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MORE THAN 600 ACRES NOW SIGNED UP FOR 1922 FOR THE NEW FLAX ASSOCIATION BEING PROMOTED HERE

The Meeting at Rickreal Yesterday Was a Good and Interesting One, and It May Result in 700 Acres Being Sown in That District, and the Building of a Plant There—Ten Such Plants Are Planned for the Willamette Valley, Then a Line n Mill.

When the Willamette Valley have at this time; according to their articles of incorporation, they will have to show 1,000 acres signed up, and that much stock subscribed for, before they proceed further with the corporation business.

But, even by nightfall, they may have the full 1,000 acres signed up. The Rickreal meeting yesterday, while it did not actually produce the signatures expected, is believed to have cleared the business air to the point that the men who are today combing the Rickreal country for signatures, are likely to close up enough before dark to put the corporation over the top.

This signing will be contingent on the location of a treating plant at Rickreal; this year if possible, provided the acreage is grown. Some signatures may be made to begin with the crop of 1922; which could not rationally call for a plant built in advance of the crop. But a plant is assured if this year's acreage warrants it beginning with a storage warehouse, and if possible ending in a complete new plant that finishes the fiber ready for the spinner.

May Use Electric Power
A proposition was made at yesterday's meeting that may greatly simplify the mill question for Rickreal. The electric power line traverses the valley, only a short distance from the town, and it was suggested that they install a full electrical equipment and ignore the water power possibilities that have been counted on as the only milling bases. The high water in the Willamette sometimes backs the water up in the stream at Rickreal, so as to leave only a few inches fall for the old mill water power; and the title to the mill property is still in litigation, so that it could not now be secured, though it were the only or the most desirable one to be had.

May Be Large Acreage
Three meetings in all have been held at Rickreal, resulting in a signed acreage of 313 acres and a promise to make it at least 600 or 700, for a mill built there this season. Experts have gone over the valley to investigate the soil conditions, and they have announced that, nowhere is there a better promise than around Rickreal. Flax has been grown over at Aumsville, that yielded up to four tons to the acre. That is indeed an exceptional yield, but the experts believe it could certainly be equalled at Rickreal. A four-ton-to-the-acre crop would almost make a grower with a good acreage rich enough to retire on a single year's crop.

Best Paying Grain Crop
These figures taken from the minimums, and not allowing for either the maximum yields or the maximum prices, show a fine profit above anything possible for other grain crops. The yields and prices for wheat, oats, and barley, have been such as to eliminate them from possible consideration as profitable crops for the valley. The flax, according to the figures shown by those who have been growing the crop for the past several years in the Aumsville section, has been a consistent, big winner; it has saved a number of growers from the inevitable fate of the man who raises crops that lose him money—and a bunch of the loyal farmers from Aumsville have been giving their time and strength to carry the good news to the rest of the valley.

Ten Plants Planned
The general plan of the Flax and Hemp association, is to establish at least 10 plants in the valley, each to handle 1000 acres, and bring it up to the finishing stage. Then, eventually, a big linen mill, take all the raw material and make the valley one of the linen centers of the world, would grow out of this consolidated production.

Not everybody knows, perhaps, how close the Willamette valley came to being such a center. Two years ago, following a careful preliminary investigation, a New York investor came to Marion county, to look into the linen question. He had been directed by the United States Department of Agriculture, to see P. E. Thomason of Aumsville, the first and largest flax grower of the valley, and who had carried on some interesting experiments for the department. "He'll tell you ALL about flax," was the advice given to the New Yorker when he came west. The capitalist and the Aumsville enthusiast spent a week together, talking flax for the past 6000 years of human history. "I'll build a big central linen finishing mill, with ten smaller fiber plants here in the valley, and I'll bring in \$2,000,000 to finance the deal," was the succinct proposition of the capitalist. "I'm satisfied that there is nothing better in the linen line, anywhere on earth."

It didn't really materialize, for the sudden slump in finances stopped even the most glittering legitimate investments. But it illustrates what other people on the outside see in the Oregon flax possibility. The local association is merely trying, on a much smaller scale, to carry out what the big investor had figured out as a sure thing.

Interesting Statistics
Some wonderfully interesting statistics, bearing on the claim that Oregon is a sure-enough flax country, were given at the Rickreal meeting by Mrs. Juliet M. Lord, widow of Former Governor W. P. Lord of Oregon. She corrected the introducer who presented her to the audience as the first flax grower in Oregon, by giving to a Mr. Miller of Turner that distinguished honor; he sent some flax fiber to the Centennial at Philadelphia in 1876 that won the grand prize against the finest product from the whole world—Holland, Ireland, Belgium, Ger-

many, Denmark. The Oregon product won on all the nine points of excellence, against all competitors!

Later, one of these judges, an Irishman, told Mrs. Lord that this exhibit was not only the best at the exposition, but the best that he had ever seen, anywhere. The great Barbour Irish flax mills bought one shipment of flax from here, for which they paid \$2000 a ton, or \$1 a pound, when the average for other flax was from \$500 to \$600—the Oregon flax was that good. But some kind of political or business complications stopped the industry, as if it had never been.

What Oregon Women Did
In 1895, when wheat was down to 45 cents a bushel and hops were a drug on the market at 5 cents, Mrs. Lord and some other of the patriotic women of the state tried to introduce flax-growing preliminary to the establishment of the linen industry here in the state. They went so far as to contract for the growing of 50 acres of flax, on the Savage farm east of town. They grew some flax there, up to 44 inches in length—a truly wonderful fiber—but the times did not seem ripe, and the matter finally had to go by the board. But this story of what a few loyal women did to try and bring prosperity to the lagging agricultural business of the state, is one of the delightful memories of Oregon.

Stored 140 Years
An interesting business matter was brought up by Mrs. Lord, when she said to the Rickreal meeting yesterday, that the flax fiber increases in value with age. She told of having some linen sheets at her home that had been made by one of her colonial ancestors, who was so valuable to the colonies as a weaver that they wouldn't let him carry a musket in the Revolution, but kept him at home as a master linen-maker for all New England. A few years ago, the old family house, more than 200 years old, was torn down, and in the attic was found a store of flax that had been laid away by this master craftsman, 140 years ago. This flax was taken to a modern mill, worked up into linen—and the mill men said that it was as good as the day it was pulled!

This keeping quality may be made a part of the Willamette valley association program. If it should be possible to contract for a large acreage this season, and it should not be possible, or feasible, to establish local mills to treat all of the fiber at once, it can be warehoused, and it is estimated that it will gain a good 10 per cent in value in one year's seasoning; so that the increased valuation would easily take care of the interest on the investment, and the warehouse receipts would carry the crop so that it can eventually be treated by a local mill to be built a year or even two years later.

The establishment of the proposed ten local fiber plants, to serve as the foundation for the great linen mill to be established as soon as possible, was stated by one of the speakers as the first step towards increasing the farmer-stockholder profits by 100 per cent.

The flax industry looks to be fairly established for this year, with enough acreage signed up or certain to be signed, to make it a sure winner. The financial returns for the past few years, since the industry made its present start, are such as to warrant the belief that it's here to stay and to make a competence to every grower who will take it on.

BROCCOLI GROWERS WORRY OVER FREEZE

But the Oldest Growers in This District Are Doing No Worrying

Has the freezing weather of the past few days been greatly injuring the broccoli in the Salem territory?
Prof. A. G. B. Rouquet, of the Oregon Agricultural college, leading broccoli expert, is uneasy about this, but he told the growers at the meeting at the Salem

Commercial club, held after the first spell of freezing weather, that it was too early then to determine—that, in fact, the wilting and falling leaves were no sure indication that the plants might not mature good heads.

Some of the members of the Oregon Growers Cooperative association have been talking of cancelling their orders for crates, fearing that they might not have any broccoli to crate.
More Encouraging
But Earl Pearcey, expert on broccoli for the association, told a Statesman reporter yesterday that Sloper Bros., of the Independence district, who have been growing broccoli for several years, are not worrying—and their crop is on bottom land; on hop yard land.

The broccoli plant is a wonderful plant, and it may turn out a splendid head under conditions that seem to make this improbable.
Little damage was done to broccoli in the December freeze of a couple of years ago, either in the Roseburg or the Willamette valley districts; but that freeze came earlier than this one—and, too, it was much more severe.
It is too early yet to say that great damage has or has not been done to the broccoli crop. The only thing to do, on the part of those most interested, is to hope for the best.

30-40 PRUNES UP HALF A CENT

The Oregon Growers Cooperative Association Fixes New Price on Them

Following is a news bulletin of the Oregon Growers Cooperative association, under date of Tuesday, the 17th:
An advance of half a cent a pound on 30-40 prunes is announced by the Oregon Growers Cooperative association. The association's advisory committee of prune growers fixed the new price of 12 3-4 cents a pound on prunes packed in 25 pound boxes.
This increase follows up the advance which was named on all of the other sizes of prunes by the association last week ranging from 2 cents on 20-30's down to 3-4 of a cent on the smallest Petites.

Considerable activity on the part of buyers was shown just preceding the price advance and the association has disposed of three quarters of a million pounds of prunes in the period following the opening of the new year.
Scarcity in nearly all lines of dried and canned fruits makes it apparent that the new price is warranted and it is expected that the trade will take hold of offerings at the new prices.
Jobbers' supplies of prunes are reported to be very light at the present time and retailers' shelves are in constant need of replenishment. In view of these conditions the prune men are inclined to believe that the present situation is the most encouraging one which has developed during the entire season.

Rainy Season Best Time for Blasting

In blasting stumps the nature of the soil is one of the important factors that must be considered in fixing the size of the charge. The more resistance the soil offers to the force of the explosion, the greater will be the force exerted against the stump. Hence, stumps in loose, sandy soils must be more heavily loaded than those in firm, stiff soils. It is generally agreed that so-called high speed explosives give better results in sandy soils than do low percentage dynamites or stumping powders.
Since water cannot be compressed, its presence in the pores or open spaces in loose soils adds something to the resistance that is offered to the explosive force and thus makes the explosion somewhat more effective. It follows that, especially in sandy soils, better results will be obtained in blasting stumps when the ground is wet than when it is dry. It should be remembered, however, that moist soil in this connection refers to soil near the charge—two or three feet under-

SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR NEW BREEDERS

Good Advice to the Man Who Is Anxious to Get Into Poultry Raising

The following, by a well known writer on poultry subjects, contains some good advice for beginners:
The poet sings that in the spring time a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love; it is also a season when many people get the chicken fever, and are anxious to try their hand at the game. To all such we would say, "go slow" before starting in to blow their money. Commence in small way, choosing standard breed of fowl that makes the strongest appeal to one's sense of the beautiful, and then master the art of poultry breeding more in detail and along conservative lines. To our way of thinking, if one can spare the ready money, the better way to establish a family flock is to buy a breeding pen from some responsible local breeder; if this is inexpedient, the next best way is to get baby chicks from some reputable hatchery where one is reasonably "safe" in securing good stock. This will entail a little more work and anxiety, but the experience gained will prove ample compensation. Mistakes and disappointments will occur, but that is true of life generally. As knowledge and experience are gained, the pleasures and profits of a family flock will prove correspondingly alluring. Do not send away for foundation stock; Oregon enjoys as fine strains of all leading breeds of poultry as are to be found in this country. Besides, the chances are you can buy to better advantage close to home, and if any misunderstandings occur, it is much easier to adjust these matters with neighbors than with people at a distance.

EGG EATING HENS ARE BOLSHEVISTS

The Best Way to Cure Them Is to Cut Their Cannibalistic Heads Off

A writer in a farm paper says: An egg-eating hen is a Bolshevnik that is likely to corrupt the rest of the flock with her uneconomic notions regarding rations. She should be removed to a place where her example will have no effect on her sisters, or she should have her head cut off, for the habit is practically incurable. It can be prevented, however, by taking proper precautions.
Eating eggs begins usually when an egg has been broken in the nest. Keeping the nests well supplied with straw or other nesting material will reduce the danger of breakage, and darkening them will reduce the chances of broken eggs being found by the hens.
Hens that are not properly fed will have a ravenous appetite for eggs, both the shells and the contents, so that providing a well-balanced ration is some insurance against the development of the habit.
Another bad habit enjoyed by these dietetic Bolshevists is feather plucking from themselves or from other members of the flock. Improper feeding, insect pests, and too close confinement are the usual causes for starting this habit. But it is not so hard to cure as egg eating. A plentiful supply of animal and green feed and good range or plenty of exercise by feeding in a deep litter, and freedom from insect pests will usually bring the fowls back to a normal appetite.
Among the newer breeds of ducks the Buff Orpington has become popular in both England and America. It is an introduction of William Cook, the father of the race of Orpington chickens.

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Flax a Paying Crop
Flax that grows to make a 30-inch fibre, should produce from 1 1-2 to 1 3-4 tons per acre. This will yield for each ton, about 10 per cent of fiber, selling for an average of about 25 cents a pound (it sold, only a little more than a year ago, up to 58 cents) or a total of \$50; 150 pounds of tow at 10 cents, will bring \$15; six bushels of seed worth \$2 a bushel, will bring \$12; 100 pounds of waste will be worth \$5; a total of \$82 an acre. The factory and handling cost on a cooperative basis, will be close to \$40 a ton, leaving the grower \$42 per ton. With the yield 1 1-2 tons, the net receipts would be \$63 an acre, with the cost of the crop and pulling to be charged against

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