

# CORVALLIS GAZETTE



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## CLOVER, VETCH, ARTICHOKES.

L. L. Brooks Writes of His Experience.

I want to give a little more of my experimenting and what I have seen of others in clovers in this valley. I have come to the conclusion that the Willamette valley is going to be one of the most successful places in the United States to raise clover and clover seeds. While traveling up and down this valley buying and shipping vetch seed, I made it a business to observe those that raise clover, and the results. One man sold \$800 worth of clover seed from 13 acres; another four acres of the best of his alsike land yielded nine bushels of seed per acre, and he sold it for 12 1/2 cents per pound or an average of \$67.50 per acre for the four best acres; his whole alsike field brought him in 12 1/2 cents a pound for 120 bushels or \$900. Alsike seems to be adapted to the flat white soil. There are thousands of acres of this kind in this valley that could be bringing in good returns from the seed and have the hay crop and pasture extra, with one-tenth the work it takes to raise wheat after once started. Alsike is a perennial, will live for years and is adapted to wet land; it should be sown from May 15 to June 15 after the rains are over and the ground is warm; the ground should be worked down fine, and sow eight pounds per acre, without anything sown with it for good results. If wanted for pasture rape can be sown with it—six pounds alsike and four of rape. To be sure of a good stand sow inoculated seed and sow 100 pounds of land pasture per acre. The experiment station at Corvallis says 150 pounds of land pasture give the best results. I have had good luck sowing fifty pounds per acre. Red clover should be sown at the same time of year, and use inoculation material and land pasture, only red clover should be sown on higher ground than alsike; rich rolling land is best—if well manured, that much better. I know of some fields of red clover that yield seven bushels of clover seed to the acre, worth from 11 to 12 1/2 cents per pound; and just across the road the wheat only yielded seven bushels per acre, worth 65 to 70 cents per bushel; the clover brings \$52.50 per acre and the wheat \$4.90, while the wheat draws from the soil and makes it less valuable each year, while clover feeds from the air and builds up the soil, besides yielding generally two tons of good clover hay per acre, besides the seed crop and winter pasture and it shut off the winter plowing to about every third year. And when the clover is plowed under it enriches the ground and if sown to wheat will yield thirty to forty bushels per acre. Raise one crop of wheat and sow right down to clover.

The result has been that ninety farmers out of every hundred plow their clover up after it has been sown one year because it did not do much good. It was a thin stand and looked pale and weakly. The reason of this is because it was not inoculated for clover, and probably the ground was not prepared properly nor inoculated seed used nor land plaster. I am sure clovers will do as well here as in any other country after the ground has been thoroughly inoculated, and farmers can make three or four times as much money per acre with less than half the work and the land will be growing richer every year, besides much more stock can be raised and fed better.

When we farmers all learn to feed up all crops raised on the farm the land will soon be as productive as ever it was. The old worn out land that was corned to death in Indiana, Illinois and Iowa, has all been brought back to yield as good crops as

the first year it was broke up, by plowing under clover and feeding out all crops raised on the farm to stock and hauling out the manure. How can it be expected of this land to yield an income by raising wheat every year and burning all the straw and hauling wheat to market. Watch Eastern Oregon where they raise nothing but wheat, and see how soon that land will be gone.

I have been sowing alfalfa the last two springs with very good results. I sowed two acres on a poor clay point on May, 26, 1904. I used inoculated dirt from the agricultural college alfalfa bed. The ground was not worked down as fine as it should be, and an extremely dry season from April to November, but cut two crops this year, and on May 19, 1905, sowed three acres more on much better land, and worked the ground down fine, plowed it extra deep, disced it twice, rolled three times, harrowed four times besides the ground was well manured before plowing. I sowed forty pounds of inoculated alfalfa seed on the three acres, with fifty pounds of land plaster per acre; land plaster and seed sown same day and harrowed in together. The first month the best of it was seven inches high, at two months thirteen inches; after that kept it mowed close to the ground to keep weeds down. The stand cannot be any better; an eastern man saw it and said it was the best stand that he ever saw.

So many beginners do not know what is the matter with the alfalfa when it is about six or eight inches high and the leaves turn white and look sickly as it is were dying; it grows too fast for the root to support the top, and it should be cut every time it looks sickly. So many people don't thoroughly understand how land plaster works on the soil. Some may sow it on clover after rain or heavy dew; that don't do any good, it should be sown on the ground as it does the plant no good until it is washed off in soil; it unlocks the soil so that plants feed from it, is the nearest way I can explain it. It takes 500 parts of water to one gallon of land plaster. If seed is sown in spring after rains are over the land plaster will not do any good until rains come. I sowed a small field to alsike and one to red clover last spring; both did very well.

I have sowed ten acres of red clover this fall; it may freeze out and lose the soil. I am told that the land plaster should not be sowed until February.

One more thing I want to speak of to eastern men that come from a corn country and feed hogs; that is artichokes. I planted a patch May 30, 1905, size of patch 89 steps long, 17 steps wide or 18 rows 3 feet 6 inches apart, 18 rods long, 3 rods wide, and we pulled fifty-two sacks—just what pulled up with tops; have not dug them up yet. At that rate would be over 3000 bushels to the acre; that is better than a corn field of seventy bushels to the acre. I am satisfied with the artichokes and alfalfa and clover pasture. Hogs can be raised cheaper than in a corn country. I am told that one man fattened out ninety head of hogs on five acres of artichokes and when hogs are raised on this kind of feed they don't die with cholera, where in a corn country we figured on losing nearly all our hogs every four years with cholera. I am not talking through my hat; these are facts. Anyone wishing to try these clovers or artichokes and want seed, I keep them for sale; also inoculated seed and land plaster. I have the government inoculation for vetch, alsike, alfalfa, red clover and can furnish inoculated seed. Write before it is needed several days so I will have time to prepare the seed.

I would like to hear from

## MADE NO LEVY.

City Council Failed to Make Tax Levy.

If affairs could be carried on always on the basis they might be in this city for the coming year Corvallis would be an unusually nice place in which to hold property. By some peculiar oversight the city council failed to fix the tax levy for Corvallis for 1906 and so notify County Clerk Moses. The latter gentleman gave certification of the city's total valuation of taxable property in December.

The law makes it mandatory that all incorporated towns and school districts must fix their tax levy at some regular or adjourned meeting during the month of December and through the proper official notify the clerk of the county. There is said to be no mistaking the language or the meaning of this act. It would be incharitable to severely criticize any member of the council for this oversight, owing to the fact that it was an "oversight" beyond doubt.

In the past years it has been customary for the county clerk to hold the rolls open until February in order that the various incorporated, cities and school districts could get in the sum of their levy. But a year ago a law went into effect that these incorporate bodies must have their levies in by Jan. 1st in order that the county court could act in the matter and the clerk proceed to close the rolls without holding them open until February 1st. It was largely, if not wholly, on account of this change, owing to the additional fact that the notification from County Clerk Moses was after the regular term of the city council for December, that the oversight occurred.

However, the "city dads" got busy at once when their attention was called to the oversight and they communicated forthwith with Attorney-General Crawford in Salem. They received an opinion from that gentleman to the effect that if the county court held open until the city council could meet and fix a levy and so inform the court in time for action at the January term of that body all would be well. The county court took the proper view of the situation and gave assurance of its assistance by holding court open until tomorrow, with the expectation that the council would fix the levy last night. This is practically the situation in its entirety.

The object of the new law it is claimed is that the various county clerks would be enabled to proceed with the task of closing the rolls immediately after the January term of county court, and the opinion is held that so long as the aims, objects and intents of the law are not violated there is nothing illegal in adjusting any oversight, such as has just occurred. At any rate, such oversights are known to have occurred in Oregon before and in all probability in other places, too. Last year Astoria failed to make her levy and the legislature being in ses-

other experiments on these new crops for Oregon.

As I have not said anything about vetch this time, I might say that I have sown a few acres of hairy vetch for the government, they get the seed, but I hope to be able to report later on how that does. I have nearly 100 acres of common vetch in again this year. This year I have shipped several hundred thousand pounds of seed. I am told that one man plowed under two crops of vetch on old wheat land that would only yield ten bushels of wheat to the acre, and, after plowing under the two crops, the soil yielded forty bushels of wheat per acre. —L. L. Brooks.

sion at the time a special law was enacted in her favor. Whether or not the Astoria case establishes a precedent for us is not known.

## A Little Early.

Jesse Spencer relates a pretty good story on his wife's proclivities for early rising. It seems that she has been in the habit of getting up when she hears the bus go to the C. & E. depot early in the morning. Friday night she rolled out of bed on hearing a vehicle and proceeded to build a fire.

Mr. Spencer says that he heard the kindling crackling as it burned and it seemed to him that it was only about fifteen minutes since he went to bed. He could hear his wife bustling about preparing breakfast. Presently the clock began striking and counted off the hour of 12, midnight.

"Did you hear that?" called Mrs. Spencer.

"Yes," said Jesse. "I'm going back to bed," said his wife.

"You'd better, or leave town," said the tonsorial artist.

The couple had not retired until 11 o'clock and what Mrs. Spencer heard and mistook for the bus going to the C. & E. depot was the carriages carrying dancers home at the close of the dance at the Armory.

## Four Hundred Babies.

St. Vincent's Infant Asylum, Chicago, shelters homeless waifs awaiting adoption, and there are nearly 400 babies there. Sister Julia writes: "I cannot say too much in praise of Foley's Honey and Tar for coughs, colds, croup and whooping cough." Contains no opiates and is safe and sure. Ask for Foley's Honey and Tar and insist on having it, as it is a safe remedy and certain in results. Refuse substitutes. Sold by Graham & Wortham.

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