COMMUNICATIONS.

Barnyard Manure.

To the Editor: Noticing that you give considerable prominence in the News-Record to the scientific aspect of agricultural matters and knowing that some farmers question even the utility of applying barnyard manure to the soil, I infer that a few remarks on the subject may be of interest to those of your readers who are engaged in drawing a living from "the bosom of mother earth." In the first place let me say, that plant food is present in the soil in two conditions: one of them solid, or insoluble in water and therefore of no present use as a plant food, the other soluble and readily available for the use of plants. The former exists in the soil in practically inexhaustible quantities, while the latter is present in very small proportions. Of the substances which a plant requires for its growth all but four are present in sufficient quantity in nearly all soils. The four named in their order of importance are as follows: Nitrogen, phosphorus, potash and lime. Now what has happened when a soil is exhausted or "run down" simply that one or probably more of the elements of fertility previously mentioned have been drawn upon by previous crops to such an extent that they are no longer present in sufficient quantities to produce satisfactory results. In such a condition of things barnyard manure is one of the best, if not the very best, agent for supplying the soil with the elements that have been taken from it, and restoring it to its former fertile condition, for the simple reason that being composed of the remnants of plants, and the effete matter thrown off from the systems of animals, it contains all the elements of plant food that the plant requires, and what is more, it contains them in a readily available condition.

Further, barnyard manure besides containing all the elements of plant food that the plant requires is also an indirect fertilizer, both in a chemical and a mechanical sense. In the former sense it, during the process of decomposition, gives off large quantities of carbonic acid, which reacting on the dormant constituents of the soil causes them to pass into a state of solution in which they are readily absorbed by the plant. In the latter sense it opens up a too compact soil, giving easier access to the forces of the atmosphere, thereby aiding them in their work of disintegrating the solid materials, and bringing them into a soluble and available condition, for it should be understood that even a piece of granite rock contains all but one of four substances previously enumerated. To a stiff clay soil barnyard manure is best applied in its fresh, or long state, that is when it is freshly made and mixed with plenty of straw or other vegetable matter. For a sandy, gravelly, or otherwise light soil it is best applied when well rotted, because in that condition it assists in the retention of moisture, and plant foods in a soluble form. An acquaintance of mine who was somewhat of an amateur in farming matters, asked an experienced farmer which is the best time "to put manure on?" and got for a reply, "put it on," meaning thereby that you cannot be far wrong if instead of allowing the manure to lie in a pile for an indefinite time you apply it to the land irrespective of the season—an opinion which needs some modification, as I happen to know from experience. If manure is spread over a hillside when the ground is frozen heavy rain or strong "wash" of melted snow before the ground is thawed out, then the greatest portion of it will be carried down to the hollows below or, perhaps, into the nearest creek or river.

I believe I am right in stating that most of the upland soils of Wallowa county are of volcanic origin, and volcanic soils are rich in mineral plant food, but lacking in nitrogen, while on the other hand the soils of the bottom lands, the black soils, if they are deficient in anything it is probably in the mineral constituents. About two years ago I purchased nitrate of soda, superphosphate, sulphate of potash and gypsum, or "land plaster" as gypsum is sometimes termed, with a view to determining what elements of plant food, if any, were lacking in the soil of my ranch. After experimenting with these materials, I could find no apparent result, except in the case of the nitrate of soda, a result which corroborates my previous statement, that volcanic soils are rich in mineral plant food but deficient in nitrogen, a defect which could be efficiently remedied by a liberal application of barnyard manure. There are other ways of getting nitrogen into the soil which space forbids me to enlarge upon at present.

R. S. LOVELY, Wallowa County.

Nice fresh cake made to order by the members of the Woman's Exchange.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

Department of the Interior.
U. S. Land Office at La Grande, Oregon, January 12, 1909.

Notice is hereby given that Albert L. Childers, of Enterprise, Oregon, who, on October 16, 1902, made Homestead Entry, No. 12940, for W ½ NE ¼, N½ SE¼, Section 15, Township 1 South, Range 44 East, Willamette Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make Final Five Year Proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before D. W. Sheahan, U. S. Commissioner, at his office at Enterprise, Oregon, on the 20th day of February, 1909.

Claimant names as witnesses: Frank W. Heskett, of Wallowa, Oregon; David E. Hearing, of Wallowa, Oregon; Nicolas W. Ownbey, of Enterprise, Oregon; James W. Childers, of Enterprise, Oregon.

F. C. Bramwell, Register.

NOTICE OF GUARDIAN'S SALE OF REAL PROPERTY.

In the County Court of the State of Oregon, for Wallowa County.

Notice is hereby given that by virtue of an order of the above-entitled Court, made and entered on the 11th day of January, 1909, licensing, authorizing and empowering the undersigned guardian of the estate of Beulah Bunnell and Irene Bunnell, minors, to sell all of the interest of the said minors in and to the E ½ of the NW ¼ and the W ½ of the NE ¼ of Section 35 in Township 1 North of Range 44 E. W. M. in Wallowa County, Oregon, the same being an undivided one-third interest, I will from and after the 12th day of February, 1909, proceed to sell at private sale all of the interest of said minors in and to the said described real property. The terms of said sale are as follows: the entire purchase price is to be paid in cash.

Dated this 12th day of January, 1909.

MINNIE AKINS, Guardian.

First insertion Jan. 14, 1909; last Feb. 11, 1909.

BURLEIGH & BOYD, Attorneys for Guardian. 2315

RESTORATION TO ENTRY OF LANDS IN National Forest. Notice is hereby given that the lands described below, embracing 1129 acres, within the Wallowa National Forest, Oregon, will be subject to settlement and entry under the provisions of the homestead laws of the United States and the act of June 11, 1906, (34 Stat., 233), at the United States land office at La Grande on March 4, 1909. Any settler who was actually and in good faith claiming any of said lands for agricultural purposes prior to January 1, 1906, and has not abandoned same, has a preference right to make a homestead entry for the lands actually occupied. Said lands were listed upon the applications of the persons mentioned below, who have a preference right subject to the prior right of any such settler, provided such settler or applicant is qualified to make homestead entry and the preference right is exercised prior to March 4, 1909, on which date the lands will be subject to settlement and entry by any qualified person. The lands are as follows: The E½ of SW¼, Sec. 35, W½ of SW¼, Sec. 35, T. 1 N., R. 46 E., listed upon application of Maggie E. Beecher, of Enterprise, Oregon. N½ of SW¼, Sec. 29, SE¼ of NE¼, NE¼ of SE¼, Sec. 30, T. 2 S., R. 47 E., application of Adam F. Sheets, of Joseph, Oregon. NE¼ of SE¼, Sec. 11, S½ of NW¼, SW¼ of SW¼, Sec. 2, T. 2 S., R. 47 E., application of George W. Fisher, of Summerville, Oregon. W½ of SW¼, Sec. 17, E½ of SE¼, Sec. 18, T. 2 S., R. 47 E., application of Perry A. Foster, of Joseph, Oregon. NE¼, Sec. 18, T. 2 S., R. 47 E., application of George Kellogg, of Joseph, Oregon. S½ of NE¼, SW¼ of NE¼, NW¼ of SE¼, Sec. 7, T. 2 S., R. 47 E., application of Walter Cundell, of Elgin, Oregon. SW¼ of NE¼, W½ of SE¼, NE¼ of SW¼, Sec. 5, T. 2 S., R. 47 E., application of John Gray, of La Grande, Oregon. Fred Dennett, Commissioner of the General Land Office. Approved December 22, 1908, Jesse E. Wilson, Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

Lists 194, 195, 196, 197.

Notice of Dissolution of Partnership.

Notice is hereby given that the copartnership heretofore existing between F. P. Somers and William Campbell of Wallowa County, Oregon, is this day mutually dissolved, the said F. P. Somers will assume all the indebtedness of the said firm, and will make all collections of moneys due to the said firm at this date.

Dated this 2nd day of January, 1909, at White Bird, Idaho. 2314

F. P. SOMERS.
WILLIAM CAMPBELL.

Take your porcelain and graniteware to the Women's Exchange and have them repaired.

THE OTHER GIRL.

By Martha Cobb Sanford.

Copyrighted, 1908, by Associated Literary Press.

Grantham and Cunningham were seated before an open fire at the club enjoying a confidential after dinner smoke.

"So you're the same eligible old bachelor, are you, Grant?" jollied Cunningham. "I phophesied this summer would land you sure. Didn't you meet her, after all?"

"Meet whom?" drawled Grantham good naturedly.

"Oh, this incomparable, irresistible ideal of a woman you're always talking about. Aren't you beginning to fear she may not exist, after all?"

"On the contrary," Grantham answered between puffs, "I'm more than ever sure she does. I've seen her back."

Cunningham burst into a hearty laugh.

"Did she turn it on you, old man?" he teased.

"Not in the way you mean, Cunning," replied Grantham reminiscently. Then, after blowing a few leisurely smoke rings, he waxed communicative.

"You see," he continued, "I've never met her face to face, so she couldn't really turn her back to me. And, what's more, I'm never going to give her the chance."

"You mean that you do not intend to meet her?" gasped his friend in astonishment.

"Cunning, you've no imagination," reproved Grantham. "Of course I intend to meet her some time, but I mean to be perfectly sure of myself and of her before I do. I'm going to propose the first time I speak to her."

"Most extraordinary," commented Cunningham. "Where does she live?"

"Don't know," puffed Grantham.

This was too much for Cunningham. He suspended smoking for a few seconds to observe the placid countenance of Grantham, decided that any speech was inadequate and lit a fresh cigar.

GRANTHAM STARED AT HIS FRIEND A MOMENT, SCARCELY COMPREHENDING.

"You see," resumed Grantham, smiling in an exasperatingly satisfied manner, "I just happened to trail after her a bit in a canoe one fine day this summer. The way her queenly little head was set on her shoulders and the way her soft hair blew about in the wind and the way she handled a paddle"—

"Here, hold on!" interrupted Cunningham, brutally unsympathetic. "Do you mean to say that you can rave like that over a girl whose face you have never seen?"

Grantham nodded.

"But she's as homely as a mud fence," grunted Cunningham.

"That doesn't make any difference," announced Grantham. "I love her, and I shall marry her just the same."

"And meanwhile you don't even know where she lives," Cunningham reminded him.

"Oh, I have a notion I may meet her any day. My guide and the guide in her canoe was talking around some Boston people. So you see the case isn't hopeless, Cunning," Grantham concluded affably.

By the time the two men had met again Grantham had seen her.

"Her face?" demanded Cunningham abruptly.

"No, just her back," sighed Grantham ecstatically.

"Well, how in thunder did you recognize her—that's what I'd like to know?"

"Grantham, I'd know her anywhere. Whether she wore a little white sweater, a tailor made gown or an evening frock, I'd know her. She can't disguise the pose of that queenly head. She can't"—

"Probably she can't," interrupted Cunningham indifferently. "But I must say the affair's a little too high pitched for my common comprehension. My sister thinks it's awfully exciting, though. I've been telling her about it.

"Says she'd just be in the seventh heaven of happiness if anything so romantic—I think that's the word she used—ever happened to her. Tried to convince me that it was noble and courageous of you to declare you'd marry a girl you knew you could love, no matter what she looked like. I told her it was idiotic foolishness."

At this Grantham chuckled and settled himself still more comfortably in the big easy chair. "She would be perfectly stunning," he mused, sotto voce, "in an evening frock."

Cunningham sighed. "Let's go to the theater," he urged. "You ought to keep in the public eye, you know, if you're going to bring this will-o'-the-wisp chase to a finish."

The play was fairly amusing, but Grantham found time to study the backs of the different women.

Suddenly toward the end of the second act he grasped Cunningham's arm tightly.

"She's here," he whispered. "Look in the second lower box at the left."

Cunningham looked. In fact, he had scarcely looked anywhere else since the play began.

"Isn't she beautiful?" Grantham breathed.

Cunningham nodded sullenly. "Come on out," he almost commanded as the curtain fell on an unheeded climax. In a corner of the lobby, apart from the crowd, the two men halted. Cunningham cleared his throat.

"Grantham," he began impressively, "I have to shatter your dream. But you can't have her. I've chosen her myself."

"Has she chosen you?" he asked quietly.

"Why, no; I can't say that she has," Cunningham admitted reluctantly. "But I'm hoping she will. I'm playing a very discreet game. I'm not boring her to death the way all the others are."

"You'll introduce me?" Grantham asked quietly.

Cunningham hesitated, but only for the fraction of a minute. "Certainly," he answered courteously.

The two men entered the box just as the curtain was going up for the third act. The introductions were necessarily hurried.

"Miss Curtiss," Cunningham said briefly and formally, "Mr. Grantham." Then, turning, with a familiar nod, to the other young woman in the box, he added: "Nell, this is Mr. Grantham. You've heard me speak of him. Grant, my sister."

After the first scene conversation began again.

"He's a great admirer of yours, Miss Curtiss," Cunningham said, indicating Grantham, "or, rather, I should say, another great admirer of yours."

"Nonsense," laughed Miss Curtiss. "It's your sister he admires. He hasn't taken his eyes off her since he came into the box."

Cunningham's astonishment was exceeded only by his relief. He felt like slapping Grantham on the shoulder and wishing him good luck. But Grantham was getting on very well without any such encouragement.

"Of course," he was telling Nell, with an unembarrassed frankness that she found most embarrassing, "I'm glad you are so wonderfully beautiful, but I should have loved you just the same if your eyes had not been so blue and if your chin hadn't had a dimple in it."

"Oh, please, Mr. Grantham!" protested Nell blushingly. "You mustn't."

"But I thought you'd understand," pleaded Grantham wistfully. "Your brother said"—

"Yes, yes; I know," admitted Nell quickly, "but you see I didn't know it was my romance then. I thought it was some other girl's."

"But didn't you say you'd be in the seventh heaven of delight if anything so romantic ever happened to you?" Grantham cross questioned her gently. "I had banked all my hopes on that. I told myself that was the way the other girl would feel."

"Yes," Nell answered dreamily. Then, after a moment's pause, "But it's all so very sudden."

"Not for me," pleaded Grantham. "I've loved you ever since I first saw you, and you've really loved me ever since your brother told you about me, so"—

"Indeed I haven't," contradicted Nell warmly. "I've only envied the other girl."

At this Grantham laughed softly.

"But since there isn't any other girl you aren't really going to turn your back on me for good, dear, are you?"

At this Nell turned a face of such radiant happiness upon him that Grantham knew he need have no fear. Still her answer wasn't just what he expected.

"If only I were that other girl and as homely as a mud fence," she told him mischievously, "I'd know exactly what to answer."

A Contest of Experts.

Ian Maclaren used to tell a story of two Scots worthies, douce elders of the kirk, who found themselves alone in the compartment of a railway carriage traveling in Perthshire, and, thrown upon each other for company, they fastened on a knotty point in theology to beguile the time. The subject of controversy was whether a man is saved by faith or works. The discussion became heated, and the train drew up at the destination of one of the debaters not a moment too soon. Loath to give up the argument, they continued to wrangle until the train began to move out of the station, and the discharged passenger had to run along the platform to eke out the precious moments left for a last word. The subject seemed to hang fire for a perilous moment—the train was accelerating its speed—when back from the figure leaning far out of the carriage window came the cry, "Hebrews—ten—thirty-eight!" ("The just shall live by faith.") Quick as lightning the other flung after the receding antagonist, "James—first—twenty-four!" ("By works a man is justified and not by faith only.")—Harper's Weekly.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.

In the County Court of the State of Oregon, for Wallowa County.

In the Matter of the Estate of Martha J. Brown, Deceased.

Notice is hereby given, that the undersigned, the administrator of the estate of Martha J. Brown, deceased, has filed his final account of his administration of the said estate with the Clerk of the County Court of and for said County and State, and that the County Court of said Wallowa County, by order, has fixed Thursday, February 4th, 1909, at the hour of ten o'clock in the forenoon of said day, as the time, and the County Court room in the County Court House in the City of Enterprise, in said county, as the place, to hear objections to said final account and settle the same. All parties interested in said estate having objections thereto, if any there be, are notified to present the same, in writing, at said time and place.

Dated this 4th day of January, 1909.

J. A. BURLEIGH,
Administrator of the Estate of Martha J. Brown, Deceased. 2305

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