

Stock-Growing Industry Making Steady Gain in Oregon as Intensive Farming Methods Develop

Better Flocks and Herds Owned in Oregon Due to Gain in Pure-Bred Sires—Portland to Continue as Chief Livestock Center of Pacific Coast.

By O. N. Plummer, Secretary of Portland Union Stockyards.

THE livestock industry of Oregon at the present time is probably one of its greatest assets. Close upon its heels in importance comes the livestock industry. As the years go by the livestock industry will increase in importance, for many years ago Oregon was a stock-raising state. It was the great source of the nation's supply of livestock. It was the great source of the nation's supply of livestock. It was the great source of the nation's supply of livestock.

It is almost impossible to talk of livestock conditions here in the Northwest during the past 20 years without weaving into it much that has to do with the Portland Union Stockyards Company. For many years Portland has been blessed with a union stockyard, dating back to 1884, with the small yard in Portland at Seventeenth and Vaughn streets, growing year by year, until we have the nucleus of the present stockyard, as existed at the old stockyard in 1903. At that time many thousands of head of livestock were being handled annually, and although the old yards were very cramped, the shippers were a very well satisfied lot. The present yard at North Portland, which there are no better for their size in the United States, was the immediate growth of the old concern. People thought the management were building for years in advance, but within a short time extensions were necessary.

Hog Production Increases.

The tremendous growth along lines of hog production in Oregon, Idaho, Washington and Montana has been due directly to the efforts of the stockyard companies. When California was overtaken by drought a number of years ago, her people came up into Idaho and secured their supply of hogs out of territory made through our campaign of disinfection. With a campaign for more and better corn carried on at the same time by the O. W. R. & N. Company, these Western states must be taken into consideration by the Middle West states where it comes to the production of hogs and corn.

We speak of the 200,000 square miles of the inland Empire tributary to Portland through the water grade down the Columbia as one of Portland's greatest assets. For no other product has this water grade the same significance.

ance as that of livestock. Moving livestock from one place to another is a problem from a shipper's standpoint, and it is from this point of view that the water grade is so important. It is a water-grade shipment is very light when compared to that transported on railroads which cross over mountain passes. Shipping of livestock is down to such a fine point at the present day that it is a question of shrinkage as to whether or not the shipper will make a profit.

Small Farmer Profits.

The large cattle ranges of previous days are fast disappearing and in their place we have the small farmer, who will raise a few head of pure-bred animals. Several times during the year he will have a few head of cattle, hogs or sheep to go to market and it will be good and sure pay for his country mailman. A great contrast to the former wheat-growing methods when bills were paid annually, or perhaps only once in two years, depending upon the success of the wheat crop. The successful farmer of today and the future is the one who ships none of his forage crops off the farm. He feeds them to the cattle, hogs and sheep and avoids the payment of freight on a heavy bulk, rather putting it into a package which furnishes its own motor power. For every ton of hay or wheat shipped off the ranch, we take out of the soil from \$2 to \$5 per ton, whereas the feeding of livestock possibly adds that much per ton to the fertility of the soil.

One of the pressing needs at the present time and one that is being successfully met is the country shipping of livestock. In a few sections of the country the farmers have demonstrated the fact that they can ship their livestock in a very satisfactory way. For instance, only recently a car of hogs arrived at the stockyard representing 25 ownerships—the consignor of each one of these hogs received as much for his shipment as did the man who was on the market that day with one or ten cars of hogs. This method of handling livestock does away with the very unsatisfactory system of farmers dressing their stuff for the market and then taking chances on the condition of the weather as to whether or not they receive a fair return for their shipments.

The continued increase of pure-bred sires in the Northwest States is a subject of much congratulation. At the last Oregon Legislature a law was passed making it a penitentiary offense for either than pure-bred sires of beef

breeds to run at large. It is hoped that a similar law will be passed at the coming session, covering areas of all kinds of livestock. At the present time, if all of the livestock now in the Northwest were of pure breeding, it would probably have a value of at least \$25,000,000 in excess of that which it now has. It is a fact that the real value of pure-bred sires by making a very attractive rate on their movement from one point of the country to another.

The management of the Portland Union Stockyards Company have stood back of the pure-bred business manfully year after year. For the last 20 years of most standing behind all pure-bred auctions and taking their share of the offerings to the end that today finds Portland recognized as the leading city on the Coast as a sale point for pure-bred animals.

Livestock Show Educational.

No mention of the pure-bred industry in the Northwest is complete without reference to one of the prime factors in its upbuilding, that is, the Pacific International Livestock Exposition. With a small beginning five years ago it has attained to an importance which places it easily fourth in rank to any similar show in the United States. The managers of the largest breed associations in the United States were its guests during the year's exposition and were loud in their praise of the splendid work which it is doing of spreading the gospel of "pure and better livestock."

It has the most loyal support of the state, county and city, and it is unique in that it is the only show in the United States for which no admission is charged, no entry fee made; no concessions sold, and what is more important still, its absolute refusal to move the show to any other place, diverting amusements to be held. It is always understood that the show is purely educational, the people go there to see livestock, to study it, and if they want amusement, go to legitimate amusement houses in the city.

No states are more ideally located for the production of livestock than those of the Northwest, and in no part of the United States has more ample provision been made to take care of the business work in various lines where the livestock that which obtains at the Union Stockyard, North Portland. Old-time livestock men who are familiar with similar conditions in the Middle West move their one-fourth of what it is inevitable that Portland shall always remain the livestock center of the Pacific Coast.

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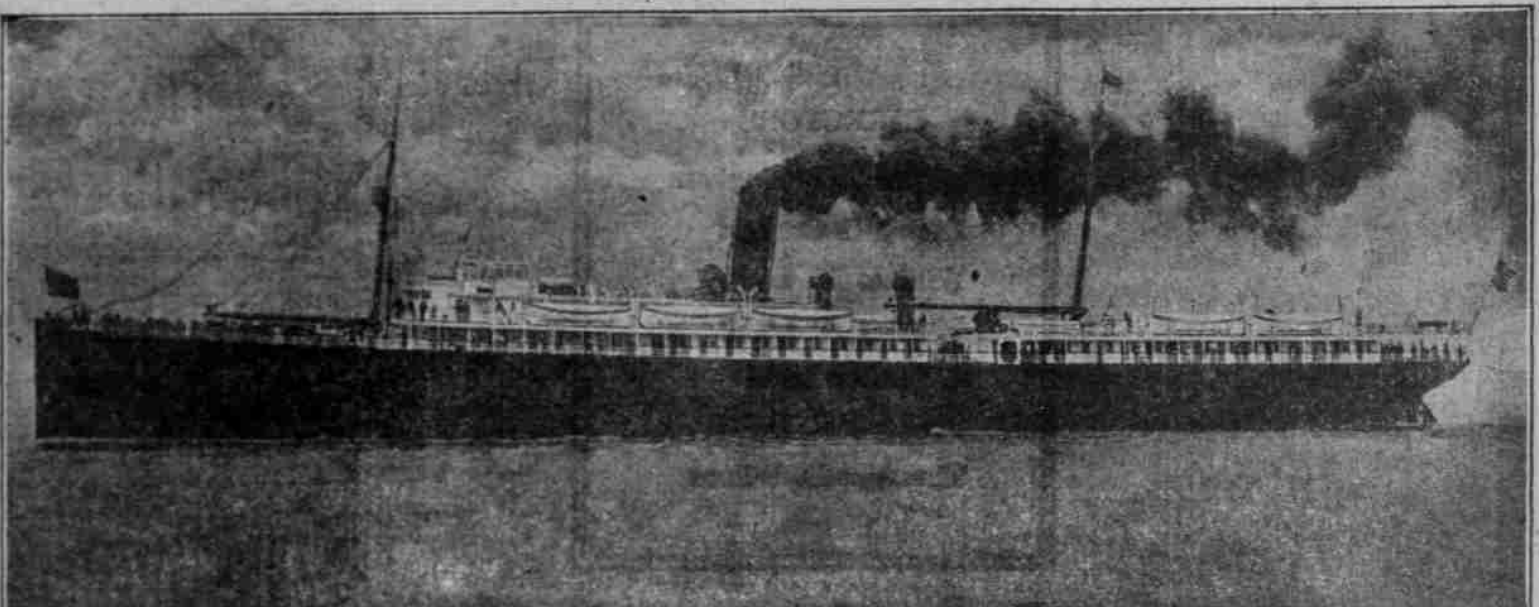
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Schools in Oregon Progress Along Standard Lines

State Superintendent of Instruction Declares Gradual Lengthening of Terms Is Another Indication of Inauguration of Advanced Methods—Teaching Requirements Made Stricter by Law.

By J. A. Churchill, State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

THE public schools of Oregon are making marked progress along the various lines of their endeavor. In some directions the advancement during the past year has been especially noticeable. This is particularly true with reference to the standardizing of rural schools and high schools and the organization of children's industrial clubs. Other indications of progress which deserve mention are the gradual lengthening of the terms of school, the improvement in the teaching force of the state and the higher salaries paid teachers.

The last Legislature enacted a statute known as the county high school tuition fund law, the purpose of which is to provide high school facilities for all of the young people of the state who have finished the elementary schools and are ready for the high school. A large percentage of the children, especially those in the country, live in districts in which there are no high schools. Heretofore many of these children have been unable to continue their studies beyond the eighth grade, because they could not afford to pay a tuition fee of \$10 or more per year in some other district having a high school.

Under this new law children who are ready to enter this grade may go to any other district, provided they do not have a standard high school in their own district, and the actual cost of their tuition will be paid by the county in which they live. Although this law has been in operation only a few months, there are now hundreds of children attending the high schools of the state who would have been unable to do so if it had been necessary for them to pay tuition.

Teaching Standard Better.

Last September a law which was passed in 1913 became effective, requiring at least a minimum amount of professional training for all persons who take up the work of teaching. Heretofore persons who have not had at least a month's successful teaching experience must complete a course in methods of teaching, in addition to passing the regular examination, before being certificated to teach.

This course in methods is offered in the fourth year of every standard high school and also at our State Normal School. This new law will help to strengthen the elementary teaching force of the state. All grades of teachers are making better progress in their work. It was recently shown that in one of the counties of the state 10 per cent of the teachers are now graduates of colleges, universities or normal schools. In the same county male teachers receive an average monthly salary of \$108.50 and female teachers \$103.50, and in higher than the average for the entire state and indication that with better preparation for their work teachers are able to command higher salaries.

The rapid growth in the number of high schools in Oregon is worthy of special notice. There are now 144 high schools in the state, and over 2000 students are graduated annually. There are in addition nearly an equal number of secondary schools, and more than two of these years of work above the eighth grade. In their zeal to establish high schools many of the districts have been forced to provide proper equipment and an adequate teaching force. The result was that some of the smaller high schools were "graduating" students who had not done their work thoroughly and well.

There are a few things which every

school must have if its work is to be successful. Even in the smallest and most remote country school the children and teacher should have a clean, comfortable, well-lighted, well-ventilated, pleasant room in which to work. Not only should the schoolhouse and surroundings be sanitary and pleasant, but a sufficient length of school term and regular attendance on the part of the pupils are of great importance. Vital as these things are to the success of any school, they are all under the control of the people of each district and their local representatives, the members of the School Board, and there is no officer, either county or state, who can make these things, no matter how great the need may be.

Rural Schools Improve.

In order to induce the country and village schools to provide these essentials (all the cities have them) the state department of education, in cooperation with the County Superintendents, adopted a plan for "standardizing" these country schools which would meet the prescribed requirements. About a dozen requirements for standardization were printed upon large cards and displayed in every country schoolhouse. Then a campaign was begun by the County Superintendents, Supervisors, teachers or some other aggressive person to encourage the district to meet the requirements which might be lacking and become a standard school. In the past year hundreds of rural and village schools have been induced to lengthen their terms, to correct defective lighting, to secure ventilation systems, to secure blackboards and needed school furniture; to clean up filthy and insanitary toilets and to provide proper playgrounds, with at least a few pieces of play apparatus. The plan is so simple and yet so effective that it has been adopted by a number of counties in other states.

The industrial club work of the boys and girls of Oregon has been most successful, principally on account of the manner in which the work is conducted. The Superintendent of Public Instruction receives annually a special appropriation of \$4000 for the promotion and encouragement of this work. Supervisors are employed, who spend all of their time in the field, organizing clubs, holding community meetings and acting as judges in local industrial fairs. Such assistance has stimulated and completed the work that is being done in the various parts of the state. Co-operation with the state department of education, the Oregon Agricultural College, the Oregon State Highway Commission, the Oregon State Fair and the Oregon State Board of Education.

Co-operative Markets Are Urged

Ralph Hetzel Points Out Benefits of Organized Efforts in Development of Rural Resources and Betterment of Home Conditions.

By Ralph Hetzel.

MR. HETZEL, Service has often been asked: "What are the duties of the county agriculturists and what have these in Oregon done toward improving rural conditions?" These two questions are rather difficult to answer briefly, as the duties and work of the county agriculturists now employed in Oregon seem to be limited by the individual capacity of the men.

One of the greatest problems now receiving a large portion of the county agriculturists' time is the organizing and carrying on of co-operative marketing of farm products. This work is done in several ways: Establishment of public markets, where the individual farmers are able to take a great variety of farm products, obtaining a fair price and enabling the consumer to receive fresh products direct from the farm; making direct shipments of crops to the city, and directing the co-operative shipment of hogs, cattle and farm products in carload lots.

Special Work Outlined.

The county agriculturists are leaders in organization work in rural communities, helping organize many associations for the development of rural life. The following are four of the most important forms of organizations which county agriculturists in Oregon are organizing and assisting in conducting:

1. **Poultry and Egg Circles for a more**

2. **As soon as a club is formed the names of the children are sent to the extension department of the college, so that they may be included in the mail to the club members. For example, all members of the potato-growing club receive the following bulletins: "Potato Seedlings and Potatoes," "Potato Pests and Diseases," "Varieties of Potatoes," "Selection of Seed," "Preparation of Seed Bed," "Methods of Planting," "Harvesting, Hill, Selection of Seed," "Selection of Exhibition Tubers" and "Potato Judging." Similar bulletins are sent for other crops. Any boy or girl who is between 9 and 18 years of age may enter these contests without joining a club.**

3. **Industrial Clubs Increase.**

The United States Department of Agriculture is the third co-operating agency in this work. This department sends a representative at least once a year to speak at public meetings held throughout the state and, through the franking privilege, makes it possible to send bulletins to the club members. When one stops to consider that there are now more than 12,000 children enrolled in the state, it is not hard to see how important it is to have the assistance of the Federal Government. On the other hand, the Government is more than repaid by the interest and actual increase in a higher grade of products. The work of these clubs is stimulated by district, county and state fairs, where the products of the children's work is displayed and judged.

The culmination of the exhibits is reached at the State Fair and State Fair Board has set aside one of the largest buildings for an Educational building, where more than 20,000 people view each day the children's products. So much interest was aroused in this work that it was possible last year to send the nine prize-winners all expenses paid for two weeks. Public-spirited men contributed money for these trips and other prizes and this year they will send all the first prize-winners to the Oregon Agricultural College for a summer course, with all expenses paid.

Through these clubs, the standard of rural schools has been raised. The rural schools of Oregon are developing a happy, healthy and efficient group of boys and girls in every section of the state, who are going to revolutionize country life and make the farm home a delightful place to live.

profitable marketing of farm products of high grade, and at the same time for obtaining better practical methods put to use as quickly as possible in all branches of the country industry.

Now testing associations for the purpose of weeding out poor and unprofitable crops for better feeding, better care and increased interest in the dairy herd, and for the co-operative buying of feeds and selling of dairy products.

community, in assisting in drainage surveys.

The county agriculturists are often asked to interest the United States Department of Agriculture, in Marion County, which does not produce crops in various lines where the livestock that which obtains at the Union Stockyard, North Portland. Old-time livestock men who are familiar with similar conditions in the Middle West move their one-fourth of what it is inevitable that Portland shall always remain the livestock center of the Pacific Coast.

These men are called upon at all times for personal advice as to the best methods of cultivation, selection where practiced, correct amount of water to be applied to different crops and best time to apply this water, time of harvesting, method of harvesting and handling of all kinds of crops, the handling of livestock, doing some special veterinary work and helping in the construction of barns, manure sheds and silos.

HIGHWAY WORK IN OREGON PROGRESSES

In Nearly Every County Construction of Roads Pushed in 1915. State Aid Important.

THE Oregon State Highway Commission, consisting of Governor James Withycombe, Thomas E. Kay, State Treasurer; Ben W. Olcott, Secretary of State, had at its disposal the quarter mill state levy, amounting to approximately \$27,000. Of this amount \$15,000 has been expended in Clatsop County, on the Columbia River Highway, from Astoria east, which was supplemented by a sum amounting to \$28,000, advanced by the citizens of Astoria to be paid from the 1916 tax levy of Clatsop County. A total of \$43,000 was used to complete the work started in 1914—25 miles of road from Astoria east to the Columbia County line. The gross expenditure amounted to \$261,900.

Clatsop County completed the grading of a crossroad connecting up with Tillamook County, spending about \$40,000. There are four bridges yet to be built, upon the completion of which a traveler can go from Astoria south to Tillamook.

In Columbia County the State Highway Commission expended in 1915 \$30,000, which, supplemented with an appropriation of about \$15,000 by Columbia County on the general road fund tax, opened up the Columbia River Highway direct to the Clatsop County line, a distance of eight miles.

The appropriation of the 1916 funds amounted to \$22,000, which has been expended in building a new highway out of Rainier west and in eliminating steep grades. The gross expenditure on the Columbia River Highway in Columbia County amounts to \$235,000. The work on the Columbia River Highway in the vicinity of Cascade Locks, Wyeth and Viento was completed, this work being financed by Hood River County, under the bond issue of \$75,000, supplemented by a guarantee made by the Oregon State Highway Commission.

Donson to pay all expenditures over and above \$75,000. Under this he has

been called upon to pay approximately \$15,000. The Highway Commission appropriated \$50,000 in a locality known as Mitchell Point. This involved the construction of a tunnel 390 feet long. In Jackson County an appropriation of \$10,000 was set aside by the State Highway Commission for completing the constructing and hard-surfacing of the Skiyaku Mountain road. The total amount expended upon this road is \$243,000.

To Jackson County \$10,000 was appropriated for work for eliminating grade crossings two miles north of Astoria. The work has been held pending an agreement with the Southern Pacific Railway Company.

To Douglas County \$20,000 was appropriated. Of this amount \$3,000 was used for grading just north of Comstock and what is known as Pass Canyon, the balance being expended by a request of the county officials of Douglas County for a survey of the Pacific Highway.

Yamhill and Tillamook counties jointly have constructed a new grade connecting the new Grand Route road on a less than 5 per cent grade and 15-foot roadbed. The State Highway Commission appropriated \$30,000 to be made in appropriation of \$30,000 out of the funds of 1914-17 to build a new highway between Mosier and Hood River, provided Wasco County should vote bonds to construct this section of the Columbia River Highway from Mosier east, was resolved at the meeting of the Highway Commission.

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