

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.

AFTER SIX MONTHS.

AFTER six months of the world's greatest war, several factors have been definitely determined. Germany's marvelous military machine failed in its march to the gates of Paris because of the stone thrown in its intricate mechanism by little Belgium. The damage was far from permanent, but the halt was long enough to allow the allies to prepare for a firm resistance.

For the past two months the change in the battle line of Central Europe has been comparatively little. The two mighty armies, with a battle front of more than 200 miles, have swayed one way and another, but little momentous advantage has been gained by either side. The Germans have failed to break through the allies' lines; the allies have been able to do little more than to check the Teuton onslaught. Russian and German remain clinched in the east.

Winter is on and an aggressive campaign has apparently been abandoned by both sides until Spring. Kitchener is busy preparing his army of 1,000,000 men; Joffre is calling on France's last reserves; Wilhelm is preparing to launch many more well-equipped battalions; Nicholas is sending hundreds of thousands of men to the frontier. When the snow melts and the warm winds of Spring dissolve the chill that now wraps the bodies of the soldiers in the field, the titanic conflict will resume on a more enormous scale than heretofore.

Will the ability of Germany to equip the best-trained army in the world prevail against the millions of determined fighting men of the other great nations?

THE FARMER'S HARDSHIPS.

IN that most excellent book, "An Old Farmer's Letters to His Son," the father, W. R. Lighton, writes his boy, who is away at the agricultural college, about a lot of things connected with a farmer's life. Among many other things, he talks to his son about what are called the "hardships" of a farmer's life. Here is what he said. Note the fine spirit in which it is said:

"It has always been the fashion to speak of the life of a farmer as a hard life. That's as you make it. Hardship isn't a state of facts; it's a state of mind. The man who takes joy in his work, who finds contentment in it, makes no complaint about his hardship. The man, of all men I've known, who suffered most of hardship was a fellow who had nothing in the world to do but to contrive ways of spending the income from

a huge fortune left him by his father. He couldn't do it. At 30 the effort had made him worn and world-weary; before he was 35 he had tasted and tried every sensation within his reach excepting death; so in desperation he shot himself. His was what I'd call a life of real hardships. Distinctly a state of mind, you'll notice. He had the abundance which I, and others like me, are so thankful for when we earn it, but he found it too much for him. A man is master of the abundance he really earns. It's his. If he hasn't mastered it that way, it's likely to master him. That can't content him—and when contentment is left out any life becomes a hardship.

"There, I think, is the honest philosophy of it. I might say a lot more about it, but to pile up words would only befog my point. You'll understand what I'm driving at. The sum of it is that farming is a great life for a man, because, if he is built that way, it lets him read his title clear to a supreme contentment. It's hard work—yes; but there's a great difference between hard work and hardship."

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY.

ST. VALENTINE was a Christian martyr who was imprisoned, tortured and beheaded during the reign of Emperor Claudius about 270 A. D. Emperor Claudius had instructed Arterius, who had a blind daughter, to persuade St. Valentine back to paganism. St. Valentine is said to have cured Arterius' blind daughter and thus converted Arterius to Christianity.

The custom of sending valentines had its origin in a heathen practice connected with the worship of the Goddess Juno on the same day as the birth of St. Valentine.

Many a man owes his happiness in this life to the pretty little custom of sending valentines.

We may be a little old-fashioned, but we still persist in believing that the custom should be encouraged. Any custom and every custom that tends to warm the heart by bringing out tender memories and sweet emotions should be welcomed.

BOOSTING PROSPERITY.

JUST now the awful conflict in Europe is creating an extraordinary demand for the products of the farm, but at the same time it is closing a market for the products of countless city factories and closing the door of opportunity to thousands of honest working men. These idle men cannot buy food—the product of the farm—as busy men can. They must have work now if they are to continue as good customers of the farm.

We are in the habit of saying that the people in the towns and cities would starve to death if it were not for the people on the farms—and it is true. We are in the habit of saying that the people on the farms could live if they were entirely cut off from all cities and towns—and that is true.

But the merchants and manufacturers and office men in the cities and towns on the one hand and the farmers on the other are partners in the gigantic enterprise of modern civilization. Any injury to one partner hurts both. Short crops on the farm cause hard times in the cities and towns. Poor business in the cities and towns reduces the prices for the products on the farm.

If every person living on the farm in this country would spend an extra \$10 with the merchants and manufacturers in the cities

and towns during the next thirty days, it would put thousands of idle men to work and bring joy to thousands of homes.

You are planning to spend some of your extra profits from your grain and livestock. You are going to buy new clothes or build an addition to your house, or buy new rugs or build a new barn or a new fence or buy new machinery. You will keep the money moving and it will soon come back to you in better prices for farm products.

SEED CATALOGUES.

NEXT to the old family almanac, seed catalogues are associated in memory with the most important events on the farm in our boyhood days, but look at the difference. In that day a seed catalogue was a very ordinary-looking pamphlet. There were no attempts to make it attractive with colored plates and other embellishments of the printer's art.

Now the average seed catalogue "is a thing of beauty and a joy forever." It is attractive in appearance and its contents convey to the purveyor much information that is helpful and inspiring. Anything that encourages gardening is a blessing. The seed catalogue not only lauds old-time favorites, but it brings before us a large list of novelties and new varieties for the field, orchard and garden. It is a very dull and stupid person that refuses to get enthusiastic over an attractive seed catalogue.

THE APPLE CROP.

THE apple crop of 1914 is probably the largest ever produced in the United States, being estimated at 259,000,000 bushels, as compared with 145,000,000 in 1913; about 235,000,000 bushels in 1912; 214,000,000 in 1911; 142,000,000 in 1910, and 146,000,000 in 1909, as reported by the census.

These figures represent the total "agricultural" crop and should not be confused with figures representing estimates of the commercial crop, which comprises only the marketed portion of the total production. In 1913 the commercial crop was estimated at 40 per cent of the total agricultural production. The census report of 146,000,000 bushels in 1909 is the basis of yearly estimates of total production, being used in connection with crop reporters' estimates of percentage of a full crop produced each year.

Does the world grow better as it ages? The story of Demetrius, of ancient Athens, suggests a negative reply. He was besieging Rhodes, which possessed the great paintings of a master artist. The citizens told him that his military operations against the district where the paintings were endangered them. Demetrius declared that he had as lief destroy the portrait of his father as injure the picture by Protogenes, and at once shifted his assault to another quarter. Fancy modern masters of the art of war being so considerate and self-denying!

A defeated candidate for Congress in Massachusetts reports that he "received nothing, promised nothing, expended nothing and got nothing." Oh, yes, he got "the hook."

California police have taken pictures of the footprint of an escaped burglar. At any rate they are on his tracks.

Rumors of more trouble among the yellow men. Wonder who is Cochin China!