

BEAVER STATE HERALD

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

INFORMATION worth hundreds of dollars to the farmers of the state will be offered at the Oregon Agricultural College during Farmers' Week which opens February 14. Lectures and exercises covering the most vital and important information which science and experience have gathered, will be given by experts. Work will commence at 8 o'clock in the morning and continue until 10 o'clock at night. Ample opportunity will be offered for questions and discussions. The first college poultry show will be held on Friday when prize winning birds from some of the best flocks in the state will be exhibited. A summary of the work follows: Five lectures on Diseases of Farm Animals by Dr. Withycombe; five lectures on Stockfeeding by Dr. Withycombe; ten hours practice in apple packing under expert instruction. Enough to learn the principles of good packing. In the Willamette Valley each year thousands of boxes of good fruit is not marketed because farmers do not know how to pack for market; five exercises in Pruning, Budding, Grafting, etc., by Prof. Cole; five lectures on Farm Dairying by Prof. Kent; five lectures on Forage Crops by Prof. Scudder; five lectures on Farm Bacteria by Prof. Pernot; five lectures on Farm Soils by Prof. Scudder; ten lectures on Orchard Diseases by Prof. Jackson; five lectures on Vegetable Gardening by Prof. Boquet; five lectures on Farm Drainage by Prof. Powers; five lectures on Hot Beds and Cold Frames by Prof. Boquet; ten lectures on Orchard Insects by Prof. Bridwell; five lectures on Landscape Gardening by Prof. Peck; five lectures on Chemistry of the Farm by Prof. Bradley; ten or more lectures by prominent men who have been signal successful in some special branch of agriculture.

THE Alumni Association of the Monmouth Normal School has started a movement to place the question of location of the school before the people of the state. Of course the bill will read favorably to the re-establishment at Monmouth. As a matter of state economy, first, it seems entirely reasonable the school should be reopened at that place. Historically it deserves first consideration. The number of persons that have completed their education there exceeds the number turned out by either of the other schools that were contestants for existence. It is more favorably located. The productiveness of the surrounding country makes living more reasonable there than in many other locations, especially near a large city. The temptations to spend money are not so numerous and the opportunities for the poor teacher to gain a fair education on a medium or minimum salary, or for poor parents to educate their young people without meeting a prohibitive expense is entirely possible here. Suppose you put the same school in a city and the boarding expenses would come higher, the rooms would be higher, clothing would cost more, incidental expenses would be more numerous, and outside attractions more conflicting with the work. By all means let the school stay at Monmouth or some other medium sized town. If it must go away from Monmouth, why not locate it in Eastern Oregon, say Pendleton or Baker City. The population of this part of the state is not so numerous now but new processes of farming are being suggested, the irrigation developments of the eastern part of the state will tend to double up the population, and ten or twenty years hence will make the map of Oregon look quite different from its present unbroken expanse.

THE attractive literature sent out during the past year and the wide publicity given all parts of Oregon have been fruitful of results and inquiry about this state was never so general as at the present time. Because of this widespread interest in Oregon it may be expected that the state will receive a large immigration this coming spring. Oregon people should do all they can to add to this movement to the Pacific Northwest by arousing interest among their friends in other parts of the country who are looking for new homes and information should be supplied them on the opportunities here for newcomers and particularly those who desire to engage in agriculture, horticulture, stock-raising or dairying. These lines of endeavor are rewarding those who are engaged in them.

OUR attention is called to the need of patrons on the rural routes supplying themselves with necessary postage stamps, cards, etc. It is not the office of the rural carrier to handle unstamped mail. To impose such a duty on him increases his work and more than doubles the risk of getting your mail displaced. He must not only take time that otherwise would be spent on his official duty and also take risks in handling other people's money but the chances for dissatisfaction on the patron's part are increased. Better be prepared with the necessary postage and avoid opportunities for dissatisfaction on the part of patron and carrier.

WE have arranged with one of the leading architects of the country to have one plan for a residence for each issue of our paper for some time. Having looked over these plans we find many of them are entirely within the reach of many of our patrons and should prove to be valuable to our readers for the suggestions they offer on house-building, even if the entire plan is not used. But the plans are good and the specification offer is extremely reasonable. The probable cost of the buildings would vary with the locality and for this country would be considerable under the price suggested. Don't fail to give these plans some attention as we feel sure you will be well repaid for your trouble.

THE Chicago Tribune is out with a number of questions of which we give you the benefit. We haven't answered them as yet, tho' we expect to. If our readers will report their views to us it will be a pleasure to express the results to the seeker after public opinion. We would like about 1000 answers, very brief, by postal card.

1. Is Joseph Cannon your choice for Speaker of the next Congress?
2. Do you approve of the Aldrich-Cannon tariff law?
3. Who is your choice for the next President?

If you intend sending an answer please do so at once.

Making Money On the Farm

VI.—Seed Corn Breeding

By C. V. GREGORY,
Author of "Home Course in Modern Agriculture"
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IN the preceding articles improved methods of growing a few of the most widely grown farm crops have been given. By study and careful attention to details it is possible for a farmer to make a good profit raising common produce for the general market. Much greater returns, however, may be obtained by specializing in some particular line and selling the products on a special market.

One of the most profitable special lines that can be followed is breeding improved seed corn. This is something that must be done for every locality, since corn shipped in from any distance cannot be relied on. It is entirely possible to increase the yielding ability of a strain of corn ten bushels to the acre or more by a very few years' breeding. Seed from such an improved strain will find a ready market at satisfactory figures.

Selection of Ears.
In starting out to improve a strain of corn there are two main points to be considered—yield and quality. The yield can be determined readily by inspecting the ears. In examining the ears the following five points are to be looked for: (1) General appearance. The ear should be as large as it can be and still be sure to get ripe every year. It should be straight, symmetrical and not taper too abruptly. The butts and tips should be fairly well filled, though other more important points should not be sacrificed for this. (2) True type. Every established breed of corn has its peculiarities of shape, color, etc., that must be considered. The general type of the breed should be adhered to closely, as uniformity is an indication of breeding. (3) Maturity. No ear should be used for seed that is not sound and well matured. Soft, chaffy, starchy kernels or those shrunk at the tip, with chaff adhering to them, are indications of immaturity. Deep kernels go with late maturing corn. Extreme depth of kernel cannot be expected in the early varieties that must be grown in the north. (4) Vitality. While all corn should be tested before it is planted, yet there are many ears that can be thrown out without the trouble of testing. Immature ears are usually lacking in vitality. If the kernels are blistered on the back or the embryo is dark or yellowish the chances are that it will not grow. (5) Shelling percentage. A high percentage of corn to cob is desirable, but should be secured by compact, fairly deep kernels rather than by an abnormally small cob.

Increasing the Yield.
While quality is important, yield is even more so. This is not so easily determined, actual field tests being required. Before starting these tests the breed of corn to be grown should be selected. It pays to begin work with the best corn obtainable, as you are thus starting where some one else has left off. A breed of corn that has proved itself adapted to your locality is the best to select.

There are almost as many methods of breeding seed corn as there are corn breeders. Many of these are too complicated to be adapted to the farmer who is just starting in as a corn breeder. After a few years' experience with a simpler method, some of the plans for keeping a record of each ear from year to year and producing "pedigreed" seed corn may be employed.

The breeding plot should be 200 to 250 feet long—just long enough so that it takes an ear to plant a row. It should be wide enough for about fifty of these rows. The soil and drainage conditions of the plot should be as nearly uniform as possible. It should be located twenty to forty rods from any other corn, so that there will be no danger of mixing. Fifty of the best ears of the desired strain should be selected and stored separately. Each of the rows in the breeding plot is to be planted with one of these ears. The work can be done with a planter if care is taken to clean out the seed

thoroughly each time across. It is better to drill the corn in the breeding plot since it is too narrow to cultivate to advantage crosswise. Two or three border rows should be planted around the edges of the plot.

Care of the Breeding Plot.
The breeding plot should not be fertilized any better than any of the other fields on the farm, and the preparation of the seed bed and cultivation should be the same. The prime object is to develop a strain of corn that will yield well under average field conditions. The extra work that is put on the breeding plot should be applied to the corn itself and not to the soil. About the time cultivation ceases all suckers should be cut off. This can be quickly done with a straight bladed corn knife. These suckers take nourishment needed by the good stalks and produce inferior pollen to fertilize the silks.

The most important part of the work is detasseling. When the tassels begin to appear go through the plot and carefully pull them out from every other row. This should be done every day for a week or more—as long as tassels continue to appear. At the same time any imperfect stalks in the other rows should be detasseled. If there are any rows that show a marked tendency to sucker, carry the ears too high or low or have any other marked defect, they should be detasseled also.

Comparing the Yields.
As soon as the corn is all shelled the ears from the twenty-five detasseled rows should be husked, keeping the produce of each row separate. The corn from the tasseled rows, as well as from the inner rows that were detasseled and from the border rows, should be discarded. At the time of husking the detasseled corn any peculiarity of the stalks in a row should be noted. The number of stalks in each row should also be counted. The weight of the corn from a row divided by the number of stalks in that row will give the weight per stalk, which is the proper basis for comparison. It will be found that there is a very great difference in yielding ability, some rows yielding twice or three times as much as others. This yield, together with the number of good seed ears to the row, forms the basis for determining from which row to select ears to plant next year's breeding plot. The rest of the ears worth saving should be stored away to plant in the increase field.

The increase field is not for the purpose of improving the corn, but merely to secure larger quantities of that which has been improved in the breeding plot. Each year seed from the highest quality and best yielding of the individual rows is saved to plant the next year's breeding plot and the remainder used in the increase field. In this way the standard keeps improving from year to year. Ten bushels to the acre increase is by no means the limit to which the improvement can be carried. Indeed, almost the only limit is the care and time bestowed upon the breeding plot.

The Seed Corn House.
Where several hundred bushels of corn are to be saved for seed, as is the case where a specialty is being made of well bred seed corn, it is necessary to have some sort of special seed corn house. This may be filled with slatted racks, on which the corn is laid, or the ears may be hung from the ceiling with binder twine. The latter is the better method, as it permits a more thorough circulation of air around the corn. The use of two



strings, one at each end of the ear, keeps it from warping, as it will warp if tied by one string in the middle.

One of the chief requirements of a seed corn house is adequate ventilation. In the northern section where severe cold weather comes early some artificial heat will be needed. The corn may be hung in the seed house as soon as it is gathered. At this time it contains a large amount of moisture, so the windows should all be opened to allow it to dry rapidly. Artificial heat should be applied gradually at first, as too much when the corn is full of moisture will injure it. After the corn is well dried out less ventilation will be needed, though some should be given at all times. Heat will be needed from this time on only on very cool or damp days.

FEATHERS AND EGGSHELLS.
When lightning struck and destroyed the home of Dr. S. A. Orwig, Mays Landing, N. J., he and his wife spent the night in the henhouse. While such a feather bed is not popular, it's wise to keep that coop clean for an emergency.

The United States department of agriculture is taking moving pictures at some of the great poultry farms, the films to be used for educational purposes at fairs and farmers' institutes. The county fairs should substitute these for the "bosch coochie" shows.

October is the beginning of the poultry year in California. The incubators and hens are then set and the brooders are made ready for the bright eyed ruffie fluffies. At that time eastern breeders are putting in coal and mending the snow shovel.

To California let us go. Where we'll not have to shovel snow. But, say, we'll have to pay for fuel. That sets at a tremendous price.

When a hen's mouth, throat and intestines are very red and she has watery diarrhea and death is preceded by intense pain, she has been poisoned with salt.

The easiest fowl to carve is the turkey, next is chicken, then come duck and goose. It depends on the size of the joints. Which you buy for Christmas depends on the size of your yard.

The Emerald Isle exported \$25,000,000 worth of poultry and eggs last year. She used the rotten ones for political purposes.

The toughest part of a fowl is the gizzard. This little organ is seldom diseased. It is sometimes blocked by constipation or pleroid by nails and ticks. Yellowish spots and a bristly smell in the gizzard indicate rat poison.

Missouri's contribution to the turkey famine is 200,000 fat, juicy birds. Oh, where has gone her mile that kicked? The turkey soldiers got 'em licked.

Snow should not be allowed to bank up against the poultry house. It will turn to slush and the snow water will often trickle through into the pens.

Covers, Tex., has a great plant where turkeys are dressed for market and loaded on refrigerator cars. Rather than lose weight by cooling and hauling them they are driven to this center in large flocks. Two flocks of 1,000 and 1,800 fat birds were driven in from a distance of eighteen and fifteen miles. They gained weight on the trip.

Dried eggshells are simply worn out lime and are of little use for shells or grit. They are like poor advice tried twice.

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STATIONS	EASTBOUND	WESTBOUND
PORTLAND	9:00	8:00
Golf Junction	9:07	8:07
Stanley	9:14	8:14
Lents Junction	9:21	8:21
Wesmore	9:28	8:28
Jenette	9:35	8:35
Leinhardt	9:42	8:42
GRESHAM	9:49	8:49
Hopewell	9:56	8:56
Anderson	10:03	9:03
Haley	10:10	9:10
Boring	10:17	9:17
Medley	10:24	9:24
Bacon	10:31	9:31
Deep Creek	10:38	9:38
Ragle Creek	10:45	9:45
Catlinville	10:52	9:52
Estacada	10:59	9:59
CAZADERO	11:06	10:06

TROUTDALE BRANCH

STATIONS	EASTBOUND	WESTBOUND
CAZADERO	8:45	9:45
Estacada	8:52	9:52
Catlinville	8:59	9:59
Ragle Creek	9:06	10:06
Deep Creek	9:13	10:13
Bacon	9:20	10:20
Medley	9:27	10:27
Boring	9:34	10:34
Haley	9:41	10:41
Anderson	9:48	10:48
Hopewell	9:55	10:55
GRESHAM	10:02	11:02
Leinhardt	10:09	11:09
Jenette	10:16	11:16
Wesmore	10:23	11:23
Lents Junction	10:30	11:30
Stanley	10:37	11:37
Golf Junction	10:44	11:44
PORTLAND	10:51	11:51

TROUTDALE BRANCH

STATIONS	EASTBOUND	WESTBOUND
PORTLAND	8:15	9:15
Base Line	8:22	9:22
Patrol	8:29	9:29
LINNEBANS	8:36	9:36

a Daily Except Sunday. A. M. figures in Roman, P. M. figures in black.

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