

**FARM ORCHARD AND GARDEN**  
BY F. E. TRIGG  
REGISTER, ROCKFORD, I.A.  
CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED



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**ABOUT WEST TEXAS LAND.**

A few weeks ago the writer had occasion to answer a query relative to the advisability of buying land in the vicinity of Martin county, Tex. In the article in question mention was made of the fact that the section referred to is beyond the agricultural dead line, in what in dry years at least is considered a semiarid belt, and that if buffalo grass, sagebrush and cactus were found there they might be accepted as fairly correct evidence that the land, though possessed of abundant fertility, lacked the moisture necessary for the proper development of most tilled crops. The statement was not made that these evidences of a dry country were found in the vicinity of Martin county, but that if found they told a story that the one seeking land for tillage purposes ought to heed, unless irrigation of the soil were possible, when the situation would be entirely altered. A communication received shortly after the article appeared taking some exception to the statements it contained to the effect that injustice was done those having property interests in that section of Texas resulted in the sending of a query to the agricultural department at Washington touching the points in question. Mr. A. D. McNair, expert in charge of the farm management investigations, replied in brief to the several questions as follows: That the wisdom of purchasing land in western Texas depended more on the man than on the soil or climatic conditions. One who was familiar with farming in the drier regions could easily grow Kaffir corn, milo maize and a variety of vegetables. The rainfall is fairly good in ordinary summers, two-thirds of it being in the five months from May to September inclusive. Cotton is a fairly good money crop in the section, and Kaffir corn and milo maize are both good money and food crops. It was Mr. McNair's conclusion that a good, live, hustling man ought to pay easily for a quarter section of land in Martin or adjoining counties, provided the land could be obtained at a reasonable price. It is fair to assume that the above estimate is correct, being colored neither by a desire to overpraise nor discolored by a prejudice against the section of Texas referred to. From another source we learn that alfalfa does well in the section referred to, in which case an important favorable point is added.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR LAND SEEKERS AT HOME.**

A bit of advice contained in a pamphlet recently issued by the government land office at Washington suggests that prospective buyers would do well to inform themselves of the opportunity of securing holdings in connection with the several irrigation projects which are being brought to completion under the provisions of the Carey act before leaving the United States for far away homes in northwestern Canada. The advice is timely and sensible. The pamphlet referred to gives as a reason why so many folks are emigrating to Canada and so few making inquiry relative to opportunities nearer that chances of the former class are thoroughly advertised and exploited by those having a selfish interest at stake, while in the latter case the government has not and cannot assume the role of the self seeking land agent. In any event it would be worth while for those who contemplate purchasing land in a new country to look into the merits of the lands over which the government has supervision. Information regarding them may be had by sending a query to the government at Washington.

**BLUE RIBBON BOYS AND GIRLS.**

It may not be out of place to express the hope that some day a large place in the big agricultural expositions will be accorded the boys and girls of the rural communities of the land, who, after all, are really the most valuable as well as the most abiding product and asset of the country. When the boys and girls growing up in the home receive as much thoughtful attention and painstaking care in fitting them for the duties of manhood and womanhood as are at present bestowed on the thoroughbred cattle, horses, sheep, hogs and poultry, all proper and legitimate objects of care and interest, a long stride will have been taken toward solving a good many problems that confront the nation today and in establishing a more symmetrical and rational standard of values. We already have as a country a host of blue ribbon boys and girls, but the number might be wonderfully enlarged were they given the thought and attention which are their due.

There is slight excuse for any farmer keeping several free star borders in his dairy herd when a Babcock testing outfit, with full directions, can be had for two or three dollars.

The past fall has been a standoff from the viewpoint of mortality as between the deer hunters in the northern woods and the rabbit hunters in the prairie states. Not in a dozen years have so many boys and men been maimed, disfigured or killed through careless gun accidents while hunting cottontails as has been the case this season.

A large measure of interest is being felt by horsemen over the country in the experiments which are being conducted by the government horse breeding station at Weybridge, Vt., where a well defined and practical effort is being made to propagate the breed of almost extinct Morgan horses. Here are assembled the finest and purest types of the breed which the government agents could find and purchase. While the work laid out is but in its beginnings, the results are bound to be of great value to the horse breeding interests of the country.

Both stock raiser and grain grower should always work on the principle that the finest blooded sires and dams and the very best of the seed corn and grains are none too good for their own use. Occasionally one is tempted through the offer of a fancy price to sell the best. But this is a mistake, it always being the case that if this or that animal is worth a fancy price to some one else it is even more valuable to the one who raised it and understands better than any one else the traits of its ancestors and the conditions under which its good qualities were developed.

Failure on the part of the boy in his teens to attend school and make the most of the educational advantages which may lie within his reach is quite on a par with neglect on the part of the farmer to properly prepare the soil and sow the seed so that it will germinate and grow. He may wake up when seedtime is over to the necessity of taking action and making good the loss resulting from the delay, but in the great majority of cases it is too late to repair the damage. Rank weeds, other distractions and a shortened growing season make the best effort and accomplishment unavailing. School years are the seedtime of life and should be made the most of.

A Minnesota reader of these notes calls the writer's attention to the following method which a Wisconsin farmer has discovered and used in removing the stumps from sixteen acres of cut over pine land at a cost of 4 cents and five minutes' labor for each stump: With a two inch auger he bores a hole into the stump about two feet deep, pours into this hole one pint of a mixture of equal parts of nitric and sulphuric acid and plugs the hole tightly with a plug previously dipped in melted paraffin. In thirty days the stump, root and all, is a charred mass of rotten pulp and may be spread over the soil with a shovel as a fertilizer. The farmer in question was formerly an employee in a Rhine-lander paper mill and noticed the destructive action of this acid on woody structure; hence his discovery and application of the method with tree stumps.

That foxtail, or wild barley, is an all around pest and nuisance without a redeeming feature is a generally recognized fact, but to appreciate the why of this state of affairs one need work only an hour or two in a hayfield where it is mixed with other grasses or examine the mouth of a horse which has been eating hay in which but a few heads of it are mixed. The broken heads with their spiked barbs, which seem to travel automatically when in contact with the soft and moist surfaces of the inner portions of the mouth, will likely be found accumulated in irritating bunches in the recesses between the horse's lips and the roots of the teeth, while in some cases the barbed head will be found to have bedded itself in the tender mucous surfaces and produced serious irritation and inflammation. This state of things should cause one who has a care for the comfort of his horses to exercise the greatest care to keep this foxtail out of the mangers as completely as is possible.

With the average young man who has a desire to succeed in life there is probably no asset within his reach that is of greater or more vital importance than that of good health and a sound constitution. This fact may not be appreciated in the first years of young manhood, when there seems to be a superabundance of energy and vitality, but it is sure to be later. When the long and often the hard pull up the incline of success comes, a few years later, he will have only cause for rejoicing if he has had the wisdom to live temperately, to shun dissipation and husband as best he might the physical and nervous forces with which he was endowed, whether slight or large. A practical thought that ought to be realized by the young man who feels a strong impulse along the line of sowing wild oats is that the crop is one that never fails to make a catch, that it usually yields better than thirtyfold in kind and that its harvest is inevitably attended with wretchedness and misery—for himself or others. On the other hand, the reward of right and clean living is not postponed to some future state, but yields a return of genuine satisfaction and benefit from day to day.

**Humor and Philosophy**  
By DUNCAN M. SMITH

**ABSENT TREATMENT.**

For measles or a broken leg,  
For mumps or whooping cough,  
I do not want my doctor then  
To be a few miles off,  
But there are things that I might name—  
Should you insist I can—  
That I would take my chances with  
The absent treatment plan.

My wife is worth her weight, I think,  
In gold without alloy.  
She is, or nearly always is,  
A source of constant joy,  
But when she rises in her wrath  
And has her little say  
I'd take that absent treatment if  
I could but get away.

The bill collector comes around  
And finds me duly short  
And says if I cannot produce  
He'll take me into court.  
I tell him in a week I'll try  
To make a payment small.  
I wish hereafter he would make  
An absent treatment call.

A new book agent comes to town  
And picks me for a mark,  
A life insurance agent calls  
And stays till after dark.  
And there are others of the ilk  
With whom I have to cope.  
I wish they'd give me, one and all,  
The absent treatment dope.

**Painless Operation.**  
"Mind is all powerful," said the professor, absentmindedly slipping a choice piece of cut glass in his pocket under the impression that it was his handkerchief. "Whatever a man wills to do he can do, and nothing can thwart him."

"I had noticed that," said the thin faced individual with closely cropped side whiskers. "I once made a practical demonstration of it and got away with a job that a man without a trained intellect had tried and only succeeded in getting two black eyes for his pains."

"And what was that?" asked the professor, showing deep interest, now that his theory was about to be confirmed.

"I licked a bully in my mind," said the thin faced one.

**Her Economy.**  
"Wish I were a mermaid."  
"Why do you wish that?"  
"Matter of economy."  
"Explain."  
"Well, wouldn't have to buy any shoes nor hats."  
"I see."  
"And then I look awfully well in green."

**Good Advice.**  
"What is the matter with that fellow?"  
"Oh, he's out of his head."  
"Can't the doctor do anything for him?"  
"No."  
"Try the plumber."  
**One Added.**  
"I suppose a cat really has nine lives."  
"Yes; it has all of that, not including the one that it lives later on as an expensive sealskin muff."

**PERT PARAGRAPHS.**

About all the good some people do consists in getting in the way of pestiferous people and taking their attention and so saving some of the rest of us.

Anything that makes a disturbance like a meal ticket won't find that it will be able to escape notice these balmy holidays.

The man who will invent a furnace that will keep the house warm in the morning without anybody excreting it will be a benefactor to his race.

Whether it is better to bear the ills we have than to fly to others depends upon whether they consist of \$5,000 jobs or a choice assortment of toothaches.

After passing a pleasant half hour chatting with some people you sometimes suddenly feel as if you would be the better for some sort of mental disinfectant.

PAPA—IS THE FURNACE OUT?

PON MY WORD, BABY, I CAN'T.

PAPA—GIMME A PENNY.



A rich daddy is more to be desired than a titled husband and often outlasts the latter.

Don't expect too much of your friends. It may be that much of their active energy is taken up with wondering just what you are going to do for them.

**Do You Bowl?**

.... Go to the ....  
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NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION  
Department of the Interior  
United States Land Office at Roseburg, Ore.  
Jan. 5th, 1909

Notice is hereby given that Abraham Jones, of Bandon, Oregon, who, on October 6th 1908, made Timber Application, No. 01675, for S. E. 1-4 of N. E. 1-4 Section 19 Township 29 S. R. 13 W., Willamett Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make Final Proof to establish claim to the land above described before the Register and Receiver, at Roseburg Oregon, on the 20th day of March 1909.

Claimant names as witnesses:  
Edward L. Ohman, of Bandon, Oregon  
Amos E. Hadzall, of Bandon, Oregon  
A. C. Adams, of Bandon, Oregon  
J. M. Adams, of Bandon, Oregon.  
BENJAMIN L. EDDY, Register.

Readvertisement.  
First publication Jan. 21.

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