

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.

POWER MACHINERY FOR THE FARM.

THE gasoline engine has long since passed the experimental stage. There was a time when it took both skill and patience to manipulate one of the "monsters," but with all the improvements that have come by the application of skill and genius, a gas engine is as safe and reliable as any other piece of equipment about the farm.

Any equipment that will obviate labor and increase the output is worth considering. In these times of activities and rush and hurry a piece of machinery that will perform without being constantly watched is deserving of a place in farm operations.

The uses are so varied and so extensive that the labor problem takes on a much different aspect where the gas engine is on duty. It not only pumps the water, but it runs the feed grinder, silo filler, cream separator, churn, washing machine, wood saw, and if properly equipped furnishes electric lights for the house and barn.

The gasoline engine is one of the labor-saving devices on the farm. It pays for itself within a short time; it enables the farm help to be devoted to the tilling of the soil, rather than doing chores. Women can use it as well as men. It is a long stride in economical farm operations when gas power is made to perform various operations about the farm.

COMMERCIAL FERTILIZERS.

THE matter of plant food is all important in purchasing fertilizers. When a farmer buys a ton of an average commercial fertilizer he buys in reality only about 300 pounds of actual plant food. If he buys a cheap fertilizer he gets less than this amount. If he buys a high-grade fertilizer he may receive as much as 600 pounds.

It costs as much to mix a ton of fertilizer containing 300 pounds of plant food as it does one containing 600 pounds. The cost of sacking, hauling and freighting is the same. Therefore, it is evident that the manufacturer can sell the plant food in a high-grade fertilizer cheaper per pound than he can the plant food in a low-grade fertilizer.

In other words, the higher the grade the cheaper can the plant food be bought. Farmers are advised therefore to purchase only high-grade fertilizers.

Attention is called to those brands which have less than 2 per cent of ammonia or potash. Less than 2 per cent of either of these ingredients is too small a quantity where such

ingredients are needed, and where not needed it is useless to purchase them. It is an utter waste of money to purchase potash or ammonia in fertilizers containing less than 1 per cent of these ingredients.

PAYING THE TEACHER.

ONE of the striking situations revealed by the Federal investigation of teachers' salaries in the United States was the wide variation in pay for the same or similar work. The inquiry showed that public elementary teachers may receive \$2400 a year, as some do in New York City, or \$45 a year, as in certain rural communities.

Even in cities of the same class there are considerable differences in the salaries paid. On the administrative side there are county superintendents with pay ranging from \$115 to \$4000 a year, and college presidents receiving salaries of from \$900 to \$12,500.

In city school systems salaries have increased steadily in recent years, particularly in the Western states, and in general, salaries in city school systems are fairly well standardized.

It is in the colleges and universities, however, that the widest variation prevails. Salaries of men with the rank of "professor" range from \$450 to \$7500. "Professors" in some institutions receive less than "instructors" or even "assistants" in others. Salaries of deans of these institutions vary from \$500 to \$5000.

University teachers of subjects for which there is direct commercial demand outside receive somewhat higher salaries than teachers of academic subjects, but the difference is less than might be expected. The highest average salaries for full professors are paid in law and civil engineering.

"DEAD" SUBJECTS.

AN INSTRUCTOR in the English department of a certain agricultural college says that students do not take naturally to reading about London in the sixteenth century, while they are interested in the war, woman suffrage, the Filipinos, college athletics, and a score of other modern subjects. Besides, these are the topics that most writers are handling and will continue to handle.

What point is there, then, in giving students such subjects for treatment as "The Literary Style of Ben Jonson"? Upon such subjects they have no ideas, but are brimming over with ideas about the matters of which the literature of the moment is full. Upon them, therefore, they are asked to write.

"Naturally," it is gratifying to learn, "their written work is improving." At the risk of seeming to align ourselves with those fossilized individuals who place the literature of 1616 above that of 1914, we may remark that this instructor is not the first to find that it is easier for most persons to write about subjects that are in the air than about those of a day that is dead.

MARKETING NEW YORK APPLES.

JOHN J. DILLON, treasurer and general manager of the Rural New Yorker and one of the most aggressive champions of farmers' rights in America, has been appointed Commissioner of the Department of Foods and Markets of New York City.

It having transpired that there are about 2,000,000 barrels of apples in storage in New York state, Mr. Dillon proposes to experiment with a public sale of apples in New York City by the growers themselves. The

plan is to sell these apples at a "fair" price—evidently meaning a price that will be satisfactory to both grower and consumer—and the prices named are \$2.50 per barrel for first grade and \$2 for second grade apples, the sale to be in open market under state supervision.

The growers are asked to do their part and co-operate with the department and thus move these apples into consumption, for it is stated that if some such plan does not succeed the growers will lose both apples and cost of storage. In Mr. Dillon's letter he says:

"There are 10,000,000 people within shopping distance of New York. If each one of them can be induced to eat two apples a day, in 50 days there will not be a barrel of apples left in storage in the state."

The success or defeat of this project will intensely interest all who are advocates of free public markets and any other method of business that will bring producer and consumer into closer relations for their mutual benefit.

THE SCHOOL GARDEN.

IT is not too late to plant a great many varieties of ornamental things. Those deciduous plants and shrubs that have begun to grow when this issue reaches our readers might best be left to another season, although most early starting shrubs, such as lilacs, may be obtained of nurserymen in a dormant state several weeks after those which have not been disturbed have started to grow. Practically all of our flowering annuals may be planted now with the best of success.

There are many school grounds in the Northwest that are not in a condition to be attractive to our 1915 visitors; in fact we are not proud of them ourselves. These grounds should be planted to some growing thing now and thus give an impression to the children who go there to school that a schoolhouse and school grounds are really of some importance to the people who send their children there.

Who can tell just how much influence a well-planted school yard has upon the pupils in the way of creating an interest in their school work, and how much influence the bare yard has in discouraging them?

A small glass house would not be amiss in some schools where some of the tenderer varieties of flowers may be started early or potted plants protected from winter frosts. Of course such a house would be valuable, and so would hotbeds, cold-frames or a lath-house. The fact is these things would not only add to the attractiveness of the grounds but if the pupils were allowed to build and operate them themselves they would get a better understanding of the uses to which some of the subjects which they are studying may be put.

A small sum invested in a good sire for his services will in a very few years mean a large sum in the better quality of the animals handled and fed.

The tide of gold is now homeward bound, and the first shipment comes from China, gold-band China, so to speak.

Whatever you dislike in other persons be sure that you are not afflicted with the same trouble.

The man who is afraid of burning up a wick need not hope to brighten the world.