

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.

TO ADVERTISERS

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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 do it.

THE SUMMER TRIP.

EVERY farmer in the Pacific Northwest owes it to himself and family to see that all enjoy a delightful outing this coming Summer. The extent of the excursion will depend upon finances, but this should be a pretty prosperous season for the farmer, so let's aim high. It does no harm to plan your trip now, though Summer is quite a bit off, for if you find at the last moment you cannot go, you will at least have had the joys of anticipation, which, it is truthfully said, often exceed the joys of realization.

In considering the vacation question it is most natural for eyes to turn toward California, for that is the exposition state of the world this year. By all means, if you can afford to go to the magnificent fair to be given on the shores of the great San Francisco Bay, make that your destination this Summer. It will be well worth time and money expended, for it is quite the most wonderful pageantry of color and art and industry that has been known to this modern age. The millions of dollars being expended to make it the most splendid exposition ever held are not being wasted. The resultant show dazzles the imagination.

San Francisco suggests San Diego, for there, too, is being held a world exposition, along different lines. To some the magnificent splendor of San Francisco's fair will appeal the most; to others the more modest but none the less perfect gem of the San Diego fair will have the greater lure. As we have said before in these columns, San Diego is the exposition breathing the spirit of the West; San Francisco is the fair whose scope is the world.

Should finances not be of the health and stature to carry one to California, don't forget the beautiful resorts in which the Northwest abounds. And, most important, don't forget in planning your outing that the City of Roses, Portland, expects to present the greatest Rose Festival this year that it has yet attempted. You know what that means.

DELINQUENT PARENTS.

EURIPEDES tells us that the gods visit the sins of the fathers upon the children, which is a bit rough on the offspring. There may be more justice in a recently-enacted New Jersey law which visits the sins of the children on the parents. In Trenton a mother and father have been indicted because their progeny were guilty of

criminal offenses. New Jersey believes in holding the parents responsible for the evil deeds of their children; it is a wise, sane and necessary law.

A stream of miserable children flows through our juvenile courts on the way to the reform school, the city prison and the state penitentiary. In 99 cases out of 100 these unfortunates are the offspring of delinquents, men and women who have no conception of the duties and no realization of the holiness of parenthood. As soon as possible they rid themselves of the responsibility of caring for their young, who are turned into the streets, hungry, lawless and predaeous. Sooner or later these unhappy little wretches become wards of the state, which always diligently and frequently unsuccessfully tries with the whip of reformation to cure the faults which would have yielded to the gentle suasion of parental instruction.

New Jersey's enactment declaring that her citizens shall be held responsible for the conduct of their children is worth noting.

If the offenses of the children were visited where they belong, there would be no need for future generations of children to pay for the sins of their parents.

B-11 IN THE HELLESPONT.

THE Hellespont has solid claims on romance. When the B-11, Lieutenant Norman B. Holbrook, R. N., commanding, swam far enough into the Dardanelles to torpedo a Turkish battleship she was cleaving very well known waters. Xerxes crossed them on a bridge of boats. So did Alexander. Leander swam them from shore to shore. Lord Byron tried to. And, really going back, the good ship Argo threaded that narrow channel in her voyage to the Euxine.

None of these earlier feats can begin to compare with the achievement of the B-11 as an adventure or a marvel. Had Homer guessed that an underwater ship would one day dive into the Sea of Marmora he would have longed for new adjectives. Yet we tip our paper up on the breakfast table and read the news without blinking.

Only after a new Homer, a century hence, has done justice to the marvels of the B-11 will she have a chance to create real thrills and rank with her predecessor in the Hellespont.

LIVING AND EXISTING.

THERE is a vast difference between living and just existing. To really live is worth while. To merely exist is a bore and a nuisance to one's own self. Everyone has it within his own power largely to determine whether he shall really live or whether he shall only exist.

To live is to enjoy one's work and take pleasure from the things around him. To merely exist is to hate one's work and to despise the things about him. Whether one enjoys or hates his work depends largely upon his mental condition. Whether one takes pleasure from the things about him, or whether he despises them, depends largely upon the things themselves.

Whether the things about one are such as to cause pleasure or disgust is within the control of one's own self, for he can change them to meet his own likes. Therefore, whether one shall really live or whether he shall only exist is within the control of each one himself.

A few simple repairs, a few quarts of paint properly applied to the buildings, a flower-

bed here and there, a little care everywhere; these are the things which will transform a farm from a place of imprisonment and embittered existence into a home filled with happiness and content. Let those who have been living the life of imprisonment in past years make that simple and easy change this Spring.

ALFALFA MACHINERY.

THE man who is just starting to grow alfalfa can get along very well with his ordinary equipment of machinery. As soon as he gets to growing it on any very extensive scale, however, there are some special alfalfa implements that can be profitably used.

One of the most important of these is the spring-tooth cultivator. We are just learning that alfalfa needs cultivation almost as badly as corn. One or two cultivations after every cutting, with the possible exception of the last, will keep down weeds, increase the yield, thicken the stand and prolong the life of the field. The cultivation can be given with a disc, but a spring-tooth harrow is much more effective. Where 15 acres or more of alfalfa are grown it will pay to get the largest size, which is a four-horse tool.

The side-delivery rake is almost a necessity in curing alfalfa. Cocking and capping is not practical except for small fields. With a side-delivery rake the hay can be piled into windrows after it has wilted and turned occasionally until it is thoroughly cured. If this work is done carefully and at the proper time, there will be little loss of leaves. Even when there is a good deal of rain after the alfalfa is cut, judicious use of the side-delivery rake will make it possible to cure it into very fair quality hay.

The hay-loader is a valuable labor-saver in handling large quantities of alfalfa or any other hay. An even more valuable implement where the hay is stacked in the field, or the field is near the barn, is the sweep rake. With this rake and a stacker or a double-harpoon fork at the barn, the work of putting up the hay is greatly lessened.

Where alfalfa is sown without a nurse crop a special alfalfa drill, with discs three inches apart, will give a more even stand than can be obtained in any other way. It would hardly pay an individual to buy such an implement, however, unless he is sowing a great deal of alfalfa every year. In a neighborhood where considerable alfalfa is grown several neighbors might go in together on the purchase of such a machine.

WAR AND IMMIGRATION.

THE Pacific Coast has been expecting a vast influx of European population upon the completion of the Panama Canal. Will the European war check or accelerate this movement? From Russia to Great Britain and from Sweden to Italy and Spain there are more than 20,000,000 men under arms. Of course, for the time being, the war is likely to check emigration from all these countries.

But in the end it is sure to accelerate it, for the reason that the people of all European countries will in large numbers desire to escape from the possibility of being caught in such a maelstrom of war as that entangling them now. The condition of Europe for years has been driving hundreds of thousands of its best people to the United States, and the present terrible war cannot but counsel all who can to get out of conditions so adverse to human life.