

# A Page of Editorials for the Home and Farm Magazine Section

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## TO READERS

Readers are requested to send letters and articles for publication to The Editor, Home and Farm Magazine Section, 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. We proclaim 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.

## DECLARING WAR.

LET'S have a little war of our own, while the powder burns and smoke flies on the fields of Europe. What's the matter with a campaign started at once against the foes besieging your farm?

The European war has taught us the uselessness of depending on stationary fortresses to repel the attack of an enemy. Stationary methods will never do in this little war we are going to start. We are going to get out and be the aggressors, never giving the enemy an opportunity to be safe within our domain. This is to be a cruel, a relentless war, and no flags of truce will be observed. It will be a war of blood and iron, of sweat and work, and no compromise will be tolerated.

Who is this war to be against? Our foes are many. There is, for instance, that obnoxious weed that is seeking "a place in the sun." We must deny its ambition fulfillment. There is the cutworm that must be cut down before its career has begun. There is the codling moth that has designs upon the Fall apples. Spray it. There is the sick hog that must be brought back to health ere disease advance upon the remainder of your swine.

Oh, there is plenty to do—don't forget that. The main thing to keep in mind is that now is the time to do it. It must be a war in which there is no time for parleys, a war of action, and of results. To the victor belongs—prosperity.

## TEACHERS AND HIRED MEN.

WHEN a man has more work than he can do he hires a man to do some of it for him. He sets aside a certain portion of that work for the hired man and a certain portion for himself. But after he has made this division, does he go on about his own work and pay no attention to the way in which the hired man does his? Not he!

He keeps a close watch on that man to see that he does his share of the work in the way in which it should be done. Especially if the man's work includes the care of livestock, the employer keeps in close touch with the way the work is done.

And why shouldn't he? The livestock is valuable; the proper care of it is important.

When our children become old enough to need an education we hire somebody to do that work for us; we do not have time to do it for ourselves. Now surely those children are just as valuable to us as are our horses, hogs and cattle. And yet there is not one of us in a hundred, or probably even in a thousand, who ever pays the least bit of attention to how our hired man—or hired woman—is doing this vitally important work of educating our children. There are, in fact, many of us who do not even know who these hired helpers are, let alone knowing anything about how they are doing their work.

Consistency, thou art a jewel!

## IDLE TEARS.

ONCE upon a time tears were woman's strongest weapon.

That they are so no longer is a wonderful tribute to the stronger personality of both sexes. Since women are now the true helpmates of men, they no longer attempt to rule them with the weapons of weakness. Women with personalities don't weep, except alone. In great grief they cannot cry. Weeping in solitude restores the balance of the soul, but the easy weeper has never a strong personality.

Idle tears belong to weakness and sentimentality. Tears that are red with the sweat of anguish are never seen and never spoken of. It requires a trained will-power and genuine emotion to hold back the tears that gather in the eyes, a stronger will-power than that that carries the soldier through a rain of bullets.

## TOO MUCH ROPE.

(Editorial in Western Farms, Spokane)

TWO bold explorers were desirous of examining a deep canyon that was impossible of access by any path they could discover. They found that the only way to gain entrance into that coveted position was to descend the steep, rocky walls by a rope.

They were cautious. The lighter man was to be let down, but before doing so must know that the other could pull him up. So several times the larger man let his companion over the precipice a little way and pulled him back. Yes, he could draw him up when the explorations were finished.

But alas! When the time came the man at the top could not lift his companion! They had not reckoned on the weight of 800 feet of rope! He could just raise the man without the additional burden of many pounds of rope.

Many a farmer gets into just such a predicament as that. He can easily carry on a farm that involves 160 acres. Thinking another section would increase the income two-fold he buys, only to find that he has assumed a greater burden than he can bear. The increased fencing, the need of more help, more machinery, the mortgage and all, is just a little "too much rope" and he can't make it go.

Many a man has become enthusiastic over some new line of effort and, unwilling to start in a small way and gain experience, has dipped in too deeply. The losses have been heavy, the outcome of the venture discouraging. He couldn't pull himself out of the hole because he had

not reckoned on all the points involved.

Sometimes a man takes desperate chances on the board of trade, or in a bucket shop, or on the regular market. He thinks the matter over and sees no reason to fear the venture. But he has not seen the long coil of rope that the other fellows have slipped about him to weight him down and hold him while they fleece him.

You may be strong, you may be well fixed, but beware lest you become "land poor" or fettered by obligations that you could easily avoid.

## THE COST OF THE WAR.

STATISTICIANS are busy guessing at the cost of the war in Europe.

It's all wasted effort, for figures cannot compass nor the human mind comprehend the appalling cost of this civilization-wrecking conflict.

The cost of the war is not measurable, and even those details of it that can be estimated will exceed all estimates.

The cost of the war involves these items, some calculable, some incalculable:

1. The cost of equipment—guns, ships, ammunition, uniforms, horses, forts, etc.

2. The cost of maintenance—subsistence for men and beasts; pay of officers and men, etc.

3. The cost to industry through the withdrawal of men of the highest productive capacity.

4. The cost to society in the loss of social efficiency through the killing and maiming of men.

5. The cost to future generations in the loss of those fittest to carry on the species, who are those chosen for war. The Napoleonic wars, mere skirmishes compared with this holocaust, had a marked and shocking effect on the French race because war took the fittest and left the unfit to breed succeeding generations.

6. The cost in property destroyed in the process of warfare—a cost measurable by money only in part. Who shall count the value of a Rheims cathedral?

7. The cost of human heartbreak, in the woe of widows and orphans.

8. The cost in brutalizing humanity, in debasing civilization.

Every item in this list is a definite charge upon war, a definite count in the indictment of civilization against war and militarism.

## WHAT SPREADS HOG CHOLERA

THE responsible causes for the infection of nearly 3000 herds of hogs with cholera presents an interesting angle of the question, showing how this serious disease is spread. These figures have been kept by the Federal investigators in their recent studies of the cholera situation. The largest number of cases, more than a third, were carried by men either in exchanging labor or in visiting on neighboring farms. Birds are charged with over 17 per cent of the cases, this being the next highest figure. In 16½ per cent of the cases it was believed that the infection was harbored on the farm from previous outbreaks. Dogs carried 9½ per cent of the cases, and 8½ per cent were caused by direct exposure to sick hogs of the neighbors. The bringing in of new stock started only 3½ per cent of the cases.

Cannot farmers develop some sys-

tem of guarding their herds from infection brought by neighbors, since this is found to be the most serious method of infection? One Illinois farmer has a box of sawdust saturated with infectant at his front gate. A visitor is expected to disperse his feet before entering. Why not a practical and thoroughly scientific method which could well be employed?

With the passing of the old ranges many changes are taking place. The contrast is well illustrated by the modern method of Dulski, a rancher in McKenzie County, North Dakota, who uses an automobile to herd his cattle. He found that his automobile enabled him to traverse as much ground as could be covered by two men on horses, and he has since used it almost constantly on the ranges of Southern McKenzie County.

## THE FERTILE MIND

WE ARE all the time about adding to the fertility of the soil, but how do we do that unless we have a fertile mind? Ah! there's the rub. We must first start in a mind stored with sound knowledge of laws and principles we are to live with, for out of that knowledge comes the sound judgment that enables us to deal wisely with the mystery of all mysteries, the mystery of life. No farmer is fitted to grapple with this mystery unless he has a fertile mind.

That utterance of the great teacher, "Except ye become as a child ye shall in no wise enter the Kingdom of Heaven," does not refer primarily to the innocence of a child. Nor is it limited in its application to the Heaven beyond life. It applies now and everywhere. Its real meaning is teachability.

Except as we are as willing to learn the meaning of things as a little child, we can in no wise enter into an understanding of the world, obtain mastery over them, and such knowledge and such a teachability that gives us a fertile mind. With that and only that can we cope with the mystery of life. It applies now and everywhere. Its real meaning is teachability.

Starved minds among farmers have produced starved farms. There can be no enrichment of the soil without first enriching the mind.

We don't see why the news should make such a noise about attendance at the San Francisco Fair exceeding all previous attendance. Everybody expects it to exceed all others in attendance, and, in fact, in every way.

"Seattle jitney driver's license revoked because of six accidents in twenty-four hours." "Portland jitney driver's license revoked because of five accidents in twenty-four hours." Portland wins.

A state's popularity is not determined by its good laws, a six months' divorce law, a round prizefight law, and a poker law. Nevada is said to be the most popular state in the Union because of some people.

"Kaiser Bill's throat over and seriously affected"—Sunday and Bill Bryan are said to be unable to articulate. Why don't they give up grape juice?