

Salem Is a Seed Growing Center of Increasing Importance, and the Conditions Here Are Ideal for Building Up a Much Greater Industry in This Line

SEED PRODUCTION MAY BE MADE SUCCESSFUL HERE

Fletcher & Byrd, Salem Dealers, Say Our Soil and Climate Are Well Adapted to the Production of the Most Vigorous Kinds—Mr. Ferschweiler of the Parkersville District a Successful Grower

"Seed production from all manner of vegetable growth can be made successful and profitable in this part of the Willamette valley," say Fletcher & Byrd, the seed and feed store men, on North Commercial street, Salem, "but to have the seeds reliable as to name and quality requires care and a knowledge of plant life and its peculiarities in propagation."

"With the grasses, there is no trouble. The finest of clover, timothy and alfalfa seeds are saved here by farmers and are bought and sold by us," also wheat, oats, barley and rye, which retain their identity without other care than the keeping out of weeds and the proper attention to soil. But with seed corn it is different. The several varieties of corn must be planted separately and at a distance apart, in order to prevent mixture and deterioration, unless, of course, that a crossing of varieties is desired, as in special cases for the production of a new or improved variety. Field corn and popcorn, planted as much as 15 feet apart and with other plants between, will be affected by pollination, the field corn predominating and stamping its identity on the popcorn.

"With vegetables, the results when

different kinds are planted close together are very marked. If pumpkins, watermelons and musk melons are planted in the same patch and allowed to go to seed, the seed could not be relied on; there would be no certainty of variety. In fact, it would be a mongrel and would probably fail to produce anything satisfactory. Different kinds of beans will also mix and so will different kinds of peas so as to destroy the identity of either strain.

"Men who understand these peculiarities and observe the necessary care to avoid the troubles they present can raise seeds of all kinds here with a good prospect of profit. Plant growth is vigorous; there is a long, equable season of development so as to insure a full, well-rounded seed growth, and all the soil and climatic conditions are favorable."

"Mr. Ferschweiler, who lives in the Parkersville neighborhood east of Gervais, raises and saves a large amount of seeds, for which he finds a ready market with a Portland wholesale seed house. He might be able to give information to those who would like to embark in the business."

man would realize \$1920 for the sackful we gathered from one acre of potatoes, in addition to the pleasure we expect to derive from the introduction of the "Earlyella" in 1921. An especially interesting point about the potatoes was the fact that the one seed pod produced not less than a dozen colors, shapes and kinds of potatoes.

Canary seed costs 45 cents a pound, because it is shipped in from Timbuctoo or Zanzibar or the North Pole, and yet you can raise it right here to perfection, with no more trouble than to raise wheat. Then there are seeds of our native trees and shrubs, such as cedar, dogwood, maple and cascara, which would find ready sale elsewhere, and, by experimenting, I have found Himalaya berries and evergreen blackberries grow well from seed and give a crop the second year, which is as well as cuttings do, and many persons would buy seeds in preference to the larger outlay for roots.

"Of course one must figure that there would be some expense to

launching out in this enterprise; labor and advertising and sufficient income from other sources until one's wares were known. But the plan that works successfully in California could be put in operation here. That is for one central seedmen to employ growers for the various crops. One woman down there has just harvested 15,000 seed of Martha Washington geraniums and expressed them to a seed house that is assured of her reliability. To another they look for sweet alyssum. To be sure, growing seeds would not mean just having a pretty garden, and when it dried up, plucking the seed and selling it for a million dollars. It means planting things in order, clipping out every weak flower that may make a weak seed and careful labeling that would make a mistake as to the flower an impossibility, for a seedsmen would promptly lose his customers if he put up cabbage seed in mignonette packages, as our dreadfully wretched government did last year! And that reminds me that the government, by the way of the depart-

ment of agriculture, is a most generous purchaser of seeds or plants if you have something new with real merit to offer, and also do not despise the free seeds that are sent you by your congressman. You may get something rare and fine, and if so, your report to the department may prove of real value.

In glancing over a seed catalog I find the following quotations to growers for the present year: Broccoli, \$14 per pound; celery, \$5 per pound; clover, 75 cents per pound; onion seed, \$4 per pound, which would indicate a fair margin of profit on these seeds. Indeed, if we had not been educated recently by exorbitant prices of everything else, we should call it plain robbery, or "profiteering." But if these prices "get across," then why should not some of the elegant profits go into our own pockets, and thus furnish another field of industry for the greater farming population headed this way, since seed gardens employ men, women and children in healthful work and remunerative wages? I have said nothing about field seeds, such as wheat, oats, vetch, corn and beans, because we already raise these, but I might add to my list of tree seeds those of nuts, then with several already flourishing nurseries, and the bulb gardens of our friends, Franklin & Dibble, who deserve support in their expensive venture, we ought to be "all set" for a greater Willamette valley.

A MILLION POUNDS A YEAR OF ONION SETS ARE GROWN

This Is for the Hubbard District, and That District Also Raises a Great Deal of Clover Seed, and Some Poppy Seed—Big Yields in That Section of Old Marion County

(The following information was kindly furnished to The Statesman by L. C. McShane, editor and proprietor of the Hubbard Enterprise, one of the liveliest county papers of Oregon.)

For four years prior to 1918 Hubbard shipped an average of 1,000,000 pounds of onion sets each year; the 1917 crop exceeded that figure; the 1919 crop fell below, because of an off season and the high cost of seed.

The crop was sold to all parts of the western part of the country; California being a heavy buyer for the early markets. The land about Hubbard being especially good, required much less fertilizer than many other locations. This year the average acreage is now being gathered.

The seed is usually drilled six rows an inch and a half apart, then 10 inches open space, then more onions.

The crop runs from 10,000 to 18,000 pounds per acre, though we have several which have gone to 20,000 to 24,000 pounds per acre.

This hot weather dries the sets in the field.

A knife is first run under the bulb, they are lifted into trays and later

into the dryer, when the sorting comes later when orders are being filled.

This year the acreage is about one-fourth of three years ago, though the crop is great. Price will start at 4 1/2 cents to 5 cents a pound and finish next March at about 13 cents.

Berries are easier cared for, as most of the work can be done in a normal posture, while onion sets keeps one on their knees too much. There are several parties in the Hubbard section having small patches of poppies. They are raised for the seed, which is shipped east, though the Portland seed houses handle some of the crop.

Clover seed is a big crop in the Hubbard district this year. Last year, aside and red clover went to 53 cents or better. This year the market is in a flurry at 23 to 25 cents; and the average will be high.

(Up to a few days ago, the poppy beds in the Hubbard district, some of which are along the Pacific highway, were glorious in their beauty, dazzling the eyes of tourists going that way. The blossoms have all fallen now, and the seed pods have formed.—Ed.)

J. W. MARUNY, SOUTH SALEM FLORIST, SAYS GROW SEEDS

He Says the Industry Will Warrant Attention, as the Conditions Here for Success Are Ideal—A Broccoli Seed Grower

J. W. Maruny, the South Salem florist, says there are many varieties of garden and flower seeds that can be raised here with success and profit. Among these is broccoli, or the hardy cauliflower, which produces an excellent article of seed that finds ready sale at the seed stores. One Salem man, a Mr. Wagner, who lives in the south end of the city near the cemeteries, is said to be making a neat sum on broccoli seed, and it is grown without much trouble or expense.

Other seeds that can be grown with profit are beets, carrots, parsnips and spinach; all familiar to every person of garden experience, and none of them presenting any difficulties of cultivation.

A particularly good seed to grow would be cantaloupe, and Mr. Maruny would recommend the "Hoodoo" variety, an excellent species that is delicious for table use, is a good producer and very popular. The

seed can be easily saved and readily sold.

In the flower family, Mr. Maruny would recommend the growing of aster seeds, snap-dragon, larkspur, zinnias and marigolds. He says the grower should procure the very best quality of these flowers to begin with and should save only the choicest blooms for seed. This would insure a good price and sure sale at all times for any quantity of the seeds produced. The greater care exercised by the grower in the selection of varieties and in keeping up the high standard of seed, the surer will be his market and the better the price to be received for his product.

Mr. Maruny, who is a scientific propagator of plant life among the non-attentive given in Salem and vicinity to the growing of seeds that the industry will warrant, as the conditions here are most favorable for the enterprise.

LUTHER J. CHAPIN SAYS MONEY IN SEED GROWING

He Thinks This Section Ought to Pay a Great Deal of Attention to This Branch of Farming and Gardening, in Which We Can Lead the World in Some Varieties

Luther J. Chapin, formerly agriculturist for Marion county, and now connected in the buying field with King's Food Products Co., owning and operating the big Salem dehydration plant, is an enthusiast on the advantages of this section for growing seeds.

Mr. Chapin has a farm north of Salem, and it is his intention in due time to devote it entirely to the growing of seeds.

In an interview over the phone with a Statesman reporter last night, Mr. Chapin spoke substantially as follows:

"This section is great for clover seed; all the clovers, including white clover.

"Great, too, for all the brassica family, including cauliflower, cabbage, kale, etc.

"Fine for parsnip and carrot seed; in fact, for the majority of all the garden seeds known.

"Fine for onion and lettuce seeds. The King's Food Products Co. last year sold several tons of squash and pumpkin seeds, to the general

market.

"Ten acres of Winter Luxury squashes are being raised on my farm; partly for their seeds, this year.

"Fifteen acres of Boston Marrow squashes are being raised by a man on the M. L. Jones place, on Lake Labish, partly for their seed.

"The Willamette valley is famous for its grain seeds. C. D. Nairn, over in the Perrydale neighborhood, has made Oregon famous for his Shadell oats, originated by himself.

"In spinach, peas and beans we excel in seed growing.

"Gill Bros. have originated here what they call their Selected Early-ripening tomato seed that is attracting favorable attention all over the country.

"We excel in popcorn, sweet corn and other corn for seed.

"The fact is, we should pay a great deal of attention to seed growing here in the Salem district. There is big money in it. It will make this district famous."

WILLAMETTE VALLEY PRODUCES FINEST CLOVER SEED IN U. S.

Western Oregon Is the Only Place in the United States Growing Vetches Seed Profitably, and Is Best for Cabbage, Cauliflower, Etc.

Harley O. White, of the well-known firm of D. A. White & Sons, feedmen and seedmen, Salem, in the course of an interview by a Statesman reporter yesterday, spoke substantially as follows:

"Oregon has been known usually as a grower of field seeds, especially of clovers, alfalfa and vetches, but grows to perfection many kinds of seeds.

"I might mention that in various parts of the state there have been grown and are now grown many varieties of garden seeds, especially cabbage, kale, carrots, turnips, rutabagas, cauliflower, broccoli, radishes, peas, beans, etc.

"The most valuable crop has been the clover; the Willamette valley producing the finest clover grown in the United States.

"The varieties grown in the valley are the medium red and alsike clover, with some White Dutch clover in a small way.

"The crop of clover seed has brought hundreds of thousands of dollars to the farmers, not to speak of the larger crops made possible by the growing of clover which alone has proven the best fertilizer and land builder that it is possible to obtain.

"On account of the extreme high prices of grains the last few years, clover has been neglected, but in the next few years will show a large increase in acreage. As the up-date farmer realizes that he must have clover if he is going to farm and keep his land in condition to pay him.

"Eastern Oregon is now producing large amounts of alfalfa seed, and the next few years will show a large increase in this very valuable crop as the new districts are developed.

"Western Oregon is the only place in the United States where it has proven profitable to grow vetches for seed, and the seed has been shipped all over this country from Oregon in the last few years.

"California has been depending entirely on our crop for her supply, and a number of cars have gone to New York, Maryland, Texas and various other points to supply the needs of these localities.

"Vetch has the same fertilizer values to land as clover, and as a cover crop is not excelled by any other green crop.

"Timothy is not grown in the valley for seed, but in various parts of eastern Oregon is proving a profitable crop.

"Sweet clover is also being grown in the same section and has been a big money maker.

"The different coast counties have the soil and climate suitable for growing the various root crops, like carrots, turnips, rutabagas and radishes and produce a large crop of the very finest seed, and will in a short time supply large amounts—as soon as the business is gone into in a commercial way.

"This section now is growing cabbage and cauliflower seed, and ex-

perts pronounce it the best section of the United States for these vegetables.

"Several of the large seed houses have been growing garden seeds in the valley under contract, and with good results.

"Both the valleys of western Oregon and the irrigated sections of eastern Oregon grow a very high grade potato that brings a large premium for seed purposes, but this business has been neglected and Oregon potatoes have not been able to keep the reputation that they had a few years ago.

"Quite a number of farmers and growers are getting into the business of raising certified stock, and in a few years will be able to supply a large trade with exceptionally fine seed potatoes.

"Recently a few large dealers have been planting large acreages with the special purpose of supplying the California demand, which insists on Oregon grown stock, if it is possible to obtain any, and is willing to pay a good premium over other sections for our potatoes.

"Many growers are now realizing that it pays to select their grain and corn, and are paying especial attention to improving the seed stock.

"It has been usually the custom to sow any old grain that they might have and never even clean out the seeds, but they find that it pays them to select the finest grain that they can obtain in their fields and have it well graded and cleaned.

"From a number of tests that I have known of, the farmers doing so have been able to increase their yields of grain from 10 to 20 bushels per acre over their neighbors, who kept on sowing grain without selection and without grading or cleaning it.

"Corn has shown more increase the last five years than any other crop, and it has all depended upon the proper selection of the seed stock.

"The various corn shows have done much to interest the farmers in the proper varieties of corn suitable for the various parts of the state, and now Oregon is producing a large amount of very fine corn.

"Two years ago when the eastern corn crop was so badly damaged by rains and frost so that it would not grow, eastern dealers bought all the available seed corn in Oregon and shipped it east. From reports later, this corn produced fine crops and was an improvement on the corn grown there.

"On account of the care growers have taken with the seed corn here, nearly all of the corn will grade No. 2, while the average in the east is No. 3 or 4 quality.

"With the climatic conditions we have in the various parts of the state there is no reason why Oregon should not produce a large amount of farm, field and garden seeds for sections of the United States where it is impossible to grow seeds successfully."

ago. Mr. Anderson died in 1913 and since then Mrs. Anderson has made her home with her daughter, Mrs. Lizzy Nordness.

She leaves to mourn her three daughters, Mrs. Anna Scott, Mrs. Ida Fox and Mrs. Lizzie Nordness, and five sons, Andrew, Henry, George, Lew and Jorgen.

Helena Man Has Nerve Wracking Experience

HELENA, Mont., Aug. 18.—There used to be a play about a man who stood at a telephone and heard his wife 50 miles away, describe how burglars had broken into the house and were murdering the children in cold blood and meant to kill her, afterward.

A Helena man recently had an ex-

perience almost as nerve wrecking though in this case no crime was concerned.

He is the south of this city in a high butte and on the very edge of it an almost perpendicular ledge of rocks. Wild flowers grow there. Casually glancing up at this hill recently, Burke Clements of Helena saw his four-year-old daughter half way up the rocky ledge, gathering flowers.

To attempt to reach her himself was hopeless. He dashed to a telephone and called his wife, at their residence, half a mile from the ledge. The mother managed to reach the child in time while the father, below, looked on.

Smiff—Say, Billfuzz, old "top, what makes you so skanky? Billfuzz—I worry. Smiff—What do you worry about? Billfuzz—Getting skanky.

SEEDS

We buy and sell all kinds of seeds grown in this state having a large wholesale trade as well as a good retail business.

We carry in stock all the varieties that are suitable for the Pacific coast and are in a position to fill all orders promptly.

Mail orders are given prompt attention and we ship to all parts of the United States.

We give especial attention to Seed Grains, Clover seed, Vetch seed, and the different Grass seeds as well as a full line of Garden seeds.

Send for list when in the market as you will find it to your interest to do so. All seeds are thoroughly re-cleaned and graded and comply with the various State Seed laws of the different states.

D. A. WHITE & SONS

Wholesale and Retail Seedsmen, SALEM, OREGON

DATES OF SLOGANS IN DAILY STATESMAN

(In Twice-a-Week Statesman Following Day)

Loganberries, Oct. 9.
Prunes, Oct. 16.
Dairying October 22.
Flax, October 30.
Filberts, Nov. 6.
Walnuts, Nov. 13.
Strawberries, Nov. 20.
Apples, November 27.
Raspberries, December 4.
Mint, December 11.
Great Cows, December 18.
Blackberries, December 25.
Cherries, January 1, 1920.
Pears, January 8, 1920.
Gooseberries, January 15, 1920.
Curr. January 22, 1920.
Celery, January 29.
Spinach, February 5, 1920.
Onions, February 12, 1920.
Potatoes, February 19, 1920.
Bees, February 26, 1920.
Mining, March 4, 1920.
Goats, March 11, 1920.
Beans, March 18, 1920.
Paved highways, March 25, 1920.
Broccoli, April 1, 1920.
Siles, April 8.
Legumes, April 15.
Asparagus, April 22.
Grapes, April 29.

Drug Garden, May 6.
Sugar beets, May 13.
Sorghum, May 20.
Cabbage, May 27.
Poultry and Pet Stock, June 3.
Land, June 10.
Dehydration, June 17.
Hops, June 24.
Wholesaling and Jobbing, July 1.
Cucumbers, July 8.
Hogs, July 15.
City Beautiful, flowers and bulbs, July 22.
Schools, July 29.
Sheep, August 5.
National Advertising, August 12.
Seeds, August 19.
Live Stock, August 26.
Paper Mill, September 2.
Manufacturing, September 9.
Grains and Grain Products, September 16.
Automotive Industry, Sept. 30.

(Back copies of Salem Slogan editions of the Daily Oregon Statesman are on hand. They are for sale at 5c each, mailed to any address, if ALL are taken; price for first 20 copies, 10c each.)

(It will interest some people to know that these back copies are selling fast—that, nearly every day, orders are received from near and distant points for the whole series. They will be sold out before the fifty-two Slogans are completed, without doubt.—Ed.)