

Santiam Flax Growers Sign Tow Contract

JEFFERSON, Oct. 27—Following a six months' period of negotiations, Santiam Flax Growers have announced that a contract for tow has been signed with Samuel Velazquez, general director of a Mexican firm with a capital stock of over 20 million pesos. The contract was signed by Harry Asbahr, secretary-treasurer of the local growers, and covers several hundred tons of clean water-retted tow with a total value of some \$80,000. It will be shipped to Mexico by rail over a period of six to eight months, shipment probably beginning in December.

Growers may now look to the future with confidence because Santiam Flax Growers have two definite outlets for their tow. They will continue to supply Oregon Flax Textiles with their requirements, as well as filling the Mexican order. The orders for tow which Santiam Growers now hold will keep key personnel busy until the 1949 crop is harvested.

The Mexican firm is at present operating a large crushing plant for linseed oil, and is in the process of building a sugar bag manufacturing plant 500 miles west of Mexico City. It is using chiefly its own production of flax tow which will be blended with the clean water-retted tow shipped by Santiam Growers.

Local Product Good
Samples of the two produced here was sent to this firm by air express, and after preliminary trials on its machinery, it was found that the local product is satisfactory.

Mr. Velazquez, who does not speak English, was accompanied by A. Perez, commercial director acting as interpreter. While here, Velazquez bought additional fiber flax machinery to be used in a plant his company is building in northern Mexico on the Gulf of California. They also bought 500 bushels of Willamette valley fiber flaxseed to be sown this fall in the area of their northern plant and it will be trucked to the border for them.

Pictures of the buildings and equipment at Santiam Flax Growers were taken for Velazquez, who said that the local flax plant is the finest he has ever seen and plans to use this plant as a pattern for his new plant.

Velazquez and Perez, while here, accompanied by Alfred Lentchner, manager of Santiam Flax Growers, visited the Oregon Flax Textiles in West Salem and were shown the entire plant by C. E. Everett, manager of the West Salem industry. They were interested in this rug manufacturing business, as Everett is using clean water-retted tow produced by Santiam Flax Growers in the manufacture of rugs.

Farmers Told Some Incomes Drop Ahead

A third year of shrinking real net income is ahead for agriculture. That is the over-all outlook indicated at the recent annual national agricultural outlook conference in Washington, D. C., as briefly stated by Oregon's representative, L. R. Breithaupt, Oregon State college extension economist.

While the outlook was found better for some types of farming than others, it was deemed wise for all farmers to operate to meet some recession. Real income as expressed in buying power, however, is expected to remain above the low pre-war level.

Cash receipts by farmers, figured on a national basis, might drop to a monthly rate 10 per cent below 1948 a year from now but total farm expenses may decrease little, if any at all. Cheaper feed is expected to be largely offset by higher other costs, Breithaupt reports. Thus, net income would be less, and the net income dollar now buys scarcely half as much as pre-war.

LOCKER USE EXTENSIVE
Recent federal estimates show that there are 10,617 frozen food locker plants doing business in July of this year, well above an average of a year ago. At the average use of locker boxes per plant, it is believed that three million farm families and about one million urban families stored 1,750,000,000 pounds of food in these depositories.

Peru has some 50 coastal rivers that flow from the mountains toward the sea.

Willamette Valley Farmer

News and Views of Farm and Garden—BY LILLIE L. MADSEN.



Samuel Velazquez of Mexico pictured here examining tow as it comes out of the Forano tow cleaning machine at the Santiam Flax Growers plant at Jefferson. The tow will be shipped to his firm in Mexico where it will be used in manufacturing sugar bags. The tow machine was designed at the Santiam plant. (Photo by Hal Wynd.)

Potato Seed More Plentiful Than in 1947

Despite more stringent certification standards coupled with a bad year for the potato virus disease, leafroll, a slight increase has occurred in the acreage of potato seed certified in 1948 as compared with last year.

A total of 4481 acres was entered in the potato seed certification program this year, but approximately 30 per cent of the acreage fell by the wayside before completion of the final inspection, states E. C. Johnson, extension specialist in certification. After completion of inspections, 3149 acres in 16 counties were passed for certification, compared with 2987 acres passed a year ago.

A complete record of field inspection readings is available this year for the first time for all potatoes entered for certification. Copies of the mimeograph report have been sent to all potato certification applicants as well as to county agents. The publication contains the names of all grower certification applicants, the varieties planted, acreages, source of seed and complete field counts for each as well as indicating "passed" or "rejected" for each field.

During 1947, only 11 per cent of the potato acreage entered for certification was rejected.

Eighteen potato varieties were entered for certification this year. The most common Oregon variety, the Nettled Gem, accounts for 1704 acres of the total certified acreage this year as compared with 1201 in 1947. Fifteen plants of the new blight resistant Kennebec variety were grown in Multnomah county. This planting, seed of which was released last year by the U.S. department of agriculture, showed up well, Johnson reports. Only eastern Oregon Nettled Gem samples are being sent to Oceanside, Cal., for test plot work this year. Western and southern Oregon samples will be grown in the Oregon State college greenhouse to obtain earlier tests.

PEACH TREES DISEASED
State horticultural inspector, J. F. Bock, operating in Clackamas county, reports that one peach grower in that county recently found it necessary to pull up and burn every tree in his orchard, and another a substantial portion of his trees because of an unidentified virus disease brought in with trees bought outside the state.

One pre-Inca civilization in Peru, probably between 200 B.C. and 200 A.D., built stone structures as perfect in workmanship as the Egyptian pyramids.

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Farm Calendar

- Oct. 29 — North Howell Flower show and dinner, the latter from 6 to 8 p.m.
- Oct. 29-Nov. 7 — Grand National Livestock exposition, San Francisco.
- Nov. 3-5 — 1948 annual meeting of Oregon Reclamation Congress, Grants Pass.
- Nov. 3 — Annual meeting of Linn-Benton Dairy Breeders association, 10:30 a.m. 4-H club fair building, Albany.
- Nov. 4 — Oregon Turkey Hatcherymen, 2 p.m. Salem Chamber of Commerce.
- Nov. 6-7 — Rabbit show, state fair grounds, Salem.
- Nov. 9-12 — Oregon Farm Bureau convention, Bend.
- Nov. 9 — Northwest Hereford association sale, LaGrande.
- Nov. 10-12 — National Cooperative Milk Producers Federation convention, Multnomah hotel, Portland.
- Nov. 17-18 — Annual meeting Oregon State Horticultural society, Corvallis.
- Nov. 29-Dec. 1 — Annual meeting Oregon Seed league, Multnomah hotel, Portland.
- Dec. 1-3 — Pacific Coast Turkey exhibit, McMinnville.
- Dec. 8-10 — Northwest Turkey show, Roseburg.

MT. ANGEL COW ON RECORD
Clackamas county's three Dairy Herd Improvement association testers, Milton Corum, L. C. Berney and Richard Gale, report four herds made an average production of 40 pounds of butterfat over the recent month. Those making the record were Vernon Hepler, Canby, 43.1 pounds of butterfat; Mrs. Antoinette Vandenberg, Mt. Angel, 41.6 pounds; Carl Olson, Molalla, 49.2 pounds, and Mary Schmitz, Cedarvale, 46.4 pounds.

POULTRY ADVICE GIVEN

Poultry extension experts give the following tips for poultry care: Pullets will lay well only if they can keep up their body weight. A ration of 55 per cent laying mash and 45 per cent scratch grain will enable them to do this. Lime the little with hydrated lime at the first sign of its beginning to pack down. One pound of hydrated lime for each bird in the house is the standard rule. Don't keep your laying house a hot house. Keep it well ventilated and at a temperature of about 50 degrees.

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