

**FARM ORCHARDS AND GARDEN**  
BY **F.ETRIGG**  
CENTRAL POINT  
ROGUE RIVER  
VALLEY  
OREGON  
CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED



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The 1912 hay crop is put at 72,000,000 tons, which is an increase of 17,000,000 over the yield of 1911.

The writer has seldom seen a heavier crop of hazel nuts than that of the season just past and never a crop more free from worms.

How suggestive of colder days to come is the clear staccato note of the chickadee which greets one as he walks through leaf strewn woods these fall days nutting or hunting.

The orchardist who does not want to waste his time and uselessly mutilate his trees will pass up fall grafting. This work should be done after the 1st of February and before the middle of May.

Senator McCumber of North Dakota recently made the statement in a speech on the floor of the senate that a steer for which the farmer received \$75 cost the consumer in New York city \$250 when set before him in hotel or restaurant.

For small towns that swarm with canines of various breeds, sizes and colors there is no method of getting rid of the pests so effective as the levying of a good stiff tax by the town authorities and, after this is done, seeing that the tax is paid.

While it seems and really is pretty tough on the grower, the fact remains that the fellow who is earning \$1.75 a day and has a wife and six children to support cannot help but chuckle a bit at being able to get potatoes for winter at from 30 to 40 cents a bushel.

The Kansas live stock commission estimates that 29,000 horses have died in that state during the past few weeks from the horse plague. In some instances farmers who have lost all their horses have broken steers to work and are getting some of their field work done with this motor power.

A chrysanthemum has about 80 much vitality to devote to blossoms, and the size of the blossoms will quite closely vary in an inverse ratio to the number of buds that are left on the plant. To produce the big blossoms that are five and six inches in diameter but one bud is left to each big stalk.

"Seven dollars a week and no washing," as the terms on which milady can secure hired help for the house, is calculated to make her meditate on the beauties of the simple life and appreciate the wisdom of reducing her work so as to dispense with the services of a hired girl. In many instances such a change would be expedient, in others a positive necessity.

With the cooler weather rabbits make a toothsome dish and give a change from the steady ration of beef and pork. This is particularly true of the young rabbits. They are good stewed with dumplings, parboiled and fried or stuffed with dressing and roasted. In the latter case they should be basted at intervals so that the thinner portions of the meat will not become too dry.

Hog cholera is wiping out the swine herds and knocking the prospective profits of many a farmer in the northern states. If the cholera, plague, or whatever it may properly be called, gets within a few miles of a fellow's farm he would do well to ship his hogs before they are smitten. In a number of instances which we have noted recently herds of from between 100 to 300 head have been completely wiped out.

While the gas tractor is supposed to be especially suited to the big wheat ranches in the far west and northwest, a Pennsylvania farmer has the past season used one with gratifying success. He not only plows and barrows with this iron horse, but harvests, thrashes and hauls his grain to market. The advantage about this motor power is that it is not stuffing grain and hay when off duty and is immune to all the ills that afflict the equine family.

Hogging down corn seems to be gaining in popularity in those sections of the corn belt where it has been given a fair trial. It is a method of harvesting the crop that gives a maximum of feeding value with a minimum of labor. The consensus of opinion of those who have tried the plan seems to indicate the wisdom of feneing off relatively small portions of the field so that the hogs will eat the corn more closely. A number of feeders have found that if shotes and brood sows follow the fattening hogs more satisfactory results are obtained.

Keepers of bees and those wishing to take up the work will be interested in farmers' bulletin No. 503 on "Comb Honey," lately issued by the department of agriculture at Washington. It may be had free of charge by writing to the department for it.

The Holland farmer carries on dairying on land worth from \$800 to \$800 per acre and makes money at it. In too many instances the American farmer is shinning along on bare ground on land that is worth \$100. The difference is merely in the man and his methods.

It will often be found not only less expensive, but better for the children of the country school district, to pay for hauling them to a good town school than to pay for a teacher and fuel in order to keep the district school open. This is especially true if the number of pupils in the district is small.

A perfect dish of oatmeal, a cereal that is much used, but usually ill cooked, can be prepared by boiling for about fifteen minutes and then stowing away in a fireless cooker overnight. By this process the oatmeal is not only thoroughly cooked, but it also keeps its shape. It is not sloppy porridge, on the one hand; neither is it raw and tough as a piece of india rubber.

In sections where the winter precipitation is heavy in the form of rain or snow and the winters are not so severe as to make a cover crop in the orchard advisable for the purpose of catching and holding the snow, plowing in the fall is recommended for the purpose of enabling the soil to the better hold moisture, which in turn tends to prevent washing and gully-ing.

With crops of practically all kinds showing unprecedented yields, with money plentiful, labor employed and political agitation showing practically no effect on industrial projects, an era of prosperity and good times would seem to lie just ahead the like of which has not been experienced in a dozen years. Every man who has two hands may aid in furthering it and should receive a generous share of its benefits.

One of the live subjects of very general interest that are to be discussed at the coming national apple show at Spokane is that of the handling and utilizing of the by-product—the inferior grades of apples which cannot be boxed and marketed. This is a mighty live proposition, and until some satisfactory solution is offered there is bound to be a big leak on a host of ranches in the west, where a high standard of fruit for packing is insisted upon.

The high quality of fruit packed by several noted western fruit growers' associations is the better understood when one is on the ground and sees the amount and quality of the fruit that is discarded for one reason or another. The fancy box fruit is the result of much pains in caring for trees and fruit from blossom to picking time and of a rigid selection when it is packed. The fancy price received is simply the result of the law of cause and effect. It doesn't come by chance.

If ever there was a husking season when the crop was calculated to tax human capacity and ingenuity to get it under cover before heavy snows, it is the one just begun. The total crop of the country is put at 3,000,000,000 bushels, while individual farmers who thought they were going to have fifty or sixty bushels per acre are confronted with a yield of eighty or ninety. The corn picker has been perfected so that it does very satisfactory work, and a lot of them will have to be pressed into service to handle the crop.

That was a considerate as well as level headed housewife who rewarded the girl who had been working for her with a birthday party as an evidence of her appreciation of the fact that the latter had done her work well and faithfully and had been kind to the children. If more of this spirit were manifested by other mistresses of households there would be a lot less trouble in the matter of securing female help in the home and a good many less ads. in the weekly and daily papers under the heading "Girl Wanted."

Under the terms of the plant quarantine act passed by congress the past summer an embargo has been placed on the importation of potatoes from Newfoundland and several European countries in order to prevent the introduction of the potato canker or black scab. The importation of potatoes during the fiscal year closing June 30, 1912, from the countries affected by this order totaled 12,685,719 bushels and valued at more than \$5,000,000. It is fortunate for the American consumer that this order comes at a time when there is an abundant crop of the tubers.

The residents of one Ohio town have got the right idea about squelching a monopoly. Recently the egg dealers of the place decided that they would force up the price of eggs. The result was the formation of a boycott against eggs in any form which was entered into by the 40,000 inhabitants of the city. At last reports eggs were about where they had been and these protestants were still eating beef and making their cakes of shortening, flour and sugar. To be effective this boycott should spread until it covered a considerable part of the country. There would be things doing then, and no mistake.

**IS SULPHUR A FERTILIZER**

Until two or three years ago sulphur was supposed to be an incidental and practically negligible chemical constituent of the soil. Recently tests and experiments which have been conducted in Germany, France and this country prove conclusively that the above notion is a mistaken one and that sulphur is an important and vital factor in plant growth and that the application of it to soils greatly increases luxuriance of leaf and stem and size of vegetable product. Perhaps the most striking results in the research work referred to have been secured by two experimenters of the University of Wisconsin station, Messrs. Hart and Peterson. While investigating the supply of sulphur in feeds and its relation to wool production these men found it necessary to ascertain the amounts of sulphur in the common crops used as feeds. The old method of determining the amount of sulphur in plants was to burn them and measure the element found in the ash. The Wisconsin experimenters questioned the accuracy of this method and instead of burning the plants and products to be analyzed dried them in the air. According to their analyses, there were removed from the soil in a thirty bushel crop of wheat 15.7 pounds of sulphur instead of 3.55 pounds, according to the old tables. In the case of barley, oats and corn they found that the per cent of sulphur removed was correspondingly greater than the amounts indicated by the former test. In 9,000 pounds of alfalfa they found that there were taken from the soil 64.8 pounds of sulphur instead of 37.8, that with turnips the crop from an acre contained 92.2 pounds of sulphur instead of 44.4 pounds, while with 3,300 pounds of potatoes there were removed 11.5 pounds of sulphur instead of none at all or a trace, as indicated by old methods.

The application of sulphur to the soil by German experimenters was found to reduce potato disease and increase the yield. A French experimenter found that the addition of 1,000 pounds of sulphur per acre doubled the crop of beets and increased the yield of turnips a third. The facts made plain in these experiments prove that sulphur will have to be classed with other needed soil fertilizers, and the tiller of the soil who is interested in the conservation of fertility would do well to bear the fact in mind. Sulphur may be added to the soil as flowers of sulphur, in gypsum (calcium sulphate) and in superphosphates, in sulphates of potassium and ammonium and in stable manures.

**ORCHARD RENOVATION.**

A friend who lives in north Iowa, who has recently been in the vicinity of Oswego, N. Y., to pack winter apples, states that there are literally thousands of carloads of apples in New York state in old and neglected orchards that range in size from a silver quarter to a dollar that are not worth anything—gnarly, scabby and diseased. But he also reports that adjoining such neglected orchards are those which have been renovated by pruning and have been cultivated and sprayed carefully, in which there is a nice crop of fruit of good size and fine quality. The writer has never had the privilege of a personal inspection of these New York orchards, but from a knowledge of instances of orchard renovation in central and western states he firmly believes that there is a good opening in the purchase of some of these rundown orchards by men who have the courage to prune heavily and the patience to wait for results. With pruning, fertilizing, spraying, cultivation and thinning of fruit where needed, one would not need to wait long for substantial returns.

**PRUNING SHADE TREES.**

The writer has taken note lately of a number of shade trees in the locality in which he lives, which are in bad shape as a result of the careless and faulty way in which large side limbs have been removed. In taking off these limbs more or less of a stub has been left, which in the growing process will probably never be covered. But worse than this is the fact that these stubs are likely to begin to decay and thus weaken the tree and ultimately cause its destruction. When such limbs are removed the final cut should be made as close to the trunk as possible, and if the diameter of the tree is considerable two secondary cuts should be made, one on either side, so as to make the exposed stub or surface more nearly conform to the conical surface of the trunk. When the surface has been properly trimmed it should be given a thick coat of white lead paint to keep out the rot fungus.

**INJUSTICE TO DAIRYMEN.**

The makers of oleomargarine bid fair to again put forth a strenuous effort at the coming session of congress to secure the passage of legislation which will make it possible for them to palm off steer fat at a fancy price under the delusion on the part of the consumer that it is dairy butter. If congress sees fit to pass a law that will prevent oleomargarine from masquerading in the guise and at the price of butter, but will give it a plain label which it will bear when it comes into the consumers' hands, well and good. But any arrangement which will enable it to reach the market under the guise of dairy butter should be squelched as simply dishonest and a gross injustice to the dairy interests.

*J. C. Trigg*

**WANT SERPENTINE ROAD IMPROVED**

A petition bearing more than 50 signatures was presented to the city council Monday asking that the Serpentine Road be improved without delay. It was pointed out that little has been done to fix the road during the past several years and it is now almost impassable and dangerous for teams to pass. There is no accommodation for foot travel and it is asked that a plank walk be constructed. The urgency of the need for a good street was pointed out specifically by J. L. Hershner. The matter was referred to the street committee.

**Mr. and Mrs. Holgate Return**  
Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Holgate, formerly of this city and more recently of Eastern Oregon, where they have just sold their ranch, have returned here to live. They may build a home on their lots in Winan's Addition in the spring.

**Philathea Sale**  
Remember the date—Friday, Nov. 29—at the Congregational church. Apron and fancy work sale and every thing hand made. Just the pretty and useful things you are looking for.

**Humphrey Pugh**  
Humphrey Pugh, one of the oldest residents of the valley, died Sunday. He was in his 87th year. Mr. Pugh has been in failing health for some time. The funeral was held yesterday afternoon at Bartmess Chapel.

Mr. Pugh was born in Indiana. He moved to Bethany, Mo., and spent the greater part of his life there, being a prosperous farmer. He came to Hood River about 15 years ago, at which time he retired from active life. He had since made his home on State street.

Mr. Pugh was a devout Methodist and did much to assist in the local church. He is survived by a wife, Mrs. Susie Pugh, two sons, W. H. Pugh of Hood River and S. M. Pugh of Ridgeway, Mo., one daughter, Mrs. L. H. Adams of Portland, and two stepsons, L. G. Morgan of this place and W. A. Morgan of Portland.

**LOST AND FOUND ADS**

**Lost**—Heavy gold ring with one diamond. Finder please return to F. Morrison, 1105 State street and receive reward. 37-38c

**Found**—A young female collie. Has leather collar with plain tag on it. Phone Odell 5-X. 47-48c

**BUSINESS ADVERTISING**

**Wanted**—Clean rags. We will pay boys a cent a pound for clean rags delivered at the News office. 46-48c

**For Sale**—At a sacrifice, 20 acres orchard land in Willow Flat district. For particulars see E. Kline at Hood River Gas & Electric Co. office. 247c

**For Sale at Sacrifice**—25 acres in Belmont district. 18 acres in orchard; 7 acres in bearing; balance one to four year trees. Fine spring; good buildings; implements. Must be sold at once. Address B. care of News. 48-49p

**Store will be Closed All Day Thursday Thanksgiving Day**

**W**E DESIRE to express our thanks for the liberal patronage and courteous treatment accorded us by the people of Hood River and vicinity, and we hope we have given you at least some little thing to be thankful for. Assuring you that we will constantly endeavor to merit your continued good will and favor, we are

*Thankfully yours,*

**BRAGG MERCANTILE CO.**

**CLASSIFIED ADS.**  
EVERYBODY READS THE NEWS' "WANT" ADS.

**REAL ESTATE SECTION**  
For Sale—Ten acres near town. Fine location. Good building. Five acres bearing. A bargain if taken soon, terms, no agents. H. P. Allen, Phone 333K. 46-49p

**LIVE STOCK AND FOWLS**  
To Let—For keep during winter. A good safe saddle horse. Telephone 149-M. 47-48c

For Sale—One pen of yearling, trap-nested Rhode Island hens, one pen single-comb White Leghorns, trap-nested, also good cockerels from same pens. Also a few White Leghorns not trap-nested. W. H. Corey, Avalon Way. Phone 2122-L. 47-48c

For Sale—Large young team, 7 years old. Must go inside ten days. J. J. Knapp, phone 3232-X. 47-48-p.

For Sale—White Leghorn pullets. Telephone 264-Odell. 407c

To Let—For his keep during the winter, a gentle horse, will work single or double, a good saddle. Mrs. L. Bogden, Oak Grove district. 477c

S. C. Rhode Island Reds— I have a few very fine cockerels for sale. Get your next season's breeders while the selection is good. Also, some good yearling hens, bred from prize-winning stock. E. F. Batten, Phone 2612-M. 487c

**The Wise Christmas Shopper**

The one who always gets "just a little better" is the one who takes advantage of nice complete stocks, fresh goods and plenty of time for their selection. *Our Jewelry* is suitable for the masses and we invite one and all to inspect our beautiful and complete stock of...

**Christmas Jewelry**  
*Arthur Clarke, The Jeweler*

**EMPLOYMENT COLUMN**  
Wanted—Place in town by experienced Japanese janitor. Also does office cleaning. Care Niguma, phone 160. 45-48p.

Wanted—Girl for general housework. Phone Mrs. C. H. Vaughn, No. 49. 48-49c

Wanted—Work for team, hauling wood, etc. T. Kajo, care of Niguma Bros., Phone 160. 48-49p

A week of Indian summer.

