

Intercropping Preferred to Clean Cultivation

Interviewed Regarding Diversified Farming in Conjunction with Orchard, Professor Lawrence Shows Fallacy of Once Popular Method--J. R. Putnam Talks of Poultry--Other Interviews.

Below are given some interviews upon various phases of agriculture in the valley. Professor Lawrence, upon being questioned as to the practicability of diversified farming in connection with the orchards, gave some interesting facts in regard to growing cover crops between trees, advising that this be done rather than that clean cultivation be practiced year after year.

COVER AND SHADE CROPS PREFERABLE TO CLEAN CULTIVATION

In line with the recent discussion of diversity of crops in this valley, Professor Lawrence is not only of the opinion that such crops may be grown between the trees in the orchards but declares that the gospel of perfectly clean cultivation is no longer being preached by those who have made a study of its effect upon the soil. It is not certain, he says, that intercropping is not absolutely necessary in order to prevent the destruction of the humus which is a necessary constituent of the soil.

There will be a stronger tendency in the future to grow shade and cover crops. This will be more beneficial for the land than strictly clean cultivation. The latter burns out the humus and loss of this element causes a very decided change in the mechanical nature of the soil. Soil deficient in humus will not hold water as well, it transmits heat and cold more readily and as a result is colder in winter and hotter in summer.

taking time that should be given to the orchard and the eggs will help pay the grocery bills during the winter. At the same time the fertilizer is a valuable addition to the orchard.

"In the case of large orchards I believe that a flock of several hundred hens would bring good returns. In making this assertion I take it for granted that the flock would be large enough so that one man could devote all of his time to their care. The colony houses would be placed between the trees and the chickens, running through the orchards, would deposit valuable fertilizer.

"We have been engaged in the poultry business now for three years, but are now reducing our flock because we do not find it sufficiently profitable. At present we have about 300 hens; last year we had about 800 and the preceding year we made our start with about 80. Last season we had a standing contract to sell all of our eggs at 35 cents a dozen. The buyer called for the eggs at our ranch and boxed them for shipping himself.

"Marketing conditions are not favorable here. One must ship to the large commission houses in Portland or other cities and the prices are not what they should be for strictly fresh eggs. Indeed there is not sufficient difference between the prices paid for strictly fresh eggs and for the cold storage product to offer an inducement to the man offering the strictly fresh eggs. If a market could be developed which would pay a good price for them the business would be more profitable.

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TRY TO PREVENT LOST LAKE ROAD

Efforts on the part of certain persons in Portland to prevent the further construction of the road through the forest reserve at the base of Mt. Hood connecting Portland and the Upper Hood River Valley are being continued, according to a recent dispatch from Washington. The dispatch states that "Senator Chamberlain has taken up with the forest service the question of construction of a road through the Bull Run Reserve. The people of Portland are protesting against granting a permit for the road as the city's water supply might, they think, be injured thereby."

DAD CHOPS TREE; OTHERS GET GREENS

"Dad" in all his manifold personalities was out in force Sunday and an onslaught was made upon all available Christmas trees within walking distance of the city. Shortly after the Sunday dinner was safely tucked away under the family belts, the procession started, Dad armed with the axe, the rest following with scissors and knives prepared for use in gathering Oregon grape and other greens for Christmas decorations.

When the happy families started their homeward march they were loaded down with greens, the smaller members being almost extinguished beneath their load of trailing grape or evergreens. It is an exceptionally green Christmas, vegetation being still fresh and verdant, including the various trailing vines, ferns and the like. Hood River homes all present a festive appearance today.

DECLARED FIRE TRAP; RINK IS CLOSED

Declared a fire trap because it has not been equipped with fire escapes, the rink in the old Armory building has been closed and it is probable that no more basketball games will be played there this year. This was one of the buildings where fire escapes were ordered by the council, but it was understood that the upper floor of the building would not be used for occasions where crowds were present and escapes were not erected. However, the basketball games have been held there this year and large crowds of young people have congregated upstairs. There is no adequate means of exit.

In the game played here last week The Dalles High School team defeated the local boys by the score of 21 to 18. The game was refereed by Coach Cronewall of The Dalles and considerable dissatisfaction prevailed among the local boys, who declare that his decisions were in favor of the visitors.

A Merry Christmas to you!

Portland Firm Awarded Waterworks Contract

Reliance Construction Company, with Bid of \$44,910, Is Declared Successful One Among Twenty-one Bidders--Contract Covers All but Headworks--Mayor Blanchard Reads Message.

At the meeting of the City Council Monday evening the contract for construction of the new waterworks system was awarded to the Reliance Construction Company of Portland. Their bid for the work, which includes all but the headworks, was \$44,910.65. The Reliance Company was the successful bidder against 20 competitors. Some bid on the work as a whole and others on one or more of the three units. As the Reliance Company bid on the entire work and at a low figure the council decided that it was best to award them the contract.

A report on the business of the city water office from December 1, 1911, to December 1, 1912, was submitted and showed that the department is in excellent financial condition, providing a substantial revenue. Gross receipts during the year from water rents were \$12,418.25. Total disbursements were \$5,253.98, making the net receipts \$7,164.27.

In the course of Monday's meeting Councilman C. H. Sprout took occasion to state that before his term expired he desired to place himself on record as in favor of increasing the city recorder's salary from \$75 to \$100 a month. He spoke highly of Mr. Howe's services in that capacity and strongly recommended the increase.

Mayor Submits His Message Mayor Blanchard submitted to the council his message. It was as follows:

Members of the City Council, Hood River, Oregon:--Your attention is directed to the following pertaining to the financial requirements of the city in connection with the proposed levy for the year 1913:

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Includes Cash Resources, December 1, 1912; Net earnings; Bond Interest Fund; Bond Interest Fund; Total cash resources.

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Includes Requirements for Year, 1913; January 1st, Interest on bonds; July 1st, Interest on bonds; August 1st, Interest on bonds; July 1st, Sinking fund on \$35,000 issue; August 1st, Sinking fund on \$90,000 issue; Total requirements; Balance on hand over 1912 requirements.

From the above it is evident that no tax levy will be required in connection with the water department for the year 1913, and the earnings during the year added to the balance on hand should amply provide for the 1914 needs.

In connection with the items required for the sinking fund, I wish to explain that these amounts are determined upon the basis that they will be set aside at these regular periods, July 1st, 1913, and August 1st, 1913, and annually thereafter, and placed at interest by investment in securities. This is provided for definitely in the City Charter under Section 107.

General and Road Funds

Notwithstanding the fact that the council found it necessary during this year to expend large amounts on street repairs, including \$2,000 on the East Side Grade improvement as line special appropriation, the 1912 taxes, augmented by refund from the light and water account, have been sufficient to retire all warrants issued against these respective funds and leave a balance on hand of approximately \$3000; whereas, usually the city has had quite a large amount of unpaid warrants outstanding at this time of the year.

Requirements for 1913 In addition to the regular expense necessary in carrying on the affairs of

BIG POWER PLANT TO BE BUILT

Announcement Made by the Pacific Power & Light Company That Development Project Rivaling That of Northwestern Electric Company on White Salmon Is Planned for Hood River---Power Will be Used for Electric Railway, it Is Stated, as Well as for Other Purposes---Expenditure of More Than Half a Million Involved---Splendid Christmas Present for Valley.

Hood River received its biggest Christmas present yesterday when Guy W. Talbot, president of the Pacific Power & Light Company, announced that work will be commenced within a few days on a new power plant here that will rival in size the one being built by the Northwestern Electric Company on the White Salmon River.

The plant, which will be constructed on the lower river, will have a capacity of 7,000 horsepower and will be entirely separate from the company's

present development here. It is understood that part of the power will be used in connection with an electric railway.

The material for this big electrical development, which will mean an expenditure of over a half million dollars here, has been ordered and the work of installing the plant will be commenced just as soon as the construction crews can be organized and the plans received from the engineer's office. It is stated that this project will

mean the expenditure locally of approximately \$200,000 for labor and materials. With this added to the other big improvement projects, the coming year is rich in promise for continued and increased prosperity in Hood River.

Grace U. B. Church Sunday School at 10 a. m. Sermon on "Lessons from the year 1912," 11 a. m. Juniors at 3 p. m. and C. E. at 6:30. Discourse at 7:30. "Is money King in America?"

Fruitmen Will Go East to Study Conditions

Preliminary to Organization of Northwest Distributors, Representatives from Different Sections Will Thoroughly Investigate Markets--H. F. Davidson and Wilmer Sieg to Go from Here.

Within the next few days a number of the prominent fruitmen of the Northwest will make tours of the Eastern markets in order to investigate conditions there with special reference to the plans for the cooperative distributing organization of the fruit districts of the Northwest. H. F. Davidson of the Davidson Fruit Company and Wilmer Sieg, manager of the Union, will go from Hood River. W. T. Clarke, president of the Wenatchee Fruit Association, as well as president of the new organization, which will be known as the Northwest Fruit Distributors, will also be among those to make the trip.

This investigation is being made in order that all may be fully informed of Eastern conditions and thereby enabled to formulate plans for the new distributing association with the most complete knowledge obtainable.

The next meeting of the distributors will be held January 3 at North Yakima. A report of progress will be submitted within 90 days.

Papers of incorporation have been drawn by the association, which will be a mutual concern, controlled by the nine trustees, for the nine members of the permanent committee have been vested with the duties and powers of trustees. The incorporation has been made under the non-profit making law of the State of Washington.

According to a recent newspaper estimate, the districts represented produced this year approximately 20,000 carloads of apples or from 12 to 15 million boxes. It is estimated that with the increase in sight now the districts in 1913 will produce 65,000 carloads. So it can be seen that the committee has no small problem on its hands. It has many factors to take into consideration. The effect of the Panama Canal on fruit shipments will be taken into consideration. The best pack to meet the new conditions in marketing, what to do with the lower grade apples, how to get the best returns from cull apples, all these things will figure in their deliberations. Every bona fide grower in the Northwest is watching with eagerness the activities of the committee.

Following is the apportionment of fruit districts: Wenatchee--Chelan, Okanogan, Ferry, Douglas and Grant counties, all in Washington.

Yakima--York, Kittitas, Benton and Franklin counties in Washington. Hood River--Hood River and Wasco counties in Oregon and Klickitat and Skamania counties in Washington.

Western Oregon. All of Oregon west of the Cascades.

Walla Walla--Walla Walla and Columbia counties in Washington and Umatilla, Union, Walla and Baker counties in Oregon.

South Idaho--All of Southern Idaho and Malheur county, Oregon. Lewiston-Clarkson--Asotin and Garfield counties and the Snake River territory in Whitman county; all in Washington; Nez Perces, Lewiston and Idaho counties, including Latah south of American Ridge. Spokane--All of Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho. Montana--All of Montana.

BONDED DISTRICT UNDER DISCUSSION

At the massmeeting held at Pine Grove Friday afternoon the proposition of creating a bonded irrigation district was thoroughly discussed. Many questions were asked and many present expressed their opinion upon this important matter which is to be submitted at the election January 14. At the close of the meeting it was decided that another such gathering before election is advisable in order that further information may be secured.

At Friday's meeting P. M. Morse, city surveyor, submitted a report on measurements of the available water supply as follows:

"The measurements we made along the East Fork irrigation ditch and the flume at Dee give the following quantities in the different places:

"The Dee mill flume, size 8 1/2 feet by 12 feet with a velocity of 3 ft per second, gives a flow of 13000 miner's inches.

"The East Fork at the point we measured it with an area 66 sq. feet, velocity 6 feet per second, gives a flow of 15,500 miner's inches. This would indicate that the dam at Dee was losing about 2500 miner's inches and I believe that it was on the day we were there.

"The East Side Ditch (the Bone Ditch), with an area of 5 1/2 sq. feet and velocity of 6 feet per second, was only carrying about 1400 miner's inches.

"The small ditch, area 3 1/2 feet, velocity 4 feet per second, was carrying between 500 and 600 miner's inches.

"Of course, you understand that with the measurement we are able to take the work was only approximate. Variation on the Dee flume may be easily 1000 inches one way or the other. That on the East Fork would be apt to vary less than that and I think those on the ditches are fairly close."

Post Entertainments! Remember to post the dates of proposed entertainments in the Entertainment Directory at the public library.

JOHN R. PUTNAM GIVES HIS OPINION OF THE POULTRY BUSINESS

"As a commercial proposition on a large scale, I do not believe that the poultry business in the Hood River Valley can be depended upon to yield satisfactory profits," said John R. Putnam of the Upper Valley when interviewed regarding poultry raising, however, I do believe that every orchardist should have a flock of hens. A small flock can be cared for without



News Snapshots Of the Week

Three New Jersey mountaineers were arrested charged with threatening President Elect Wilson with death unless he paid them \$5,000. They are (1) Seelye Davenport, (2) Jacob Dunn and (3) Warren Dunn. Samuel Untermyer, as special counsel for the Pujos committee, reopened the investigation of the money trust. Striking railroad workers killed two and terrorized the town of Edgewater, N. J. New York suffragettes started on a hike to Albany to plead for votes. Delegates from Turkey and the allies met in London to discuss the questions of the war. Sir Edward Grey formally submitted the British protest to the Panama canal tolls. Claude Allen, who, with his father, Floyd, was to have paid the death penalty for the Hillsville (Va.) murders, was granted a stay until Jan. 17.