

FORAGE IN NORTHWEST

Report of Result of Visit of Special-
ist to Oregon, Washington
and Idaho.

"At every station I visited great interest is being taken in the work of grass and forage plant investigation, and there is an apparent readiness to join with the department in co-operative work, with a view to improving the ranges everywhere.

"The State of Washington from its large size and its varied soil and climatic con-

ditions, offers a number of important and perplexing problems. Much good work has been done by the Bureau of Plant Industry, both in the testing of hardy varieties of grasses, and in the study of native species. At North Yakima and in the Snake River country considerable work has been done in the testing of drought-resistant grasses and forage crops, and also the behavior of certain crops under irrigation.

Probably the two most important problems for Washington, as well as the adjoining portions of Oregon and Idaho, are the improvement and renovation of the soil for forage crops, and the introduction of mixed farming in the wheatgrowing region, particularly in the Palouse country. Other problems of importance are alkali-resistant forage crops, drought-resistant cereals, and the improvement of soil-binding grasses, the last perhaps of less importance in Washington than in

Oregon, since in the latter state, in addition to the sand-binder problem, there are vast sand areas along the immediate Pacific Coast, where this question is a prominent one.

It was concluded by all after thoroughly discussing the questions, that the best line of co-operation between the Washington state and the Oregon State would be in connection with the problem of range improvement. This question is not one of the most important in the state and region, but there are many localities in which investigations can be conducted that will apply well to all the sage-brush lands along the border between Oregon and Idaho. This work can perhaps be better undertaken with the Washington station than with those of the other stations, while, on the other hand, the problems that are encountered by the farmers and stockraisers can be as well or better met and solved in the Oregon states. I understand that the Oregon station will be glad to join the department in co-operative investigations. Oregon is particularly anxious for the investigation of the sand-binder problem, and

"Over the larger part of Idaho the problem is not so much resistance as range improvement, drought-resistant forage crops, and forage crops suitable for alkali soils. The land along the streams is not so bad as the foot slopes, which are impregnated with alkali and produce poor yields of alfalfa and other of the more commonly cultivated crops of the region; but the larger part of the western area where surface irrigation is either impossible or impracticable, and hence the question of drought-resistant crops is an all-important one. The common conclusion is, however, and largely because of the distance

of this section from the state station. It does not seem very likely that co-operative work along this line could be arranged to advantage with the station authorities. In the northern portion of the state there is a large farming community surrounding Moscow, the location of the state experiment station; and here, perhaps, the most important question is that of meadows and pastures suitable in either short or long rotations for the milk cows.

coming into practice in this section, since the lands are beginning to show 'wheat sickness,' from continued cropping with that cereal. This question is also one of considerable importance in Eastern Washington and Northeastern Oregon, and in portions of the great northwest.

Spanish Policy. International Monthly.

corruption and demoralization, as the lawless and profoundly corrupt habits of their colonial administration of every kind had aggravated, if possible, the very same tendencies in the Spanish administration at home. They are of the opinion that the material advantages derived from the colonies by Spanish capital, industries, agriculture, shipping interests, were but a poor set-off against the greater evils of their rule beyond the seas. The result is that the Spaniards, after a prolonged period, to settle down within their peninsula, become engrossed in

the reorganization and development of the abundant resources of their soil and of their waters, and of their rivers and channels, husbanding and concentrating all their energies and their spirit of enterprise, both in the peninsula and in the distant north and south. In all, the long run have improved their international position.

They illustrate their modern convention by pointing out for instance that those diplo-mats who have not only a better vantage-ground from which to go on trying to induce the Spanish-American Republics to consent to closer relations with their own country, but also a better mother country, now that she has severed all connection with the New World, but also a better starting-point for negotiations with the United States. The Office is prosecuting with Minister Storey

McCutcheon's Condition.
CHICAGO, Dec. 25.—John T. McCutcheon, the well-known cartoonist and newspaper man, who is suffering from an attack of pneumonia, is reported in a precarious condition. The attending phys-

Funeral of Frank H. Morris.
CLEVELAND, Dec. 25.—The body of Frank H. Morris, the murdered Auditor

of the War Department, was brought here today from Washington, being accompanied by the widow and son of the deceased. Brief funeral services were held in the chapel at Lake View cemetery, which were attended by a number of friends and acquaintances of the family.

New York, Dec. 25.—Arrived—Antilla, from Nassau.
