

**THE MADRAS PIONEER**

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Thursday, August 29th 1912.

**A Practical Plan.**

The plan of promoting agricultural development adopted by the Central Oregon Development League has the merit of being eminently practical. The best advertisement Oregon can have is a well-developed, prosperous state. The greatest factor in development and prosperity is agriculture. Then let us do our utmost, by the united action of Nation, State and country through the Agricultural College and all its agencies and through the schools, to bring every tillable acre under cultivation, to make it produce the largest crop of that product to which it is best adapted and to preserve and increase its fertility. That done, Oregon will need no advertising beyond the fact of its yield and of its people's prosperity.

The greater part of the cultivated area of Oregon is not producing up to its capacity. A much larger area of tillable land is not producing at all. The farmers now here and those yet to come need to learn how. Up-to-date farming, such as is taught at the Agricultural College and at the demonstration farms can greatly increase, in many cases double, the production of existing farms. Farmers' Institutes and lectures can teach much to those who have already begun to practice the right methods, but the old-style farmer is naturally conservative and must be shown in order to be convinced that scientific farming gives the best results. He can only be shown on a demonstration farm, which must be brought within his reach. Hence such farms should be sprinkled all over the State and should illustrate the cultivation of each kind of soil, in each variety of climate and with each particular crop.

This display of scientific farms "in motion," as it were, is particularly needed by the newcomers. They may have been successful in New England, Pennsylvania or the Middle West, but may fail in Oregon, owing to novel conditions. They need to be shown how to adapt themselves to these conditions, in order to insure their success. Every citizen of Oregon has an interest in their "making good," for every new settler who succeeds becomes a booster, while every one who fails becomes a detractor. The league's policy, thoroughly carried out, will raise a large crop of boosters, whose bank accounts will advertise Oregon as can no other means.

**Just Before the Dawn.**

When many years ago William Hanley left his native county, Jackson, in this state, a comparatively poor boy and went over into Harney County, he took with him no watch or other timepiece. Why should he tie up a few dollars in a watch, when the same amount invested in two or three yearling heifers would soon bring big returns? Watches in those days were, as he looked at it a luxury for the rich—and he, being poor, was passing up all luxuries. He argued that he didn't need a watch. At daylight it was time to go to work. Along about midday his stomach struck 12, and at dark or short-

ly after, it was time to quit and rest up for another day.

As time passed and Hanley grew able to own many watches there came no desire to own or carry one, and he says today that he never owned a watch, or never expects to own or carry one. "If I had one," he remarks occasionally when questioned, "I never would have time to wind it; if it was a self winder I wouldn't have time to look at it".

In his office on the Bell-A ranch, near Burns, there stands on the mantelpiece over the open hearth a beautiful clock, which was given him by a friend several years ago. This clock cost more than a dozen ordinary watches. But it has never been wound since it ran down the first time after it was placed on the mantel. It stopped a quarter to 5 in the morning and with the minute hand within a fraction of 5 it stood ever since and—always will so stand unless some meddler starts it going. But that would be no easy matter, for the key was long ago thrown away by the owner.

A quarter to 5 A. M. That is about the time of day in Harney County. The night of isolation has almost passed, dawn is advancing, the first rays of the sun are shooting above the eastern horizon, a day of great promise is at hand, and soon in a noonday of achievement and prosperity William Hanley and the other patient, tireless and hopeful citizens of Harney County will realize their long-deferred dreams of wonderland of wealth and contentment.—Oregonian.

**CARRY OVER THIS  
YEAR'S MOISTURE**

Next Year May Be Dry, But You May  
insure a Fair Crop by Proper  
Action Now.

The crop of 1912 is simply phenomenal in the states of the northwest. In the aggregate it was doubtless never equaled. But the conclusion should not be reached that this result is owing to the high class character of the farming. With the same rainfall as in 1910 the results would be little if any improvement on the crop of that year. The bumper crop of the present is owing almost entirely to the unusual rainfall of the present season and to the timeliness with which it fell. This rainfall, unusual in length of its continuance, has not only given the farmer the bumper crop referred to, but it will also give him at least a reasonable crop in 1913 if it is properly conserved, even though the season should be a dry one. How shall this moisture be conserved? First by discing the land; second by plowing later in the season; third by stirring the soil in the early spring with disc or harrow or both, and fourth by harrowing the grain once or oftener after it has begun to grow.

In an exceedingly dry year discing the stubbles after harvest may not accomplish much by way of conserving moisture, but it will open up the dry soil so that rain may penetrate it more easily should it fall. But in a year like the present there is much moisture even in stubble land. It is greatly important that it shall be conserved. As soon, therefore, as the crop is removed the stubble land should be well disced. If the harrow can follow the operation will be more complete, but this is not absolutely essential. The discing will exert a very potent influence on the retention of moisture. It also allows moisture that may fall subsequently to the discing to penetrate more deeply than it otherwise would.

The land that is thus disced should be plowed later in the

fall. Some farmers argue that stubble land should not be plowed or even disced in the fall, since the undisturbed stubbles may better hold the snow, but the preponderance of argument is easily in favor of autumn plowing. The land that has been disced is easily plowed and the same power will plow it more deeply than if it had not been disced. It is not so essential to plow disced land in the fall that is to be planted with corn. If the stubble land thus disced cannot all be plowed in the fall, the plowing of what is intended for corn can be deferred. Much has been written about packing fall plowed land, but it is not very often that the lands plowed in the autumn require to be packed.

Stirring the soil in the early spring with disc or harrow or both as occasion may call for, is but little practiced. It is, nevertheless, of great moment and should be done as soon as the ground can be stirred thus without injury to its mechanical condition. It stays at once the loss of moisture from the soil, at least for a time. Even though crops are to be planted late, as in the case of alfalfa, this stirring of the soil is very important. Of course it can only be done on summer-fallowed land or corn or potato land of the previous year, or on land that had been autumn plowed.

When grain has been sown on land thus prepared, the moisture may be further held by harrowing the grain. The best stage for the first harrowing is when the grain is just beginning to appear. The best implement for harrowing it, all things considered, is a light adjustable seel harrow. The teeth should be slanted backward with some few exceptions. But a weeder may be more suitable for very soft soils. If a second harrowing is given the grain should be, say 4 or 5 inches high at the time, so that none of it will be buried. Even flax and alfalfa may be harrowed, but not when they are coming up. If they are harrowed it should be when they are several inches high. Harrowing grain is not profitable when many sods or much trash is on the land.

If the farmers of the Northwest will but handle their land as thus they will be assured of at least fairly good crops next season, but if they give no attention to these methods of cultivation much moisture will be lost. If a very dry year follows the crop will then fail. It would be peculiarly unfortunate not to improve the opportunity to the utmost. Such seasons as the present are all too rare. Unless the farmers stack much of their grain they will not be able to handle their land as outlined, for the shocks will be in the way.

—Prof Thos. Shaw.

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