

# WHEAT MAY BE REPLACED BY SUGAR BEETS

## Harden Colfax Sees the Wheat of the Future Raised in Canadian Country on Cheap Lands.

Now that the sugar beet is being advocated in the Grande Ronde valley to lessen the wheat acreage the following copyrighted article appearing in Sunday's Oregonian from Harden Colfax, Washington correspondent, is of interest:

Out of the series of farmer relief conferences which have engaged the attention of official Washington for the past fortnight or so has come a suggestion, received with favor in high quarters, which, if adopted, would effect a radical change in agricultural economics through the great wheat belt of the United States.

The proposal is that the wheat farmer, at present realizing less than cost on his product, divert a considerable proportion of his acres to the cultivation of sugar beets. At the present time, the average yield of wheat the acre is less than 14 bushels and the price, on the farm, averages less than 90 cents. The average return to the farmer is estimated at less than \$13 each acre planted in wheat, considerably below production cost.

**Sugar Beets Profitable.**

Sugar beet farmers are obtaining, according to best available returns here, an average yield of about 10 tons to the acre. An average price the ton of beets is somewhat difficult to obtain, due largely to the practice of many farmers who dispose of their crops to the factories on a share and share basis, but the figure is placed conservatively at \$8 a ton. More likely, it is said, the \$10 level is more nearly accurate. At the lower figures, however, the return to the farmer, on the average, would be \$50 an acre, or more than six times the income obtainable from the same land producing wheat.

Secretary Wallace is on record as favoring the expansion of sugar beet growing in America and President Coolidge, it is reported, has had his attention called to the possibility of relief to the wheat farmer by the diversion of part of the wheat acreage to beets. The president, who recently learned from the tariff commission of the work being done by that body in connection with the

beet sugar industry, is said to be turning the proposal over in his mind with a view of ascertaining its utility as a suggestion to wheat farmers for next year's activities.

At the present time the United States draws most of its annual 5,000,000 tons of sugar from Cuba. Cuban producers dominate the sugar market in this country. The beet sugar industry here is comparatively small, but has been developing under the protection of a tariff of 1.78 cents a pound to considerable proportions.

All told the total acreage planted in sugar beets in the United States is approximately 700,000. The wheat acreage, as estimated by the department of agriculture recently, approximates 28,000,000 acres. The reduction by 14,000,000 acres of this vast area, officials here estimate, would so restrict wheat production in the United States as to afford the farmer a profit.

Department of agriculture specialists say that sugar beets grow best when rotated with other crops, being planted on the same lands about once every five years. Reduction of the wheat belt by 14,000,000 acres and a rotation of that sort would make annually available for the production of sugar beets about 2,800,000 acres.

**Country Would Be Independent.**

On a yield of approximately 11.2 tons of sugar the acre, the annual production, in addition to the amount now being produced, would approximate 3,700,000 tons of beet sugar and that volume of production, coupled with the present yield of beet sugar and cane, would make the country independent of foreign markets for its sugar supply. It would also eliminate foreign control of sugar prices.

The potential beet sugar states, according to the department of agriculture, are New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia and West Virginia, in the east; Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, the Dakotas and Nebraska, in the middle west; and Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, Nevada and California in the west.

Not more than half of these states are growing beets to any extent at the present time.

**Air Travelers Subject to Passport Rules**

VIENNA, (AP)—An air traveler in Europe has to get his passport vised for every country over which he may fly, even if he does not intend to land in that country. This measure was found necessary in order to prevent passengers, through accident or forced landing, finding themselves in a strange state without the proper documentation.

# THE OLD HOME TOWN

By Stanley



## Many Notables Will Attend Legion Meet

SAN FRANCISCO—Leaders of the United States, both in government and fraternal circles, and many distinguished foreigners will attend the 12th convention of the American Legion, to be held here October 15-19, according to Legion officials. Among those who will either be present personally or represented officially, are:

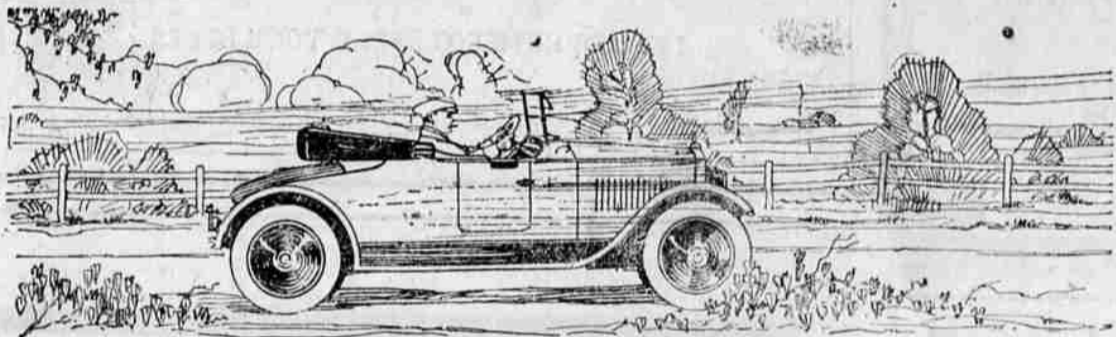
- David Lloyd George and Sir Douglas Haig of Great Britain; Lord Byng of Canada; Marshal Petain and General Mangin of France; General Hall of Poland; President Obregon of Mexico; and Premier Mussolini of Italy.
- The American list includes: President Calvin Coolidge; General John J. Pershing; Admiral Robert E. Coontz, commander-in-chief United States battle fleet; Major-General John A. Lejeune, commander, U. S. M. C.; Secretary of the Navy Edwin Denby; Secretary of War John W. Weeks; General Frank T. Hines, director, United States Veterans Bureau; Samuel C. P. Hoopes, director, American Federation of Labor; Judge J. W. Willard, commander-in-chief, Grand Army of the Republic; General Edgar Taylor, adjutant-general, United Confederate Veterans; Colonel Tillinghast L. Huston, commander-in-chief United Spanish War Veterans; James A. McFarland, American Veterans of the World War

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Our Motor Book has been written for us by Mr. E. H. Scott, the noted automobile engineer whose articles on the care of the car appear each week in our columns. In this wonderful book he gives you inside information only known to the most expert mechanics.

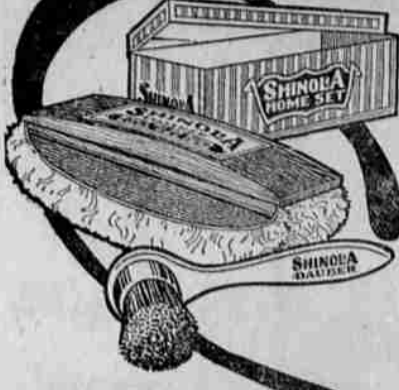
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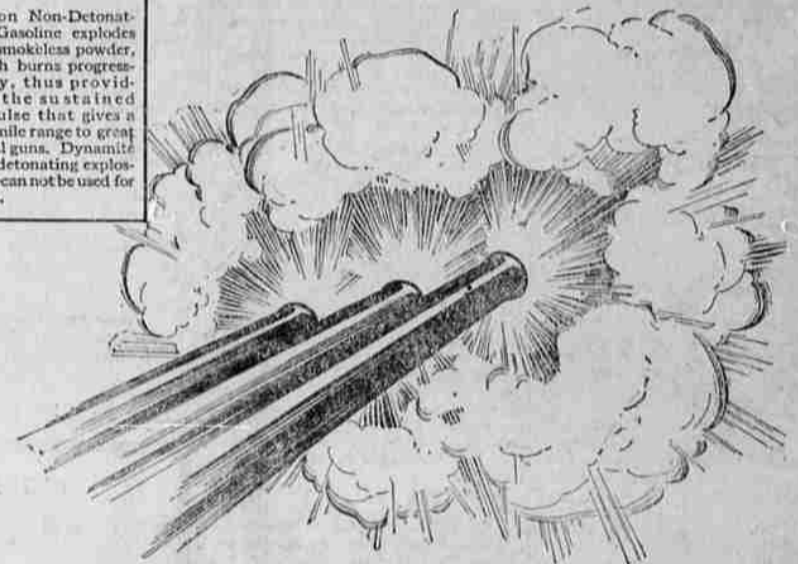
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