

ITEMS OF INTEREST

FOR SALE—A house and four lots for less than cost on north side of Madras. The house is well built but not quite finished, the lots are 50x100. Must be sold at once. For information write Ora Van Tassel, Vanora, Ore. jy 20-tf

FARM LOANS!! Madras State Bank.

FOR SALE—At the Pioneer Office Legal Blanks of all kinds; Carbon and Typewriter paper, installment sale contracts, Notes and Receipts.

MONEY TO LOAN ON FARMS. See Madras State Bank

To whom it may concern:

Anyone putting building material, lumber, tank, pipe or any other kind of property on my land in Madras does so at their own risk.
Nov 8, 1911. A. Zell.

Woman wanted for housework. Call at Pioneer office. 2t-p

S. C. Rhode Island Red cockerles for sale S D Percival, Gateway 2t p.

We don't like to make suggestions, but if you are feeling out of sorts, and wake up in the mornings with a dark brown taste in your mouth, you can cure said indisposition with a few bottles of Guinness' Stout. It's a nourishing and stimulating beverage. Sold at the Shamrock Bar, Tommy McCormack, Proprietor.

FOUND—North of town; saddle, also blanket. Owner please call. Rev. E. D. Blackman, Madras, Oregon.

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The national apple show, the greatest event of the year horticulturally, will be held in Spokane, Wash., this year, the date set being Nov. 23-30.

Many a shock of corn is hard hit from heavy fall rains through failure to make a second and later tie above the first when the fodder was cut and which has become loose through a shrinkage of the stalks and leaves.

A fish hatchery in Oregon has just started its "incubators" going with 10,000,000 salmon eggs. These will be given proper "brooder" accommodations and when old enough to forage for themselves will be liberated in the streams of the Pacific slope.

The fact is certainly not appreciated as fully as it should be that no food is so beneficial as milk in increasing the quantity and improving the quality of blood and thus building up a depleted and rundown physical system. A quart a day with all of the butter fat will do the business.

The sumac and hard maple stand at the head perhaps in the popular esteem for their gorgeous leaf coloring, but in seasons when the leaves of the hazel brush have time to ripen naturally they produce a variety as well as a quiet richness of coloring that is unsurpassed.

In Cairo, Egypt, where the Mohammedan religion holds sway, dogs are held sacred and practically swarm in the streets. As one passes through some of the small towns in America the number of dogs to be seen would seem to justify the belief that the followers of Mohammed were getting a foothold.

With prices of hay ranging as high as at present there would hardly seem to be any need for urging the best possible care to be given in the handling of stalks, straw and other forms of roughage. Before another growing season rolls around hay will be a mighty scarce article and the price out of sight.

The consensus of opinion of those who have had experience in dry farming is that land sloping to the north or northeast is best suited to the purpose. This is due to the fact that land with such slope is not exposed so directly to the rays of the sun, loses less moisture from evaporation and is less likely to suffer from hot winds.

Not only does the orchardist who takes scientific care of his trees get an extra price for his fruit when there is a short crop, but he is well paid for this care even when he sells on a flush market, for it is under such conditions especially that quality counts, as fruit that is given no spraying or other attention does not justify paying freight to get it to market.

An interesting trait of waterfowl that most every hunter is acquainted with is that when wounded on the water they will almost invariably crawl out on land, while if winged on land they will as often seek refuge in nearby water. The redhead, one of the most highly prized of game birds, has a still more exasperating habit of diving when wounded and seizing hold of some water plant and there dying.

The story is familiar of the donkey that ate heartily of dry prunes and in crossing a broad ford got them soaked up, with the result that they expanded so that the animal burst asunder. But not until this season has the writer noticed apples developed during a dry season, dropping in August and several weeks later bursting their skins following copious rains through absorbing moisture from the damp grass in which they lay.

A reader of these notes inquires if it will injure seed corn which has been gathered some little time to be left out in a rain. Provided it was where the sun would shine on it and dry it out no injury would result unless a hard freeze caught the corn unprotected with this moisture in the germ and cob. By far the better plan is to see first that the corn is thoroughly dried out, then hang it in a dry and well ventilated place until winter, when it may be hung in a dry cellar or vacant room upstairs.

A farmer in the north part of the corn belt who lives near a sweet corn cannery recently banked \$1,060 as the proceeds of thirty acres of sweet corn. Besides this he has the fodder left, which he considers equal acre per acre with timothy hay. This fodder he feeds as a part ration for a dairy of a dozen or more cows, from which he gets a revenue of \$100 per head. These figures are not unusual, but merely show what can be accomplished by combining energy and intelligence.

Potato prices are found to justify importation of foreign spuds when the price level is 2 cents per pound or more. When the price is less than this the surplus produced in European countries is manufactured into alcohol or used as a ration for farm animals.

The only gorilla ever brought to New York alive is dead of homesickness. The animal was a female and would not eat; hence it slowly starved to death. Sixty of her companions, male and female, died when attempts were made to bring them from their native haunts in Africa to this country.

A friend who is a careful student of bird life and habits calls attention to the interesting difference in quality between the songs of Mississippi valley and Dakota plains meadow larks, the notes of the latter, in his opinion, due to a drier condition of atmosphere, being sweeter and clearer than those of their more easterly cousins.

The farmers in the dry belt who have been prevented from thrashing their scanty yield of wheat through unusually heavy rains, which have prevailed lately, have the fact to console them that these rains held captive in the mellow soil and properly conserved by a fine surface mulch next spring, will insure a crop next season.

Foliage plants of rare and beautiful leaf can be had for indoor display by getting slips from one's neighbor or a nearby greenhouse and inserting them in water until tiny roots are visible. They may then be transferred to permanent pots previously filled with rich and mellow earth. The plants should be well watered and kept in a warm room.

The bed of pansies which has furnished a profusion of beautiful bloom during the past season will keep nicely through the winter if given a mulch covering of spent manure or straw litter. One lady we knew used an old carpet for this purpose, and her pansies came through the winter nicely and were ready to bloom by the time the wind flowers opened.

An interesting fact of sugar beet culture is that the beets from which the seed for commerce is raised are not, as one would naturally suppose, the largest beets obtainable, but little fellows about an inch in diameter, which are secured by sowing thickly the seed from highly pedigreed plants. The Germans, who are among the pioneers in beet culture, call these seed beets "stechlinge."

It is well to keep in mind the fact that the soil in the orchard may become badly soured and disordered by leaving piles of cull apples to rot, as has been the case the past few weeks in many sections. It is far better to remove such cull stuff from the orchard entirely, but if such piles have been allowed to rot the spots should be sweetened with a generous sprinkling of slaked lime or ground limestone.

One of the most eminent physicians of the country states that a vast majority of the misery folks suffer from ill health could be prevented by knowledge of simple laws of health and making the most possible of the aid to be got from nutritious food, sunshine and fresh air. His statement, if trustworthy, means that if people would live as they ought to live the medical profession would practically be put out of business.

An article in a recent issue of this department which outlined the bond issue plan for raising funds for highway improvement in Jackson county, Ore., gave the amount raised in 1910 for road work as \$96,042. Instead of \$96,042, while the valuation of property in the county was given as \$5,000,000, when the amount should have been \$50,000,000. As the figures appeared the amount raised for road work annually was 20 per cent of the total property valuation of the county, which is at a glance an absurd situation.

The boldest tree "graft" that has been pulled off in a long time is being worked by a bunch of get-rich-quick chaps in several eastern states. They are selling cyanide of potassium (a deadly poison) at several dollars a pound to be used in vaccinating trees for the cure or prevention of the diseases from which they may be suffering. This or any other dope injected beneath the bark of trees can have not the slightest effect in curing or preventing tree ills, and, so far as doing any good is concerned, such dope might just as well be put in a hole in the ground out back of the barn.

Within the past two years several thousand Hungarian pheasants have been distributed by the game wardens of several northern states among farmers, who agreed to look after them and see that they were protected from their numerous enemies. It is gratifying to learn that as a result of this care and favorable weather conditions these pretty birds have multiplied in a satisfactory way. It is further a pleasure to record that they are more than paying their way in the service they are rendering as insect destroyers. It is reported that one farmer who became the protector of several pairs of these pheasants had a big potato patch that was badly beset with bugs. The birds got on to this and forthwith took up headquarters in the patch, making an end of the insects and saving the crop of potatoes, estimated as worth \$3,000 by the owner. It is a safe guess that this man will look after these birds from this on.

VALUABLE DEMONSTRATION.

The Pennsylvania experiment station has been doing some work of a practical nature within the past few years along the line of instructing the orchardists of the state in the matter of giving their orchards more careful and scientific care. Some four years ago eleven orchards were selected with the idea of giving them a ten year course of experimental treatment along the line of better culture, fertilizing, spraying, etc. The orchards have been divided into check plots, the different areas being given different treatment to test results. Some of these received no fertilizer, others various combinations of nitrogen, phosphoric acid, phosphorus, lime, barnyard manure, clover and mulch. The results have been most instructive. It was found that the plots receiving no fertilizer gave practically no return. Other treatments yielded net returns ranging from \$100 to \$500 per acre. Nitrogen alone or in combination gave excellent results. Potash or phosphoric acid alone showed no increase in fruit production, but did when used in combination with nitrogen. Lime alone had no beneficial effect, but barnyard manure gave the best results of all. For the purpose of gathering up and giving fruit growers of the state the benefits of a direct inspection of some of this experimental work a field meeting was held on the Johnson farm, in Lawrence county, on Sept. 27. Horticultural experts in charge of the experiments, assisted by those from other states, were present to explain the demonstration work to the many who assembled to get the benefit of it.

THE EROSION OF EARTH.

Investigations which have been carried on by the United States geological survey show that the surface of the country is being worn away by the erosive action of water at the rate of an inch in 760 years. This seems like a very small amount, but it is an enormous amount when viewed in the action of single drainage basins. It is estimated that the Mississippi river carries annually to the gulf of Mexico 136,400,000 tons of dissolved matter and 340,500,000 tons of suspended matter, such as particles of earth. Of this total the Missouri river contributes more than twice as much as does the Ohio. The Colorado river delivers at its mouth 100,740,000 tons of suspended matter, or more than any other single drainage system. It is estimated that all rivers in the United States which flow to the sea bear thither a grand total of 883,000,000 tons of dissolved and suspended matter, or the equivalent of 610,000,000 cubic yards of surface soil.

THE TWO-YEAR AGRICULTURAL COURSE.

In years past much of the work done by agricultural colleges has failed to confer the largest possible usefulness because of the rigid and quite exacting requirements for admission to the agricultural courses, in many cases the equivalent of a high school course being necessary. Within the past two years several leading agricultural schools, realizing this fact, have provided for a two-year agricultural short course, which is open to all young people who have had the branches taught in the average country school, a knowledge of which would be necessary for satisfactory progress in the courses offered. The benefit which will result from thus throwing these practical and helpful courses open to a greatly increased number of young men and women can hardly be estimated. It will mean the realizing of a maximum value from the most practical type of instruction that is offered in American schools today.

A SPECIALIST'S OPINION.

Professor Hopkins of the University of Illinois, one of the leading speakers at the conservation congress held a short time since at Kansas City, made the rather startling statement that, notwithstanding the fact that the soils in many sections of the country have been depleted by soil robbing to the point of virtual bankruptcy, we are exporting annually 1,000,000 tons of our best phosphate rock for the paltry sum of \$5,000,000, when if this same phosphorus were applied to our own depleted soils it would be worth \$1,000,000,000 in the production of bread for future generations. He made the further interesting statement that, with proper handling based on a knowledge of the fundamentals of preserving soil fertility, millions of acres of practically abandoned land in the older states could be brought to a point of productivity where they would have a value in excess of the \$200 corn belt lands of the central states.

SHOULD BE RIPE.

The enjoyment to be derived from eating pears—and this has to do with texture, juiciness and flavor—is almost entirely dependent upon their being ripened at the time of consumption. Pears for shipment any distance are always picked while hard. They may have attained full size and good color, but at the same time be hard and worthless. The proper way of handling pears in such condition is to put them away in a cool dark place, and before many days they will be perfection—sweet, luscious and fine flavored. If any readers have never given pears this preliminary treatment they should do so and get favorably acquainted with the finest fruit that grows.

J. J. Hoydar

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Madras 8:39 a.m., arriving Portland 6:00 p.m.
Direct connection at Fallbridge for Spokane and points east. Arrive Spokane 9:45 p.m. Through tickets sold to Eastern points; Puget Sound and other Western points. Deposits accepted for west-bound tickets to be furnished persons in the east. Details will be furnished on request.

J. J. HOYDAR, Agent, MADRAS, ORE.