

LINCOLN COUNTY LEADER.

J. F. STEWART, Editor and Proprietor.

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Vetch or Tares.

(By Prof. H. T. French, of the Agricultural College.)

This is a leguminous plant, which has been used for a long time as green food for stock. It has not been fed as extensively in this country as in the European countries. In France and England, the vetch has been grown for stock food, for many years, and forms an important factor in furnishing forage for stock.

There are several species which are found growing wild in Oregon. Some of these furnish valuable pasturage, and others considered as pests, especially in grain fields. The question has been asked very often, if this domesticated vetch will not become a pest, and thus do more harm than good. It is the opinion of the writer that it will not, any more than tame clover will become a pest. It is an annual, or in other words grows from the seed every year, hence there is little danger of it becoming troublesome, if the farmer is reasonably careful.

This plant resembles the wild pea, which is found in such abundance in the mountain range, especially in the coast range. It does not belong to the same genus however, but is closely related. There is a spring variety which is grown in the Eastern States, and in Canada, with more or less success. The variety that we are discussing is called a winter vetch; but it will mature when sown as late in the spring as April; if sown at that time the crop will mature in August or September. The most common practice is to sow the seed in the fall or winter, and then the crop will be ready to begin cutting for green feed in April or May.

The plant grows best on an open rich soil. It has been grown very successfully on the red hill land of the coast mountains, and it promises to become a very valuable forage plant for such localities. One and one-half bushels of seed is sufficient for one acre. It is a good plan to mix $\frac{1}{4}$ bushel of wheat or rye with the seed to hold up the plant when growing. It will make four or five feet, and often more growth, in one season. If there is no grain with it, the vines will fall over, thus making it difficult to harvest.

We have found it valuable for all kinds of stock. It has been fed to horses, cattle and pigs with the greatest satisfaction. For horses it has been cut and fed green, during the summer, with very flattering results. One farmer, whom we furnished some seed for trial, said that he had never had his horses do so well, during the working season, as when they were fed the green vetch. Some grain should be fed with it, although in the case mentioned no grain was used. As a green forage for cattle, especially dairy stock, it has given the utmost satisfaction. It is greedily eaten, and furnishes a highly nutritive ration.

It has been used for silage on several farms in the valley, and has given satisfaction, when properly put up. It does not keep in the silo quite as well as corn. It is more difficult to pack it closely enough to exclude the air.

The yield per acre will not ordinarily equal that of corn; yet at the Station, we have secured 19 tons per acre at one setting. This was on good strong soil, but without any special culture.

As a food for pigs, it has been highly satisfactory. Some experi-

ments were conducted in 1894, to determine its value for this purpose. As a crop for hay, only a partial report can be made. During the summer of 1894 several loads of vetch hay was made for the purpose of testing its value when dry as compared with clover. The vetch was cut with a mowing machine, when in full bloom, and cured with the same precautions taken as in curing clover. The hay resembled alfalfa when dry, so much so that several people mistook the material for alfalfa. Experiments are now going on in testing its value as compared with clover. So far we can only say that the dairy stock and steers which are being fattened are exceedingly fond of the hay. They seem to prefer it to good clover hay. The results of the experiments will be published later.

In procuring seed, we have always let the first crop mature; but if the first cutting is made early, say in April or May, the second crop will produce an abundance of seed. In saving seed great care should be used to handle the material while damp for the seed shatters out very easily. If the pods get wet, and the sun dries them again, they will burst open, and the seed will be lost. On this account it is better to let it cure in small piles, and thereby less material will be exposed to the sun and dew. The seed can be threshed with the ordinary threshing machine, although it is rather slow, and some care must be taken not to cut the seed too much.

In conclusion we would say that, from experiments carried out on the Station farm, both in a practical way and as mere experiments, the vetch is a valuable forage plant for a large portion of Oregon. The climatic conditions, and the soil seem to be very well adapted to its growth, and the needs of the farmer demand just such a plant as this proves to be.

Clerk Hire.

The auditing of the bills of the clerks of the last legislature was completed in the secretary of state's office last Thursday. The record shows the legislature had in its employ 160 clerks, and the salaries ranged from \$15 to \$410, aggregating \$26,449.60. This is an average of \$165.31 each, or a little over \$4 per day for each of the forty days of the session. This is exclusive of the salary paid members for assisting in revising the journals and calendars. C. B. Moores, S. L. Moorehead and J. E. Blundell have in bills for \$240 each for 24 days' work on the house journal. The entire amount received by the clerks who served in the house and worked on the journals is: R. E. Moody, \$630; A. V. R. Snyder, \$487.50; Walter Sinclair, \$610; A. W. Severance, \$507.50. The senators who assisted in preparing the journal of that branch depend on the next legislature for their pay.

We do not hesitate to assert that the entire work could have been done by no more than 40 clerks, who would have been glad to have received \$2.50 per day. The clerk hire of the last session should not have exceeded \$4,000, revising clerks and all. No wonder that tax paying has become a burden.

Articles of incorporation have been filed with the secretary of state incorporating the Oregon Central & Eastern Railway company. The capital stock is \$300,000, and the incorporators are A. B. Hammond, Edward Stone and Chas. C. Clark. The object of the incorporation as stated in the articles is to buy, build and equip railroad, telegraph and telephone lines and branch lines. The real object is to rebuild and extend the Oregon Pacific railroad, and to build feeders thereto from Corvallis to Eugene, and from Albany to Salem. The men back of it are the buyers of the Oregon Pacific and it means renewed life for that concern. Here's to the O. C. & E. railway. May their fondest hopes of extension and branches be achieved. May they soon begin to build, repair and equip. In their activity lies our prosperity.

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Toledo - - - - - Oregon

S. G. Irvin, of Newport, was in Corvallis Thursday on his way home from attending the meeting of the Presbytery. Mr. Irvin stated to a Times reporter that he and County Clerk B. F. Jones, of Toledo, were the sole owners of the new paper that is to be issued at Newport tomorrow. They have purchased a Campbell cylinder press and the paper will be a 6-column folio, and all home print. The Newport News and the new paper will be printed on the same press, and the object of the new journal is to reach a new class of readers—people who will patronize the summer resort, and those seeking new locations and investment. The new venture makes four newspapers for Lincoln county.—Corvallis Times.

An Albany man says a company is to be organized in Albany with a paid up stock of nearly \$400,000. It is to be a consolidated affair, without a name. The paid up stock is to consist of \$125,000 in Oregon Pacific time checks, \$70,000 in Red Crown, \$45,000 in Bank of Oregon, \$30,000 in Albany Mining & Milling, and \$65,000 in Farmers & Merchants.—Democrat.

What is the matter with opening the stock books over at this end of the line. About \$50,000 O. P. time checks could be added, besides \$30,000 in Hamilton, Job & Co.

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160 acre ranch on Beaver creek; good house, barn and outbuildings; this farm has lots of meadow land and is an ideal dairy farm. Price \$1,200, and worth double the money.

159 acre ranch on Big Elk five miles above Elk City; some plowed and 7 acres slashed and in timothy; house, good barn 40x48; on county road, school within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. A good stock ranch. Price \$1,400 on good terms.

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and small fruit. A splendid tract of land with a good body of creek bottom. Price \$600 cash.

Two lots in Prior Scott's addition to Highland; one corner lot one inside. Price for the two, \$500 all cash.

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