SALEM DISTRICT INDUSTRIES

SIXTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

THE DAILY STATESMAN dedicates two or more pages each week in the interests of one of the fifty-two to a hundred basic industries of the Salem district. Letters and articles from people with vision are solicited. This is your page. Help make Salem grow.

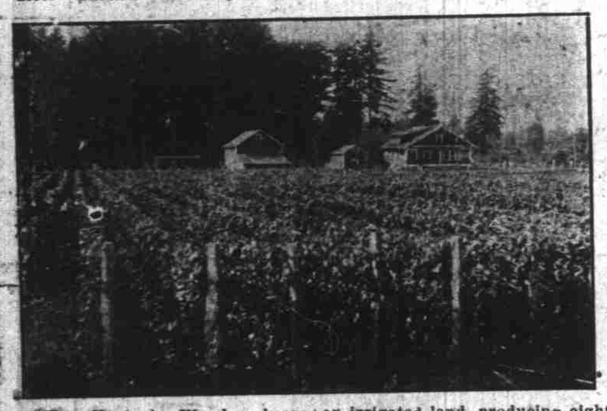
3 PEOPLE INCREASED TO 85 SINCE A YEAR AGO LAST FALL ON THE WEST STAYTON GARDENS IRRIGATION PROJECT

A Prosperous and Contented Group of Farmers on the Most Extensive Project of the Kind in the Salem District—Growing Great and Profitable Crops—Eight and a Quarter Tons to the Acre of Kentucky Wonder Beans—Twenty Tons of Tomatoes to the Acre—The Project That Looked Like a Dismal Failure Takes on Semblance of Signal Success

May 18, 1925. E. L. Thompson of Portland wrote in part as follows for the annual Slogan number of The Statesman of last year:

"The Willamette Valley Irrigation Land company has passed through a very serious experience. When the company was organized about 13 years ago, the prospects were extremely favorable for the successful development of the district between West Stayton, Turner, and Marion. A group of citizens of Portland invested about $125,000 in good faith and purchased lands after a careful investigation made by one of the best irrigation engineers available. The state engineer approved the plan. The Oregon Agricultural college lent their support and indorsement.

"A canal was constructed from West Stayton on toward Turner. Approximately 4000 acres were either purchased or taken under option, and withal approximately a quarter of a million dollars was invested within the first two years. Then came the World war. Sales had been made to people who were not experienced in irrigation. The very neighborhood seemed antagonistic and one thing after another developed and



The Kentuck Wonder beans grown last year on the West Stayton Gardens tract of Oscar Stoll

caused the company to go into the hands of a receiver. Finally the greater number of the members of the stock company lost interest, in addition to losing their original investment.

"After thirteen years of struggles, conditions now seem to be more favorable. The last few years there has been a growing sentiment in favor of irrigation. In 1924 the land was so dry that it fairly cried for water.

"The late T. B. Wilcox had been one of the strongest advocates of irrigation, and before his death had urged the writer to join with him and save the property and the project, if possible, and recommended that the underlying mortgages, delinquent taxes, and the old judgments against the project be bought in to avoid the entire remaining assets from going into the hands of outside parties.

"Since purchasing these mortgages, we have endeavored to reorganize the project and have engaged Mr. Peter Thomason to look after the physical properties, and have associated with us Mr. Percy Cupper of Salem, who aids us in the engineering matters.

"This year we hope to be of real service to the community and provide irrigation for those that are in position to make good use of it. The flax grown in that locality last year under irrigation showed the great value of irrigation. The soil seems to be especially suited to irrigation. A growth of flax on the same land under dry farming methods and under irrigation proves the great value of water properly applied.

"We are now going forward with our work vigorously, developing and extending our laterals, and cleaning out the canals, and we feel that our original faith is soon to be justified. There has been a wonderful change in the sentiment of the community. The farmers no longer feel antagonistic, but rather are encouraging our efforts, and giving us their support.

"This season a considerable increase of acreage will be under irrigation, and we believe there will follow an era of increased prosperity and largely increased crops in the district near West Stayton and toward Turner, and as these demonstrations prove for themselves the value of water, it is only a question of time until practically the entire acreage, approximating over 15,000 acres, will be under irrigation, handled by farmers who will become experienced in the proper use of water. We look forward to a time when the district will become a garden of flowers; as well as producing profitable crops. While some years irrigation may not be as necessary, irrigation on the land will act as a crop insurance to be used when needed."

Three People Then, 86 Now

When P. E. Thomason took charge of the irrigation project, as stated by Mr. Thompson, there were three people on the land, or the part of the land on which may be found now 86 people. Mr. Thomason took charge as manager a year ago last fall, and he found the ditches grown up to weeks and brush, the flumes out of repair, the dwellings tumbling down, the fences badly needing attention and all the tract in a condition one might expect on abandoned farms. It was a discouraging outlook.

But there has been since that time a wonderful change. The people now on the land are thrifty. They are hard workers. They are making progress, and making money. The dwellings are in repair, the premises tidied up generally, and there is an air of cheerfulness and contentment. Besides the people on the land, there are at harvest times several hundred people employed, men, women and children, earning fair wages; the expert ones large pay.

Low charges have so far been generally made for the use of the water; as low as $2 an acre, and up to $3.50 an acre. It is expected that about $5 an acre will be charged on future contracts, or $7.50 an acre for both the rental of the land and the use of the water.

The company owns outright yet some 1200 to 1500 acres of the land. Some tracts are being sold as well as rented.

As indicated by Mr. Thompson's letter of a year ago, there will finally be some 15,000 acres under irrigation in this project, around West Stayton, Marion, Turner and Aumsville. The water comes from the Santiam river at Stayton.

Given New Name

The project has been given a new name. It is "West Stayton Gardens," a very appropriate designation, because this whole 15,000 acres will one day be one great truck garden and orchard, with a rotation of annual cash crops, and dairying, poultry raising, swine breeding, bee keeping, etc.

The name of the company owning and operating the project, and owning part of the land, has been changed to the Eltco Investment company, appropriate also, the first three letters being the initials and first letter of the name of E. L. Thompson, the moving spirit of the enterprise.

The preliminary rates for the use of the water were made low, in order to get farmers on the land and afford them every possible facility to make good. That this was a wise policy is proved by the fact that all of them are making good. There is a fine spirit of helpfulness among them. They are a cheerful, neighborly lot. They will do more than anyone else to encourage new settlers on the land. They make a nucleus for one of the most prosperous and uniformly contented groups of people in this whole country. Those irrigated farms are worth seeing now. They will be more attractive in the main harvest times in the late summer and fall, because ,, ::b and the manwentd

The Men On the Land

J. T. Dickens owns nine and a half acres, his tract being the second one east of West Stayton. He grows strawberries and black cap raspberries, principally, and he clears $800 a year net, besides his living for the family, from his home place. He also has 10 acres leased from the Eltco Investment company, part of this being now in Kentucky Wonder beans, from which he expects to clear $187.50 an acre, if he gets five tons to the acre—and he is certain that he will get at least that tonnage, because he has the benefit of irrigation. This is clear of fertilizer, picking and all other costs. He has three acres of his own land in strawberries, which he also irrigates. He is now harvesting this crop. They are Gold Dollar berries, and he gets over two tons to the acre. He has several acres of black cap raspberries, with the vines set thick with growing berries. The strawberries go to Baker, Kelly & McLaughlin, and are barreled. The same with the black caps. He gets 7 cents a pound for his strawberries, and 9 cents for his black caps. He expects to get better than two tons to the acre from his black cap vines. Mr. Dickens has several acres of Oregon strawberries on his rented land, from which he is also harvesting a good crop, though some of the vines were set out only last year. He raised some cucumbers last year, getting 10 to 12 tons to the acre, receiving about $12 a ton. He also grows some fine potato crops, and some tomatoes. He has produced tomatoes at the rate of 20 tons to the acre; the Puget Sound Special variety, selling to the Stayton co-operative cannery. Mr. Dickens has grown corn 12 feet high, and parsnips weighing 12 to 14 pounds.

Mrs. Dickens has a jar of honey that was brought across the plains by her parents, Wm. Royce and wife, in 1864. tI was used as medicine in the trip across the plains. Mr. Dickens has a petrified Barlow knife, found on the Oregon coast. It is quite a curiosity.

Ed Olds has five acres of irrigated land next to the Dickens place, and he has 200 laying hens and 400 pullets. He is making a success of the poultry industry, and is planning large extensions in this line.

W. O. Royse is a new-comer, near the Dickens place. He has about 11 acres, five and a half acres being in Marshall, Gold Dollar and Oregon strawberries. He expects better than two tons to the acre. They sold to Baker, Kelley & McLaughlin. He has also an acre and a half of Kentucky Wonder beans and an acre of tomatoes. These crops will go to the Stayton cannery.

Mrs. Royse has an eighth of an acre of everbearing red raspberries from which he has sold $80 worth of fruit since last September. He has received as high as $4.50 a crate for the raspberries. He sold a crate last Friday, and the vines are loaded with ripe and ripening berries. His neighbors are getting slips from him, and that irrigation district is likely to become famous on account of these wonderful raspberries. They go to high class Portland trade, through the Pacific Fruit & Produce company.

Mr. Royse also is successful with everbearing strawberries.

Oscar Stoll is one of the most successful of West Stayton Gardens farmers. He has 7.08 acres, an acre each in black cap and red raspberries and Oregon strawberries. He gets nine cents a pound for his raspberries, and produces more than two tons to the acre. He gets as great a tonnage from his strawberries, and he grows spinach, potatoes, head lettuce and several other truck garden crops. Also tomatoes. He has raised tomatoes that have brought at the rate of $1000 an acre.

Last year he raised eight and a quarter tons to the acre of Kentucky Wonder beans. Accompanying this article there is a cut from a snapshot of this bean patch of last year, together with the buildings on te Stoll form. The poles for the wires for the beans are about six feet high.

E. R. Clark has 22 acres leased from the Eltco Investment company. He has three acres of Kentuck Wonder beans, an acre of tomatoes, two and a half acres of Gold Dollar strawberries, some corn, potatoes and other diversified crops. He realized $215 net from three-fourths of an acre of strawberries last year. He grew 27 tons of cucumbers from three acres; with about $30 a ton average quality.

J. W. Nipple has twenty-seven and a half acres, two being in tomatoes, three acres in apples and the rest in wheat, oats and other crops. But his principal line is poultry, with which he is successful. He has 250 laying hens. He sells his eggs in Portland, to the Brandes company. Mr. and Mrs. Nipple came from Spokane in 1912.

Mr. Stoll was formerly an eastern Washington irrigated land farmer. He prefers the West Stayton irrigated district.

The above are only a few of the samples of what is being done on the West Stayton Gardens tracts, under irrigation, as gathered by the Slogan editor of The Statesman in a short visit there late last Sunday evening. There are a number of new comers in that irrigated land district who are doing well in dairying, swine breeding and other lines; one man has a herd of fine registered Jerseys. The time is going to come soon when the canneries of the Salem district, and the barreling plants, will be able to rely on that district for an immense tonnage annually of fruits and vegetables.

Tomato growing there, on a considerable scale, for the Stayton cannery, will be watched with interest this year. The growers claim to be able to produce a superior tomato for canning, and with immense yields, running above 20 tons to the acre.

More of the Growers.

Ed Hankle has put out five and a half acres of strawberries and is planting four acres of Kentucky Wonder beans on wires for the cannery. He is also giving attention to several other varieties of vegetables.

Harry Stewart is putting out a large acreage of string beans, tomatoes, potatoes and strawberries and other garden truck.

Mr. Snoddy is putting out tomatoes, beans and strawberries and other garden crops.

A. S. Worsley is planting a large acreage of beans, tomatoes and strawberries.

John Kitchen has out 10 acres of strawberries, and he is also planting other garden vegetables.

Ed Martin has out a large acreage of strawberries and other garden truck.

J. R. Davis, on the West Stayton Gardens lands, is a breeder of purebred Jerseys. He owns Cotillion Sunny Maid No. 339970. She is a silver and gold medal cow dropped March 21, 1914. She sold for $760 at nine year old. Mr. Davis also owns Tax Hall Cotillion, dropped September 9, 1925. She is a daughter of Cotillion Sunny Maid and was sired by Tax Hall Fern Lad.

THIS WEEK'S SLOGAN

DID YOU KNOW That the farmers of the Salem district are rapidly learning the uses of irrigation, especially in exceptionally dry years; that pumps for irrigation (the best for the purpose known and the longest lived and cheapest) are being made in large numbers in Salem; that irrigation districts are coming to life here, with many more to follow; that every farmer who has running water on his land where it can be made available for irrigation purposes has begun to realize that he has something better than a small gold mine; that, with some crops, water available for irrigation represents the difference between total loss and 100 per cent crops, in unusually dry summers; that the Oregon Agricultural college people are ready to give all help possible in the matter of irrigation information, and that preparation for irrigation must be made 100 per cent efficient here in due course, and that this ought to be soon?

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
Mint, 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 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, 1926
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, Sept. 23, 1926

(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).

"Vest Pocket" Motors May Set New Speedway Records

INDIANAPOLIS.—(By Associated Press.)—Great as was the speed of the eight-cylinder motor cars which competed last year in the 500-mile automobile race here, the velocity of the pistons and superchargers of the new "vest pocket" engines which will be used in the Memorial Day race will be greater.

Motors in cars which compete May 31 must have a piston displacement not greater than 91½ cubic inches. The first race in 1911 was for motors of 631 cubic inches or under. Engines built for the approaching race will be only about two-thirds as large as the smallest engine in use in America in commercial or passenger automobiles.

Engineers of these machines say the crank shafts will revolve at a maximum of 7000 times a minute, as against 5800 revolutions for the engines used last year. The superchargers are expected to attain 30,000 revolutions while the crank shaft is revolving 7000 times.

Some officials predict there is a chance for the record average of 101.13 miles an hour for 500 miles being bettered. The record was established by Pete DePaolo in an Indianapolis-made car.

SEND A COPY EAST

OAC AUTHORITY SAYS HALF MILLION ACRES VALLEY LAND NEEDS IRRIGATION

Experiments Show Increases of Representative Field Crops Running From 27 to 186 Per Cent—The Soils That Are Best Suited to Supplemental Irrigation, Here in the Salem District

Prof. W. L. Powers, chief of the department of soils, Oregon Agricultural college, is the author of Circular 57, the introductory paragraphs of which are as follows:)

Frequent recurrence of periods of drouth during the late summer has developed considerable interest in the possibility of supplemental irrigation in the Willamette valley. In 1907 the office of irrigation investigations, United States department of agriculture, began some irrigation tests at Corvallis and other points, to determine the value of irrigation water as a supplement to the limited summer rainfall, as a means of increasing production and profit, particularly with the more intensive agriculture that was beginning to take the place of grain growing. Increases in yields of representative field crops ranged from 27 per cent to 186 per cent, indicating that supplementary irrigation wisely used with most late season crops would prove profitable on the naturally drained, free working soils of the valley where accessible to water.

In 1910 the experiments were extended to include soil moisture investigations; water variation trials, or duty-of-water experiments to determine how much irrigation would be needed; also to develop practices for securing highest efficiency and the greatest net profit from the pumped water. Water requirement studies were added and also observations of the effects of irrigation on soils and crops.

Soils best suited to supplemental irrigation in the Willamette valley are those that are free working, without being too heavy or sticky on the one hand or too coarse and sieve-like on the other hand. The sandy loam soils occurring along the Willamette and other stream bottoms, or soils belonging to the Newberg and Chehalis series, and the lighter types of soils on the valley floor, such as Willamette loam or silt loam, are suitable for irrigation. Soil surveys of two-thirds of this valley indicate that perhaps half a million acres, or about one-sixth of the improved land in the valley will give good response to supplemental irrigation.

Crops found to give best response to supplemental irrigation here are the truck crops, the crops grown for intensive dairying, such as late summer pasture and late cuttings of legume crops, or row crops that make their maximum growth late in the season, such as roots and corn. Potatoes and beans are cash crops which give large returns from irrigation and are likely to pay for proper irrigation.

Advantages of supplemental irrigation: The chief advantages of supplemental irrigation for free working, naturally drained Willamette valley soils, are as follows: (1) Irrigation controls soil moisture, overcomes drouth; (2) provides green pasture and green feed late in the summer; (3) saves the clover stand and makes a cutting the first season; (4) makes double cropping possible—late crops after early crops; (5) aids the beneficial bacterial and chemical activities in soil; (6) aids control of crop pests and diseases; (7) increases efficiency of soil moisture during the best growing weather; (8) is an aid to deep or early plowing and intensive cropping; (9) softens clods and dissolves plant foods; (10) proper irrigation pays in increased yields, net profits, and productive values.

For supplemental irrigation to be highly profitable in the Willamette valley it must be used on the naturally drained, free working soils and applied to crops that respond to late season irrigation and that are of good value. The greatest profit is secured where water is effectively used. The experiment station has sought to determine the minimum amount of water which, together with the best time and manner of use and cultivation, would yield crops of highest values and greatest returns upon the land and water employed. If the increase from irrigation is sufficient to pay for water when pumped a moderate life and applied to staple field crops it would certainly pay to use gravity irrigation on the more intensive crops. The station experiments have been conducted with water pumped from a creek and discharged at a level of 20 feet above the creek for use upon Willamette silty clay loam with staple field crops.

Water supply: The water available for irrigation in this valley is of good quality and a suitable supply will be found in the "underflow," which occurs in the gravel substratum under the river-bottom soils, or along the bottoms of other large streams. Water can also be pumped for irrigation from perennial streams entering the valley from the foothills.

TRENCH SYSTEM FOR HOME GARDEN

Twice as Good, Goes Twice as Far as Use of the Lawn Sprinkler

Water supplied from the hydrant to the home garden by the trench system will go just about twice as far and do more than twice as much good as the same amount applied with the lawn sprinkler. It leaves the plants and the soil in better condition at the time, and encourages the roots of plants to seek deeper strata, where they range through a wider feeding area and withstand drought much better. But more expensive and unsatisfactory than any other way, it seems to me, is that of squirting the water from a high-power hydrant through a compressed nozzle. This bruises the tender leaves of the plant, sometimes rips great holes in them, and puddles the soil till it fairly cracks when the sun comes out.

Use of a little water from the nozzle under light pressure may accomplish some good and no harm, if used to supplement the trench watering, as it washes off the plants and tends to freshen up the leaves and give them better transpiration. But used alone this system encourages shallow rooting, as few gardeners have the time and patience needed to cover the same area long enough to give it a thorough wetting. Many shallow wettings are expensive both of water and of crop. Use of a sprinkler is likely to be rather better, as it can be set and left to operate itself. But the trouble here is an uneven watering of different spots, some getting too much and others too little water. No doubt, the overhead sprinkling is very effective and desirable, but costs a good deal and seems rather poorly suited to a small home garden, though, really, I know but little about it.

Having determined on use of the trench system of watering, the next thing is to level the ground with just enough slope to carry the water to all parts of the garden rather quickly but without force enough to tear up the surface of the soil. By making one corner slightly higher than the opposite corner the soil is given a two-way slope that turns the trick with minimum waste by overwatering certain parts. The water is applied at the high corner and run in a main channel along the side that crosses the rows, down which distribution trenches are laid off. Since the upper part of these trenches is bound to get the first water as well as the last, it is best to have the surface slope away a little faster at the upper end, gradually straightening out so the water slows up as it gets nearer the farther ends of the trenches. This provides maximum percolation at the point on which the flow is shortest.

The best way to carry the water along the main headline, as far as I have been able to find, is to make a v-shape trough out of two 6-inch boards, about 12 feet long, for carrying the water quickly and without waste, and for regulated distribution into the trenches. This trough is laid on the ground so that the side next the trenches is nearly, not quite, flat with the earth, leaving the other side almost perpendicular. On this upright side are tacked cleats in sets of two at row-width intervals, for holding shut-off blocks that can be raised or lowered, to govern the amount of water carried along or turned into the trench. In starting the flow, most of these blocks are raised to permit the water to run to or near the end of the trough at the farther side of the garden. As the one or two trenches into which the water is discharged begin to fill up toward the lower end, the blocks next above are lowered, turning the flow into other trenches. If it is desirable, as it usually is, to keep the water in the first trenches for a longer time, just enough may be allowed to get by the turn-off blocks to keep the trench supplied to the end. The main flow is diverted into trenches nearer the intake and distribution regulated to suit the needs. A 12-foot trough is generally long enough to keep 10 trenches going over 50-foot rows on fairly compact soil. After the first group of trenches have been well watered, the trough is drawn its length nearer the hydrant, where the process is repeated.

This plan wastes no water or time, gives the plants the right amount of water, just where they need it—at the roots—and does not call for continuous supervision while watering is going on. Of course, the main channel can be run along a ditch at the upper end of the rows, but the uneven washing of the soil and difficulty of constructing stable shut-offs for the trenches, makes it inadvisable. Likewise, it washes holes in the soil, and if a mole hole is crossed a great deal of water is lost and soil damage done. The little v-shaped trough turns the trick to a nicety, averting all these forms of damage and permitting the gardener to attend to other work or "rest in the shade of his vine and fig tree" while the processes of nature are duplicated in a refined and effective manner.

Success with this method depends a good deal on the character of the trenches and the manner of handling the soil after it is irrigated. Shallow, very shallow, trenches, I have found, are much better for getting the water near the roots of shallow rooted plants. While it is best to avoid bringing free water about these roots it is sure to come within their reach. When the plants are quite young and liberally spaced between rows, I have found it effective to run the trench close to one row on one side and close to the next row, and so on. The trenches are positively no deeper than necessary to carry the flow without flooding—a small flow, at that.

A small v-shaped trencher, sawed from a hardwood board and bolted to the wheel hoe, is a good tool for trenching. To give the trench enough body in loose soil to carry the flow, a small three-cornered drag may be attached just back of the trencher. In compact soil this is not needed.

A good watering once a week or so has proved often enough to keep the plants goin and tender.

C. J. McINTOSH.

Corvallis, Or., May 19, 1926.

(Mr. McIntosh is the publicity man of the department of industrial journalism of the Oregon Agricultural college, and he is a successful home gardener. He practices what he preaches.—Ed.)

Survivor Recalls Scene of Gen. Lee's Surrender

KANSAS CITY—(By Associated Press.)—Captain Alfred oBregard of the Union cavalry sat his horse very erect and soldierly on April 19, 1865, as he watched the formalities of Lee's surrender to Grant, beneath the trees in the front yard of the McClain home at Appomatox court house, Virginia.

Captain oBregard was 31 then, and now, at 92 and not quite so erect but with a certain military bearing, nevertheless, the captain sits most of the day in a swivel chair in his tiny notary office. He is the only if not one of the few survivors of the score or more officers and men who witnessed Lee's formal capitulation.

"General Lee, accompanied by an adjutant and two orderlies, rode into the yard," recalls the captain. "One of the orderlies jumped from his horse and held the bridle of Lee's mount while the Confederate chieftain dismounted.

In 1925, Gresham Fruit Growers shipped 450 cars of raspberries. For 1926 they expect 500 cars, and 10,000 pickers will be employed.