

EFFECTIVE MEASURES FOR PREVENTING EROSION OF MUCH VALUABLE FARM LAND



Gullying Which Causes a Loss of Land and a Lowering of the Water Table.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.) Soil erosion, or the washing away of earth by water, costs the farmers of the United States \$1,000,000 every year. Soil losses from this cause occur in every state of the Union and in almost every county of every state. Since years ago the National Conservation congress reported that 4,000,000 acres of farm land had been practically ruined by soil erosion. So serious is the condition that Dr. N. S. Wheeler, formerly dean of the Lawrence Scientific school, was once moved to remark that "if mankind cannot devise and enforce ways of dealing with the earth which will preserve this source of life, we must look forward to the time—remote it may be, yet clearly discernible—when our kind, having wasted its greatest inheritance, will fade from the earth because of the ruin it has accomplished."

Ruins Fertile Land.

Erosion injures or practically ruins fertile lands in a number of ways. The upper and most fertile parts of the soil are washed away until the land becomes barren and unproductive. Deep gullies are formed which result in an actual loss of land for cultivation, a lowering of the water table and a deficient supply of moisture. Drainage ditches are often filled up with sand, which frequently results in the flooding of the adjoining bottom land and the destruction of crops. Rich bottom lands are often covered with deposits of sand washed from the hill lands. Hence the direct losses of the upland farmer are the land occupied by gullies, smaller crop yields each year, and a continued decrease in the value of the land. Some of the losses of the bottom farmer are the land covered to a great depth with sand, crops damaged by overflows or deposits of sand, a continued decrease in the value of the land, and the money invested in the construction of drainage ditches that have been filled or partly filled with sand. Thus it is apparent that both the bottom and the upland farmer should be concerned in

the adoption of effective measures for stopping erosion.

Methods of Preventing Erosion.

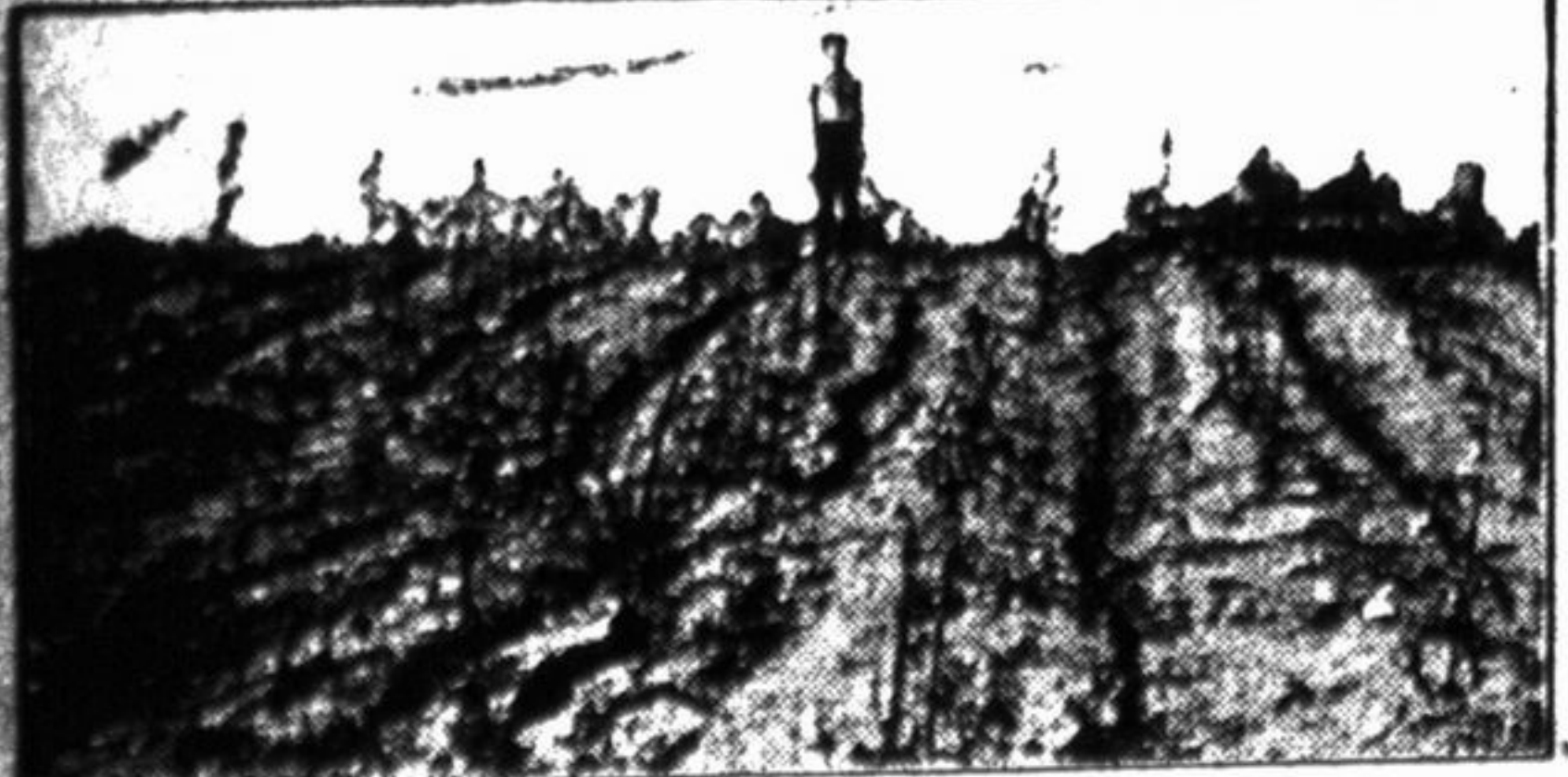
Since erosion is due largely to the rapid movement of the rain water over the surface of the ground, methods of preventing erosion must cause the water either to sink into the soil or flow away slowly over the surface to a drainage channel. If the rain water were absorbed by the soil as fast as it falls, there would be very little erosion.

In order to drink up surface water rapidly a soil must be very permeable, which means that it must contain fairly large open spaces through which the rain water can pass easily, or where it can be stored temporarily. Some soils are naturally very permeable. A number of ways of increasing the permeability of a soil are deep plowing, plowing under organic matter such as manure, stubble, stalks and cover crops; the practice of tile drainage, and, in certain soils, the use of explosives.

Protection of Vegetation.

Vegetation covering the surface of the ground protects the soil from the direct action of the rain and checks the flow of the water over the surface, giving the soil a better opportunity to absorb the water. It is therefore important that some kind of cover crop, such as vetch, clover, oats, wheat or rye, be grown on the land during the winter or at any time that the land is not used for other crops.

Contour plowing, which consists of breaking the ground along level lines across the slopes, reduces the flow of water directly down the slope. Also in planting and cultivating the crops the same level lines are followed so that a shallow trough is made above each row. Most of the rain water is caught and held in this trough until it either evaporates or is absorbed by the soil. Contour plowing should invariably be practiced on all hill lands. The beginning of a great many gullies is due to the practice of plowing and cultivating directly up and down the slopes.



View Showing Erosion Between Cotton Rows Where Rows Are Run Directly Up and Down the Slope, a Practice Which is Responsible for a Large Percentage of Badly Eroded Lands.

BOLL WEEVIL LOSSES GROUND

Second Year in History of Insect That There Has Been Reduction in Infested Territory.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Due to the hard winter of 1917-18, the boll weevil lost ground in his conquest of the cotton belt last year. This is exceptional in the history of the weevil, in that it is the second year since the establishment of this insect in the United States that there has been a net reduction in territory infested by this pest.

This does not mean that the movement of the boll weevil has been permanently stopped. In fact, the net loss of territory for the year was but a fraction of the loss at the beginning of 1918. Much of the lost territory was regained by the weevil later in the year.

The losses in territory occurred in Texas, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Alabama. The weevil gained territory in Florida, South Carolina, Georgia, and New Mexico. This is the first report of the boll weevil on cotton in New Mexico, where it was found in the Texas valley.

The weevil has reached the southernmost limits of cotton production in Florida. It is already gaining new territory in South Carolina. Almost the entire one-third cotton belt is now infested.

BEEF CATTLE IMPROVEMENT

Take Care to Develop to Greatest Extent Those Portions From Which Cuts Are Taken.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

In the improvement of beef cattle care has been taken to develop to the greatest extent those portions of the body from which are secured the high-priced cuts of beef. These points should be kept in mind when selecting breeding animals.

SYSTEM OF SHEEP FARMING

Farmer Cannot Be Successful and Ignore Wool and Mutton—Both Worthy of Consideration.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

A system of sheep farming that is to be continuously successful cannot ignore either wool or mutton. In many cases the two products will be worthy of equal consideration. In others either one may be emphasized according to the peculiarities of conditions, management and marketing.

PRODUCE LARGE MILK YIELDS

Animal is Necessarily of Different Type for Production of Beef—Breed Not Found.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

As the type of animal necessary for the production of large yields of milk is entirely different from that of the beef animal, it has been impossible to produce a breed which would combine these two qualities and be of superior type for both purposes.

SCHOOL ELECTION TOMORROW FOR INCREASED TAXATION

Several months ago Downers Grove voted under a state law to increase the taxation for school purposes.

Recently the legislature repealed the law under which this election was held and substituted another, worded differently, but meaning practically the same thing. This automatically nullified the first election and made necessary the calling another.

The local school board have already by greatly increasing the efficiency of the local schools for next term, pledged the additional revenue which would accrue to their coffers by reason of the supposed increased taxation.

Everyone interested in real schools for Downers Grove should vote tomorrow for this increased tax. It is a very small amount to each one personally but in the aggregate means the difference between any old schools and REAL schools.

Remember this, the board went on the assumption that they would have this additional money for their running expenses. They have a fine program for next term including manual training and other modern courses. What they will do without the additional money is problematical.

Vote tomorrow for the increase of the school tax.

BOY SCOUT NOTES

The local Council Boy Scouts of America has received a contribution of five dollars from Mrs Lydia F. Ray of Lincoln, Neb.

The name of John Stoops was inadvertently left out of the list given to the Reporter last week among the scouts who maintained and obtained a satisfactory record as Scout and Camper at Camp Checaugau.

Scouts Conley and Whitney are at Camp Checaugau. They expect to return Sunday F. N. Davis will likely visit the camp on that date.

Scout Towsley is spending a few weeks in Canadian Woods and Scout Huntington with relatives in Hinsdale. It is reported that Scout Boon spent time enough in Oak Park to break an arm. He still carries the scout smile.

KLOCKEY—DAVENPORT

Miss Loretta Klockey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Klockey of Aurora, and Mr. Clifford Davenport were quietly married in Chicago Monday afternoon.

They will make their home at 206 Webster st.

CARD OF THANKS

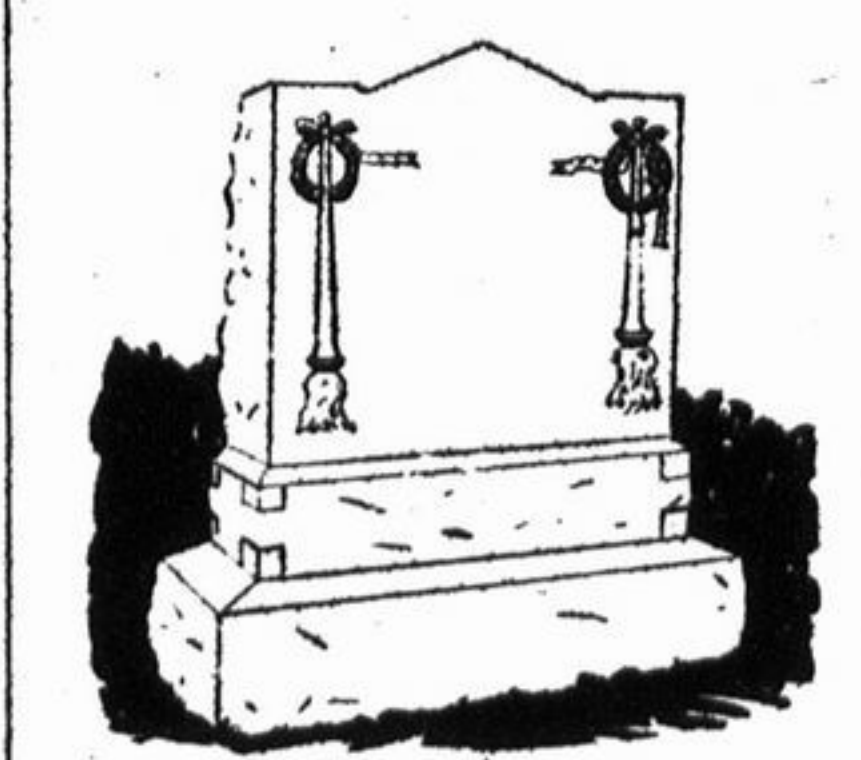
We wish to express our thanks and appreciation to our neighbors and friends for kindness shown us during the illness and at the death of our beloved sister and aunt, Miss Emma Lehmann.

Mrs. A. Drew, Miss A. Heintz.

Our Monuments

are executed from a variety of acceptable designs and every detail is looked after by experts. That is why our monuments always appeal to good taste. If you plan a memorial in your plot we will show you a great variety of designs to choose from.

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"SIGHT UNSEEN" TRADE IS GAMBLE Consumer Takes Long Chance When He Buys From the Mail Order House. GENERALLY IS LOSING GAME

common sense if you walked into a store at home and said: "I saw a picture in the paper today of a suit which I liked very much. Please wrap up one for me. Here's the money." The merchant would think that you were crazy, but that is exactly what you do every time you send an order to a mail order house. You buy "sight unseen" and you haven't a ghost of a chance of getting your money back if the article is unsatisfactory when it reaches you.

PAY YOUR BILLS BY CHECK THE FARMERS AND MERCHANTS BANK Oldest Bank in Downers Grove

Overhauling -- Repairing -- Storage Downers Grove Garage Prompt Service by Experienced Men Main & Grove Sts. Phone 22

Method of Doing Business is Very Different When You Purchase Goods From Your Home Merchant. When you were a youngster, did you ever make a trade, "sight unseen"? Of course you did. What boy has not risked his jackknife or his choicest marble on such a proposition and how often has he repented of his rash deed when he discovered what he got in the trade? He generally found that the deal turned out to the advantage of the one who made the proposition.

How different is the proceeding when you go into the store in your own home town to buy a suit of clothes, or a stove or a yard of ribbon. You may have seen a picture of it in the merchant's advertisement in the home paper and you know that, as the merchant is reliable, you can count on the goods being as he represents them in his advertisement. But does he ask you to take his word for everything? Does he hide the article behind the counter and tell you that you can't even see it until you buy it and pay over the money for it? Hardly. If the article is not already in plain sight on the counter, the merchant produces it for your inspection. If it does not exactly suit you, he has others that are a little different and that he is glad to have you inspect.

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There is a little of the gambling instinct in the blood of nearly every man, woman and child, but even the hardened gambler likes to get a "run for his money." The "sight unseen" proposition doesn't appeal to him in the least. There are thousands of people, however, who would be properly indignant if they were accused of being gamblers, who every day take a chance on the greatest gambling game in the world. And worse than that, they are risking their money on a "sight unseen" proposition.

Then, if it is a suit of clothes you are buying, or a piece of dress goods or a pair of socks, you may ask if the merchant will guarantee that it will wear as long as an article of that kind could be expected to wear and he will tell you either that he will guarantee it or that he will not. If he tells you that he will guarantee it you will know that you will get your money back or another suit or another pair of socks in its place if it doesn't wear like it should, for the merchant, besides being an honest man in most cases, cannot afford not to make his word good. He is dependent upon your business and that of others in his own community and he cannot afford to misrepresent his goods.

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Prescriptions Smokes ZINDT'S DRUG STORE A full line of Wedding Birthday & Birth Congratulation Cards 34 S. Main St. Phones 281-282

When one of the thousands of persons who build up and keep up the great mail order houses of the country sends his money away to pay for some article that he has selected from the mail order catalogue, he is taking a chance on getting what he expects to get. The mail order house may be perfectly honest and still the purchaser stands a good chance of not getting what he expects to get. The mail order catalogues are filled with pictures that catch the eye. The descriptions are brief, as they must be when thousands of articles are to be described within the confines of one book. No matter how hard the mail order house might try to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, it would be an impossibility. The buyer is simply taking a chance.

Get Merchant's Guarantee. Then, if it is a suit of clothes you are buying, or a piece of dress goods or a pair of socks, you may ask if the merchant will guarantee that it will wear as long as an article of that kind could be expected to wear and he will tell you either that he will guarantee it or that he will not. If he tells you that he will guarantee it you will know that you will get your money back or another suit or another pair of socks in its place if it doesn't wear like it should, for the merchant, besides being an honest man in most cases, cannot afford not to make his word good. He is dependent upon your business and that of others in his own community and he cannot afford to misrepresent his goods.

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After having all this opportunity to see what you are buying, you take your suit or your stove or whatever it is you buy home or it is sent home for you without any delivery charges, and after you get home and take another look at it and decide you don't want it after all, you send it back. You are not buying something "sight unseen" when you buy from your home merchant. You don't look at a picture of an article in a newspaper, read a short description of it, go to the post office and buy a money order and send it to the merchant with the instructions, "Send me a suit of clothes"—or a stove or whatever it may be—and I'll pay your delivery man 50 cents for delivering it to me."

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