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## CORN GROWING IN IDAHO WHEAT BELT

The following excellent article on corn raising in the Idaho wheat belt by Prof. G. A. Crostwhait, of the Idaho Agricultural college, is pertinent to Umatilla county and is republished in the hope that it will benefit this county. The writer says:

The general purpose that the writer has in view in the preparation of this bulletin is to promote the interest that is awakening in Idaho in America's greatest cereal—maize or Indian corn. There is a greater interest being taken in this crop in this state than is generally supposed. During the three years that the writer has raised corn, thought corn, and talked corn in Idaho, he has been conscious of a deep undercurrent of interest throughout the state from the Canadian border to the mountain valleys of Cassia.

This is what might be expected of a population made up so largely of those who have come from the several states of the Mississippi valley. Here and there throughout the broad expanse of mountains, forests, plains and valleys of Idaho, little dots of waving green could have been seen years ago where some courageous soul, homesick for the miniature dark green forest of the "Corn Belt," and regardless of the pitying smiles of those who "knew," ventured to plant a few kernels of the golden or silver ears he had carried across the mountains. By careful selection of the few ears that escaped the early frosts, a measure of success had come, and corn growing in Idaho was born.

The writer had no part in these first attempts at growing what bids fair to become one of our principal crops, for in some localities success has come only after many years of patient and persistent effort. His mission has been to encourage the enlargement of the present small areas of corn and the establishment of many new ones, and to aid in the general improvement of the crop throughout the state.

The problem of making corn a profitable crop throughout the state of Idaho is one of many phases. There is probably no other state in the Union where the conditions of environment influencing plant growth are so varied as in Idaho.

Extending from the 42d to the 49th parallels of latitude, and varying in elevation from 600 to 1300 feet above sea level, there must of necessity be a considerable range in climatic conditions; and because of the wide variation in the various types of soil, there is a great difference in the store of available plant food present and in the relation of soil to moisture.

Then, when we reflect that the crop will be produced where there is an abundance of moisture available, either from the natural rainfall or from the irrigation ditch, and also where the system of "dry land farming" must be practiced, it is evident that the conditions to be met are many and diverse.

In no part of the state is corn more needed, nor does it promise better results, than in the wheat district, where the practice of bare fallowing is common. That the bare fallow is not essential to the production of a good wheat crop has been abundantly proven.

A field on the experiment station farm averaged over 54 bushels of wheat per acre after corn. The previous year a heavy crop of corn had been grown for silage. The soil is the same type as the thousands of acres in this section that are farmed under the bare fallow system.

When the fallow is not cultivated, as is often the case, weeds appear and sap from the soil plant food and moisture, and mature a crop of seeds to further befall the land; when it is cultivated, although the soil is in fine condition for the succeeding wheat crop, a very little extra labor would result in a crop of corn, which would be almost clear gain. If the corn is cut for silage, or cut and shocked, it will hinder seeding very little, a disk harrow putting the soil in fine condition. Where there is not sufficient rainfall to produce a profitable crop every year, and "dry farming" must be practiced, the soil must be followed when the moisture in the soil becomes insufficient for the needs of the crop, but in the wheat section such a condition would be the exception.

It is not contended that wheat and corn can be grown constantly, and the land not deteriorate, but we do say that with a proper rotation the soil can be cropped every year with

less deterioration than when the rotation is wheat and bare fallow, especially if the latter is not cultivated.

To meet the many conditions present with us, we must either have a variety with almost limitless powers of adaptation, or a number of varieties or strains of varieties, each of which is adapted to the conditions of a certain locality.

The former is impossible with the corn plant, as its powers of immediate adaptation are limited; but the ability to form new varieties or strains adapted to a wide range of conditions is possessed by the corn plant to a remarkable degree. It is this latter fact that makes it possible for us to say that corn can be made a profitable crop in most parts of Idaho. In some localities the end may be attained in a short time, but in others it will take years of careful and patient endeavor to achieve success. This statement is not based on theory, but upon what has been accomplished.

Many who read this know that not many years ago it was thought impossible to raise corn in Minnesota or the Dakotas, while now it is becoming an important crop in many parts of those states. There are those that can testify that this very thing has been done in many localities in Idaho, as was mentioned above. As a matter of fact, corn was originally a tropical plant, which, as the centuries rolled by, gradually varied and marched onward until it reached the fields of southern Canada.

It is not a mere experiment we wish to urge upon the farmers of Idaho. It is a definite practice, which if faithfully carried out, cannot fail to produce satisfactory results. With this end in view, the writer, realizing that many in Idaho have had no experience in the production of corn, will briefly discuss the corn plant and its production and the methods whereby corn may most rapidly be adapted to a new environment and improved in both yield and quality.

### BEEF HARVEST BEGINS.

Small Army of Japanese Laborers Arrives at La Grande.

The advance guard of the lately lamented "Charles" Mizoguchi's army of beet harvesters has arrived and are now comfortably housed at the oriental hotel on Adams avenue, says the La Grande Morning Star. M. Mizoguchi, nephew of the former potentate, and known to the trade as "Frank," is now in charge of the Japanese labor supply bureau. Frank states that the new arrivals are from the hop fields of the Willamette valley and that more men are coming from the logging railroad of the Grand Ronde Lumber company, from O. R. & N. section work, and from other sources. All about the usual quota will be on hand.

The work of beet harvesting will begin next Monday at the Pierce, McCoy and Storey farms near La Grande, provided that Jupiter Pluvius does not choose the same date for a demonstration. After a week of beet gathering there will be enough visible for the factory to start.

## SOCIETY EVENTS

A notable event occurred on the afternoon of Wednesday, the eighteenth day of September, when the wedding of Miss Constance Ashley De Spain and Mr. John Dove Isaacs, jr., was solemnized and celebrated at the home of the bride's sister, Mrs. Norborne Berkeley.

At half after 2 o'clock, as the guests assembled in the hall, which was ablaze with red rose-lilies, autumn leaves, sumac and many candles, Mrs. Norton sang "Until You Came." As the sweet strains of the wedding march were played by Mrs. Ross Dickson the bride appeared at the top of the staircase. The loveliness of her fair young girlhood was enhanced by a gown of white chiffon and rare lace, a full filmy wedding veil and a huge burdeu bouquet of bride roses.

Her two bridesmaids, Miss Eleanor De Spain and Miss Ahima Hallock of Portland, preceded her. The bridesmaids were gowned effectively in flowered organdy over pink silk and carried burdeu bouquets of bridesmaid roses.

At the stairs the bride was claimed by her brother, Mr. Albert M. De Spain, who escorted her to an arch of piasmine, where awaited the groom and his brother, Mr. Henry Isaacs of Berkeley University.

As the bride and groom knelt on white satin cushions, Rev. Charles Quinney most impressively pronounced the Episcopal marriage ceremony. During the reception which followed, Miss Ahima Hallock sang in her charming voice, "I know a Lovely Garden."

In the dining room, which was in bridal white and green decorations, presided Mrs. M. A. La Dow and Mrs. Charles Quinney, assisted by Miss Mildred Berkeley and Miss Claire Raley. The bride cut the wedding cake with a golden knife for luck. The ring it contained fell to Miss Gertrude Sheridan, the coin to Miss Blanche Horne, the thimble to Miss Ahima Hallock.

After the collation the wedding party assembled on the lawn and just before disappearing to don her going-away gown the bride made a beautiful picture as she stepped out on the balcony and tossed her bouquet to the bevy of young girls below. Miss Eleanor De Spain made the lucky catch.

Amidst showers of rice and hearty good wishes the bridal pair boarded the east bound train for Chicago, where they will be received by the groom's parents at their summer home 20 miles from the city.

The bride is very popular with the younger set in Pendleton and Portland and is the youngest daughter of the old family prominent in the history of the state. Mrs. Nancy De Spain, mother of the bride, was handsomely gowned in grey crepe du chene and sequined net.

Mr. John D. Isaacs, sr., is chief consulting engineer of the Harriman system. His son and namesake, the groom, is following in his father's footsteps and is at present connected with the construction of the Umatilla Central.

Out of town guests were, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Berkeley of Portland, Mr. Frank Isaacs and Mr. James Isaacs of San Francisco, Mr. and Mrs. Haldane Dickson of Portland.

### Many Weddings Scheduled.

During the past few weeks the marriage god has been very busy in Pendleton and vicinity, and he likewise has many good engagements for October. Of the weddings scheduled for the near future, all of the parties interested are well-known young

people and local society will be largely occupied during the next month with weddings and receptions.

Among the weddings, either formally announced or understood to be set for October are the following: Edward J. Burke and Miss Harriette Thompson; Mark Moorhouse and Miss Blanche Horne; Edgar Averill and Miss Laura Coutts; Roland Oliver and Miss Alice Van Nuya. The wedding of Dr. W. H. Lytle and Miss Myrtle Hill will occur in November, as will also the wedding of Miss Della Dunlay and H. G. Williams.

Among recent weddings of well-known local people were those of Ralph Wade and Miss Emma Sawtelle in California, J. D. Isaacs and Miss Constance De Spain, which occurred this week, and Mr. George Grey and Miss Gertrude Brusha at Walla Walla.

The following is a complete list of the licenses issued at the office of the county clerk during the month of September:

John Jefferson Myers and Mabel Eunice Demaris, R. A. Adams and Elizabeth Noble, Herbert J. Smith and Anna C. Heidel, John T. Bacon and Etna L. Belts, Grover C. Herr and Nora Sylvia Mills, Carl G. Stewart and Cecile Wilson, Peter J. Freeman and Gertrude Conley, William Taylor and Della Snyder, John D. Isaacs and Constance De Spain, Oliver B. Osborn and Mayme B. Nichols, Frank Hyde and Mina Smith, LeRoy Warburton and Myrtle Thorne.

### FIND BED OF SALT.

Graders on Western Pacific Encounter Strange Formation.

Engineers who are superintending the construction of the Western Pacific railroad from Salt Lake to San Francisco, believe that they have discovered the source of the saline quality of the Great Salt Lake at Salt Lake City, Utah. It is a portion of the roadbed and so far as followed is eight miles wide and 40 miles long.

The engineers who have studied the topography of this part of the country are inclined to believe that a large body of water underlies this enormous salt bed, and that this water flows to the Great Salt Lake through underground channels.

The saline deposit presents much the appearance of a polar ice floe. So closely are the salt crystals packed together that the ties for the railroad are laid on the surface and the 150,000-pound engines pass over them without making any impression. In placing the telegraph poles along the line of the road it was found necessary to blast out the salt with dynamite, its rock-like hardness making it impossible to dig down the eight feet required to give secure support to the poles.

The salt body is 27 feet higher than the lake at the Mormon capital, and the slope of the land is such that if water existed there the flow would be in the direction of the lake. In view of the curious geological composition of the country, in which rivers are frequently known to disappear completely from the surface and reappear miles away with greatly increased volume, the hypothesis is plausible, at least, and will be investigated by scientists.

Government officials from the weather bureau are at present in the Saltion basin studying evaporation, and may take up the study of the salt deposits when their present investigations are concluded.

At Jackson, Mississippi, the grand jury of the county reported true bills against every railroad in the state for alleged failure to file statements showing the number of passes issued.

## Shoes for Children

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Every Pair Positively Guaranteed

## The Alexander Department Store

### Smythe Buys Yearlings.

Dan P. Smythe while here last week, closed a contract for 3000 head of yearling ewes with the Pendland & Livestock company, the price paid was \$5 per head. These sheep will be shipped to Montana October 1. —Heppner Times.

One thousand and fifty-nine children are enrolled in the Pocatello public schools. Of this number 746 are in the west side school and 313 are in the east side school. This represents a gain of 65 over the enrollment at this time last year. —Pocatello Tribune.

# SKATING TONIGHT

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