

SALEM DISTRICT INDUSTRIES

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 to boost Salem.

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.

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.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GROWING OF FLAX HERE AND IN NORTH OF IRELAND

The Belfast Weekly News, Alarmed Concerning Acreage and

Saving the Seed in a Way That Not Apply to the Salem District

Editor Statesman:

Recently the enclosed page from the "Belfast Weekly News" came to my hands through Mr. Thomson with the article in it about saving flax seed. I am sending it to you, with the idea that perhaps you may find it to be good reading for some of the farmers of this section of the country.

Some of the figures in the article would need to be translated into our usage, a stone being 14 pounds, and the dollars and English money of course you are familiar with.

The subject is of importance to the north of Ireland in that they have not been in the habit of saving their flax seed. They pull the flax while it is still more or less green, and allow the seed to go to waste in their retting ponds.

The reasons offered for this are that the quality of flax is impaired when it is allowed to stand in the field long enough for the seed to mature. They have felt that the quality has been sapped out of the fibre in order that the seed might be completely developed. We know that this is largely what happens in other plants where the whole effort of the plant is to produce the mature seed.

This has meant that they have had to secure fresh stocks of seed each year. They have used largely a seed grown in Holland, which in turn has been raised from a seed grown in Riga. The Irish call the seed the Riga Child. The British government has been trying to encourage the growing of more flax, and the saving of the seed. During the World War, when prices were set by the government they required the farmers to save the seed, since they released the control they have been doing all they could to find ways in which the seed could be saved and still not injure the quality of the flax in any way.

Through the government direction the strain of flax seed known as J. W. S. has been produced. This is a pedigreed seed that has exceptional length and quality, which when used by the farmer greatly increases his yield per acre, an important matter to the farmer, and at the same time gives him better quality in his fibre, a matter also of importance. This seed is grown very carefully. They raise the seed in a section where no other flax is raised, so that there is no chance for cross fertilization. This seed is raised in the county of Somerset in England, but the fibre is raised in northern Ireland. Of course the government supervision cannot carry on after the seed is once sold to an Irish farmer, but they are urging that the farmer should try and save the seed.

The Linn Industry Research association, an organization recently established by the government and cooperating linn manufacturing establishments all over the British Isles, has been working on a great many problems in connection with flax. They have been recommending that the flax should be pulled as green as possible and yet as ripe as is necessary in order that the seed can be saved. The association evidently thinks there is something to the idea that has been in the mind of the Irish farmer when he has let the seed go to waste, but at the same time it sees that the value of the seed is worth saving if it can possibly be accomplished.

The enclosed article describes the way they are recommending that this be done. The process of cutting off the seed bolls and letting them mature separated from the parent stem is more or less novel, but if it can save the item of quality for the Irish flax farmer, and at the same time save the seed, it will be quite worth while. The process, as I understand from the article, is something about the same as rippling.

formation placed at his disposal was that flax growing can, in spite of the unfavourable economic conditions, be made a paying proposition by—(a) increasing the yield of fibre per acre; (b) handling the flax in a better manner, so that it will command a maximum price; (c) making use of the by-

product of the flax, which is the straw, and which is of considerable value for the farmer's use. The possibility of introducing new varieties of flax is considerably nearer the actual accomplishment than appears to be generally recognized. There is at present sufficient seed of the "J. W. S." variety to sow nearly 2,000 acres this year, of which sufficient seed for at least 500 acres has been offered to the Northern Ireland Ministry of Agriculture for sowing in Ireland. A concerted effort by farmers to save seed from this variety when it is distributed would very soon cause it to become widespread in cultivation. Lack of seed saving in Ireland will mean that it will be well nigh impossible to provide the 4,000 tons of pedigreed seed necessary to supply annually the requirements of the Six Counties. No central seed bulking station could hope to approach this amount.

The desirability of handling the crop so that it will fetch top price is obvious, but the question of making use of the by-products in such a way that they will pay for the labour involved opens up a subject about which there has been considerable controversy, particularly in relation to the saving of the seed. All concerned with the production of flax will no doubt be interested in the results of the exhaustive experiments which have been carried out by the Linn Industry Research association at the Lambeg Institute. A detailed description of these experiments and the result obtained has not yet been published, but through the kindness of the director of the Institute a mass of material was placed at the disposal of our representative when he paid a visit to Lambeg on the 2nd inst.

ROBERT H. DANN.
Salem, Ore., Feb. 27, 1926.
Mr. Dann is one of the managers of the Miles linen mill in Salem; manufacturing "Miles Made" flax salmon twine, shoe threads, harness, thread and gill spun yarns. The article in the Belfast News is principally interesting here as showing the different methods in flax growing between the Salem district and the Belfast section of Ireland. "Cultivation of Flax in Ulster" is the heading, and the following is the article in full, excepting the cuts:

The marked decrease in the acreage under flax in Northern Ireland is causing deep concern and no little anxiety to all interested in the linen industry, upon which the prosperity of the province to a considerable extent depends, and the question that is exercising many minds at the moment is what can be done to improve the situation which each season is becoming more and more acute. According to the statistics dealing with this subject, recently published by the Northern Ministry of Agriculture, the acreage under flax in the Six Counties area last year was 37,812, as compared with 42,838 in 1924, whilst the average acreage in the ten years' period, 1915-1924, was 62,820. Not only has there been this serious decline in the total area of flax under cultivation, but the yield of fibre per acre has also shown a falling off. The trouble arises from a number of factors, some of which are, and some are not, under the control of the growers, and there is a wide divergence of opinion as to the methods that should be adopted to make flax growing a more profitable business than it is at present.

There are approximately 1,400,000 acres of land in Northern Ireland at present under cultivation—excluding, of course, permanent grass lands—and in a seven years' rotation it would therefore be possible to have about 200,000 acres annually under flax. Assuming a return of 20 stones of flax to the acre—a very moderate estimate—and the price at not more than 10s per stone, the flax crops of the Northern Province would be worth £2,000,000 to the producers.

The average farmer will, no doubt, say that that looks all very well on paper, but that there is no use growing flax in this country under present conditions, as it does not yield a sufficient financial return for all the trouble and labour involved in its cultivation. Cause of the Depression It will be admitted that the primary cause of the depression is lack of balance between labour costs and selling price of the fibre; but if the economic factors cannot be altered at the moment, what can the producer do in order to increase the financial return per acre if he continues to grow flax?

It was an answer to this question that a "Belfast Weekly News" representative sought in authoritative circles on 2nd inst., and the conclusion he came to from the in-

THIS WEEK'S SLOGAN

DID YOU KNOW That Salem has miles of rosehedges; that better tulips can be grown here than in Holland; that the Salem's official flower, waves its beauty

through the city and our wide streets and hills and rich soil and splendid setting, Salem is well on the way towards becoming the world's most beautiful city, and that her progressive people have ambitions and plans to make it such; and that devotion to the ideals of "Salem Beautiful" will enhance the value of all property here, and make Salem the best home city on earth; and that the people here generally are now awake to the commercial value of making Salem annually more beautiful?

Dates of Slogans in Daily Statesman

- (In Twice-a-Week Statesman Following Day)
- (With a few possible changes)
- Loganberries, October 1, 1925
- Prunes, October 8
- Dairying, October 15
- Flax, October 22
- Filberts, October 29
- Walnuts, November 5
- Strawberries, November 12
- Apples, November 19
- Raspberries, November 26
- Mints, December 3
- Beans, etc., December 10
- Blackberries, December 17
- Cherries, December 24
- Pears, December 31
- Gooseberries, January 7, 1926
- 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 Highway, 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

OUR ASSETS IN MAKING A MORE BEAUTIFUL CITY: COL. E. HOFER

The Capital City Has Not a Foot More Open Public Park Acquired by Civic Enterprise Than It Had Forty Years Ago—Several Million Dollars of Assets in Beautiful Trees and Waterways Neglected—A Gentle Calling Down

When will Salem people ever awaken to a realization that this city has an unrecognized and undeveloped asset of several million dollars in beautiful trees and waterways. Beautiful! What a hackneyed term. So oft repeated and yet meaning so little to the average person. Look up any street and at the end stand groves of magnificent ornamental trees of at least twenty varieties. Drive in any direction and you come to beautiful waterways. What are we doing to protect them against vandalism in many forms? Nothing. Railroads, telegraph and telephone lines, state and city paving contractors, builders of dwellings and business blocks, all slash into them more or less. Few if any ornamental or shade trees are planted on residence grounds, along parkings or permanent highways.

BEST EQUIPMENT IN THE NORTHWEST

Square Deal Welding in New Location, in Better Shape Than Ever

The Square Deal Welding company has moved from 349 Ferry street to 245 Ferry. Charlie Duncan, proprietor of the company, claims that this new location gives him better room to give better work to his patrons. He states that the equipment which he now has is the best in the northwest. He is able to handle any sized job. There are none too small or none too large for him. "If I cannot weld so that it will stay I do not ask my patrons to bring the work back and let me try again," said Mr. Duncan. "I do the job right in the first place and guarantee all my work." If he does not succeed, he will give the money back.

SPENDS HIS LIFE WITH THE FLOWERS

Greenhouse and Floral Shop Conducted by People With Sympathy

Hector Adams, who has been four years in the floral business in Salem, purchased the greenhouse at 1120 North Liberty street last fall, where he now has his complete stock of bedding and potted plants. Mr. Adams formerly operated the Graber greenhouse at 1195 D street. Mr. Adams has spent the greater part of his life working with flowers and understands his business thoroughly. He came from Albany four years ago, where he was in business for ten years. Mrs. Adams operates the retail store at 453 Court street. The shop is known as the Adams Floral shop. Here is the salesroom for the greenhouse. Cut flowers, funeral designs, bedding stock and potted plants are their specialties.

SEND A COPY EAST!

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FRANKLIN IS TOO BUSY NOW TO WRITE

His Golden Spur Daffodils Are in Full Bloom, Others Coming On Fast

W. C. Franklin told the Slogan editor yesterday that he had received his letter asking him to write for the Salem Beautiful edition. But he said he was too busy. That the Golden Spur daffodils are now in full bloom, and the later ones are coming on fast. Mr. Franklin is one of the pioneers in Salem's tulip industry. He has the same place, on the Wallace road, just outside the suburbs of West Salem, that he and W. C. Dibble had to start with, eight to nine years ago. They were the first to vision the fact that this is the best district on the western hemispheres for the production of bulbs; to find out that we grow as fine tulips and tulip bulbs here as are produced in Holland. Mr. Franklin makes a specialty of Darwin tulips. He is making a decided success of his business, and annually at the height of the tulip blooming time thousands of people visit "The Tulip Farm."

SALEM'S OFFICIAL FLOWER, BY UP JOHN

It is a Good Time to Plant When the Ground is Suitable, and Planting May Be Done Well Up to the End of June—the Flower Needs Plenty of Water and a Great Deal of Sun—Very Plain Directions

Editor Statesman: Gladiolus planting time is at hand again, and I have been asked by the editor of The Statesman to say something again in regard to this wonderful flower. Perhaps, with the constantly growing interest in this flower of flowers, some simple directions as to planting and culture may be as welcome as anything to those who plan to add some gladioli—Salem's official flower—to their garden collection. Planting here may be done at any time the ground is in good condition. Generally speaking the ground is in condition when a handful of dirt, squeezed in the palm, will granulate and not roll into a sticky ball. If ground is worked too early, when it is too wet, it will cause trouble almost throughout the growing season. It must also be remembered that the gladiolus bulb is planted three or four inches deep, according to its size, and it welcomes warmth as well as moisture. A number of good sun baths are required before warmth penetrates to a point where it will accelerate the germ in the bulb. However, early planting may cause early root growth, even if it does not cause sprouting. This early root growth may add strength to the flower later. Plant now if you wish—always remembering that the ground should be

DIRECTIONS FOR PLANTING GLADIOLI

frable. If your land is of the heavy clay variety, by all means wait awhile and save yourself trouble later, as well as assuring yourself best results. Planting may continue on well up toward the end of June for continuity of bloom. Plant a few bulbs every week or ten days apart and bloom will continue well up to frost. Different varieties have different blooming periods. The average length of time required for blooming is 90 days from the time of planting. Some varieties, however, will bloom in 70 days, some in 80 and so on up to as long as 120. By proper selection of varieties planting of all may be made at the same time and the blooming period lengthened. The later planting, and thus the warmer weather and ground conditions, the faster will the blooming period elapse. In planting your gladiolus bulbs select a sunny situation, if possible. The better the ground, of course, the better the results. Do not allow manure to touch the bulb. If your soil is prime, fertilizer is by no means an essential, in fact is not absolutely necessary in any soil that will raise good potatoes. If fertilizer is wanted for top size blooms, bone meal or

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