seeded the second year on the same land the plants are usually abundantly provided with root tubercles.

"Soy bean bacteria are evidently much less likely to be carried with the seed than are the cowpea bacteria. The soy bean plant grows more erectly than the cowpea and the crop is quite commonly harvested with a selfbinder which keeps it quite free from dirt. The soy bean seed is nearly round and smooth, and the seed coat is not commonly cracked. These facts may explain why the soy bean seed carry so few bacteria as compared with cowpeas.

"From experiments it is concluded that as a rule soy beans should be inoculated when they are first seeded, and that they should be then grown a second year upon the same land. If soy beans are afterward grown upon this land once in every three or four years, the soil will doubtless remain well infected with the soy bean bacteria.

"In general agriculture whether it be grain farming or ordinary live stock farming, the growing of legumes is essential as a part of any economic system which shall maintain the fertility of the soil, and for the successful growing of legumes the presence and assistance of the proper species of nitrogen-gathering bacteria are also absolutely essential.

"While some soils are becoming deficient in phosphorus and in lime, and while phosphorus and ground limestone can be applied to such soils with marked benefit and profit, especially for the growing of legumes, there is abundant evidence that one of the dominant causes for the failure or unsatisfactory growth of some of most valuable legumes, and on some soils the sole cause of failure, is the absence of the proper nitrogen-gathering bacteria.

"There is reason to believe that any of the different species of nitrogen-gathering bacteria will live in the soil for more than a few years in the entire absence of any legume upon which they naturally live, and the accumulating evidence strongly indicates that the bacteria which are present in places in our soils, such as the red clover bacteria, and the alfalfa or sweet clover bacteria, that all these have been, and are being, gradually introduced and extended almost entirely by mere chance."

ENOUGH FOR ME.

BY JENNIE BETTS HARTSWICK.

Enough for me, a fine-lit spot,
The world shut out, grim care forgot;
And near me in the rosy glow,
A sweet girl rocking to and fro
I' faith! Mine is a happy lot!

An earthen kettle, steaming hot,
A pipe, a book of tender plot,
A glance, a smile, a kiss or so—
Enough for me.
To-day a palace, not a cot,
Ten clubs, an auto and a yacht
Are mine. A smile? a kiss? ah, no!
That dull content was years ago;
Now all my minted wealth is not
Enough for me!

—Smart Set.

SOUTH CENTRAL MISSOURI.

South Central Missouri embraces about one-sixth of the great State of Missouri, which has an area of about 69,000 square miles. This part of the State is mostly located on the gradual swell of the great Ozark Range, which is not so much a mountain range as a vast ridge of gradual acclivity, so gentle in its slopes that a traveler from St. Louis southwestward rises 1,000 feet in altitude without an idea that he has been steadily climbing upward for 100 miles or more.

Its varied and diversified surface embraces nearly all classes of land, from the prairie, which is its most extensive feature, through the rolling lands and hillsides, until far to the south the abrupt slopes of the steep river hills bound the district.

Its principle rivers are, the Meramec in the central portion with the Gasconade to the northwest, the current southwardly and the Black River to the east, with a host of branches of all sizes each pouring a living tide of pure, clear water toward the principal stream. No part of the state is more plentifully supplied with water by brooks, creeks, and rivers fed by ever flowing springs than South Central Missouri.

No land anywhere offers to the emigrant a greater variety of soil and surface, with an exuberance of forest and nature's herbage, overlying a wealth of minerals. The incomer with or without means, finds not only a warm welcome from people renowned for their cordial hospitality, but from the broad lands which offer him every advantage in the history of agriculture, horticulture and stock raising.

Should he wish to establish a ranch for the raising of herds of cattle, horses, mules, or sheep, he will find wide ranges of unbroken fields and forests open to his use free of cost.

If he desires to engage in farming in the culture of wheat, corn and other grains, he finds the soil and the climate suited to his desires. If the truck farming and the growth of small fruit seems to allure him he will find here the finest and largest vegetable, and the richest products of the various small fruits.

But especially does he find in the records of every exposition and world's fair from that of Chicago in 1893, to the present immense exhibition at St. Louis, conclusive proof that this region excels in the production of large finely colored, richly flavored shapely and excellent fruit of all sorts.

A steady increase in population made up of a high-class of industrious, law abiding and God fearing Americans for the chief part has made this region a land of schools and churches, as well as every species of industry and enterprise, but so great is its extent and so vast its capacity for maintaining a farming population that many thousands more can be readily accommodated.

He who purchases lands in this favored region is sure to share in the general rise of value, without special effort on his part.

The resident of this region finds the spring an early visitor, while autumn delays her approach, and pastures are unusually green and good until the first of December. The elevation of this district above the sea-level takes it out of the range of malaria, and pure air with mild winters and summers free from sunstroke makes the Ozark Ridge a land of comfort, health and pleasure. Summer heats are not extreme, and few nights are warm enough to make the sleeper uncomfortable. In winter few days have a temperature as low as zero and the reign of winter is comparatively brief. Blizzards are unknown and the fierce norther is known only by hearsay.

Many sufferers from malarial complaints have found health in this pure atmosphere. Sufferers from asthma have experienced complete relief from that malady by the purity of the air. Many invalids from various affections have testified to the promp and salutary effects of South Central Missouri's climate in restoring health.

The rainfall is greater than that of states to the northward and westward, and great

drouths are things of once in a hundred years. Snows are light and while rains are frequent in spring, summer and fall as well as in winter, the roads and fields quickly respond to the influence of sun and breeze, and there is little delay from this source.

Salem, situated near the center of Dent County, is one of the progressive towns of this country. It is conservative and constant in its growth and increase. It is not a creature of booms and excitement but every step forward is firm and securely planted, and every advance is permanent. Her population is only about 2,000 but in schools, churches, mercantile, and manufacturing interests Salem goes beyond many cities of greater population. It has two banks, 25 stores, five weekly newspapers, three hotels, a grain elevator, three livery stables, three wagon factories, five blacksmith shops, two lumber yards and planing mills, one roller mill and one feed mill, six other manufacturing establishments, a system of graded schools, six churches—Baptist, Catholic, Christian, South and North Methodist and Presbyterian.

Salem is the county seat and has an elegant court house, and a jail that is seldom in use; it is a point on the great Frisco System, 125 miles from St. Louis, which puts it in ready communication with the world of business. It has a city telephone line and several rural lines, spreading a commercial net work over Dent and other counties. It is said that the shipments from Salem exceed those of any town three or four times its size. Receipts of 1,000 to 3,000 bushels per day of wheat during the shipping season are not uncommon.

Wood is the staple fuel of this region, which is well wooded in most parts. Cord wood sells for from $2 to $3 per cord on the city streets. Those who prefer coal find the price not exorbitant as the Illinois mines are only a few hours distant.



View of 4th Street, looking east, Salem, Dent Co., Mo.

Wheat is the leading money maker for the farmers of this region. South Central Missouri has the soil and the climate requisite for the production of winter wheat, so cheaply and surely that few even of the advanced farms use the commercial fertilizer to aid nature in that line. Corn of course is the great crop, excellent in quantity and furnishing cheap and abundant feed for stock and very little is exported in the grain. Most of the corn crop is fed up and makes a

large profit for the stock men. Everything else of the temperate productions—oats, rye, millet, alfalfa, tobacco, vegetables, all kinds of grass; even some cotton springs up under the frequent showers and warm sunshine of the favored region.

Probably no country is better supplied with flowing springs some of which are of National reputation. Wells are sunk to a depth of 20 to 45 feet and find unfailing veins of water, while drilled wells twice as deep seldom fail to supply an abundance of water.

As a sheep raising region this is well suited to reward the intelligent wool and mutton raisers efforts. Hogs do well on the "mast" of the forest, fattening without cost or care. Cattle on the wide range of unoccupied lands do well without attention or expense and are one of the chief sources of cash revenue to the residents.

The schools of this section are numerous and the best of educators are employed. Over 60 of these academies of the people are turning out well trained teachers every year in Dent County. The High School at Salem attracts pupils from the country adjacent and is justly a source of pride to the city.

Religion and morality keep well closed up in the march and every school district shows a prosperous church and sunday school as a means of promoting the highest interests of the people.

DEDUCTION.

About 1 a. m. Mrs. Sherlock Omes heard a noise.

She went downstairs.

Her husband was sitting on the bottom step. His shoes adorned the hatrack and he was trying to light a cigar with a toothpick.

"Betcher do' know where I've been," he murmered.

"You've been down town," responded Mrs. Sherlock Omes. "You met a man. You bought him four drinks; he bought you one drink. You played a game of pool for fun and won it. Then you played six games for money and lost them all. You met another man. You bought him eight drinks; he bought you one drink. You met seven men. You bought them seven drinks each and one of them gave you a cheap cigar. When midnight came the saloons closed. Then you came home."

Mr. Sherlock Omes was silent.

He could not deny that she had given a fairly accurate description of the evening. —Mirror.

PASSED.

Mrs. L. A. Knutson, Box 78, R. F. D., Valders, Wis., contributes from an exchange a story of a brakeman on an Eastern railroad who had been granted a month's vacation for some special service rendered the road. He had never been West so he decided to take a trip to the Rocky Mountains, and was furnished with the required passes.

The man went to Denver and there met a number of his friends at work on one of the Western roads. They entertained him, and when he went away made him a present of a goat.

Our man was at a loss to know how to get the animal home with him as the express charges to New York were very heavy. After puzzling for some time, he made out a shipping tag and tied it to the horns of the goat. Then he presented the animal at the office of the stock-car line.

The tag created a good deal of interest among the stock men, and they sent for the manager of the company. This was the inscription which he found upon the tag: "Please pass the butter. James R. McKenna brakeman,———R. R., New York."—Ex.

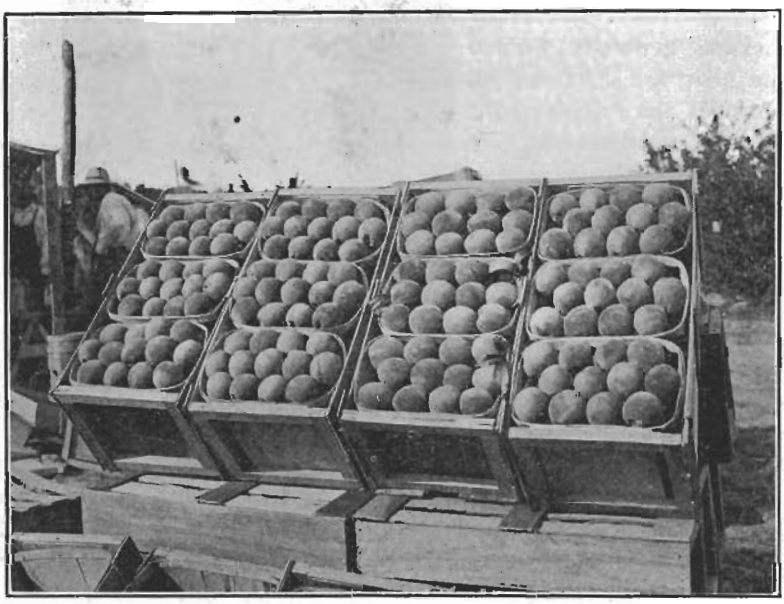
Queer things will happen, I do ween,
As through this life we bob—
He who "seeks a position" at seventeen,
At forty "hunts a job."—Ex.

THE MISSOURI PEACH BELT

BY WILL H. ZORN.

Along the line of the Frisco System in the southern part of Missouri, is a section of country known by various titles, such as the "Land of the Big Red Apple," the "Home of the Elberta Peach" and the "Vineyard of the World." Over ninety per cent of the peaches shipped from the State are grown within twenty-five miles of West Plains and the Gem City of the Ozarks can truthfully be styled the center of the Missouri Peach Belt.

The past month has been a busy one in this favored land. The peach crop, which is not always a certainty, gave early prospects of being a record breaker and as the season advanced the luscious fruit grew to maturity. Although the excessive rains that gave the country a bounteous corn crop proved detrimental to fruit, still the orchardist had no cause to complain of the yield of peaches in his orchard. Much of the sunkissed fruit dropped from the over-laden branches, but this only increased the size of the peaches left hanging on the trees.



Four Crates of Luscious Elberta Peaches.

In this fruit belt there is only one peach that finds favor with the orchardists and which fills almost every necessary requirement, and this is the Elberta. Nurserymen claim that the Elberta peach originated in Georgia and is a cross between the Chinese Cling and the Crawford's Late. The Southern Missouri Elberta becomes ripe just after the Texas and Georgia crop is marketed and before the Michigan and Delaware orchards yield their fruit.

The Elberta attains a size and flavor in this section that is unexcelled. Although the Family Favorite and Mountain Rose, earlier varieties, and Salway and Heath Cling, which comes later, are grown by some horticulturalists, everyone acknowledges that the peach to produce in order to get dividends upon an investment is the Elberta. Taking into consideration the adaptability to soil, hardiness to withstand frost, the capability of holding out against drouth and the period of ripening, the Elberta is the peach for Southern Missouri. This year the peach picking season began at Koshkonong, the southern point of this great peach belt, the latter part of July, and ended at its northern terminus the latter part of August. The fruit ripened first at Koshkonong and here the army of pickers and packers first assembled and migrated northward as the golden fruit was stripped from the trees, packed in crates and rushed by the refrigerator car line to Eastern and Northern markets.

One mile south of Koshkonong is the