

ANCIENT MEDES GAVE ALFALFA TO WORLD
 Greatest Fodder Crop Known to Warriors Before Christian Era—Spread Over World By War Word Common Here Is Of Spanish Origin

Malheur County produces more alfalfa than any county in Oregon, and is, in fact, one of the largest alfalfa producing sections in all the West, yet, perhaps, few of those so familiar with it, realize the interesting history of the plant. Few know how it has followed the wake of war from Persia to Africa, Africa to Spain, Spain to South America, and then to California from whence it was introduced to Oregon in the days of '49.

The following interesting review of the spread of alfalfa appeared in the Sunday Oregonian:
 A field of alfalfa, to the casual thought, suggests contented herds and rich cream, and a general ensemble of agricultural content and neatly painted barns and rural homes. Yet the friendly herb, perfectly at home in pastoral settings, has known wilder time when its fame was spread at the point of the javelin, and conquered nations blessed their conquerors who brot it. War was its agent when civilization, through the valingry of kings, taught culture with the sword and carved the continents into nations.

"The best fodder is herba medica, because when it is once sown it lasts ten years; because it can be mowed regularly four times a year, sometimes even six times; because it fertilizes the land; because all emaciated stock fatten on it; because it is a remedy for sick cattle; because a jugerum (about three-fifths of an acre) suffices abundantly for three horses for a whole year."

But for a certain quaintness of phrasing the foregoing statement might have been uttered by some keen young professor of a modern agricultural college, intent on condensing at lecture the excellent traits and versatility of that premier forage plant, alfalfa. It was however, written by the Roman granger, Columella, in the first century of the Christian era, and it suffices to chasten our self-conceit. Much that we do well today, priding ourselves accordingly, was no secret to the ancients. And so with alfalfa.

It is a singular fact that a plant so adapted to peace should have migrated in the train of wars. Yet the slow spread of the purple-flowered fodder from the Median plains, where it is first of record in the year 500 B. C., was attended by many a flashing cascade of ruthless armored men, by the whistle of arrows and the savage cut-and-thrust of foot soldiers. A plant of peace, if ever there was one, it has been nurtured by war. To trace its progress over the world is to follow the trumpets and pennons.

It is clearly established that the ancient home of the plant was in Media, now northern Persia, and the savor of its origin survives in the botanical name, "Medicago sativa." Even today in England, where old names endure longer than battlements, it is the "purple medic," or purple flower of the Medes. Leaders in the civilization of their period, the Medes gave this excellent fodder to their neighbors, the Persians. The great king Darius, bent on conquest for the extension of his dominions, and equally shrewd in providing forage for his horses and herds, scattered alfalfa in the wake of war. So Pliny says, and he should have known whereof he wrote. The Per-

sians termed it "aspect," or horse fodder, and wherever a Persian javelin gained a rod of ground the flower of the Medes found root. Most tenacious root, too, when one remembers having heard that alfalfa taps the soil to a depth of six feet, under proper conditions.

The Grecian geographer, Strabo, discoursing in the first century on fadders and their origin, further confirms the claim of Media, or northern Persia, to the role of benefactor. "The herb which nourishes horses best," he affirmed, "we call the Median herb, from its abounding natively there." To those whose knowledge of alfalfa is restricted to its American introduction and popularity, all within a lifetime, it is a somewhat disconcerting though wholly informative to hear these voices from the dust.

Adventurers, traders or birds may have carried the seed to northern Africa. The chronicles are mute regarding this stepping stone to western Europe. At any rate the flower of the Medes was there when the swarthy Moors, chanting their fierce battlecries, galloped out of the desert and won by lance and scimitar both northern Africa and southern Spain. As horsemen they knew fine fodder when they saw it, and during their conquests in the seventh and eighth centuries they carried the plant to Spain, whence it was introduced to medieval and modern agriculture. History left its imprint on the name of the plant, for the term alfalfa is plainly derived from the Moorish word "alfacafach," signifying horse fodder.

Europe, at war almost unremittingly, cast it hither and yon across the continent. The good knight, Chevalier Bayard, revered by France and Christendom as the flower of chivalry, undoubtedly pastured his broad-rumped charges on it when he campaigned against the Spaniards and the Italians. A genial, industrious, serviceable plant, it won new friends and new fields whenever and wherever introduced.

But the appearance of alfalfa in the United States was not sponsored by modern Europe, though some early attempts were made to introduce it to the eastern states. Spain at the height of her grandeur, when the dons and their soldiery dreamed of empire in South America, sowed the seed in our sister continent. American gold-seekers sailing round Cape Horn to the California diggings, in the early '40s or late '50s, brought alfalfa from Chile and thus insured its peaceful conquest of the Pacific slope and its steady penetration eastward. Though in this migration the plant was unattended by martial clangor, it is pertinent to observe that romance still mothered the flower of the Medes.

A splendid, beneficial herb, indeed, even as Pliny declared. The remarkable indiosyncrasy of Nebuchadnezzar, monarch of Babylon, who grass and obeyed, is brightened by the fact that Babylonia was neighbor to Media. And when one recalls that even profane history attributes to King Neb the madness of lycanthropy, while sacred history varies the account a trifle, the picture of his royal highness munching herbage is somewhat more distinct. He lunched on the Median flower, beyond a doubt.

DEMAND FOR WATER RIGHTS OVER OREGON CONTINUES

State Engineer Issues Many Additional Permits Some of Which Apply to Malheur County Lands To Be Watered This Year

During the months of January, February, and March, 97 permits to appropriate water were issued by the State Engineer, Percy A. Cupper. These permits cover the irrigation of approximately 6500 acres of land, the development of 20 horsepower, and the construction of 180 miles of canal, at an estimated total construction cost amounting to \$1,500,000. During this period seven reservoir permits were issued covering the storage of 1405 acre feet of water at an estimated construction cost of approximately \$22,000,000.

Among the most important developments contemplated are:

The construction of the municipal water supply system by the City of Molalla, which contemplates the expenditure of \$45,000.00 in securing water supply from Trout Creek.

The City of Walla Walla, Washington, contemplates the extension of its pipe lines on Mill Creek in Umatilla County, Oregon, to secure water above the present intake at an estimated expenditure of \$92,000.00.

E. G. Favell, of Lakeview, Oregon, contemplates the development of the hot springs located near Lakeview for domestic, medical, and heating purposes, at an estimated cost of \$10,000.00.

The Ontario-Nyssa Irrigation Company, of Ontario, contemplates the appropriation of additional water from the Snake River for the irrigation of 926 acres of land.

The Deer Creek Lumber Company, of Minam, Oregon, secured permit to appropriate water from Deer Creek and a reservoir for fluming lumber at an estimated cost of \$5,000.00.

The Rogue River Valley Canal Company, of Medford, in connection with the work being done for the Medford Irrigation District, have appropriated water from Little Butte Creek for the irrigation of 2528 acres of new land. This construction is now under way.

Messrs. J. B. Goodman and A. L. Schaffler, of Dexter, Oregon, have secured permit for the appropriation of water from Lost Creek in Lane County for fluming lumber and for the irrigation of 399 acres of land at an estimated cost of \$25,000.00.

In Malheur County, permits have been issued to E. J. Bowen, of Juntura, Oregon, covering the appropriation of water from Malheur River for the irrigation of a twelve acre tract, and

To J. H. Edmundson, of Juntura, Oregon, covering the appropriation of water from the North Fork of Malheur River for irrigation of twenty-five acres of land. This development will entail the construction of two and a half miles of canal, at a cost of approximately \$150,000.

To L. L. Goodwin, of Vale, covering the appropriation of water from Saake River for irrigation of 32.9 acres.

To W. P. Sting, of Rome, Oregon, covering the appropriation of water from Owyhee River for irrigation of seventy acres, and for power development. This development will necessitate construction work costing approximately \$100,000.

To Chas. O. Maher, of Jordan Valley, Oregon, covering the appropriation of water from Stove Creek for storage in the Salt Lick Reservoir, to be used as a supplemental supply for the irrigation of 110 acres. This development contemplates the construction of a mile and a half of canal line, which will cost approximately \$100,000.

To James W. Stuart, of Nyssa, covering the appropriation of water from the Nyssa-Arcadia Drainage District Ditch for irrigation of nine acres of land, at an estimated cost of \$2500.00.



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Benckendorf in their book on Profitable Dairying in which they set forth these principles. They believe that no other branch of agriculture yields better returns, if properly managed, as dairy farming puts back into the soil the fertility taken off by crops, enriches the soil, and promotes crop rotation.

The modern Milk Problem, by J. Scott MacNutt stresses the economic as well as sanitary aspect of the milk problem, the value of milk as a food, the use of safe milk in the prevention of communicable disease and conservation of child life, and also the economy of the dairy cow on a farm. He emphasizes the necessity of business methods and use of printed matter for farmers if they would stay in business, and discusses the reasons for decline of dairying in certain regions.

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LOCAL PERSONALS

Dayton Alexander who is employed by the U. S. Plumbing Co. of Boise was a Sunday guest of his brother Lee Alexander.

Miss Winnifred Knowlton of Boise has accepted a position as book-keeper with the local office of Eastern Oregon Land Company. Miss Knowlton was journal clerk for the Senate at the last session of the Idaho Legislature.

Mrs. Wm. Blott of Burns who was operated on appendicitis at Holy Rosary Hospital last week is getting along nicely.

Herbert Bickford, of Caldwell spent Sunday with his cousins C. E. and H. C. Secoy and families.

Miss Mamie Stewart was an over Sunday visitor of Miss Macwood Ramsey of Baker.

Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Skow were Welser visitors last Sunday.

Miss Rose Kroessin returned Friday from a two months visit with friends in California. Miss Kroessin reports a pleasant trip and is much improved in health.

Mrs. Jennie Twiford and her sons Barney and Fred who left Ontario last spring for Ogden, Utah, returned to Ontario this month and are living on their place about one and one half miles northwest of Ontario. Barney was married while the family lived in Ogden and brot his bride with him.

Mrs. J. C. Oster of Beulah spent the week end with her daughter, Miss Vera Oster of this city.

Mr. and Mrs. John Bervin are having their home remodeled into a modern five room bungalow.

C. Hickey is building a new home on Morton St.

Miss Mary Bervin returned Tuesday as her school on Ben Deer Mountain closed on the 22nd.

The A. Gramso sheep which were being fed at the Gramso ranch just west of Ontario were taken out Brogan way last week.

J. A. Schmidt of McDowell Furniture Co. left Tuesday for his home at Freewater, Oregon. He expects to stay two weeks.

AGRICULTURAL MANUAL IS ADDED TO LOCAL LIBRARY

Among the books on dairying recently added to Malheur County Library is one of the Lippincott farm manuals, called Productive Dairying. This book is written from an experience of more than thirty years in dairy work, and discusses breeds and breeding, diseases, housing, dairy management, and all details of the dairy business. The illustrations are particularly good. One copy is on deposit in Vale Library, and one in Nyssa Library, as well as in Ontario.

Larson and Putney's "Dairy Cattle Feeding and Management" relates chiefly to the nutrition of dairy cows, selection of feeds, balancing rations, and systems of feeding, followed by principles of dairy cattle breeding and herd development. It includes also construction, arrangement and equipment of dairy barns, cost accounting, and fitting dairy animals for show. The opening chapter is interesting in showing the relation of dairying to agriculture, to soil fertility, to food, to transportation and to labor.

Farmer's clean milk book, by Charles E. North, shows why some milk contains millions of bacteria and how they get into it, and how easy it is to keep them out. It shows that the millionaire with his fancy barn has no monopoly on cleanliness, but that any farmer can produce milk which is just as clean as certified milk. It shows that the man himself is far more important than the dairy score card, and that hundreds of farmers in many dairy districts are now making a business success of producing clean milk.

"The ability to secure profits from dairying lies in a thorough knowledge of its fundamental principles," says K. L. Hatch and G. H.



Lake Tahoe, California—showing Rubicon Point. In the distance is Forest Peak—elevation 10,900 feet.

Beautiful Lake Tahoe

LAKE TAHOE lies on the California-Nevada line in the Sierra Nevada Mountains—fifteen miles south of Truckee and two hundred miles east of San Francisco. The marvelous color of Tahoe varies from the deepest indigo to brilliant emerald. Surrounding the lake are lofty peaks—from seven thousand to over ten thousand feet high.

The motorist may reach Tahoe by many routes, which has given rise to the slogan "All Roads Lead to Tahoe."

And whether you go to Tahoe from the east, west, north or south, you will always find a service station or garage displaying the Red Crown sign.

Look for that sign when you need gasoline. It is your assurance of getting an all-refinery gasoline—with a continuous chain of boiling points.

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Mrs. Stella DePeau of Hollywood, California, and Mrs. Cherrie Winter of Denver, visited their sister, Mrs. F. S. Bailey of the St. Paul Orchard tracts, left Friday for California accompanied by Mrs. Bailey who has been ill for some time.

Mrs. Nell O. Bedford and Miss Greta Anderson were week end visitors at Drewsey.

A. B. Anderson of Welser was visiting friends in Ontario over Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Karnes and Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Karnes of Welser were week end guests of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Homan.