

THE SILO SAVES THE CROP AND IT SAVES THE SOIL AND IT MAKES SPRING LAST THE WHOLE YEAR

Farming and Industrial Magazine Section

The Oregon Statesman

THROUGH FOR THE LIVE STOCK AND IT MAKES A GREEN PASTURE UNDER COVER PAYS FOR ITSELF EVERY YEAR

WAY BETTER THAN LAST YEAR

SEVENTY-EIGHTH YEAR

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THE STRAWBERRY WEEVIL CONQUERED BY POISON BAITS

Continued experiments on control of strawberry weevils has revealed that a number of home mixed and at least one commercial poison are effective in cleaning up a patch whether small or large, says Don C. Mote, entomologist at the Oregon Agricultural College. Strawberry weevil investigations were undertaken as a Purnell project two years ago. Results to date are summed up by Professor Mote as follows:

Five species of weevils have been found feeding on and destroying the roots and crown of strawberry plants in Oregon. The life history of these varies somewhat and is complicated by the fact that in some districts some adults overwinter and lay eggs very early in the spring.

A homemade bade made of 95 pounds apple mixed with 5 pounds powdered calcium arsenate will kill the adults of the root weevils. A commercial bait, "Go-West," is equally effective.

The bait is best applied at the rate of a teaspoonful to a table-spoonful to a hill directly in the crown of the plant. With some practice a man can apply it as fast as he can walk. With a "bait gun" from three to five acres a day can be covered.

A patch can be practically freed of the weevils if application is made at the proper time, which is at blossoming time for those districts where adults overwinter. A second application is made when about 75 per cent of the weevils that issue in the spring have changed to the adult stage. The blossom time application is unnecessary in districts where adults do not overwinter.

More information is needed concerning usage of bait during the life of the strawberry patch, but results indicate need for at least one application in the second season. For subsequent years information is still lacking.

Bran baits, using sugar or a good grade of molasses, compare favorably with apple baits, as also do pear and prune baits.

When horses are troubled with heaves it usually is because of digestive troubles due to wrong or careless feeding. The disease is incurable because it leads to the rupture of small air sacs in the lungs. It usually is caused by feeding damaged hay or straw, roughages that are too bulky and lacking in nutritive value, and keeping the horse in a dusty atmosphere or a badly ventilated stable.

If buttonholes are made with soft mercerized cotton they will be more durable and will be easier to make.

THE CREATOR OF IMPOSING WEALTH, THE COLORADO RIVER BECOMES A MENACE TO THE FARMING PEOPLE

The Lands of the Imperial Valley Are Rendered of Little Value for Some Crops, Excepting Through the Expensive Control of the Silt Deposits That Are Brought Down in the Irrigation Water from the Canyons and the Plains

By FRANK I. WELLER
(Associated Press Farm Editor)

WASHINGTON, April 7—(AP) Roaring down the steep bed of the mighty chasm its current has chiseled during centuries, the Colorado river has become a menace to the agricultural wealth it created.

In a report on silt in the Colorado and its relation to irrigation Samuel Fortier and Harry F. Blaney, federal engineers, declare the situation to be a serious question among farmers of the Imperial valley.

Rock and sand, collected by soil erosion at its headquarters, sweeps through nature's titanic "grinding machine" and by the time it reaches the lower levels has been pulverized to the fineness of powder. It is silt.

In the irrigated districts silt settles in the canals or is spread over the fields. Where the land is sandy the first application of

silt improves the soil, but further applications make it hard and difficult to cultivate.

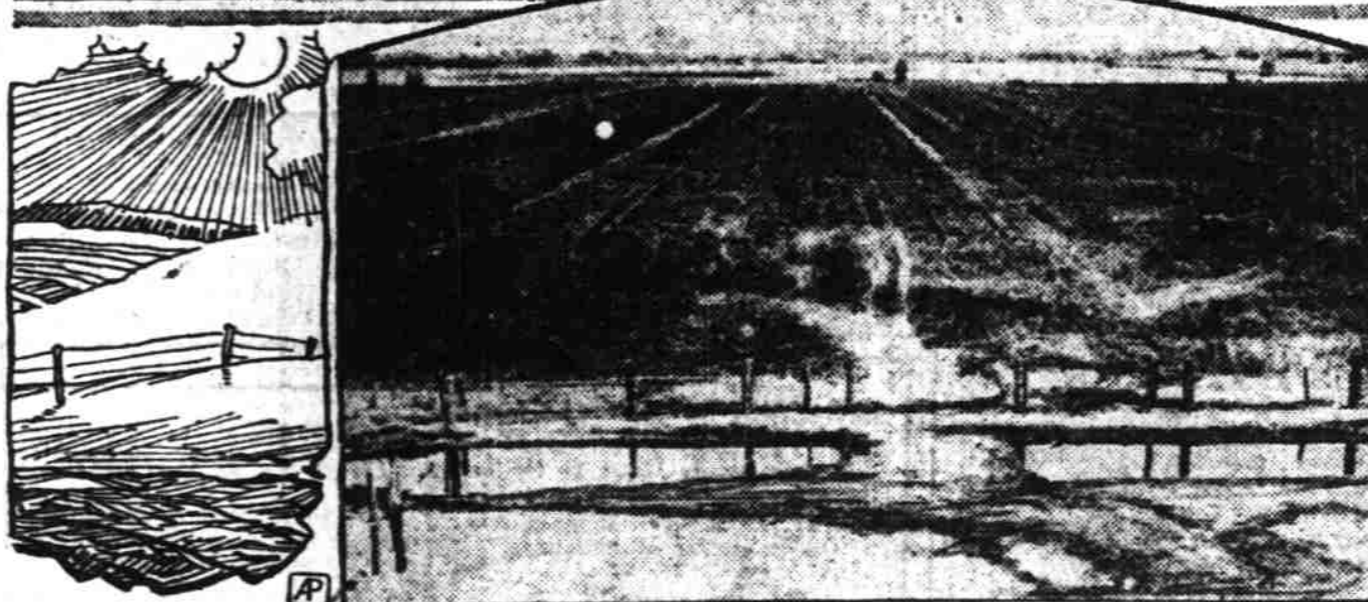
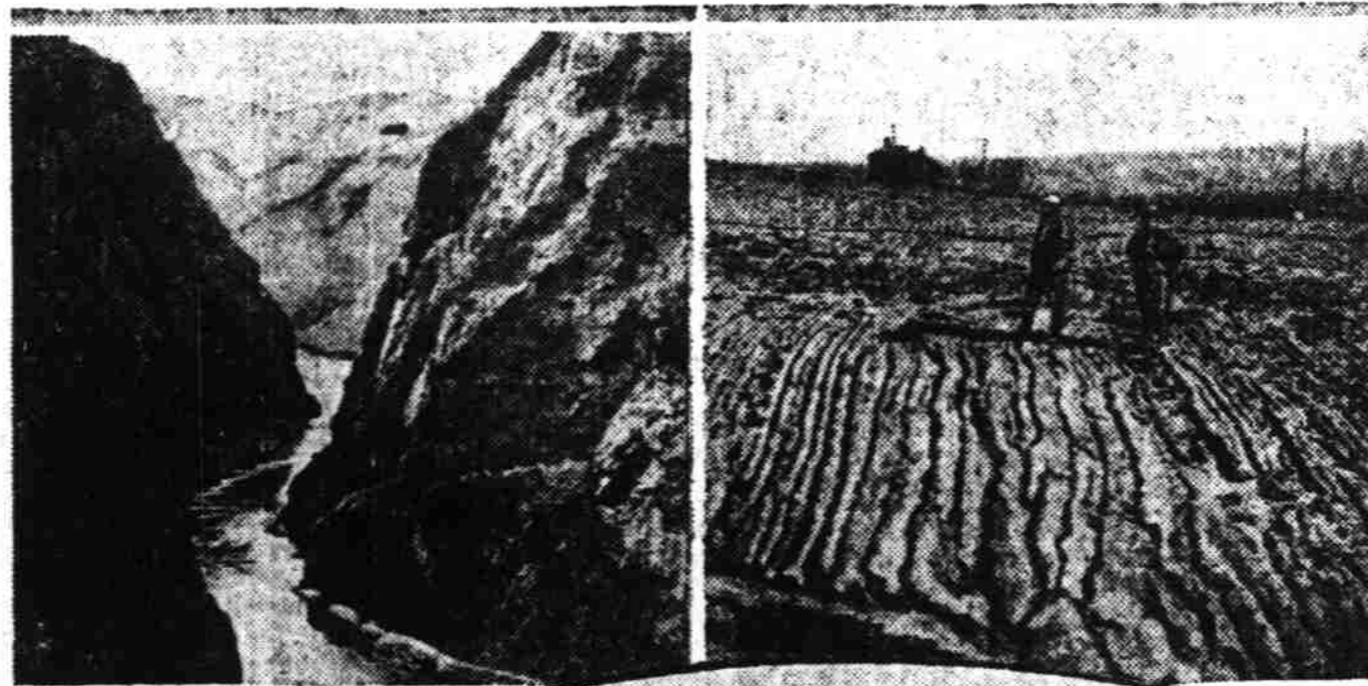
Tests at Yuma have shown the silt content of the Colorado to run as high as 3.75 per cent. Used for irrigation, the water leaves a layer of silt as much as a quarter of an inch thick in some places. When damp, silt has the consistency of soil. Drying, it cracks and rolls, and frequently has to be removed.

Silt damage is particularly noticeable in the uncultivated fields. Acres of alfalfa have been ruined because of an impervious crust that kept the water standing in the field, to heat in the summer sun and scald the growing plants.

Deltas or silt bars that form at the opening of irrigation ditches offer one of the most serious problems. Sometimes they so interfere with irrigation that the deltas must be removed, a process which is estimated to average an annual cost of \$2 an acre.

Under normal conditions the Colorado carries two per cent of its weight in rock and sand. During a flood the load is sometimes nine per cent. In a year's time, engineers say, enough silt is created and washed to the mouth of the Grand Canyon to cover a tract of 137,000 acres to a depth of one foot. In such manner was the Colorado basin built in the years before history, an era that in its varied physical features is nearly as large as all of Texas.

Careful measurements reveal that an acre-foot of irrigation water in the Imperial valley carries an average of about 3.4 tons of dry silt, adding approximately 10 tons a year to each acre. With 85 per cent of the silt that enters the canals finally depositing itself on irrigated fields, the cost of disposal and control in its various forms is estimated at about \$1,000,000 a year.



Racing through the narrow gorges of the Grand Canyon, the Colorado river (upper left) manufactures tons of silt which menaces irrigation in the Imperial valley. Soil erosion like that at the upper right supplies sand and rock swept into the chasm by tributary waters. The alfalfa field below, in the Colorado basin, is scalded by water that hard sheets of silt will not let penetrate into the land.

SOUTH DAKOTA TO WAGE AN AIRPLANE WAR ON THE RUST

ABERDEEN, S. D., April 7—(AP)—Planned as the first large-scale attempt to fight wheat rust with airplanes, a heavy sulphurous barrage will be laid down on an experimental tract in Brown county about July 1.

Arrangements were completed at a conference here between Dr. C. R. Ball, senior agronomist of the federal bureau of plant industry; farm leaders and representatives from the chamber of commerce.

While the mixture to be used has revealed a marked proclivity for checking the growth of both red and black stem rust, nemesis of grain growers in the northwest, the impending application is considered purely experimental. It is planned to use about 20 pounds to the acre over an area four miles long and half a mile wide.

A similar experiment in Canada, in which the dust was sprayed over a 40-acre tract, has been declared a success, although eradication of barberry, host plant of rust spores, heretofore has been considered the only effective measure of control.

CHEAP LANDS IN MEXICO ATTRACT

DEL RIO, Tex., Apr. 7.—(AP) More cattle, sheep and goats from Texas ranches are crossing the Rio Grande, to augment the livestock industry in Mexico.

Two reasons are given for the movement of the animals, which ride ferris, walk over bridges or swim the river into the Latin republic. The first is the trend in Mexico to restock ranches with purebred or high grade herds and flocks. The other reason is the cheapness of land attracting American ranchmen.

Despite strict Mexican laws limiting the exportation of heifers and ewe lambs, Americans are entering the livestock business in the country because cheap land makes low production costs possible. They lease grazing land there for 10 cents an acre, while in Texas they must pay 65 cents or more. Taxes on livestock also are lower than in the United States.

Pigs should not be weaned before they are ten weeks old unless there is some urgent reason for earlier weaning. Some breeders wean at an earlier age to get two litters a year. Ordinarily a better practice is to raise three litters in two years. A pig that is stunted from early weaning will never make as profitable a hog as it would if such a setback had not occurred.

THE SILO IS A VERITABLE WATCH TOWER OF PROSPERITY