

The Slogan Pages are Yours; Aid in Making them Helpful to Your Wonderful City and Section

SALEM DISTRICT INDUSTRIES

:-:- Ninth Consecutive Year :-:-

THE STATESMAN dedicates several pages each week in the interest 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 section. Help make Salem grow.

THE SALEM DISTRICT HAS A BOOM IN LEGUMES THAT PROMISES MUCH

Already Thousands of Acres in Grimm Alfalfa, and the Increase for This Year Will Likely Be as Much as Fifty Per Cent—We Produced Last Year in This District About 100 Cars of Vetch and About Seventy-Five Cars of Red Clover Seed—White Blossom Sweet Clover in Increasing Acreage Here, and We Grow a Number of Other Legumes

There is no brighter spot in the general development of the Salem district than our boom in legumes. We have already in the Salem district several thousand acres of Grimm alfalfa. There is likely to be as much as a 50 per cent increase in the acreage devoted to this crop each year. Also, we have a Hungarian vetch boom.

And in all the clovers, this district is going strong. There is nothing transpiring in this district that gives better promise of increasing general prosperity than our boom in legumes. It means more and better dairying, more swine breeding; a continuance of our already very healthy poultry industry boom; and it means the addition rotation of crops and the building up of soil fertility—and that means everything in the way of a solid foundation for agricultural thrift and well being, and wealth.

Lead Country in Vetch

Nearly all the vetch seed in America is grown in the Salem district. In 1922 our people shipped about 100 carloads of it. In 1923 the sales of our growers dropped down to 60 to 65 cars; on account of an unusual amount being cut for hay. But the acreage was larger in 1924 and the shipments went up to around 75 cars again. There was a short crop in 1925 in most districts, owing to the long dry summer season, but even so, there were some good yields, and the shipments ran to nearly the total of the year before; perhaps to 65 cars. In 1926 there was a fair crop, about the same as for 1925, and last year we harvested about 100 cars, and shipped about 75. There are 15 to 20 cars on hand yet, but they will likely clean up before the next harvest. Our dealers ship vetch seed to New York, Chicago, Minneapolis and other eastern distributing points. They have always supplied California with nearly all of her vetch seed. A good deal of this seed is

sown there in the orange groves as a cover crop. It also makes up nearly all the cover crop used in the hop yards and in the prune orchards of this section, and in all other fruit plantings.

Big Acreage Red Clover

In the production of red clover seed, the Salem district has for years been a leader. In most years, there have been shipped 60 to 75 cars which at around 20 cents a pound ran to \$5000 to \$6000 a car or a total of \$300,000 to \$450,000, a year. Some bad crop years for red clover rather discouraged part of the growers; but they took heart in 1923, and put out more than ever. H. O. White, of D. A. White & Son, Salem, leading seedmen and dealers in clover seed, are the principal buyers and shippers. The severe winter freezing made a normal red clover crop in this district for 1924 impossible. Our growers got more than a 25 per cent crop. There was a shortage of red clover seed in this country in 1925, and the prices were high, running 26 to 28 cents a pound. Not more than a 25 per cent crop was raised here that year; about 20 cars. Hot weather cut down the yield in 1926, but about 40 cars were shipped with high prices to the growers; 28 to 33 cents. Last year our red clover seed made a bumper crop—about 100 cars. About 25 cars were lost, due to wet harvesting weather. But about 75 cars were shipped, and the product brought the growers 25c a pound, or about \$8000 a car—total, about \$600,000. A tidy sum.

Much Vetch Money

The prices received by our growers for their vetch seed have run around 3 to 3½ cents a pound ordinarily; away below the price of red clover seed; but the production of vetch seed is three to four times as high to the acre as red clover seed. The Salem district growers turn off 700 to 1200

pounds of clean vetch seed to the acre; in rare cases very much more—even as high as a ton to the acre. In 1925 they received 4½ to 5 cents a pound for their vetch seed and in 1926 5 to 5½ cents. Last year they realized 3 to 3½ cents a pound.

There is a small acreage of crimson clover also raised in the Salem district.

Other Legumes Produced

Our growers produce a constantly increasing acreage of the white clovers; the Alsike, Sweet, White Dutch, Bokhara (or White Blossom or Honey) clovers, etc. This is very important on account of the fact that bees can work on white clovers, and they need it for late bee pasture. With plenty of late bee pasture, this will be the greatest bee country in the world. The early honey flow here is the largest known, excepting in southern Oregon. All fruit growers must have bees for pollination purposes, to insure their crops.

The Hubam clover bloom, so marked in some of the states east of the Rockies, has so far taken only a small hold in this district. This is one of the very best of the honey clovers—giving good bee pasture for a very long season; right up to frost. It also makes a very fair hay crop, though it grows too high for general use as a cover crop in our orchards.

Also Hairy Vetch

We are also producing here the old-fashioned sand or hairy vetch. A good deal of new acreage of this vetch is sown in the fall. It will not winter kill. It is aphid proof. It is one of the best of all vetches for a cover crop. We are now selling a lot of vetch seed, and it has been bringing as high as 10c a pound—with ready sale for cover crops; going to New York, Baltimore, Philadelphia and other eastern points.

Our Alfalfa Boom

There is a large new acreage in the Salem district of alfalfa; some has been produced here for 20 years and more; of the common variety. But there is a boom on now in the new Grimm alfalfa and Salem district; farmers have out many acres of it, and the indications are that they will have many thousands of acres. Seedling is beginning now, and will last throughout this month, and perhaps most of May. The new acreage in this district in 1926 and '27 ran to over 3,000, and there is predicted a 50 per cent increase in acreage for this year.

Canada field peas are grown here to a small extent, mostly for hog feed—for "hogging off." They make a good crop for this purpose.

Also, the production of soy beans has been tried here, on a small scale with success. Formerly only southern seed could be had. But of late Michigan seed is being secured here; two new varieties, and some seed from Canada.

Hungarian Vetch Boom

Hungarian vetch, through the initiation of the Oregon Agricultural college, has in the four or five years come into great popularity in the Salem district. It is aphid proof and frost proof, and it thrives on white sour land. It makes great hay and silage and is an excellent cover crop. It has so far, in this district, outyielded our common vetch. A number of

POLK CLAIMS GREATEST PROPORTION OF FARM LAND DEVOTED TO LEGUMES

Vetch Found in Greatest Extent of Acreage, More than Half Hay Crop being of Vetch and Oats—Red Clover Nearly Doubled; Great Cows Aided by Clover and Vetch—Taking the Lead Also in Grimm Alfalfa—Using Much Lime—Legumes for Chickens—Legume Feeds Grown on Lime Soils Probably Prevent Sterility of Dairy Cattle

Editor Statesman:

A greater proportion of farm land is probably devoted to legumes in Polk county than any other western Oregon county. This is due to the type of farming and the fact that nearly all of the county is readily suited to their production. Large areas are devoted to the clovers and vetches, and in the last three years considerable plantings of alfalfa and some of sweet clover have been added to this already large acreage.

Vetch is perhaps found in the greatest amount of acreage of any legume in the county. This is due to the fact that more than half of the yearly hay crop is oats and vetch, and in addition as a result of recent demonstrations in their value, large acreages are being seeded each fall among the prune orchards and other tree fruits for the purpose of cover crops. One phase of vetch culture has been neglected, and that is in the production of seed for the eastern and southern markets, but in other respects Polk county raises large acreages. Most of it is com-

cars of the Hungarian seed are shipped out by our growers each year. The future of Hungarian vetch for this district looks big.

We are also growing some purple vetch, for the California trade; on contract, mostly. This variety is used for a cover crop in the orange orchards of that state.

The "White Blossom"

There is one outstanding among several important developments taking place in the Salem district in the field of legumes.

The growers in the Salem district are calling the clover formerly known as the Bokhara the "white blossom sweet clover," and the acreage of this clover has been growing fast.

The "white blossom" is a biennial clover, though it persists longer than two years for some growers here, so they report. It is a wonderful pasture and cover crop. It has done marvelous things as a pasture crop for C. T. Gilbert & Son, Shaw, for W. L. Creech, a neighbor, who each have ten acres in this crop, and for others all over this section. The "white blossom" is something of an accident here, because it was originated in central Asia and first appeared a few years ago as a result of the recession of the flood waters of the Willamette on the farm of Mark Savage, on Brown's Island, near Salem. It is a great bee pasture.

Salem is surely coming along wonderfully well as a legume center. This means great things for the city and section, in a thousand ways.

mon vetch, with considerable Hungarian in some districts.

Red Clover Nearly Doubled

The legume of perhaps second importance is red clover. Red clover is grown for the triple purpose of hay, seed and pasture. Its first summer it is pastured by sheep, and also the following spring. Then it is either clipped or let go for a hay or seed crop as the owner may desire. During the past two years the clover acreage has been nearly doubled in Polk county. This great increase has probably been due to a rather favorable price for seed, the need for more sheep pasture and the realization on the part of many farmers that a legume in their rotation is necessary to maintain their yields of cereals.

Make Great Cows

Clover and vetch have for years played a large part in the success of the dairymen of Polk county. The excellent feed from these two legumes stored in the hay mows of Polk county have made possible some of the greatest world's productions of any county in the country, not to mention the part they play as pasture crops.

In the last two or three years the sale of red clover seed produced in the Willamette valley has been seriously curtailed because of the prejudices in the Mississippi valley against our seed. This prejudice has been based on the contention that it is not winter hardy and not resistant to the anthracnose found in the blue grass belt. To recover this market and regain the confidence of the farmers of those states a united effort is being put on by the county agents of the state and the farm crops department, Oregon Agricultural college, to establish disease resistant strains here in the Willamette valley. In this connection the county agent's office at Dallas has arranged with Wm. Riddell Jr., Laird Lindeman and S. H. Robison to secure seed of the anthracnose resistant strain and get a start of it here in Polk county. These are three of the most successful growers of clover in the Willamette valley, and their progress with this new strain will be watched with interest. Messrs. Riddell and Robison have used the same strain of red clover to the present time for a period of twenty to thirty years.

Grimm Alfalfa

Grimm alfalfa is one of the outstanding developments in the legume production history of Polk county. Starting in about three years ago, the first attempt was instituted by the county agent's office for the general production of this crop on all farms wherever it could be consumed. In years gone by production of alf-

(Continued on page 5)

THIS WEEK'S SLOGAN

DO YOU KNOW that Salem is the center of a district in which the legumes do wonderfully well; that no country can grow better red or sweet clover, or better vetches or field peas; that Grimm alfalfa does well here; that the orchardist may grow here the finest of cover crops in legumes; that the dairyman may grow the best legumes for his uses; that the bee keeper may raise sweet clover and the other legumes for bee pasture to his heart's content—that, in short, the farmer of this district now has the knowledge in his noodle of the great value of the nodules on the rootlets of the legumes; and that he is using this knowledge for his own good and the good of this district in general; and that we have a very healthy and most hopeful and beneficial boom in Legumes?