever been at this time of the year, and in the lowlands near there many persons have been forced to leave their homes. At Salina, Manhattan and Junction City the unusual rains are causing anxiety.

At Salina the Western Star mill dam across the Smoky Hill river is threatened. The Smoky Hill and Republican rivers are unusually high and still rising. Toronto Hits Kansas Towns. With the restoration of telegraphic communication it was learned that the town of Shook, a small station on the Missouri Pacific Railway, forty miles southwest of Wichita, Kas., practically was destroyed by a tornado. The station was demolished and the general store and a grain elevator were blown from their foundations. No lives were lost.

Claimholder Loses Big Purse.

J. L. Purcell, a claimholder near Brushy, S. D., was held up by a masked bandit and robbed of \$3,472. Purcell was en route from Huron, S. D., with his horse and household effects in an emigrant car attached to a special freight train.

Hurt in Auto Wreck.

Dr. W. C. Stover, his wife and daughter, Ardy, aged 4, were seriously hurt in an automobile collision on Shaker Heights, Cleveland, the child sustaining a fracture of the skull. Dr. Stover's chest was crushed and his wife was badly cut and bruised.

G. L. Warriner Indicted.

The grand jury in Cincinnati returned an indictment against Charles L. Warriner, charging him with the embezzlement of \$640,000 from the Big Four Railroad.

DEATHS IN RECENT MINE CATASTROPHES.

Table listing mine accidents in recent years with columns for Year, Place, and Lives lost.

HOW DEADLY FIRE DAMP WORKS

Gathers, Without Odor, About Roof of Mine, Ready to Ignite. Fire damp or coal gas is the most insidious danger that the coal miner faces. It is an exceedingly light, colorless and odorless gas, generated by the decay of vegetable matter. It burns with a nonluminous flame, and is only dangerous as an explosive when mixed with five times its volume of air.



WIDOWS AND ORPHANS AT CHERRY.

21 SAVED IN A SHIPWRECK.

Two, After Two Days' Trial, Reached Steamer Hoyt in Lake Superior. After two days of endeavor to reach the steamer Hoyt, which was driven on a sunken reef by the storm

VILLAGE OF CHERRY.

Small Town Populated by Miners and Their Families. Cherry, the scene of the disaster, is a small town in Bureau County on a spur track of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul, three miles north of Ladd, twelve miles northwest of La Salle and nine miles north of Spring Valley. Until the railroad built an extension south about fifty miles from Davis Junction Cherry was nothing but a cross roads hamlet of ten or twelve families.

After the building of the railroad, however, extensive coal deposits were uncovered there and the mine where the men were killed is the property of the St. Paul Coal Company, a subsidiary organization of the St. Paul Railroad. It was opened about five years ago and employed nearly 500 miners. The families of these miners, with a few townspeople who own the stores and a few business enterprises, constitute the entire population of Cherry.

30 Drown; Loss Is \$7,000,000.

The weather having abated, reports are being received of terrible destruction in the eastern and central parishes of Jamaica. The banana trade is almost ruined. The loss will amount to \$1,000,000. Thirty persons have been drowned. Thousands of acres of land is under water and enormous damage has been done to private and public property.

Football Kills Ohio Youth.

Royal Vogel, a schoolboy injured two weeks ago in a football game, died in Grand Rapids, Ohio. A blood vessel in his head was ruptured, and he was unconscious for thirteen days.

Dakota Bank Robbed.

The Bank of Norden, S. D., was robbed early Friday and \$2,384 in cash was secured by the robbers, who escaped capture. The safe and building were completely wrecked by the explosion.

Cattle Man Guilty of Murder.

The jury in the case of Herbert L. Brink, one of the seven cattle men charged with the murder of three sheep men in the Tenleep country, returned a verdict of murder in the first degree in Basin, Wyo.



Modern Farm Barn.

The barn herewith illustrated will be found suitable for a medium-sized farm on which eight or ten milk cows are kept. It has a floor space of 38 by 64 feet, exclusive of the milk room. The studs should be 12 to 14 feet long. The interior is divided as shown on the floor plan. The silo is 12x38 feet, with a 5-foot pit which may be of stone or cement. The silo as shown is connected to the feed room by a



EXTERIOR VIEW OF BARN.

4x4-foot chute. This should extend the entire length of silo and have small windows both at the top and bottom. The hay chute is 5x5 feet square and has door at the floor line for forking out hay. The chute is of sufficient size for feeding stock if barn is full. The silo and hay chute are boarded up tight to prevent dust, dirt or odors from entering the cow barn. The loft floor should be made tight for the same reason, and if made double with tar paper between it will be better.

The construction of the calf and bull pens, also the box stall, should be such that the animals may readily see the other animals in the barn. They enjoy company as well as human beings do, and many an otherwise good-tempered animal has been rendered unsafe by being placed in solitary confinement. The milk room is handy to the cow stalls and has both an interior and exterior exit. The door leading into the barn should be closed at all times. The interior arrangement is such that one attendant can feed and care for the stock, in a short time; a point not to be overlooked in this day of high-priced labor. An 8 or 10-foot opening should be left in the loft floor over the driveway for passing up hay, etc. The grain and bran bins are located over the feed room and the feed drawn through 8-inch wood spouts and mixed in the feed room. The driveway, also the space between the feed room and cow stalls, may be used a portion of the year for tools or a wagon. The floor above the driveway should be 11 or 12 feet high; the floors over the pens and cow stalls should be 7 feet high, and those over the box stall and horse stalls should be 8 feet high. This arrangement pro-



GROUND PLAN OF BARN.

vides ample storage room for hay, etc., in the loft. A good feature of this barn is that additions can be made without interfering with the original arrangement in any way.—J. E. Bridgman in Farm, Stock and Home.

Hogs and Fences.

Lean, lank hogs and poor fences will discourage almost any farmer who has such a combination. With animals that will multiply as rapidly as pigs it seems almost a shame to see a man breeding old scrub sows to some herds of posterity. Yet this is exactly the course that about half of the farmers are following, and wondering why feeding hogs is not paying substantial profits. Never get the idea in your heads that breeding from young and immature breeding stock encourages early maturity in the progeny. Good, strong, well-developed pigs from mature sires and dams will make better growth and more economical gains than the undersized runts that result from breeding immature sows to some 6-months-old boar pig.

Feeding Horses.

Prof. Coburn says that we Americans feed our horses entirely too much hay. It is common among horse owners to let horses stand to full mangers when not at work. But in London the cab horse, for example, is given hay but for two hours a day, in the evening. At the end of two hours the mangers are cleared. Careful testing in decreasing the timothy hay ration one-half has not shown that the horses require any more grain than before to keep them in equally good condition.

Dairy Farming.

The man who is carrying on diversified farming can not keep one cow for each acre of land he tills, but the dairyman can, and may do. They do not raise all the grain used, but are content to let their neighbor grain farmer raise the grain. They know that they can buy grain for one hundred cents on the dollar, and that their little dairy cows will return \$2 in product for every dollar's worth of feed. They can better afford to spend their time in caring for the cow than in raising grain.

Poultry and Fruit Growing.

A combination of fruit-growing and poultry raising is especially recommended in a bulletin from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. If possible, locate the poultry house so that the runs will be in the orchard. The fowls will destroy thousands of harmful insects, thus greatly benefiting the trees and increasing the prospects for fruit, and the fowls will at the same time gain great comfort and benefit by the protecting shade of the trees. Plum trees and cherry trees are especially benefited by the presence of fowls about their roots. Peach trees will grow most rapidly and soonest give an abundant shade.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY

One ton of apples will usually yield 150 gallons of cider. The first process of making soda on an extensive scale was discovered by Nicholas Leblanc, a French chemist, in 1791.

There is one mill in Minneapolis which turns out between seventeen thousand and eighteen thousand barrels of flour each day.

To encourage saving among the people, the Spanish government has established a postal savings bank under guaranty of the state.

The new terminal station of the Pennsylvania Railroad in New York has sixteen miles of tracks, including twenty-one standing stations.

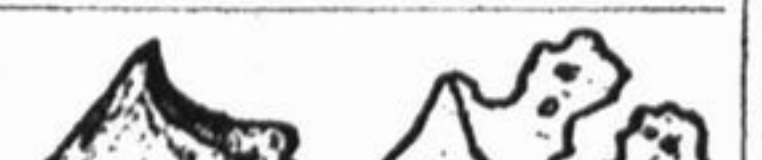
More than ten thousand school children of Chicago are forced by reason of inadequate seating accommodations to cut their attendance to a half day session.

Britain's antarctic expedition now in course of preparation will carry wireless telegraphic equipment sufficient to enable messages to be sent to New Zealand from the ship and from stations established at bases of supplies on land or ice.

Boston University, according to its new year book, has an attendance of 1,514 in all its departments. Of these 962 are men and 552 are women. The chief increases are in the College of Liberal Arts, the courses for teachers and the School of Theology.

Boomerangs are now made of celluloid and hard rubber. Celluloid is better than cardboard because it is waterproof, light, very hard to break and can be worked into the peculiar curve and twist so necessary to give the boomerang its singular properties.

An inventor of moving picture appliances and machinery has devised a new screen which gets rid of the annoyance of darkness in the room. With his patent screen, a large mirror with a chemically frosted surface, pictures are as plain in the light as in darkness, thus doing away with the danger of panic in the dark.



Sidebone in Horses.

The cut on the left shows a healthy foot bone. In some cases the cartilages are large, extending for some distance, giving an appearance of sidebone. If the same condition exists in other feet, it may be concluded that no sidebone exists. The picture on the right depicts a foot with growth of sidebone. The growth begins at lower edge of cartilage next to the foot bone and extends gradually upward.

Weather Facts.

The Farmers' Club of the American Institute has issued the following rules for forecasting the weather:

- 1. The wind never blows unless rain or snow is falling within 100 miles of you.
2. When cirrus clouds are rapidly moving from the north or northeast there will be rain inside of twenty-four hours, no matter how cold it is.
3. Cumulus clouds always move from a region of fair weather to a region where a storm is forming.
4. When the temperature suddenly falls there is a storm forming south of you.
5. When the temperature suddenly rises there is a storm forming north of you.
6. Cirrus clouds always move from a region where a storm is in progress to a region of fair weather.
7. When cirrus clouds are rapidly moving from the south or southeast there will be a cold rainstorm on the morrow, if it is in summer; if it is in winter, there will be a snowstorm.
8. Whenever heavy, white frost occurs a storm is forming within 1,000 miles north or northeast of you.
9. The wind always blows in a circle around a storm, and when it blows from the north the heaviest rain is east of you; if it blows from the south the heaviest rain is west of you; if it blows from the east the heaviest rain is south of you; if it blows from the west the heaviest rain is north of you.

Farming Possibilities.

At the average rate of twenty bushels of wheat per acre (which is much less than the average yield of either Germany or England), the State of Illinois, with a few Indiana counties thrown in for good measure, cultivated exclusively to wheat, would produce annually more of this product than does the entire country. If Ohio and Iowa's 78,784 square miles of improved land (census 1900), with a 17,658 square mile strip of Kansas, should be planted in corn, there would be harvested, with an average yield of fifty bushels, 3,022,144,000 bushels, an amount practically equal to the total 1906 corn crop of the United States, Canada and Mexico.

An Old Beako Game.

A farmer near Rock Island, Ill., was cleverly snarled out of \$25 by a smooth stranger who claimed to be the game warden. The farmer was hunting on his own farm when approached and asked if he had a hunting license. He had not, and the man said he was not excused by being on his own farm, and that he would arrest him. This did not please the farmer, and he finally gave the fellow \$25 as bail. When he appeared in court the next morning he met the real game warden, but not his money.

Sheltering Manure.

The Cornell Experiment Station found that two tons of horse manure in an exposed place in five months lost 5 per cent in gross weight, 60 per cent of its nitrogen, 47 per cent of its phosphorus and 76 per cent of its potash. The total loss of plant food was 81 per cent.

