

# BEAVER STATE HERALD

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**H**OW about the good people who were so anxious about a year ago to annex themselves to the city of Portland. Are they reaping all the blessings they anticipated? The only blessings that have come our way yet are some street improvements this winter. The county did that. And improved street lighting. Mrs. Bright did that, and the commissioners offer to let her pay for it. And quite a number of substantial buildings and we have ourselves to thank for that. About the only thing the city has done so far to help Lents is to relieve the people of cash. That will probably assist materially in the prevention of extravagant living, over-eating, and wasteful luxuries. We get a notice every week or so calling our attention to some new license, an additional tax levy, etc., that reminds us that we are subject to the powers that be. Every little while we are informed that some one has been planning to close up our street, cut down our trees, open up a new street, do some grading at your expense for some other fellow's benefit. In fact living in the city is little less than Sherman's definition of war. But then we get our water so much cheaper—save about \$3 a year on that.

**T**HE stock show held in Portland will be remembered as the best to date. It was well attended and the exhibits were really wonderful. Not only was the number of exhibits a surprise for thousands, but the quality as well, was something to open the eyes of people who know little of the quality of livestock grown in this state. Large numbers of animals are sold at these shows for breeding purposes, and thus will the average in character of livestock in the state be raised. A visit to this show will prove valuable for everyone and for the livestock grower it is a most exceptional opportunity. Here he will form some estimate of the character of animal that should be grown to produce the particular sort he is trying to grow. He will form a new estimate of quality and go home with advanced ideas on stock raising. It is money and time well spent whether you are a big grower or not, whether you have an ounce of pure bred blood on your place. Don't miss it again.

The unusually short time that has elapsed since the last issue of the Herald was delivered has made it rather difficult to prepare for this week's issue. The week's social doings had already been outlined and as a consequence news is not plentiful. We anticipate a well filled paper next week. The doings of holidays will all need reporting and the events of the week will not be a few.

It did not occur to us until the end of the week that some of our distant readers would be delayed a couple of days by being one day later in issuing last week. It was impossible to come out on time, owing to matters that developed during the week, and we hope with these apologies to avoid disappointing our readers very often.

**T**HIS has been a wonderful fall and winter. Whether we reach the holidays without a considerable fall of snow is not so sure but it is probable. Outside of a few light frosts, some very thin ice, and a few chilly days

this has been a very mild season. Flowers of the summer blooming sort are still in bloom in many yards. Many people have not taken in their decorative geraniums and other less hardy perennials. But while we have not had the severe weather of our eastern friends, it has been raw enough to satisfy most of us. Oregonians grow sensitive to extremes of temperature. A drop to 40 here is as chilling, if not as destructive, as zero weather in some localities.

## VALUE OF A BUCKET OF WATER WHEN FIRE STARTS ON THE FARM.

In probably not one out of a thousand American farmhouses or barns is a bucket of water kept in a handy place ready for use in case of fire emergency; yet so effective is a handy bucket of water when fire starts that the insurance underwriters grant a lower rate of insurance to manufacturers and merchants who will keep a specified number of filled fire buckets in certain locations in their buildings. Frequently a cupful of water at hand when a blaze starts as a tiny flame is more valuable in preventing fire loss than a whole fire department 10 minutes later. A single bucket of water dashed soon enough on blazing curtains or draperies, or a small blaze starting in rubbish or hay, will put out a fire before it has opportunity to gain headway, and thus may be the means not only of saving a building and its contents and preventing the death of stock, but even save loss of human life.

Most people rely on a pump or water tap as a source of water when fire breaks out. In the excitement following an outbreak of fire it frequently is difficult to locate buckets, and the delay of two or three minutes necessary to fill a bucket at a pump or tap may be enough to give the fire a chance to get into the walls, or spread to a point where it is very difficult to quench.

Every household should be equipped with a fire bucket, provided with a cover, filled with water, and used for no other purpose. The best type of bucket is one with a rounded bottom, which prevents its sitting on the floor, and so makes it useless for ordinary household work. These buckets should be painted red, and should be filled at regular intervals to replace water lost by evaporation. For the same reason, buckets provided with covers are better than open buckets and prevent dust and other material from getting into the water and making it unpleasant. One such bucket at least ought to be provided on every floor of the house or barn. They should be located near the stairs or entrances to the building, so that those rushing in from the outside or starting for the stairs can get them without delay.

The rounded bottom buckets can be kept either in a bench with a hole cut in it to receive the bucket, or else can be suspended out of reach of children, from a metal or wooden bracket.

These buckets are particularly important in winter when pumps or taps may freeze. As a general rule the fire risk is greatest in cold weather, because that's the time when the stoves and furnaces are made as hot as possible to keep the house warm. In the case of the barn, the water in these buckets can be kept from freezing, except at temperatures below zero, by adding 2 pounds and 1 ounce, or slightly over 2 pounds, of fused calcium chloride to each gallon of water. This calcium chloride must not be confused with the ordinary chloride of lime, the bleaching powder. The calcium chloride is very inexpensive and both keeps the water from freezing at temperatures above zero and also prevents rapid evaporation. With this mixture in his fire buckets, the farmer, except in case of unusually low temperature, has always at his command the means of checking the start of a fire in his barns. The cost of such fire-protection apparatus on farms is so slight, compared to the loss it may save, that no farmer should neglect this precaution.

At the same time, no matter how good the fire-fighting apparatus on a farm may be, the owner and his employees should not, for that reason, become careless or permit smoking in barns or other dangerous places.

## PLANT YOUR BULBS NOW.

In raising flowering bulbs for the house, place the bulb in a pot with a thin layer of sand for the bulb to rest on. Barely cover the tip of the bulb. Pot now or early in November and place the pots in a trench six inches deeper than the height of the pots. Cover the pots with a layer of straw, one to two inches deep. On top of this add three to four inches of earth. When removing a pot from the trench in the winter, figure on four to six weeks for the bloom to come to maturity in the house. Bring the plant into the light by degrees. First, place it in the basement, then, in a moderately dark room and gradually bring it to its permanent place in the window or elsewhere.

Nearly all varieties of bulbs except peonies may be planted until December 1. Peonies should not be planted after November 1. Plant now if you do not wish to wait another year with your peonies.

Almost any fairly rich soil will do for bulbs. A rich sandy loam is best. Don't let manure come in contact with bulbs.

## CARE OF HARDWOOD FLOORS

### Varnish Is Considered to Be the Poorest Kind of Finish.

The first thing to do in finishing a hardwood floor is to plane it until it is perfectly smooth. Before the floor finish can be applied it is necessary to put on some filler which closes the pores in the wood and makes a good surface. A coat of some kind of crack filler gives the floor a better appearance. There are many fillers and finishes. A finish which will be absorbed partly by the wood should be used, for it is much more durable than one which forms merely a hard finish. Varnish is about the poorest finish.

If a floor has had an application of finish and is still in a fairly good condition, it needs only to be well cleaned before a fresh coat is applied. If it is in a poor condition or has never been finished, it should be treated as if it were a new floor. All the old finish should be removed before a fresh coat is applied.

Much-worn places, especially the spot just in front of the kitchen stove, may be resurfaced and refinished separately just before the whole floor is gone over. An ordinary paint brush is all that is necessary in applying any of the fillers or finishes.

Oak and maple are used for hardwood floors. Maple is the better and also the more expensive. It is used commonly in halls, skating rinks, and where an extra fine finish is desired. Oak is used in most dwellings and offices. It is very serviceable, but requires more care than a maple floor.—Industrialist.

### MEMBERS OF BOYS' CORN CLUBS AND GIRLS' CANNING CLUBS WILL SOON VISIT WASHINGTON TO RECEIVE DIPLOMAS.

Members of the boys' corn clubs and the girls' canning clubs will be in Washington during the second week in December on their annual trip to receive diplomas for proficient corn production and canning from Secretary of Agriculture Houston. During the year 91,196 southern boys each planted an acre of corn. The members of the girls' canning clubs number 33,060. The Government is not paying the expenses of any of the members. The expenses incident to the trip will be borne by the different states and counties or by commercial organizations.

For the past several years a few members of the corn clubs have produced more than 200 bushels of corn per acre, and it is thought that, notwithstanding the drought, there will be some good records this year. A number of boys have been striving to break the record established by Jerry Moore, South Carolina, who, in 1910, produced 228 3-4 bushels on 1 acre. They, in addition, expect to accomplish this at a lower cost of production. It seems certain that several hundred of the members will get yields above the 100-bushel mark.

Farmers' co-operative demonstration agents of the Department are making a systematic campaign throughout the south to show the corn-club boys the importance of legume and winter cover crops. Hundreds of acres are now covered with

luxuriant crops of cowpeas and soy beans and more still are being seeded to crimson clover, bur clover, and vetch. The boys are planting rye and oats and are learning the fundamental principles of proper crop rotation.

Each member of the girls' canning clubs has a garden of one-tenth of an acre of tomatoes. She specializes on the tomato plant for the first year, so before taking up her canning work she has acquired a good deal of knowledge of botany and horticulture. In most sections of the south the girls grow other vegetables than the tomato, and in addition they are encouraged by the Department's agents to can and preserve all the surplus fruits and vegetables about their homes.

Thousands of cans of peaches, berries, and beans are in pantries in the south where none existed a few years ago, as the result of the work of enterprising girls. Large quantities of products are also marketed by the members.

Here is an agent's report to the Department of what one girl sold after filling the pantry: Fig and peach preserves, sweet peach pickles, ginger pears, spiced grapes, small white onions pickled, chili sauce, tomato ketchup, green-tomato pickles, stuffed peppers, tomatoes, corn and okra for soup, canned tomatoes, peaches, blackberries, and grape, blackberry, and apple jelly. The Department reports show that wonderful records are being made by the girls in the number of tomatoes grown on one plant. Quite a number have reported more than six dozen tomatoes on one vine. In several cases more than 1 ton of tomatoes were grown on one-tenth of an acre.



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