

Editorial Page 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.

SMALL FARMS.

ONE of the leading New York bankers, in fact one of the leading bankers of the world, in passing through Portland recently, gave out an interview in which he predicted that Oregon, Washington and Idaho would lead all other states in the Union in financial and commercial progress during the next ten years.

The prediction was made by one who is perhaps as able to fathom future financial conditions as any man in the world today.

One of the things he mentioned in particular was the cutting up of large tracts of land into small farms, and thereby making a hundred farms where one now exists.

So much has been written regarding large farms that the people of the East are prone to consider the Pacific Northwest only in the light of large farms. The great financial and commercial success that is certain to come to the Pacific Northwest will come only in proportion to the number of large farms that are made into small ones.

Highly cultivated small farms means a hundred people on the same number of acres where now one or two exist.

Many a farmer has failed to succeed because the profits from his crop went to pay hired help, who, having no greater interest in their work than their monthly wage, were in no way fit to serve their employer properly. Hired help on an acre farm is not to be thought of, for one moment.

The head and the hands of the owner combined are the forces that will wring from that acre of soil its greatest abundance. The ultimate financial outcome of commercial success of the Pacific Northwest hinges largely upon concentrated farming, which can only be done by cutting the large farms into small ones and placing thereon a satisfied owner.

THE APPLE MARKET.

(Editorial in Hood River News.)

DURING the past two or three weeks, according to a dispatch from Chicago, the Gibson Fruit Company, of that city, has undertaken to secure what amounts to a corner on the apple market. They started picking up holdings here and there about a month ago, and now

have what are declared to be the largest individual holdings of box apples left this season, amounting to 140 cars of high-grade stock. The total holdings were cut nearly in half during the month of March, and the movement has been decidedly bullish. According to Mr. Gibson, the holdings east of the Mississippi River this year are now the lightest that they have been in five years, and he predicts that there will be a strong feeling in the market the balance of the season.

These statements are borne out by reports from other apple-distributing centers and, coming at the end of a big crop year, are decidedly encouraging. It is naturally expected that there will be no such bumper production this season, and consequently the prospects at this time are bright.

THE FARMER CAN DO IT.

(Editorial in Albany Democrat.)

TO WHAT an extent business is dependent upon the farmer may be well illustrated by the statement of the fact that three-fourths of the deposits in the Albany banks, and probably in the banks in the other Valley cities of approximately the size of this city or even larger, are in the names of farmers. They have the money. They have made money and have it in the banks, where they are keeping it, waiting for things to loosen up and confidence be fully restored, when it will come out and in different ways go into circulation. That will mean a good deal for the country. Whenever a farmer makes up his mind that there is something special that he wants he has the money to buy it with. The sooner he sets things to going the better it will be for this Valley. He can do it. Will he start something?

PROMISING NEW FRUITS.

THE problem of a varietal selection of plants is one of unceasing importance, and new sorts are being introduced each year. As the improvement of fruits continues, it is necessary for the progressive grower to follow the advances made along the particular line in which he is interested. During the past year no new varieties of apples or pears have appeared which are worth consideration.

However, the Greensboro peach assumed importance in many sections during 1914. The variety originated with W. G. Balsley, of Greensboro, N. C., about 1893, from a seed of Connett's Southern Early. The fruit is large, attractive, white-fleshed and ripens from August 1 to 15. The variety deserves extensive trial in good peach-growing sections of Northern states, where early peaches are in demand.

The Late Muscatelle plum, which was obtained by the Government from Germany in 1900, proved during the year to be one of the best late plums tried out by the Geneva (N. Y.) station. The fruit is of good size, roundish, but inclined to be truncate in shape, and is of an attractive purple brown color slightly splashed and mottled with russet. The tough skin is a valuable asset for shipping. It is one of the latest to ripen, but its season is short and it is inclined to shrivel in storage. For local market trade, Late Muscatelle should prove a valuable variety.

A single variety of black rasp-

berry, known as Black Pearl, has attracted attention. It combines size, color and firmness with excellent quality and flavor. From the single year's trial it promises to be valuable and a variety worthy of commercial recommendation if future tests show it equal to its past standard.

The Industry gooseberry, which was originated by Robert Wyndham in Northern England early in the nineteenth century, is one of the most productive European varieties. The bushes are strong, vigorous growers. Where shoots grow long, they fruit to the very tips. This is a good variety to grow for market, either green or ripe, and is equally worthy of a place in the home garden. While more apt to be affected by mildew and possibly less hardy than most American sorts, Industry is among the healthiest and hardiest of all English gooseberries.

Another fruit of late prominence is the Indiana strawberry. It originated with H. J. Schild, of Ionia, Mich., in 1905. The color is somewhat variable at first, but later becomes a uniformly dark, glossy scarlet. The variety appears to be one of the best shippers, having firm, meaty flesh. The Barrymore is a berry resulting from a cross made by H. L. Crane, of Westwood, Mass., in 1901. The variety is slightly susceptible of leaf-spot and in the later pickings the color has sometimes been variable. Notwithstanding these defects, however, the Barrymore is almost an ideal variety for early midseason.

PLEASURE IN FARMING.

HOW many people are farming for farming's sake, to appropriate the words of the artist, or how many would joyfully sell out tomorrow without the least regrets, if some other opening promised greater financial returns? We naturally farm for the money there is in it, but the question is, is that all there is in it for us and is that all we are getting out of it? How many farmers are really enjoying their business and how many find a keen pleasure in their work from day to day on the farm?

We must of necessity keep an eye on the financial side of our operations, for this is essential to success; we admit that. But too many of us go about the farm in a blind, mechanical sort of way, dragging from one task to another without getting an iota of enjoyment from the work; one day follows another just as one round follows another with the team and plow, each merely contributing its part to the financial success of the season's work.

The man who has never gotten beyond that conception has got much coming to him yet. The world of life and happiness swings on, unnoticed by him, except when he is attracted from himself by such creatures as crows, English sparrows, moles and snakes.

What's the trouble? Why carry a long-faced grouch around all the time, when everything about us is working together for our pleasure? We are out of tune, that's all—out of love with our work; we need a shaking up—to be brought back into line.

The man who finds pleasure in his daily work on the farm, who has a habit of looking for it in whatever he undertakes, is not only a happy man, but the chances are that he is

a prosperous man as well. The narrow, self-centered money-maker is a pitiful spectacle on a farm, because there is so much that he is missing and so little that he is really getting out of it. Let us all make money, but we cannot afford to become money-blind.

Let us instill into our work a little of the "farming for farming's sake" idea and train ourselves to look for the happy sides of our work.

HIGH PRICES IN MEXICO.

(From the Mexican Herald.)

SINCE the shortage of flour has been so acute in the city there has been a run on every kind of crackers, both of local and imported brands. Soda crackers are to be found in very few stores today, and sell at \$10 for a square tin box, even for the local product. The 10-cent boxes of sea foam or saltines, for which the housekeepers formerly paid 60 cents, and felt very much abused, now are held at \$2.50 in a few stores where they still have a few boxes in stock. English sweet and fancy crackers and biscuit sell for from \$10 to \$20 a box.

5,059,000 MEN GONE.

A NEWSPAPER in Rome, after a careful comparison of official statements, estimates that 5,950,000 men have been lost by the belligerent nations during the first eight months of the war.

This is more than the entire population of Ohio—men, women and babies. It is more than the population of any state of the Union excepting only New York and Pennsylvania. It is more than the entire population of Serbia, one of the contestants; more than the entire population of Bulgaria, which may become a belligerent. Eight cities as large as Cleveland would not represent the loss. It would require eighty or more cities of Cleveland population to supply a military population to equal the total of men here reported already lost in a war which is not even yet near a conclusive issue.

Such comparisons are appalling, but they may be of service if they are any Americans yet unconvinced of the folly and horror of war.

Edison is now engaged in manufacturing dyes, our supply of which has been cut off by the war. "I am not making very much money at the line," says the wizard, "but I thought I would at least make a start, and I hope some of these Americans who lack backbone will father a movement worth while that now come along and follow me. The country owes a tremendous debt to Edison; it ought not to expect him to supply it with backbone."

A new police regulation in Philadelphia requires all children under 15 to be out of the streets after 9 o'clock at night. Is this 11 o'clock curfew business designed as a form? It would be interesting to know at what hour the Philadelphia kids have been in the habit of going in. In the good old times it was 9 o'clock or a spanking.

The investigation into the wheat corner, which President Wilson ordered the Department of Justice to make, has resulted in the discovery of no evidence. What is the use of trying to find corners in a circle?