

***** **RE'S SEED SOWERS.** *****

George H. Bennett.

The twenty-seven great botanical provinces in the vegetable kingdom, comprising more than one hundred thousand species of plants, afford us many illustrations of sowing and reaping, of consequences in the kingdoms of distributing seeds, and the fields and hills with the forms of verdure, has been ally provided for by the Creator. The oak growing alone on a hillside, will in course of time, undisturbed, surround itself with oaks. Acorns will drop the outer circle of the extended leaves. Some will be trampled soft ground; in a rainy time, passing hoof; others will be by the falling leaves, and will be buried by the action of frost—only to burst into newness of life in the spring. So the oak saplings up around the parent oak, lift their boughs higher and as the years go by, and in time ripened acorns fall their extending branches to find in the moist soil, where they and grow. So that great oak is the center of a grove of oaks, passing years lengthen into centuries and a great forest of oaks, many other kinds of trees, with shrubs and imnumerable cover the wide extending plain and the distant hills. My boyhood days my father took with him one day to examine a series of mounds, which had been built up by the ancient mound-builders. We found them in the depth of a forest of giant trees. The mounds were probably sixteen feet in diameter and four feet in height. In them we found numerous human bones, but they were so nearly decayed to dust that they crumbled to powder. The interesting fact that greatly impressed me was that in the oak, and maple, and other trees of great size grew on all and even on the mounds themselves. The old mound-builders inhabited these ancient fields, but passed away at last; and then a dense forest gradually covered their old habitations, and the place of the dead. It from whence came these other seeds and shrubs, and the tangle of a in this forest of oaks? No sound that forest of oak lifted its branches toward the sun, and cast shadow in the noontide heat, than is lodged in its branches, and wild staves crossed the open plain to in its grateful shade. Among the pines of the trees the robin built its nest. In a little while four bright eggs gladdened the mother robin's heart. Soon there were four angry little birds. The parent robin were kept pretty busy finding insects, and ripe berries, and juicy berries for those four wide-open mouths. But some of the berries fell from the nest, and some of the cherries were dropped on the way from the cherry tree in the distant thicket; and so in course of time a wild cherry tree grew in a cluster of raspberries. In the grass under the trees the bright dandelion lifts its golden face to the sun. But how came there? Mother nature brought it in the wings of the wind from yonder ope. Every little seed ripened in at hardy flower is attached to the middle of a delicate little parasol of withered down, which the breeze catches up and whisks away. One of these little seed carriers fell among the oaks, and a new citizen was added to the community. But we notice broad leaved, strong and hardy plants growing in an open place, at the foot of a giant oak. Its roots are driven deep into the ground. It is the burdock. It grew along the caving banks of a winding stream away over the distant hill. A wild animal was passing through the clump of weeds one night, when a burr with its shaggy pat, and was carried to the grove of rees, where it was at last torn off—and so it grew. Thus the colony grew pace. One summer day a whirlwind came across the rolling fields from the northwest. It brought with it a cloud of downy particles and whirling butterflies. Many of these fell among the trees. The showers washed them into the crevices in the soil; and from the shreds of cotton came forth the tiny cottonwood; and from the whirling butterflies sprang the modest popples. So we find in the thriving community many honorable citizens—and some less honorable. Here grows a Russian thistle. It is a sturdy, bristling, aggressive herb. It often attains more than a yard in diameter, and bears two hundred thousand seeds. But how came it here? This plant when matured is easily broken

off close to the ground by the wind. It is thence sent rolling away before the gale, to scatter its seeds—and it was driven among the trees. Thus it is the seeds and fruits of many kinds of trees and shrubs and herbs are borne by the squirrels and birds, and by the winds and flooding streams into new regions, where they find lodgment—and the forest covers the earth.

The human heart is like the fertile field, and there are seeds of virtue and also seeds of vice. Where the seeds of virtue are planted in the heart, there around them spring up other virtues to bless and hallow the life; and where vice is sown, there also will soon appear other vices to make life miserable. The wise and thoughtful parent will quietly prune away the sprouting vices, and the sensible youth will quickly weed out the thistles.

Mother nature employs many agencies in seed distribution and the dispersal of species. Mosses and lichens cover the damp ground, the rocks, and the trees, in many places. They spring from minute spores which have been sown by unseen hands—the winds. They are often carried great distances. Mosses sometimes grow two thousand feet above the snow line on mountain summits. Their impalpable seeds are borne even from Europe to the Antarctic regions by the trade winds. Sir James Ross brought from the frozen south two hundred species of mosses, which are common to the mountain regions of Europe. Ocean currents and rivers are important agencies in this great work. Fruits and nuts grown in the West Indies have been cast ashore by the Gulf stream on the northwest coast of Europe.

The planting of the forest, and the spread of the kingdom of plants with its myriad forms of life, by so many agencies, reminds us of the growth of human character. The heart is a veritable garden spot where many seeds are sown. The seeds of virtue are sown by friends who are wise and good and true, by noble precept and righteous example. The seeds of vice are sown by evil minded companions, by bad books, the saloon, the gambling den—these are enemies which sow tares in the youthful heart. Well may the husbandman be troubled lest the host of pests destroy his grain and bring his labor to naught, and so, well may the father and mother be on their guard lest the son or daughter be overcome by the evils which swarm around them, "and the thorns spring up and choke them."

MUCH GOOD RESULTS

(Continued from page one.)
 address, "Gripping the Home." This was by far the best talk of the convention, and surely inspired all who heard it to bigger activities in Sunday school work. The regular convention offering was taken and the session closed for the day.
 At 10 a. m. Sunday the delegates attended the various schools of the town. At 11 o'clock the devotional services were led by the pastor of the Christian church, after which Rev. Phipps talked on "Teacher" from seven points—trained, enthusiastic, animated, consecrated, happy, evangelistic and reliable. Mr. Phipps said the benediction which dismissed us till 2:30.

The opening devotional service was led by S. A. Ramsdell. Mrs. Danenhower of Portland was to speak on teacher training, but was absent on account of illness. Her place was filled by Mr. Phipps. He emphasized and illustrated the immense value of special training in order to be the right kind of a teacher. He told of the coming state convention at Portland on April 28-29-30. The convention will be held in the new Presbyterian church which has the largest Sunday school and the finest rooms in the west. They will endeavor to make it the greatest convention ever held on the coast and have W. C. Pearce, the greatest Sunday school worker in the world and several others of importance engaged to speak. Another important feature will be the Sunday school pageant which will be held in some theater and will be staged by 500 people. It will portray the teaching of the bible from the early Jewish Rabbi down to the present day from rank Sunday school.

Miss Parker of Monmouth gave a very full and interesting report of the Girls' convention, held in Albany last year.

At 3:45 President Seymour dismissed the convention and all who attended felt that it had been a success and went back to their home schools with a broader vision, determined to do work that will make for growth both intensive and extensive.

Shovel Slips Into Pit.

The large steam shovel belonging to the Willamina brick plant is reposing in the bottom of the clay pit, and the operators are speculating on the best method of recovering it. The outfit slipped into the pit when the bank caved in after the recent rains.

GAME CODE WINS HOUSE

REVISION, AS IN BILL, SHORTENS DEER SEASON 15 DAYS.

Limit on Female Chinese Pheasants Extended to Two—Quail Time Nearly Shut Out.

The house has passed the general game bill revising the game code in accordance with the action of the committee of the whole house. The principal changes in the existing law are:

To make the deer season from August 15 to October 31 instead of from August 1 to October 31 as at present. To open the season on female Chinese pheasants with a limit of two females in a bag of five birds. No more than four females can be killed in any seven consecutive days, however.

No kind of quail can be killed at any time of the year in any part of the state with the exception of Klamath county, where an open season from October 1 to October 10 has been granted.

The season on Chinese pheasants remains from October 1 to October 31 as at present in all the counties of Western Oregon with the exception of Jackson county, where the season is to be from October 1 to October 10, and Josephine, Coos and Curry counties, where there is to be no open season at all.

The open season on ducks, geese and other aquatic birds in Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, Morrow, Umatilla and Wheeler counties will be from September 15 to April 1, instead of from September 15 to February 15 as at present.

In Harney, Malheur and Lake counties, the season on these birds will be from September 1 to December 1 and from March 1 to April 15. The present season is from September 15 to March 15. In Baker county the season will be from September 15 to April 1. In Western Oregon there will be no change.

The season on sage hens will be from July 15 to August 31 instead of August 1 to August 31.

Wasco and Sherman counties are to have open season on prairie chickens from September 15 to October 15 and Union county from October 1 to October 10.

It will be permissible to sell geese killed in Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, Harney, Crook, Morrow and Umatilla counties.

HOPS SELL AT 13 CENTS.

New Crop Contracts Are Made at 12 Cents.—Activity in California.

The best spot hops have been taken at 13 cents, and for the new crop 12 cents is now quoted. The demand for both olds and news is greater than the offerings. Thirteen cents was paid by Bishop & Key to H. F. Jackson for 77 bales and also to Upson for 24 bales, both in the Silverton section. The F. J. Johnson company bought 140 bales at Silverton, the lots of O. L. Jackson, Winger, Kaiser and McCleary, at prices that average better than 12 cents.

Rose & Winkler of Independence, closed a contract with Durbin & Conroy for 40,000 pounds of 1915 at 12 cents. A few other contract deals at this price have been made.

In a review of the year 1914 in the hop trade, Manger & Henley of London, say: "At the beginning of the season the demand was slow, and prices for the new crop ranged from 80s to 112s per cwt. There being a general want of confidence, owing to the war, buyers were reluctant to operate at these figures and prices gradually declined until they reached 65s to 90s per cwt. A large business was done at this level, and a great clearance effected, as a result of which prices improved 10s per cwt, from the lowest point, with indications of a further advance, until the announcement of the increased beer duty. This had the immediate effect of stopping business, and since then the trade has remained quiet."

"A good many acres of hops have been grubbed in consequence of the low prices which have prevailed, but reserve stocks of all kinds, being very small, and imports greatly below the average, holders have confidence and look for improved prices in the near future."

The Probate Court.

In the matter of the estate of Alice Thun, deceased, W. J. White, Daniel P. Stauffer and T. T. Notson have been appointed appraisers.

In the estate of Geo. E. Cutler, deceased, an application of widow for assignment of dower has been filed. Tuesday, March 30 has been set for hearing. It was ordered that notice be given to the heirs.

In the estate of John S. Martin, deceased, Edward J. Himes, Geo. Culloch and J. Waldo Finn, have been appointed commissioners to a measure dower in certain property.

Mr. Chas. Hartung of Falls City was a Dallas visitor on Wednesday.

WATCH FOR THIS FELLOW

We are informed by our wholesale news company that a subscription faker is working in this territory. He offers standard magazines at greatly reduced rates, and collects as he goes. Described as of medium height, weighs about 140 pounds, wears blue suit and nose glasses. Has victimized many people. Look out for him.

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SYNOPSIS OF THE ANNUAL STATEMENT OF THE

Guardian Casualty & Guaranty Company

of Salt Lake City in the State of Utah on the 31st day of December, 1914, made to the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Oregon, pursuant to law:

Capital. Amount of capital paid up.....\$250,000.00

Income. Net premiums received during the year.....\$551,923.81

Interest, dividends and rents received during the year.....41,802.81

Income from other sources received during the year.....7,573.48

Total income.....\$600,304.10

Disbursements. Losses paid during the year, including adjustment expenses, etc.....\$363,321.95

Dividends paid during the year on capital stock.....50,000.00

Commissions and salaries paid during the year.....223,864.85

Taxes, licenses and fees paid during the year.....9,905.71

Amount of all other expenditures.....45,461.76

Total expenditures.....\$653,154.29

Assets. Value of real estate owned (market value).....\$5,508.45

Value of stocks and bonds owned (market value).....62,187.50

Loans on mortgage and collateral, etc.....\$54,491.95

Cash in banks and on hand.....190,725.11

Premiums in course of collection written since September 30, 1914.....\$22,994.19

Other assets.....2,108.30

Interest and rents due and accrued.....8,904.83

Total assets admitted in Oregon.....\$958,744.98

Liabilities. Gross claims for losses unpaid.....\$200,741.55

Amount of unearned premiums on all outstanding risks.....148,226.30

Due for commission and brokerage.....\$6,255.54

All other liabilities.....16,120.98

Total liabilities.....\$451,344.37

Total premiums in force December 31, 1914.....\$294,432.52

Business in Oregon for the Year. Premiums returned during the year.....\$42,757.62

License paid during the year.....\$4,409.90

By GEO. V. CUTLER, Vice-President.

Statutory resident general agent and attorney for service: D. C. Burntrager, Northwestern National Bank building.