

## THE MODEL FARM OF EASTERN OREGON AND WASHINGTON.

No. 2.

BY REV. G. H. ATKINSON.

## EXAMPLE.

We learn most clearly from object lessons. The idea of a model farm grows from a farm itself. I write this article, April 17th, while stopping a few hours on a small farm in Columbia county, W. T., about three miles from Dayton. This claim of 160 acres was taken up nine years ago by a gentleman and his wife, who had no money, no tools except a hoe and a mattock, no team and not an animal of any kind. There was not a tree, not a rail or board or building of any kind on the place. A little stream flowed in the ravine between the steep hills that comprise the farm. A few boards were bought on credit to put up a shed, in which to set up their stove, and a few articles of furniture and make their house of one room, which is now given up to the fowls. Now they have a comfortable house with stone cellar, a barn 60x20 feet, a wagon and tool shed, the entire 160 acres well fenced, a field and garden and orchard, cross-fenced and in good cultivation. They have 100 peach and apricot trees in bearing, also 50 apple and pear trees and 100 more growing and a variety of small fruit, currants, raspberries, gooseberries, besides 50 timber trees from 10 to 30 feet high, and hundreds more set out. Two cows were bought eight years ago, costing \$45 on the installment plan to pay \$10 per month until paid for. The butter made and sold from them, paid their cost in less than 5 months.

## STOCK.

Those two cows have been sold for \$75, and two of their increase for \$73, and the value of their increase now left at market rates is about \$100. The stock of cows, heifers and calves on the farm, twenty-eight in all, are worth in cash \$432; swine worth \$50; 60 fowls worth \$15, besides a good supply of tools, and a team, bought on credit and worth its cost.

## PRODUCE.

The main produce of this farm is food for stock and the family. One hundred and twenty-five acres are in pasture. Only about 25 acres are yet ploughed, planted and sown. Wheat hay has been raised for team and cattle and a few acres of potatoes, turnips and other edi-

ble roots. The idea has been to feed all the stock regularly and abundantly. Over \$6 per week or \$300 per year have been paid for bran and shorts to feed the cows.

Twenty tons of turnips per acre is a common yield. Irrigation is not needed; it would be an injury. The well ploughed basalt soil forms a fine, light sponge-like tilth, which absorbs the night air and condenses its invisible vapor, giving full supply of moisture to the plants. The increase of tilled farms on the hills has also increased the condensation of moisture into dews and showers.

## MARKET PRODUCTS.

The dairy and poultry yard have been the chief source of income from the first. The average product of butter is thirty-five lbs. per week, for the whole year of fifty-two weeks, or 1,820 pounds sold at \$30 per hundred and yielding an income of \$546 per year. The annual cash sale of cows from the farm is \$150; eggs, \$100; pork, \$150; small fruit, \$12; vegetable, \$25. In round numbers, the annual cash income of this farm is \$1,000.

The out-go for feed and groceries, \$350; the expenses for help, \$240,—\$590. Leaving a net cash income of \$410.

## RESULTS IN NINE YEARS.

The buildings erected at a cost of \$800; fencing, \$600; land cultivated, twenty-five acres, at a cost of \$75; orchards and timber trees set out at a cost of \$200; equal to \$1,600 in improvements.

## ESTIMATES.

Every acre well tilled will give additional food enough for one cow, and thus increase the dairy power of this farm one animal per acre, or the equivalent of 180 pounds of butter per year, or a cash gain of \$54 per acre. This result will need the extra cost of care and mill-feed. But suppose this farmer to plough forty-five acres more of his claim and thus put seventy acres in cultivation he can add forty-five more cows; make 7,280 pounds of butter per year, which at \$30 per hundred weight, would bring \$2,184. Other products sold at usual rates would bring in cash \$1,848, making an increase of \$4,032. The out-go for labor, allowing two extra hands on the farm and one in the house, would be \$920; mill-feed and groceries \$1,400;

extra team, \$300; extra machinery and repairs, \$150 per year. Whole cost of year's work, \$2,750, leaving a net gain of \$1,282. To win this result and keep up the ratio of products, all the fertilizers of the yards and barn will as now be returned to the fields and pastures. Wheat hay will be replaced in part by timothy. Root crops will be grown and fed in larger proportion and variety. Home raised wheat and oats will be ground in custom mills to replace the less nutritious bran. Labor saving machinery will be used in the dairy. Pasture will be divided and new and old grasses will be allowed to grow and not be over-stocked. Fields will be turned into pastures, and pastures into fields, while the ten-fold food product of the tilled acres will add to the permanent power and improvements of the farm. Meanwhile the orchards and timber culture will add yearly value to the whole.

## THE ENERGY AND INDUSTRY AND WISE PLANNING DISPLAYED.

The gentleman and lady who have wrought out this farm problem thus far during nine years, are in the 68th and 71st year of their respective ages. They began in feeble health. Sick relatives and others have had their care and hospitality, yet they have wasted no time or strength or money or opportunity. While the husband went for boards to put up their first shed for shelter nine years ago, the wife took the mattock and hoe, dug up a patch of ground and sowed a bed of lettuces and radishes. Within five years she had a flock of ducks, which brought fifty dollars for feathers and eggs. Now the egg product from sixty hens brings \$100 per year.

## CARE AND FOOD FOR STOCK AND FOR SOIL.

Their yearly success depends upon their gentle and constant care and ample food supply of every animal. Every cow has a name and comes on call to her stanchion and mess of bran evening and morning to be milked. Barn and sheds shelter them from winds and storms. Water is supplied in the yard. The cows are full, always in good order and healthy. Sales of stock are frequent of good animals and at high rates. Buyers got the worth of their money and came again. The home market for dairy products, cows, eggs, vegetables, fruits