

THE BOARDMAN MIRROR

VOLUME III.

BOARDMAN, OREGON, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1923.

NUMBER 33

FARMER-BANKER CONFERENCES THROUGHOUT NATION DEVELOP WAYS TO AID AGRICULTURE

Collective Marketing, Diversified Farming, Promotion of Agricultural Education and Use of Bank Instead of Mercantile Credits Chief Lines of Suggested Action.

By D. H. OTIS,

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D. H. Otis

Four lines of action to improve the business of farming stand out in the discussions that have occurred at a series of farmer-banker conferences now being held throughout the United States. They are collective marketing, diversified farming, the promotion of agricultural education and the use of the more economical bank credit rather than mercantile credit. At many points active steps to foster action along these lines have been taken.

The conferences were initiated by the Agricultural Commission of the American Bankers Association to the end that the condition of the man on the farm be improved. The first conference was held in conjunction with the Wisconsin College of Agriculture at Madison. An important point of contact for the work of the Commission was established at this meeting in the form of co-operation with the agricultural colleges.

In five other states—California, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Utah—it was agreed at subsequent conferences that bankers' agricultural committees would meet at the state agricultural colleges and, in co-operation with the college officials, work out a program that they would recommend to the banks.

The Texas Plan

It was at the Texas conference that it was developed that the officials of both the bankers' association and of the state college felt the big problem for that state was the establishment of a system of collective, orderly marketing. In order to bring this problem effectively before the farmers and the bankers it was agreed to hold a banker-farmer meeting in December. Efforts will be made to get from 200 to 250 bankers to attend, each banker to bring with him several representative farmers of his community. The program and demonstration will emphasize the need of meeting the marketing problem and point ways to a satisfactory solution.

At Athens, Georgia, the conference recommended that the State Bankers Association take steps to raise a fund for assisting deserving students to complete a college course in agriculture or home economics. This conference, recognizing the valuable work being done by county agricultural and home demonstration agents, also went on record as favoring the employment of agents in each county.

At the Raleigh, North Carolina, conference the pressing problem, in addition to loans for worthy students, was held to be encouragement of the farmer to practice greater crop diversification. The conferees felt that the first big step was to get farmers at least to produce sufficient vegetables, fruit, milk, meat and poultry to live on.

Many farmers, it was brought out, now depend entirely on the cotton crop and buy the products named for their own tables.

More Economical Credit

At the conference at Ithaca, N. Y., those participating felt that a better understanding between farmers and bankers would be beneficial to both. At present a large amount of the credit used by farmers is in the form of mercantile credit, which, it was pointed out, is much more expensive for them than bank credit. It was felt that a campaign of education is needed to acquaint farmers with banking facilities. The conference, therefore, recommended that the Agricultural Committee of the State Bankers Association, the agricultural college and representatives of the Farm Bureau and the State Grange get together for the purpose of working out programs and plans for further meetings to be held in the various counties of the state.

At a conference held at Amherst, Massachusetts, there were representatives from Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut. Emphasis was placed on the importance of the Boys' and Girls' Club work. The New England conference also felt that the importance of bank credit over mercantile credit should be stressed. A resolution was adopted and is being sent to agricultural committees in each State urging that they get in touch with their agricultural colleges and map out a program for educating the farmer in regard to the importance and the economy of bank credit over mercantile credit.

The emphasis on this resolution came not so much from the bankers present as it did from the representatives of the agricultural colleges and the farmers.

COPPER CARBONATE DUST USED IN SMUT CONTROL.

Field Tests by County Agents Show Less Smut and More Plants From Dry Than Wet Method

Copper carbonate dust is in extensive use this fall by Oregon farmers to control wheat smut. It has proved as good as the usual liquid treatment in smut prevention when the job is well done, and usually gives a much better stand of more vigorous plants, even when the rate of sowing is a peck less per acre. The seed may be treated as time is found, then planted at once or held for a long time without injury.

One half of Umatilla county fall sown grain will be dry tested, says Fred Bennion, county agent. In

Morrow county 65,000 acres and in Wasco more than 4000 acres will be dry tested, the county agents report. Like reports of the popularity of the new method are made by extension agents in other parts of the state.

More than 200 demonstrations were conducted by 14 agents on the crop harvested in 1922 to show the relative efficiency of copper carbonate, bluestone and formaldehyde. In ten Umatilla county fields the dry treated seed showed 3.5 per cent smut in the crop, the liquid treated 4.4. Although sowed at 18 pounds less per acre it brought a 16 per cent better stand.

High grade material containing not less than 50 per cent metallic copper by weight, ground fine enough to pass through a 200-mesh screen, made to coat every kernel all over, is essential to success. An increased rate for rather badly smutted wheat to 3 ounces per bushel is recommended by the station men.

Machines for applying the dust effectively so far reported to the station are put out by the Calkins Machine Co., and the Walla Walla Iron Works, Walla Walla, Wash.

Apple Anthracnose Menaces

Unprotected orchards of western Oregon and similar districts are threatened with serious infection of apple anthracnose this fall as soon as rainy weather begins, unless Bordeaux mixture is applied at once. Anthracnose has been brought under control in many orchards by applications of Bordeaux mixture in July and August. Delay of spraying infected trees till after picking is a mistake, says the experiment station plant pathologist, as it is then too late to avert the early fall infections which cause the most serious damage.

Along the Concrete



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BIG SURPRISE PARTY ON THE EARL CRAMERS

East End neighbors made a surprise call on Mr. and Mrs. Earl Cramer Wednesday evening. Although they knew Mrs. Cramer never "listens in" during a telephone conversation, nevertheless they had Zoe Hadley cut the current so the party could be planned without making it known to the victims. But it was a jolly, hilarious bunch of people who congregated at Mr. Mead's about 8:30 p. m. and stole in on the surprised couple, who were down on the floor looking at a scene Mr. Cramer was drawn on a cardboard. The dogs barked but Zoe pounded the piano to drown noise of footsteps. About 45 people, all neighbors, young and old, came and enjoyed games until an early hour Thursday morning. They played games all the way from "Button, Button, Who's Got the Button," to the "Initiation into the 500 Society." To see the look of amazement and blushing surprise on the faces of young and old as they made their choice of the three Crames and received a kiss from Faith, Hope or Charity, was more fun than a picnic party. The Green Monster was also displayed when wife or husbands came in and found his or her companion sitting holding another one's hands or with arms around their necks.

Supper was served to exhibit Boardman's bountiful way of feasting. All had a very merry time. The party was also given in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Jay Cox.

THE SADDEST ARE THESE IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN

If the second annual Boardman-Frisson fair had been held last week, it would have been the best yet, far exceeding the first one, both in size and quality of exhibits, etc., and in attendance, to the extent of a full column. But the power went off right in the middle of a line on this story of what might have been, so with this brief peroration and some blank space we will close the chapter on "What might have been" with

'Of all sad words of tongue or pen, The saddest are these: 'It might have been'

Many Attend Round-Up As usual a great many Boardman people attended the Round-Up. It is a difficult matter to get the names of all. A partial list follows: W. H. Stewart and family, H. E. Warren and Clay, Francis Blayden, Roy Gilbreath, Ida Mofford, Albert Macomber, Tom O'Donnell's, Beck's, Chas. Wicklander and son, Carl, on Thursday and Hector Wicklander on Saturday; J. R. Johnson's, all the teaching force of the Boardman-to school.

To Adjust Screws in Wood or Plaster

If you dip a screw into oil before applying the screw driver to send it into wood, you will find that the screw will go in without the usual difficulty. When preparing to put a screw into plaster, first make a hole in the plaster larger than the screw. Fill the hole with a paste made of plaster of paris mixed with atom water. Put in the screw, then allow it to get hard, and the screw will be very firmly lodged in the plaster.

Vaccinating Cattle to Prevent Shipping Fever

Although still in the experimental stage, the vaccination method of treating cattle to prevent their contracting hemorrhagic septicemia has reached such a degree of perfection that it is now in use by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Until the method has been more thoroughly tried out, the department will furnish vaccine produced in its laboratory and also trained veterinarians who will give the treatment at actual cost.

Losses from this disease have been steadily increasing for several years. During the past fall and winter the disease became more prevalent and virulent than ever before. It is most likely to show itself among animals shipped long distances, although it occasionally attacks those that have never left the home place.

Great Value of Adding Protein to Hog Ration

The value of adding protein to a ration, even when pigs being fattened for market have the run of a good alfalfa pasture, was shown in a test conducted by the Kansas experiment station last year. One lot was fed all the corn it would eat, in addition to alfalfa pasture. The other lot was fed all the corn it would eat plus one-fourth of a pound of tankage per head per day in addition to alfalfa pasture. The pigs in the lot receiving no tankage made a gain of 74 pounds per day at a cost of \$5.35 per 100 pounds of gain. The pigs in the lot receiving tankage made a gain of 125 pounds per day at a cost of \$4.50 per 100 pounds of gain. The addition of one-fourth of a pound of tankage per head per day on alfalfa pasture reduced the cost of gains 50 cents a hundred.

Gulls Help Farmers

Through southeastern Oregon and Utah gulls often pluck up a living of grasshoppers. They rid the fields of harmful insects and help protect the crops from field mice, says Nature Magazine. As the water is turned into the fields from the irrigator ditches it seeps into the burrows, driving out the mice, which are devoured by the waiting gulls.

More to the Point

"Mr. Darling," said the movie director, "in this scene a lion will pursue you for 500 feet."
"Five hundred feet?" interrupted the actor.
"Yes, and no more than that—in demand!"
The hero nodded. "Yes, I understand, but does the lion?"

Seeing is Believing

Customer—Have you got any hnd sets?
Clerk—Yes, ma'am.
Customer—Invisible?
Clerk—Yes, ma'am.
Customer—Let's see one.

Sheep Raising Spurred by Advance in Prices

"The farmer who has the equipment and feeds at hand should be encouraged in raising lambs," says Phil A. Anderson of the animal husbandry division, University of Minnesota. "But farmers entering this field should go slowly at first and study the requirements very thoroughly," he adds.

Mr. Anderson makes the foregoing statement in view of the greatly increased interest exhibited in sheep production the last few months, which has been brought about by advancing prices for wool, a steady lamb market and good profits made in feeding lambs during 1921-1922.

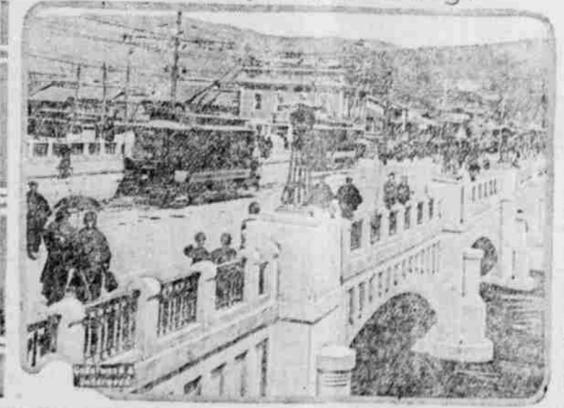
Stocks of wool, which accumulated during the war and immediately after, have now been converted into merchandise. Manufacturers short of mill supplies and eager to keep the mills going have become anxious to buy, causing the price to go up.

"Prices of lambs have been at \$12 to \$15 per 100 pounds for a long time, with a variation of \$2 to \$2.50 for shorn lambs," says Professor Anderson. Such prices should be an inducement for many farmers to have flocks of 25 to 35 ewes or more which will consume green food perhaps otherwise wasted and convert it into a marketable product. With wool and market stock high in price, because of a decrease in the number of sheep in the United States and the action of the new protective tariff, our sheep breeders can surely compete with the breeders of other countries.

Overcrowding Chickens Is Quite Unprofitable

In culling the flock it is better to cull severely and save just enough birds to fill the laying houses to their capacity. Overcrowding never pays, as it cuts down egg production and increases the chances of disease. It is very difficult to keep the straw litter clean and dry in a poultry house that is overcrowded.

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