SALEM DISTRICT INDUSTRIES

The Statesman will publish and award a prize each week for the best essay submitted by a grade school pupil on the industries scheduled on this page.

SIXTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

THE DAILY STATESMAN dedicates one full page each week in the interests of one of the fifty-two basic industries of the Salem district. Letters and articles from boosters are solicited. This is your page. Help boost Salem.

For instance: Salem district has two counties growing the sacred myrtle—the only place it grows on this continent. What unique fact do you know about the district? Address articles to Slogan Editor, care Statesman.

BE SURE OF YOUR SEED CORN, SAYS BEST AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AUTHORITY

Standardize on Yellow Varieties—Minnesota 13 Standard Medium Early Silage Variety—Golden Glow, Wisconsin 12 and Pride of the North Good on River Bottom Soils of the Willamette—The Rag Doll Germination Test

Editor Statesman:

The large number of splendid entries in the last Salem corn show surely means that there is much good seed corn in Marion and adjoining counties. Therefore, every corn grower has the opportunity of buying home grown seed if he does not have a good supply on hand. Ordinarily, it is a poor practice to buy seed corn, for too many send away long distances and get seed that will not produce ripe corn. However, there is no objection to getting adapted seed corn from a farmer in the same or neighboring county. The cost of from $2 to $5 per bushel, the average price of seed, is a small item in the cost of producing corn. A bushel will plant from seven to nine acres of corn.

Grow Standard Varieties

In chemical composition, different color of corn are the same. However, the feeder has always noticed that livestock prefer yellow corn. Experiments indicate that yellow corn contains Vitamin A, which is lacking in white corn. In dry lot feeding this may be a very practical consideration. Therefore, it is strongly urged that growers standardize on yellow varieties.

Minnesota 13 is a standard, medium early, silage variety for western Oregon. It is fairly leafy and produces a medium sized stalk and ear. Golden Glow, Wisconsin 12 and Pride of the North have been grown in western Oregon for several years and are satisfactory on the river bottom soils of the Willamette valley.

How to Test Seed

If seed corn is picked before wet or freezing weather and stored in a dry, well ventilated place and protected from freezing temperatures until it is well dried there is little need of seed corn testing. In order to be absolutely safe, in February, you should germinate 200 kernels of corn from 200 ears taken at random. If less than 90% of these kernels grow strongly, it is very important to make a thorough ear by ear test of all ears you expect to plant.

The ear by ear test may be made easily with the rag doll tester, which is the simplest of all the home made testers. To make and fill a 40 ear rag doll tester:

1. Tear sheeting into strips 9 inches wide and 70 inches long.

2. Spread the cloth lengthwise on table and rule through the middle and crosswise every three inches, leaving five inches on each end. This makes 20 squares on each half of the doll.

3. Number the squares, beginning with "1" in upper left-hand corner, "20" in upper right-hand corner, "21" in lower left-hand corner, "40" in lower right-hand corner.

4. Number the ears and write numbers corresponding to the 40 ears being tested on the back of the left-hand end of the cloth.

5. Thoroughly wt the cloth and spread it smoothly on the table, with square No. 1 at the left.

6. Remove six kernels from representative parts of ear No. 1 and place in section No. 1 of the cloth, etc.

7. Use a stick or roll of paper the diameter of a pencil, around which to roll the cloth.

8. Roll the cloth carefully, but not too tightly, beginning at the right-hand end.

9. Place a cord or rubber band loosely around the middle and firmly around each end of the rag doll.

10. Soak in lukewarm water for 5 to 10 minutes.

After soaking, turn a bucket upside down over the dolls, keeping them from drying out while the kernels are given time to germinate. If placed in a pail, the dolls should be raised so that the lower end will receive sufficient air and not stand in the water. If the dolls are stood up, the sprouts will grow toward one end and the roots toward the other, making the test much easier to read than where the dolls are allowed to lie flat. This method also insures better drainage and better ventilation. It is also well to put a wet piece of gunny sack or other coarse cloth around the dolls to prevent them from drying out. The dolls should be sprinkled often enough to keep them moist. They should be kept at room temperature, 60 to 80 degrees F. The end cords or bands should be removed after two days, to allow sufficient room for growth. In five or six days, the germination test should be ready to read.

To read the test, carefully unroll the doll. Examine all kernels closely. In case all six kernels do not show strong germination, the ear should be discarded. There is danger of discarding as worthless, however, ears called "slow germinators," which though backward in germination, are practically as strong as any. At the Iowa experiment station, ears which when tested and read as six strong sprouts gave the best stand and yield while those having six weak kernels were next giving a higher and a greater yield in tests than any other class of ears except the "six strong." If seed is very scarce, it may be well to save ears showing not more than one dead kernel out of the six tested.

Shelling and Grading the Seed

Shell the seed corn by hand, discarding the tip and butt kernels. Shell each ear in a pan by itself before dumping it into the sack with the rest of the shelled ears. As you shell, note the kernel type. Throw out ears the kernels of which show decided signs of starchiness or dull color on the backs of the kernels; also throw out ears with kernels showing blistered germs or other signs of immaturity. Watch for moldiness around the tips of the kernels. Moldiness is one of the most serious seed corn defects, and all ears showing a sign of it should be thrown out. Discard ears with shoe-peggy kernels which do not come out full and plum to the tip. Moderately large, well matured kernels, with a plump tip and with a shiny, horny back, free from starch, seem to be associated with yielding power more than any other factors which we can tell about merely by looking at the seed. Shelling corn by hand gives the opportunity to study the seed carefully and to judge the kernel type effectively. It also avoids a few broken kernels, although this is really not important.

After shelling, it helps to run the corn over either a cheap hand grader or a cylinder machine grader or a good farm fanning mill with the right screen. Some experiments indicate that size of kernel is one of the important things in determining yield. The light, small kernels are especially likely to be poor yielders. The big, misshaped kernels sometimes clog the planter. Therefore, the eliminating of the small kernels and extra large with a grader should be decidedly worth while. Kernel uniformity is of real help in getting uniform planting with the corn planter.

—E. N. BRESSMAN.

Corvallis, Ore.,
Jan. 9, 1926.

(Prof. Bressman is associate agronomist of the Oregon Agricultural college. He is our highest authority on the growing of corn. —Ed.)

THIS WEEK'S SLOGAN

DID YOU KNOW that Salem is the center of a good corn country; that with proper seed selection a yield as high as the average crop of eastern corn can be matured here; that our growers are favored in prices to the extent of the freight costs from the great corn states; that with the increase of the production of corn that is going on so rapidly here the wasteful system of summer fallowing is being abandoned; that Salem is now the center of the leading corn district of the Pacific Northwest; that we still need more corn growers; and especially that we need the growing of a great deal more corn for silage to aid the growth and add to the profits of dairying and live stock breeding?

Dates of Slogans in Daily Statesman
(In Twice-a-Week Statesman Following Day)

(With a few possible changes)
Loganberries, October 1
Prunes, October 8
Dairying, October 15
Flax, October 22
Filberts, October 29
Walnuts, November 5
Strawberries, November 12
Apples, November 19
Raspberries, November 26
Mint, December 3
Beans, Etc., December 10
Blackberries, December 17
Cherries, December 24
Pears, December 31
Gooseberries, January 7, 1925
Corn, January 14
Celery, January 21
Spinach, Etc., January 28
Onions, Etc., February 4
Potatoes, Etc., February 11
Bees, February 18
Poultry and Pet Stock, Feb. 25
City Beautiful, Etc., March 4
Great Cows, March 11
Paved Highways, March 18
Head Lettuce, March 25
Silos, Etc., April 1
Legumes, April 8
Asparagus, Etc., April 15
Grapes, Etc., April 22
Drug Garden, April 29
Sugar Beets, Sorghum, Etc., May 6
Water Powers, May 13
Irrigation, May 20
Mining, May 27
Land, Irrigation, Etc., June 3
Floriculture, June 10
Hops, Cabbage, Etc., June 17
Wholesaling and Jobbing, June 24
Cucumbers, Etc., July 1
Hogs, July 8
Goats, July 15
Schools, Etc., July 22
Sheep, July 29
National Advertising, August 5
Seeds, Etc., August 12
Livestock, August 19
Grain and Grain Products, August 26
Manufacturing, September 2
Automotive Industries, September 9
Woodworking, Etc., September 16
Paper Mills, September 23

(Back copies of the Thursday edition of The Daily Oregon Statesman are on hand. They are for sale at 10 cents each, mailed to any address. Current copies 5 cents).

WINNER OF FIRST PRIZE ON YELLOW DENT WRITES ON GOOD CORN GROWING

He Prefers the Golden Glow Variety, Which Is a Vigorous Grower of Fodder and Yields Heavily With a Large Per Cent of High Grade Ears—Gets 50 to 75 Bushels to the Acre

Editor Statesman:

Corn growing in the Willamette valley has passed the experimental stage of development. Excellent corn is grown now in this section every year.

Three important elements must be carefully considered if you would be a successful corn grower, viz., seed, soil and cultural methods.

Of course, good seed corn should have a germination test of not less than 95 per cent, and if you take proper care of your seed corn 100 per cent is not hard to get. All ears should be butted and tipped before shelling for seed.

As to Varieties

It is still an open question as to which is the best variety of the many now grown.

No doubt there always will be as now a difference of opinion on that point. I would advise selecting one of the several varieties which are giving general satisfaction both as an ensilage and as a field corn. The two outstanding varieties of this class of yellow dent corn in this section are the Golden Glow and Minnesota Thirteen. Personally I prefer the Golden Glow, which is a vigorous grower of fodder and yields heavily with a large per cent of high grade ears.

Plant It Early

I believe it is a mistake to plant corn later than the 10th of May if you wish it to be ripe and ready to husk by the first of October as it should be. If you late planters would adopt the rule of planting as near the first of May as possible, I believe you would soon become convinced that it is the better plan. Of course later planting is all right for ensilage. In the ten years that I have followed this plan of planting the first of May, I have not been caught by a frost, nor have I had any seed to rot in the ground because of cold and continuous rain.

Our soil experts tell us that any land that will grow wheat will grow corn. This is true enough, no doubt, but we should not expect too much from our poorer soils.

The river bottoms seem for the most part to be ideal for corn, although any good piece of rich upland will grow corn successfully.

Preparing the Ground

Land intended for corn should be plowed in the fall or early spring. A piece of clover sod should be selected for corn whenever possible. The seed bed should be prepared just before planting by a thorough disking followed by the harrow and roller.

The best ten ears of corn at the Salem corn show in 1924 were grown on a piece of clover sod ground which was not plowed until just before planting time. The clover then was about eight inches high. The ground was then thoroughly pulverized and leveled with a spike tooth harrow and finished with a roller. The sod was so dense under that the planter, a two-horse disk checkrower, had to be heavily weighted down to force the disks to the proper depth for planting. The season of 1924 was a very dry one, so that we continued cultivation of the corn practically through the whole growing period, at intervals of from eight to ten days. This intensive cultivation, however, was done as much to harm the thistles as to benefit the corn. Of course any late cultivation of corn must be very shallow or more harm than good will result.

The champion 50 ears at the last Salem corn show were also grown on a piece of Pudding river

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LUTHER J. CHAPIN IS GLAD TO SEE INCREASED INTEREST IN CORN GROWING

It Was Due to His Enthusiastic Interest and Organizing Ability That Our First Corn Shows Were Held, and This Movement Has Been Kept Up Ever Since He Got It so Well Started

Editor Statesman:

Corn growing, as an agricultural enterprise, in the Willamette valley, occupies a very important place. It has become established on all stock and dairy farms, furnishing both grain and silage, and is coming to be used more and more as a clean tilled crop on

Luther J. Chapin

many fruit and grain farms. As a grain crop corn is grown on many farms, since it proves to be more profitable than wheat and it has largely supplanted, with the aid of clover, the old wasteful summer fallowing method of a decade ago. What brought it about? Two principal factors have been instrumental in bringing about this important economic change. In the first place, a few progressive farmers had been growing corn successful for a number of years and had learned the value, if not indeed the necessity, of using home grown, or acclimated, seed.

In the second place, the corn shows, held at Salem and surrounding towns, brought the success of these farmers to the attention of others and distributed acclimated seed. They also afforded opportunities to learn how to select seed corn so that those new or inexperienced in corn growing could select their own seed.

Another factor which aided materially in the rapid growth of the corn growing industry and the improvement of the quality of the corn grown is the new comer from the so called "corn belt" who has brought with him a thorough knowledge of all the requirements of successful corn culture and seed improvement.

It no longer remains a question whether corn can be grown in the Willamette valley, as it has become an established crop on a majority of the farms. It has passed beyond the garden stage, as fields of twenty to one hundred acres are not uncommon.

The Great Need Now

While selection and improvement of seed will always be of prime importance, best cultural methods appears to be the greatest need at the present time.

It is a well recognized fact in the older corn growing sections that fall plowed land usually produces better results than spring plowed land. This is true more particularly on the heavier types of soil, since they are made more porous and friable through the action of frosts, and especially valuable in destroying wire worms, cut worms, etc., which often reduce the stand and later destroy much of the grain. Unusually cold winters are therefore of great value to the corn grower, especially if his ground is fall plowed, in that they destroy many pests as well as render the soil much more friable.

Corn may well be even more generally and more extensively grown here on its own merits as a money crop as well as a clean tilled crop in a rotation with other cereals. When cultural operations suitable to corn growing are practiced the net returns are far greater than for any other cereal. It will produce very satisfactory yields even in our driest years if given proper cultivation.

It is not an expensive crop to add to the copping scheme, as little machinery need be added to that already used on the ordinary farm.

LUTHER J. CHAPIN.

Salem, Ore., Jan. 13, 1926.

(Mr. Chapin was formerly agriculturist for Marion county, and it was during his term, and due to his enthusiastic work and organizing ability, that the first corn shows were held here; shows which have been held every year since.—Ed.)

TWO OF THE SIDE LINES OF CORN GROWING IN THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY

C. J. McIntosh, Publicity Man of the Oregon Agricultural College, Says We Produce a Sweet Corn That Is Particularly Tender and Peculiarly Well Flavored, and We Also Grow a Pop Corn That Is Fine

(By C. J. McINTOSH)

Certain advantages of corn growing in a country with too little hot weather to have been assigned a place in the corn belt ought to be better understood that they may be appreciated and acted upon. Of course the effect of placing prices on a cost of production plus a profit basis is accepted as a fact, but the better quality of corn for human food, especially green corn, seems hardly to have received the consideration it merits.

Prices of corn in the corn belt district in recent years have been steady and high enough for fair profits, but general trade conditions have been rather abnormal over the period and whether the profit prices will continue as things in general return to normal is more than can be known now. But I recall very well taking corn that we grew in Kansas and either shoveling it into our heating stoves in competition with coal at $4 a ton, or hauling it 10 miles to market and selling it at 7 cents a bushel.

It is of the better eating quality of green corn that I wish chiefly to write to readers of the "corn" edition of the Oregon Statesman. Visitors from corn belt districts of "back east" often remark on the fine flavor and tender quality of sweet corn, particularly when served fresh from one's own home garden.

Tender and Well Flavored

What the causes for this difference are I am unable to say, but that is not so important. I have thought, though never before daring to mention it in writing, that the tenderness is caused largely by the intervention of cool nights, thus relieving the tender grains from the serious strain of elaborating plant food in continuous high dry temperature. I am not enough of a scientist to be sure of this or to tell in what way it could be, but after all that is not the practical point. The real point is that the grain is exceedingly tender and well flavored.

It has been urged that lack of continuous heat interference with the elaboration of sugar in the grain, but that does not look probable. Sunlight is essential to this elaboration, but continuous heat and occasional sunshine are not identical things. Nature in general seems to act best in periods of intense activity alternated with periods of rest. We used to have the saying that plants got all ready to grow in the daytime and make the actual increase in size at night. This was not science but apparent results of observation. If the principle is sound, this might sufficiently explain why the corn of the cool-night regions is so superior to the corn of the corn belt districts. Both tenderness and flavor are undoubtedly favored in this way or some other. It seems to me our task is to understand this and take advantage of it in increasing our home production of corn to supply our home need and have some left for our neighbors and the local market. And where land is available, enough also for the local canneries.

This latter question might be considered by the truck grower or even by the general farmer, if the local cannerymen are prepared to handle corn and need a more dependable supply. Corn is one product that deteriorates very rapidly after harvest and before cooking, so the canned product is improved by quick delivery to nearby market, and immediate processing.

Good Pop Corn, Too

Pop-corn is another sideline that holds good promise in some

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GREATEST TROUBLE NOT TOO LARGE BUT TOO SMALL FILBERT PLANTINGS

This Is the Verdict of George A. Dorris, the Dean of Oregon Filbert Growers and the Pioneer of the Pioneers in Proper Cultural Methods and the Selection of the Right Varieties—Small Plantings Will Delay the Markets That Are Now Waiting for Us—Ours Is the Only Commercial Filbert Section in North America

(The following communication in the Oregonian of last Sunday ought to be read by every one in the Salem district, and especially by those who are promoting the slogan campaign for filberts and walnuts on every farm with the proper soil. George A. Dorris is the daddy of the filbert industry in Oregon and has done more than any other one man in experimental working in getting the right varieties and combinations for pollination purposes, and in finding out the best cultural methods, and he is himself one of our most successful growers of filberts. He is a graduate of the University of Oregon and a profound student of the industry he took up as a hob by and has followed with success and with promise of vast benefit to his section and his state. Following is the communication:)

SPRINGFIELD, Or., Jan. 8.—(To the Editor.)—Among the many interesting articles in your New Year's issue was one from Professor C. E. Schuster on "Nuts in Oregon." Being a grower of walnuts and filberts, the professor's article was of special interest to the writer, as it doubtless was to all who own or contemplate owning nut groves. The professor is to be commended for the explicit manner in which he pointed out the true status of the walnut industry on the Pacific coast.

However, from a casual reading of the article, owing to its apparently referring to walnuts and filberts being in the same class, one not acquainted with the facts might draw several inferences not warranted and, I am sure, not intended by Professor Schuster. This letter is therefore written not as a criticism of the article, but to make certain points more clear.

The article states: "Of the people planting walnut orchards today only the youngest generation are in reality planting for themselves. The next generation are planting for their children, while the still older ones are planting for their grandchildren . . . The same can be said of the filbert, though the time necessary to reach maximum production may be shorter."

To apply the same rule to filberts as to walnuts, as to the age of profitable bearing, is entirely misleading and I am sure was not so intended by Professor Schuster.

Our experience has extended over a period of 25 years, during which time we have made a number of small plantings aggregating nearly 35 acres. Of these plantings five are now in profitable bearing. Last summer the youngest of these was in its eighth year, and all the trees of that age, except a couple of rows adjacent to heavy timber, yielded from 15 to 20 pounds per tree, or at the rate of over 1600 pounds per acre. From 10-year-old trees we gatherered 30 pounds, though such a yields is rather unusual. When a filbert tree gets in the 20 to 25-year class it is easily capable of producing 50 pounds per tree, and with us it frequently does, not occasionally but frequently. In fact, we have more than once harvested that much from trees 18 years old. From one of our 20-year-old trees Professor Schuster and some of his associates gathered 58 pounds. This was one of a group of 60 trees turned over to O. A. C. for experimental pollenization purposes and was hand pollinated, but it bore no heavier a crop than the trees that were naturally pollenized by the same variety of pollenizer.

The yields above indicated, however, are only possible where all conditions are ideal, to-wit: A naturally heavy bearing strain, congenial soil conditions and proper care. Extravagant as such yields may seem, they are not any greater than are occasionally obtained in Europe for large acreages, as reported by the Royal Society of London. A visit to our groves the latter part of September, when the nuts are on the ground, will convince the most skeptical that the yields from filberts in Oregon will equal the heaviest obtained in the old world, and that the prudent planter will not have to wait longer than eight to 10 years before his trees will be producing most satisfactory crops.

The article further states: "While prices for walnuts and filberts are good today, the grower is justified in going ahead and planting at the rate he has during the last few years." Any one casting back in their mind can call to memory instances of frenzied planting of several fruits." In his article the professor has shown in detail that planting of walnuts on the coast in the past few years has been "frenzied." In this he has performed a great service. But in coupling filberts with walnuts the inference may be drawn that the planting of filberts has also been "frenzied," an inference we feel sure he did not intend to be drawn. Many filberts planted will never amount to anything, for various reasons, and if all the worth-while filberts planted in the United States in the past 25 years came into full bearing, they will probably not fill one-third as many acres as were planted to walnuts in any one year in the past decade.

No one can accurately forecast future prices for any farm crop, but one thing seems sure—at half the present prices filbert growing in Oregon will be one of Oregon's most promising and profitable horticultural possibilities. The greatest trouble is not too large, but too small plantings, which will delay the markets that are now waiting for us. One of the largest nut importing houses of the United States, who is familiar with the Oregon product, freely admits its superiority. They say the imported stuff is getting worse each year and that they are patiently waiting the time th eycan supply their want from another source. Only yesterday, J. O. Holt, manager of the Eugene Fruit Growers association, received a letter from another large importing firm to the same effect and after expressing their delight over the superiority of our product and their dissatisfaction with the imported stuff, said that they could use 300,000 pounds of our filberts annually. Of the samples we have sent out in the last few years, in every case the verdict has been the same, and

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SEND A COPY EAST