

Editorial Page of Home and Farm Magazine Section

Timely, Pertinent Comment Upon Men and Affairs, Following the Trend of World News;
Suggestions of Interest to Readers; Hints Along Lines of Progressive Farm Thought.

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TO READERS.

Readers are requested to send letters and articles for publication to The Editor, Oregon - Washington - Idaho Farmer, Oregonian Building, Portland, Oregon.

Discussions on questions and problems that bear directly on the agricultural, livestock and poultry interests of the Northwest, and on the uplift and comfort of the farm home always are welcomed. No letters treating of religion, politics or the European war are solicited, for the Oregon-Washington-Idaho Farmer proclaims neutrality on these matters.

Comparatively brief contributions are preferred to long ones. Send us also photographs of your livestock and farm scenes that you think would be of general interest. We wish to make this magazine of value to you. Help us to do it.

SAFETY ON THE FARM.

THE "Safety First" propaganda that has been sweeping the land has already been treated of in these columns, but its specific message for the farmer cannot be too greatly emphasized. It is not only for those who live and work among shuttling streetcars and automobiles that this movement was organized, but also for those who labor on the farm.

Farm labor is not usually considered hazardous. Because accidents are distributed over a wide area there has been a general lack of appreciation of their number. But there have been plenty of them.

Power machinery has come into extensive use within the past ten years and has succeeded not only in revolutionizing the industry of farming, but in increasing the dangers of farming as an occupation. Farm work is much more hazardous today than it was a few years ago, when practically all operations were performed by hand. Corn shredders, gasoline engines, feed grinders, grain separators, cream separators and other forms of machinery have changed agricultural processes until the industry has become more similar, both in method and in danger, to factory work than to earlier agriculture.

Many of us have a horror for steam boilers because of the danger of and damage caused by an explosion. Yet the common ladder, for which we have no concern, causes more than one hundred times as many accidents as the boiler. Among farmers the percentage of accidents due to falls is very large.

Another source of many farm accidents is vicious animals. One need only to scan the columns of country papers to gain an idea of the number of victims.

Persons operating farms should insist that all of their machines be equipped with every safety device possible, even though it entail an increased expense. Life and limb is not so cheap on the farm as it is in the modern factory, speaking from an inhuman standpoint. From a humanitarian viewpoint a human life is of such infinite value that it cannot be compared with machinery.

Sixteen fatal accidents, two likely to result in death, eighty-five serious injuries and thirty-two severe ones—a total of 135 accidents—were reported from Minnesota's agriculture during twenty months, eighty-two of them, including four fatalities, in the last eight months. The reports for the first twelve months were especially incomplete, but there is no reason to believe that the records

even for the last eight months are a complete toll of the accidents.

Be thoughtful, avoid carelessness, and take every precaution to prevent accidents. Remember, Safety First!

VACCINATION ONLY INSURANCE.

A YOUNG man writes: "I have 124 young hogs quite well finished for market. I was the only one in this section to vaccinate. The near neighbors are losing all of their pigs, but mine are doing fine."

No other reference is made relative to these hogs. No other reference is necessary. The whole story, a story worth thousands of dollars to every reader who raises hogs, is disclosed in the paragraph.

This man took time by the forelock. He used hog cholera vaccine as a preventive. He locked the door before the horse was stolen. In doing so it cost him less to have his veterinarian vaccinate his herd than though he had waited until the hogs had more nearly reached maturity. Now he is happy, for he has ready to market in the neighborhood of \$2000 worth of pork. He need not force it onto the market through fear of hog cholera, even though his neighbors are losing pigs. He has immunized his hogs at small expense. With a feeling of security, he will now hold them until they are completely ready for market and until the market is satisfactory.

Everyone recognizes the folly of not carrying insurance, but the annual losses on farms of this country from fire, lightning and tornadoes are small compared with the losses from hog cholera.

Vaccination is the best insurance against hog cholera and the cost is well within reason.

Thousands of farmers this year have put off having their hogs vaccinated, expecting that when cholera made its appearance in the herd—or even in the neighborhood—they would then vaccinate. The risk they took was unwarranted. In the first place, it costs more to vaccinate older animals than pigs, and in the second place there is always a danger that something may happen to prevent securing safe, efficient vaccine at the time it is needed most.

Few could foresee any happening that would cut off the supply of vaccine last Fall, but breeding animals, market hogs and pigs are dying by the thousands throughout the corn belt, and their owners, many of whom were urged persistently during the Spring and Summer to have their herds immunized, are searching in vain for vaccine now.

Following the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease the Agricultural Department at Washington condemned and ordered destroyed much of the vaccine that was available as an extra precaution against the spread of disease. Manufacturers are now putting forth every effort to get a new supply, but it takes many weeks to make efficient hog cholera serum. The result is that those who have put off vaccinating from day to day are compelled to suffer.

In this instance procrastination is the thief of hogs. Our friend and hundreds of others who did not procrastinate are now profiting, not alone because they saved their hogs, but because of the shortage which is bound to occur on account of the present prevalence of hog cholera, their hogs will in the near future land on a high market.

Again we suggest the wisdom of having the entire pig crop vaccinated as early in

the season as possible in order to enjoy the feeling of security that comes from the confidence that the hog cholera germs have been baffled and that the corn crop is certain to find a ready and most profitable market through the pigs when they have been finished and sent to their slaughter in a healthful condition. And while you are going to this trouble and expense, do it right. Be sure that the serum is pure and that it is administered properly. A licensed graduate veterinarian is the man to do the job.

AMERICA TODAY AND TOMORROW.

THE United States, with only 6¼ per cent of the world's inhabitants, produces 68 per cent of the world's corn, 20 per cent of its wheat, 61 per cent of its cotton, 35 per cent of its tobacco, 15 per cent of its cattle, 42 per cent of its iron, 63 per cent of its petroleum, 40 per cent of its coal, 20 per cent of its gold and has 38 per cent of its railroads, says the Polk County Itemizer.

The United States' domestic trade in 1913, \$40,000,000,000, far exceeded that of any other nation. American factories last year produced goods valued at \$20,000,000, of which less than 5 per cent were exported. All the remainder of that vast quantity of articles of use of luxury was consumed here at home—proving beyond argument that the average standard of living in this country far exceeds that of any other.

This leadership is attributable to nature's gifts of rich resources and a stimulating climate, plus a system of political ideals that attracts here the most ambitious individuals of other lands and makes them free to use all their powers for self-advancement, with due regard for the equal rights of their fellow citizens.

In a world of uncertainties, few possibilities seem more likely to be realized than the increase of this country's population to 250,000,000 or more within the next century.

It is perhaps true that opportunities to gain enormous private wealth will be fewer hereafter than heretofore, since society tends increasingly to frown upon such accumulations; but nowhere else on the globe can the young man of mettle find equal opportunities for reasonable material success, for social usefulness and for civic honor, whatever the level from which the accident of birth may start him.

The rock that Moses struck in the wilderness out of which gushed water has been found by an explorer. But that was before the era of grape juice, and the children of Israel were really the first folks on the water wagon.

In a single county in Kentucky 1200 men have been indicted for buying and selling votes and are to be put on trial. All the political corruption in this country is not confined to Tammany Hall.

It is the supreme test of loyalty for one to get the rheumatism while engaged in the defense of his country. Dying is a mere bagatelle. But the twinges of rheumatism, ah, there is the rub!

It is announced that cattle diseases do not affect poultry. This lets out the chickens from attacks of the foot-and-mouth disease.

The Ohio corn boys have just concluded a visit to Washington. What a harvest for the chiropractors!