

Continuation of the Slogan Page: Subject This Week, the Seed Industry

GOING TO THE HALF MILLION MARK THIS YEAR IN OUR RED CLOVER SEED

Getting Above the High Year in This Important Industry—A Boom in String Bean Seed—Have Developed a New Heavy Out Seed—Grimm Alfalfa on a Greater Boom Than Heretofore—White Blossom Clover and Other Clovers and Onion Sets Making Gains—On Our Way to a Gigantic Seed Industry for Section.

Among the high lights in the way of new things in the seed industry of the Salem district are: Red clover seed has staged a come-back, plus. The value of our crop for this year will run about \$400,000; likely to around \$500,000, against the \$400,000 crop of 1923, the highest point reached in any former year.

There is a new seed boom here; string or stringless bean seed. And there is a new out for seed; the Kanato, originating in Kansas, reaching Oregon from California.

Also Grimm alfalfa is on a bigger boom than ever— Also White Blossom sweet clover, and other sweet clovers, and onion sets.

Is on the Way The Salem district is coming into its own as a seed country, and Salem is destined to become the great seed center of the United States at an earlier time than even the most hopeful have hoped for.

Eastern and coast seed houses are making more and larger contracts with our growers. One big eastern seed house has been contracting here for increased orders of garden seeds, including lettuce.

Our growers supply the whole country with kale seed; sending out about a carload a year of this seed. As it takes only two ounces to plant an acre, it will be seen that we supply seed for an immense acreage.

Here are some of the outstanding things of the Salem district as a seed center, touched upon by Harley O. White, of the well known firm of D. A. White & Sons, seedmen and feedmen, Salem, in an interview yesterday.

This firm buys great quantities of seeds, in a wholesale way, shipping in cars and smaller lots long distances, and Harley O. White is thoroughly posted in all matters in the seed world.

Alaska clover seed will this year bring to our farmers about \$75,000, against \$50,000 last year. Western Oregon is the only section of the United States where it has proven profitable to grow vetches for seed.

We have a good crop this year, and it will bring \$70,000 to \$75,000, at \$75 a ton, against \$50,000 last year, when the price was around \$90 a ton.

California wants all the certified potato seed our farmers can send, and there is a demand for Oregon grown potatoes for seed in Idaho and Washington.

Seed potatoes are grown mostly under contract here. The acreage is growing fast.

A Favored Section "Oregon has been known usually as a grower of field seeds, especially of clover, alfalfa and vetches, but grows to perfection many kinds of seeds," said Mr. White.

"I might mention that in various parts of the Salem district 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.

Marion county is now first in the Pacific northwest in the production of corn; and Polk county is a close second.

Mr. White's firm has developed a new seed corn, the "Pride of Oregon," which is attracting wide and favorable attention. It is a yellow field corn.

Seed Oats Going Far It is well known now that the Salem district produces oats running heavier to the bushel than can be grown elsewhere in this country, and the breakfast food concerns are taking large quantities of our oats.

Some of our new varieties of seed oats are going to many states and countries—especially the Shadeland oats, the White Banner variety, the Swedish Selected, the Gray Winter, the Clydesdale, and a new variety here, the Kanato, coming from Kansas, by way of California.

These were all selected and bred up here in the Salem district.

Other High Lights We are getting extensively into the growing of the Hungarian vetch seed, which is attracting wide and favorable attention.

We grow practically all of the onion sets for the whole of the country west of the Rockies. The Lake Labiah district alone grows over 200,000 pounds of onion sets annually.

The Salem district is on the up of the fact is, the seed business grade, decidedly.

More New Ones The Salem district has produced a little rye grass seed for 15 years. Within the past three years this line has expanded enormously.

We are now producing hundreds of tons here, for our country wide markets, taking the place of foreign rye grass seed. Linn county is among the leaders in this expansion.

We are growing both the English variety and the Italian variety. This is a permanent addition to our seed industry.

We have gone into Huban clover on a small scale.

New Wholesale Buyers There has just been formed a new wholesale concern for the handling of field seeds all over the Willamette valley.

It is the Jenks-White Seed company, made up of the D. A. White & Sons people and Howard Jenks, an extensive seed buyer at Albany.

They have a branch office at Albany and one at Tangent. This firm will be the largest in seed buying in the valley, if not in Oregon.

ARABIAN NAME FOR MOHAIR IS GIVEN (The following very apt and pretty tribute to the mohair which our Oregon goat breeders produce for the markets comes to The Statesman from Dorothy Crawford, a student of the Oregon Agricultural college. She has done her subject such justice as will be appreciated by many Oregon breeders, who ought to grow in number ten fold.)

Don't most of us think that mohair is used only for carpets and heavy upholstery? The present manufacturers will indeed surprise us. Most fascinating sun and tub materials are now made from the hair of the Angora goat.

To know what to use for those new drapes and cushions is a problem yet unsolved by many a housewife who is in the midst of redecorating. Attractive and durable are the new drapes, curtains and upholstery mohairs which lend themselves well to house furnishings.

keeps its shape and color. It comes in either the two-tone effect, combining such colors as blue and gold, and mulberry and cream, or in a one-tone effect in a variety of pleasing colors.

Drape materials come in interesting stripes and prints. The Arabian name for mohair, muhayyar, which means choice or select, applies well to this rich material. It has an appearance and effect distinctly its own.

Chase Velmo is a beautiful soft, lustrous, wear-resisting pile fabric used, primarily, for upholstery purposes in trains and automobiles and on furniture. It is made in so wide a range of designs and color combinations that any taste may be suited.

FOR COW TESTING ASSOCIATION HERE

Dairymen of Marion County and Part of Polk Preparing to Organize

A large number of the dairymen in Marion county have expressed a desire that a cow testing association be organized at the earliest possible date.

On August 7th a preliminary meeting was held at Silverton, Oregon. It was decided that it would be advisable at this time to get leaders from the various communities to make a survey of their respective communities in order to ascertain the number of cows which may be available to come under an association.

The following is a list of the dairymen who were appointed to make a survey of their respective communities: Ted Hobart, Silverton. Lawrence Blair, Monitor. Frank Kuensting, Woodburn.

S. H. Smith, St. Paul. H. H. Booster, Gervais. Joe May, North Howell. Alex Harold, Clear Lake. J. M. Nichols, Bethel. Frank Durbin, Rickey. H. Sappingfield, Pratum. C. J. Gilbert, Shaw. H. R. Cooley, Talbot. Eugene Finlay, Ankney Bottom. Warren Gray, Marion. Floyd Parker, Aumsville. Raleigh Harold, Stayton. J. R. Davis, Turner. Ivan Stewart, the Polk County district of West Salem.

Only Eight Now At present there are eight cow testing associations in Oregon, located in Coos, Tillamook, Clackamas, Deschutes, Columbia and Baker counties. The associations in Baker and Deschutes counties have been organized in the last few months.

Clackamas county has had an association in operation for about two years which has proved very satisfactory.

There are about six hundred cows in this association and the charge is \$24 to join, in addition to \$1.50 per cow per year for a one day test. Ordinarily the tester can handle about forty or forty-five cows per day.

In Clackamas county they have worked out arrangements whereby two or three herds are tested together where the farms are situated close together and the \$24 charge is divided between the members. It would appear that such a plan would be practical in Marion county, and where two or three dairymen with small herds are situated close together they can split the membership fee between them.

Are Most Useful It is interesting to know that all of the important dairy districts that have established reputations as dairying centers have earned their reputations very largely through cow testing associations.

The idea originated in Denmark, and they are continuing with the testing work there on an extensive scale.

Wisconsin, one of the outstanding dairy states, started in with nine associations in 1909, and in 1926 there were 169 with a membership of over 5000 dairymen.

Michigan has 108 associations with a membership of 3000 dairymen. Minnesota has 84 associations with a membership of over 2500 dairymen.

The growth of the association work in these great dairying states is indicative of the value of keeping actual records on each cow in the dairy herd in order that the dairymen can with certainty eliminate those that are unprofitable and can feed the remainder according to their known production.

Most Durable of All Mohair's best feature is that it is the most durable of the textile fibers. The woman who uses mohair for decorating is wise for this reason, since it will outwear any other fiber in general use. Mohair can be bought in guaranteed fast colors. Each hair has a well defined medullary canal into which the dye penetrates and remains locked up indefinitely.

The curtain lace which has a silk like luster will please any housewife, since it sheds dust and

COLLEGE AUTHORITY ON SEED GROWING

Two Conditions of Success as Given by Chief in Farm Crops, O.A.C.

Editor Statesman: The seed grower has the same position in the plant world that the pure bred livestock man occupies in the livestock world.

He is at the very foundation of successful agriculture. The community is dependent upon him for foundation stock of good seed. The grower will not meet seed standards sufficiently well to make the work pay. There are two types of good seed growers:

1. The plant breeder. The man who actually makes certain varieties or types or crops over into something of better quality. These men are specialists who select a new type and multiply it. Sometimes they reselect an old variety to bring it back to its original quality. Sometimes they rogue carefully to eliminate mixtures and diseases. These men, like the late C. D. Nairn, who did so much with the Shadeland Climax oats; W. L. Rayborn of Weston and G. C. McCartney of Tumalo, who have developed such fine strains of Nettle Gem potatoes; L. W. Wheeler of the Portland Seed company, who has done so much in improving the Earliest of All potato; Ward Evans of Troutdale, who developed the Pride of Multnomah; and C. H. Feyrer of Molalla, who has redeveloped fine strains of Jenkin Club and Eaton wheats, have all been Oregon benefactors in that they have done much in producing better seed. Other names might be mentioned. Of course the experiment stations have done their share in introducing, breeding and proving many of the leading varieties.

2. The second type of seed grower is the one who buys good seed and grows it under good conditions and multiplies it. He does not worry so much about the truthness to type and the freedom from disease but lets the breeder work that out, then he buys it and multiplies it. He is a careful farmer. He keeps the seed clean and of good quality.

The successful seed grower must usually work into the business rather slowly or have the financial backing to get along on a limited return until the seed crops come into bearing. While this is not true with reference to the annuals like vetches, peas and rye grass, it is true with such crops as alfalfa, clover and the perennial grasses.

Another important factor in determining the suitability of seed farming is the climate and soil condition. Many people attempt growing the crop under the wrong conditions. They are inclined to out certain crops where conditions are unsuited. It is important that there be enough rainfall and not too much. The time of the rainy period, or in other words, its distribution through the season, is just as important as the amount. There should be rain or irrigation during the growing season and a dry period for harvest if the crop is to be successful. Temperature conditions seriously affect the crop. Exceedingly hot dry weather at bloom time appears to affect pollination and so farmers say that "the flowers blasted and failed to produce." Many a seed crop is lost as the result of too hot dry weather.

On the other hand cold moist weather at bloom time affects the set of seed. Light frosts at or shortly after bloom time are frequently damaging. In some sections where the growing season is short the late seed crops are failures because of early frosts.

In the higher altitude sections only first crop alfalfa may be saved successfully for seed. In many cases alsike or white clover which ripens early should be grown in preference to red and the common red in preference to the late growing mammoth clover.

Seriously windy sections, while not harmful to either alfalfa or clover, are not the places for easily shattering grasses like Reed Canary grass or orchard grass. Heavy sections are necessary for the easy shattering kinds.

Must Be Certain The climatic and soil conditions must be such that yields are reasonably certain year in and year out. The yields must be regular because few farmers can stand serious crop failure very often. Soil conditions and fertilizer needs must be studied to get a good filling of plump seeds.

It is often thought that medium stands are better for seed production than extra thick ones. Probably the most outstanding instance of this is with alfalfa. Generally thin stands of alfalfa are more productive than thick ones, but it is true that if good yields of grass

or red, white or alsike clover are to be secured there must be large numbers of plants and heads to get a good total yield.

In general, good stands are to be desired. Good stands usually mean fewer weeds and more seed. Seed costs are often high, but it pays well to start with what you can but have that pedigreed, certified and of good quality.

It is not a good plan to jump into specialized seed production with inadequate experience or equipment. Most kinds of field seeds may be sowed by hand or with ordinary farm equipment. Most kinds may be harvested with a mower or binder or header or combine that is commonly used in connection with the ordinary forage and grain operations. Occasionally special attachments are needed to successfully harvest a seed crop. New equipment, as dustmats or sprayers, may be needed as new pests occur.

They Need Vision The greatest drawback in many new communities is the problem of hulling or threshing equipment. A district that I have been working in for at least 10 years, trying to get them to grow clover for seed purposes, has finally gotten under way since hulling machinery has become available. This district should now be growing at least 50 acres where it now grows one. It should be harvesting 15,000 acres instead of 300 and selling 80 cars instead of one and a half.

It has taken years to get the work started, because farmers in the section were unable to purchase hulling or threshing equipment. On the other hand there was not enough acreage to justify anyone purchasing the expensive equipment and attempting to do a custom threshing business. So farmers haven't grown seed because of no huller, and no one bought the huller before because there were too few acres. This district has lost thousands of dollars through the years because nobody financed the threshing equipment which would probably have cost less than \$2000.

Cleaning and Storage Another problem that is sometimes equally hard is that of storage and cleaning. The storage is not so bad, but there must be a volume of seed in sight before the warehouse man is justified in buying an expensive cleaner costing \$200 to \$400. Good storage facilities and good cleaning equipment are necessary to the successful marketing of a crop. Community interest in several districts might well be enlisted in favor of developing good harvesting and cleaning equipment for a prospective seed business.

It is most economic if seed may be produced in carlots rather than less. For instance, if a community desires to grow hairy vetch they may do so, but it is a good deal easier to sell if there are 40 to 60 thousand pounds at one loading point than if there are 2000 pound lots scattered around through several loading points. The individual or a group of neighbors should grow sufficient acreage usually to develop carlot shipments.

In some places trade channels and marketing assistance is secured by means of local cooperative associations who handle the crop and who warehouse and condition it. More generally the seed crop is handled through seed buyers and seed cleaners. Sometimes people make a business of storing and cleaning the seed only. Others store, clean and buy. But it is up to the association or the buyer to find just as much and just as good markets for the seed as possible.

Quality Seed Pays In connection with the development of the seed business it is desirable to maintain certain standards of condition, package and quality. While one may say that clover seed is just as good in tin buckets as it is in seamless cotton bags, yet you would have a hard time to sell clover seed in other than seamless cotton bags. That's what the trade wants. It is possible to sell clover seed in the dirt, but it is never a good plan to do so. It would better be cleaned and cleaned thoroughly because high grade, well cleaned seed commands a better price and a wider market. The freight charges are less.

It is important that the purity of quality of the seed of a district be maintained.

It is particularly important in the growing of various seeds that the varieties be true to name. In some cases this is accomplished by giving the pedigrees or by certifying it. At any rate, whenever seed is sold it should be absolutely true to name. The real points in connection with successful seed growing are that it takes a seed grower of the right temperament to produce good seed; he should carefully choose a locality for climatic and soil conditions suited to the work. In some cases the supply of labor may be an important factor as in the case of seed potatoes. The seed itself should be good. Stands should be good, and adequate equipment is necessary before the work can be engaged in on a large scale. It is easier to establish trade channels and to market quantities of crop where the production is not less than carlots. Where several cars may be

purchased from one district in which the activities of buyers are very much more competitive, farmers get better prices. The seed should be cleaned and conditioned and packaged to meet market demands. Of course it should be true to name.

G. R. HYSLOP, Corvallis, Or., Aug. 10, 1927. (Prof. Hyslop is chief in farm crops of the Oregon Agricultural college, and he is high authority.—Ed.)

OPPORTUNITIES IN POLK COUNTY

County Agent Tells What Is Being Done and Can Be Done on West Side

Editor Statesman: The production of seed, whether it be vegetable or field crops for the open market or under contract to seed houses, requires more than the usual attention given such crops by their producers and on the average is too exacting for many men who prefer bulk production. The Willamette valley is one of the most favorable locations for the production of many crops of this type for seed purposes, and in several instances this opportunity is being taken advantage of.

Such crops as hairy vetch, rye grass, orchard grass, meadow fescue and other grasses, peas, beans, corn, kale, clover of different varieties and many other crops can be produced to great advantage by men who are interested and willing to give the production of such crops care and attention to insure purity of strain and freedom from disease.

Just a few weeks ago the writer received requests from eastern houses for addresses of farmers who would grow garden peas for the seed market.

A Big Opportunity A big opportunity is open to someone in the development of a seed strain of red clover that will meet with the approval of the farmers of the central states, as it is generally understood at the present time that our red clover seed is in disrepute in that section. Men who are in touch with the situation feel confident that the Willamette valley can produce a strain that will meet with their approval and regain that market, and so it goes with a great variety of crops.

To illustrate the case in point, Howard Wagner, a farmer just south of Corvallis, has for some years been building up a national reputation in the production of grass seed and hairy vetch seed. Many other farmers are now contracting with seed houses for the production of vegetable seeds.

The growing of such seeds is not such as to be recommended on a general scale as a substitute for other farming activities but is a field open to those few farmers who desire to specialize and have the knack and patience for the production of seed crops year after year.

J. R. BECK, Dallas, Or., Aug. 8, 1927. (Mr. Beck is the very efficient county agent of Polk county.—Ed.)

GRASSHOPPER ARMY WORKS NEAR SHAW

This Is a New Thing for the Willamette Valley, But Should Be Fought

Ivan Stewart, field man for the Chas. R. Archer Implement company, has brought in the report that an army of grasshoppers are at work in the district about a mile and a half west of Shaw.

Chas. Nannemann, who lives on route 1, Turner, about a mile and a half this side of Shaw, has thus far borne the heaviest brunt of attack. Judging from present indications, it is apparent that these grasshoppers originated in an unplowed acreage across the road from the Nannemann place, and about ten days ago they began crossing the road in droves in search of green forage. They cleaned up all of a two and a half acre strawberry patch and then began to riddle his corn field of about six acres. All the grass and vegetation around the house and yard were eaten up, and it was noted that they had stripped all the leaves from a number of young Philbert trees which had been planted this spring.

Mr. Nannemann has cut his corn patch for ensilage rather than to have it entirely destroyed by the hoppers.

The Joe Lebold prune orchard joins the Nannemann place, and it was noted that the hoppers had started in on the outside rows of trees. Grasshoppers are no respecters of property lines, and as

soon as they eat all the green vegetation on one farm, they migrate to another. It was also noted that they had started in on outside rows of the corn patch belonging to Geo. Eizel, and at the present time the entire front of the advancing army is about three fourths of a mile long and is three or four hundred yards in width.

Mr. Nannemann has never experienced a grasshopper attack before, and he did not realize the seriousness of the problem when the army began to come across onto his land. After they had cleaned up his strawberry patch and were making serious inroads in his corn he put out some "poison bait." It was noted that there were a considerable number of dead grasshoppers in the area which was poisoned. It is quite probable that if he had commenced an active poisoning ten days or two weeks sooner he could have prevented any appreciable damage to his crops.

The Poison Bait Mr. Stewart reports that killing grasshoppers by the use of the pest bran mash is the most effective method of destroying the young and adults. In most localities the Kansas formula is most commonly used and it gives excellent results. The Kansas formula is as follows:

Bran 25 lbs. Calcium Arsenic 1 lb. Lemons, 1 dozen, or 1 ounce cheap lemon extract or banana oil, 12 teaspoonfuls. Cheap molasses 1 gal. Water 2 to 4 gal.

Bran and white arsenic are thoroughly mixed with dry. The diluted molasses is poured over the bait and the whole mixture thoroughly kneaded until every particle of the bran is moistened but not sloppy. Poison is scattered broadcast by hand.

This amount approximately covers five acres. Young grasshoppers are killed more easily and die more quickly than the adult winged forms.

The Method Used At the start it is helpful to measure off an acre and apply the amount needed for it, which is about 5 pounds. It is very easy to use a larger amount to the acre, but the bait is just as effective when used at this rate as when applied to larger amounts. After the first acre or two has been treated it is easy to judge the amount to use. It is necessary to apply the bait only to infested land. One application is ordinarily enough if all the farmers apply the bait about the same time, especially if all the eggs have hatched. Ordinarily, however, it is necessary to make two or three applications. The best thing to do is to keep applying the bait until the grasshoppers are gone.

Do not look for results before three or four days after applying the poison. Arsenic, which is the active agent, kills quite slowly. Grasshopper eggs are seldom found in cultivated fields, but usually abound in old pastures, along fence rows and any place where the ground is high and not too hard. Blowing of such areas will destroy the eggs.

The Grasshopper Eggs Late in August or early in September females begin to lay their eggs, which are reddish brown in color, about a fifth of an inch in length, longer than thick, and tapering at the ends. They are laid in pods, 20 to 30 in each pod. When pods are broken by the plow or disk the scattered eggs might be said to resemble rye seed in appearance. The female bores a hole in the ground by means of two pairs of horny projections. The eggs are deposited in the hole thus formed, after which a frothy substance is placed over them, which protects the pod from air and moisture, and after the eggs are laid the opening in which they are deposited is plugged with dirt.

Grasshopper Army By ordinary observation most of the egg beds can easily be located. Thousands of grasshoppers will be seen congregating in a single locality in the fall of the year. They will be crawling about rather than hopping or flying. By observing closely from seven to ten will usually be found together. They will not fly as one approaches. If there are a large number of grasshoppers flying and none have been observed laying their eggs one may locate the eggs by digging up the soil to a depth of two inches and carefully breaking up the lumps of dirt. Invariably egg clusters will be found where grasshoppers have been observed to be numerous.

By going over an infested area a person may obtain an idea of the extent of the beds. In Kansas they have found that if an acre of one to seven egg beds are found on each square foot of ground an outbreak may follow the next year. If no eggs can be found there is no surety that no eggs have been laid, for they may have been deposited in neighboring fields.

Prevent Future Attacks The prevention of an outbreak of grasshoppers next year in the event that we should have a dry season is the problem which confronts the farmers of this vicinity. It certainly should be attacked from a community standpoint, because no one farmer can hope to ward off the pests if they are allowed to breed on neighboring

land. It is the experience that in other sections, as in eastern Oregon, for instance, that where breeding places have once been established they have experienced outbreaks in this section in succeeding years.

OUR INDUSTRY TO GROW AS WE KNOW

Oregon Grown Seeds and Plants Are of Superior Quality to Eastern

Editor Statesman: Here it is: Peonies and iris as grown in Oregon compared to Eastern grown roots.

Although this is a slack time of year in the seed and plant business, as far as sales are concerned, it is not a very slack time as far as the work is concerned. There always seems to be plenty of work to do either in the greenhouse or outside, and usually plenty in both places, and as I have both I manage to keep myself busy.

My descriptive peony and iris price list has just been completed. Next comes the job of mailing them to my customers, both old and new, then the job of filling orders.

If any of you folks have ever ordered roots of these plants from eastern grown stock, then some of the same from Oregon grown stock, you will know that I am not exaggerating when I say that the Oregon grown roots are twice as large and much finer than eastern grown plants.

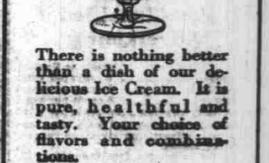
Not only is this true of the peony and iris, but I find in raising plants in the greenhouse that the seeds which I grow myself, or buy from dealers handling western grown seeds, will produce much nicer plants and finer flowers than seeds grown in the east.

This then is the reason, it seems to me, that we should encourage our friends to buy plants and seeds that are grown in Oregon, not for the sake of keeping our money at home, but rather because we can get better plants and seed for the money we pay.

The seed and plant business will grow in Oregon as fast as we let our friends know about the superior quality of Oregon grown seeds and plants.

JAY MORRIS, Rt. 3, Salem, Or., Aug. 8, 1927.

Smallest Restaurant Closes MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.—The "world's smallest restaurant," of Minneapolis claimed, has closed. It operated in a room three feet by eight and accommodated one customer at a time.



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