

STATE NEWS IN BRIEF.

General crop conditions in Polk county are bad and unless rain falls soon all harvests will be cut at least one-half. Aphids have destroyed all vetch and pea crops and have materially damaged the wheat.

Fire, believed to be of incendiary origin, completely wiped out the plant of the Rice-Kinder Lumber company at Lenta, near Portland. The loss is estimated at between \$60,000 and \$70,000, covered by \$15,000 insurance.

Physical connection between the Oregon Electric and the Southern Pacific at somewhere near Jefferson street in Portland is ordered by Regional Director Ashton in a letter to the Public Service commission. Similar physical connection also is ordered at Albany.

A. E. Shuster, the North Bend justice of the peace who was convicted of appropriating \$800 of county and state money to his own uses, was sentenced by Judge John S. Coke, of the Circuit court, to spend from one to seven years in the state penitentiary and pay a fine of \$1300.

Although crops about Sheridan are fairly good on an average this year, the amount of rain for the spring season has been very small. At the present time it is feared the grain will not come up to the standard. Farmers are cultivating the soil as much as possible to keep the wet subsoil near the roots of garden stuff.

So excellent has been the work of the women, girls and boys who volunteered to go into the berry fields near Hood River that many of the growers feel that the problem has been met to their entire satisfaction and have declared their intention to continue to grow berries rather than plow up their fields as planned in case their berry crops were lost.

The sale of 4,190,000 feet of western yellow pine and 380,000 feet of other timber was authorized by District Forester Cecil to the Baker White Pine Lumber company, of Baker, Or. The timber is located on the Burnt river watershed, Whitman national forest, in Eastern Oregon. The prices range from \$2.25 to \$3 for the yellow pine to 50 cents per 1000 for the other species.

Indians from Warm Springs and Celilo take the myriads of brown, green and black aphids found sucking the life from plants in gardens adjoining the strawberry fields of Hood River as a forewarning of the approach of a severe winter. The warnings of the red men are having a better effect toward securing an advance ordering of winter fuel than the official advice of the fuel administration.

A second order granting a franchise has been granted to the Siuslaw Boom company covering a part of the Siuslaw river and streams and tributaries in Lane county. Under the new order Knowles, Hadsell and Sweet creeks which were covered by the first order are eliminated. The order is also amended to provide that the streams covered by the franchise are navigable to logs and provides that private operators along the streams shall not interfere with the rights of the company. The first order provided that the company should not interfere with the rights of private owners.

Portland's most novel demonstration of what the Red Cross can do will be furnished by the opening of a Red Cross salvage bureau which will handle junk—old iron, old metals of every possible description, rags, bones, paper, discarded material of all sorts ranging from tubes that once held shaving cream or tooth paste to the remains of great pieces of machinery.

The possible construction of a railroad by the federal government from Yaquina bay, through the Waldport country and into Lane county for the purpose of reaching valuable spruce tracts, is indicated by the presence of surveyors who are working on the west coast of Lane county near Heeclia Head cove. The engineers have been in the field for several weeks.

To have his right arm shot away and suffer other serious injuries while on duty in the village of Mellor, was the unfortunate fate of R. T. Cornelius, an employe of the Pelican Bay Lumber company, when a highpower rifle in the hands of C. E. Lusk was cleaning his rifle in the room adjacent to that of Cornelius and it is believed that the muzzle of the gun was not over two feet from the victim when it was discharged.

Total fire loss in the state outside of Portland for May is estimated at \$261,000 by State Fire Marshal Wells, in his monthly report. This includes losses on 69 buildings, including 33 dwellings, 24 mercantile buildings and stocks, seven barns, four sawmills and one school. Two of the fires were from overheated stoves, six from explosion of gasoline, six from electric explosion of lamps, six from iron and defective wiring, eight from exposures, 21 from defective fuses, and 23 were incendiary or of unknown causes.

After L. G. McDonald, alias George Thompson, alias George Van Buren, parole violator, had been apprehended by Des Moines authorities and Oregon auditors were about to go after him when he was shot by a Des Moines man. The news reached Salem that Thompson had been turned loose at Des Moines.

The recent hot days have caused a steady rise of the Columbia river, which now stands at the highest mark this season. Bottom land gardens are submerged. Probably the greatest loss will be to George L. Davenport, plant land, who had his foreman plant a choice variety of potatoes in the land north of the Mosler depot last week.

Value of Farm Products

Nearly Doubled in the Past Two Years

In the years when cotton lint was sold by farmers at a low price, and when cotton seed was little used and was more likely a waste and a nuisance, the cotton crop was outranked in value by corn, hay, and usually by wheat, so that it was commonly the fourth crop in order of value. By 1890 cotton had taken precedence of the wheat crop, although the exceptional situation during the first two years of the present war gave wheat the higher place. Gradually the cotton crop, lint and seed, climbed over the great hay crop, and thus has cotton become in recent years second only to corn.

The corn crop of the United States is by far the most valuable agricultural product. When the colonists at Jamestown and Plymouth were saved from starvation by the corn provided by the Indians, this was a common Indian crop east of the Great Plains, and its annual production at that time has been estimated to have been possibly 2,000,000 bushels.

Corn at once became the mainstay of the agriculture of the whites, and the value of this crop, at farm prices, according to the estimate of the United States department of agriculture, reached the extraordinary total of \$4,054,000,000 in 1917 for 3,150,000,000 bushels, the largest and most valuable crop of corn ever grown. The cotton crop is next below in value, with an estimated production of 10,940,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight, worth at the farm, \$1,518,000,000. When \$327,000,000 is added for seed, the aggregate value of the cotton crop of 1917, at farm prices, becomes \$1,845,000,000.

Hay is not the joke that the funny writers would have it. Indispensable to proper crop rotation and to stock keeping, hay often contended with both cotton and wheat for a place next to corn in value, but in the order of crop values in recent years it has a settled third place, below corn and cotton, and usually above wheat before the present war. In 1914 to 1916 it was slightly exceeded in value by wheat, but it resumed its third place with emphasis in 1917, when the value of the crop was \$1,567,000,000 for 95,000,000 tons, both quantity and value making the highest record, while the wheat crop value was \$1,307,000,000 for 651,000,000 bushels.

Oatmeal was only for the sick, many years ago, and was sold by drug stores; now, this food, more especially in the form of rolled oats, has become dietary, and horses and other live stock share the large crop with their owners. In both production and value the oats crop of 1917 exceeds that of every former year, and the 1,587,000,000 bushels have a farm value of \$1,061,000,000. This is regularly the fifth crop in order of value.

The potato crop of 443,000,000 bushels in 1917, the record crop, has a producers' value of \$554,000,000. A very rough estimate gives the value of \$298,000,000 to the log, lumber and wood production of the farm. This is the production of what is often called the farmer's wood lot, but in some parts of the country the "lot" is often a sizable forest.

The tobacco crop of 1917, also, is at the top of the record, the 1,196,000,000 pounds being worth \$297,000,000 to the farmers. Below this, in order of value, follow the barley crop with a farm value of \$237,000,000; apples, \$213,000,000; kafir corn and milo maize, \$131,000,000; dry edible beans, \$111,000,000; peanuts, \$107,000,000, and rye, \$100,000,000.

Every other crop has a value less than that of rye. An estimated value of \$96,000,000 is given to sweet potatoes; of \$68,000,000 to rice; of \$61,000 to peaches; of \$46,000,000 to sugar beets; of \$39,000,000 to onions; of \$35,000,000 to cabbages; of \$34,000,000 to oranges; of \$28,000,000 each to sugar cane and buckwheat; of \$25,000,000 to flaxseed. At the lower end of the scale are "sorghum cane sold" (largely for forage), and sirup, \$24,000,000; clover seed, \$17,000,000; broom corn, \$16,000,000; and pears, \$15,000,000. The grand aggregate farm-crop value of 1917 is \$13,610,000,000, an increase of 97 per cent over the \$6,907,000,000 of 1915, or nearly a doubling in two years.

Prevent Food Losses

Perishables Can Be Saved by Careful Handling

(By the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Important amounts of perishable foods are made dangerous or inedible in households because they are exposed unnecessarily to heat, moisture, germs, dust, dirt, or to flies and other insects.

Much milk spoils quickly because it is kept uncovered in warm kitchens. Close observance of the doctrine, "Keep perishable food, especially milk, cool, clean and covered continuously," may make a striking difference in the food bills of many families.

Fresh vegetables not needed immediately for other purposes should not be thrown out or allowed to spoil, but should be used in making soups, salads, or combination dishes. Fruits are sometimes allowed to go to waste which might be stewed and kept a day or two until needed.

Vegetables and fruits should not be stored in quantities in hot, damp, and poorly ventilated bins. Such conditions hasten wilting, fermentation and decay.

Surplus fruits, beans, tomatoes and other vegetables produced in home gardens should not be allowed to spoil on the vines or rot on the ground. A morning's work would can and preserve such surplusage for use when fruits and vegetables are scarce and high in price.

Much food, ruined by being stored where flies or other insects, or rats and mice can get at it, can be saved if it is given proper care. Much of it is real food is ruined because it is not kept in cans or other suitable receptacles and protected against weevils or other insects. Prevent such losses by careful handling.

With the Inventors.

A French system of rapid telegraphy by which 40,000 words an hour can be transmitted has worked successfully for distances up to 900 miles in that country.

Candlestick supports under a new motorcycle saddle eliminate all movements other than those in a perpendicular direction and thus absorb the more serious shocks.

Experiments are under way in England with a new fuel for automobiles that is made from sugar refinery refuse and is said to have greater power than gasoline.

Automobile oil is now conveniently put up in cone-shaped containers, and to empty one the point is cut off with a pocket knife and the end thrust into the engine port, into which it drains.

Slabman Jack Coombs, After Amassing Big Money, Declares He Will Retire This Season

Jack Coombs, who left Colby college in 1905 to become a major league pitcher with the Mackmen, and made good right off the reel, is still rated as an effective slabman.

When his arm is right he is one of the hardest pitchers in the National league to beat, and he has long been a hoodoo to the Giants, who have



Jack Coombs, Pitcher.

more trouble beating him than any other pitcher on the Robins' staff.

This is Coombs' eleventh year as a major league pitcher, and he says it will be his last. He announced his plan to retire from the game during the training season at Hot Springs, and as he has earned big money and is well "heeled," he will probably make good his plan to retire.

Deer Do Not Interfere With Eradication of Cattle Tick

(By the United States Department of Agriculture.)

In regions where campaigns to eradicate the cattle fever tick are being carried on, the presence of deer does not interfere in the success of permanently banishing the parasite. This has been proved in California, where deer are numerous in formerly tick-infested regions which are now free from the parasite.

"Deer were known to be plentiful on many of the large California ranches that were tick-infested," said one of the federal inspectors now working in Southern states, "and deer killed on these ranches were often found infested."

"It was our experience in California that as soon as the cattle tick was eradicated from cattle the deer in that section were no longer found tick-infested. This seems to justify the theory that, as the deer is not the natural host of the fever tick, deer which do become infested with cattle ticks are infested by seed ticks which are the progeny of ticks developed on cattle."

Moon's Influence on Plant Growth Wholly Negligible, Is Belief of Scientists

The old belief that the moon has some sort of influence on plant growth still persists in some farming sections. Some farmers, it is said, refuse to plant crops or to kill hogs unless the moon is in some particular position.

The influence of the moon on the growth of crops, or on other agricultural operations, has always been denied by scientific men. The following brief statement by C. F. Marvin, chief of the United States weather bureau, printed in the Rural New Yorker, shows what they think of the matter:

"It is the general belief of scientists that the moon has no appreciable influence on temperature, rainfall, or any other weather element, or on plant growth.

"Plant growth depends upon temperature, light, humidity and plant food (both in the soil and in the air), and its availability. Obviously the moon neither mellowes the ground nor fertilizes it, neither does it alter the composition of the atmosphere; hence it affects neither the mechanical condition of the soil nor the kind or quantity of available plant food.

"If the moon has any influence on plant growth, it would seem that it must exert this influence through its light. Experiment, however, shows that when a plant is so shadowed that it gets only one one-hundredth of normal daylight, it grows but little better than it does in absolute darkness. Full daylight is about 600,000 times brighter than full moonlight; hence one one-hundredth of daylight, already too feeble to stimulate appreciably plant activity, is still 6,000 times brighter than full moonlight. The conclusion is that, even in respect to light stimulus, the moon's influence on plant growth is wholly negligible."

SIX SMILES

All Alike.

"Savages will trade vast tracts of land for a string of beads."

"Well," replied Miss Cayenne, "I know a man who wears evening clothes and carries a cane, and he did the same thing. He went broke trying to pay for a pearl necklace."

Incredible Hardship.

"So your brother's joined the army?" "Yes."

"How does he like it?" "Oh, the food is something awful. Why, he hasn't had pie for breakfast once since he left home."

A Good Reason.

"Why don't you accept him if he has offered to have his life insured in your favor?"

"Because if he was a good risk for the insurance company, he'd be a bad one for me."

Market Term Defined.

"Pa, what's 'manipulation for a rise' mean?" "When I pull the bedclothes off you in the morning."

No Trouble.

The small boy stood at the garden gate and howled and howled. A passing old lady paused beside him.

"What's the matter, little man?" she asked in a kindly voice.

"O-o-oh!" wailed the youngster, "Pa and ma won't take me to the pictures tonight!"

"But don't make such a noise," said the dame, admonishing. "Do they ever take you when you cry like that?"

"Sometimes they do, an' sometimes they d-d-don't," bellowed the boy. "But it ain't no trouble to yell!"

The Correct Adjective.

"Don't cuff the little fellow, madam," remonstrates a passerby. "Surely he has done nothing very bad, a sweet little child like that."

"Sweet child is right," said the wrathful woman. "E's been an' swallowed our sugar ticket."

How to Detect Glucose in Preserves, Jam, Marmalade

Glucose in fruit preserves may be discovered as follows: In the case of jelly a teaspoonful should be dissolved in two tablespoonfuls of alcohol contained in a glass vessel. In the case of jam or marmalade the same process is carried out, but it is necessary to filter off the solid matter by running the mixture through a piece of muslin. Allow the solution to become perfectly cool, and then add an equal volume, or a little more, of strong alcohol. If glucose is present a dense white precipitate slowly settles down. Where no glucose has been employed there is no precipitate, save, in some cases, a very trifling sediment of protel matter which, however, is so small that it could not possibly be mistaken for the sediment which glucose produces. The last-named is not particularly harmful in itself, but it is very frequently used as an adulterant in supposedly pure preserves for extra profit.—Popular Science Monthly.



PREVENT BREEDING OF FLIES

Essential That Carcasses of Dead Animals Be Burned or Buried—Method of Control.

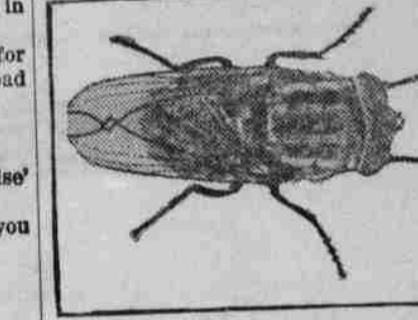
(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The black blowfly, the bluebottle fly, and the flesh flies are carrion breeders. They attack wounds on living animals mainly as a result of the presence of the flies in abnormally large numbers. To prevent the breeding of the black blowfly it is essential that carcasses be burned or buried, even during the winter months. Thus the proper disposal of carcasses becomes of much importance all the year. Where these flies become a nuisance by contaminating food products or by entering houses, which is usual in towns or cities, attention must be given to the proper disposal of garbage, as they will breed in the meat scraps in garbage cans or on dumps as well as in carcasses.

To destroy maggots in sores the same method as for the screw worm is to be followed. It is not always possible to prevent maggot infestation following dehorning, but if periods of cool weather in winter are chosen for this operation usually no trouble follows. To prevent maggots from gaining entrance to wounds the application of pine tar is advised. Following dehorning, some advise covering the wounds with pieces of cloth dipped in pine tar. Many of these will remain in place several days.

The tails of lambs are sometimes infested by maggots following docking. This can be largely prevented by removing the tails with moderately heated pincers. The docking of lambs also tends to avoid soiling of the wool during succeeding months, and this helps to prevent infestation of the rump by maggots. Other important steps in preventing wool-maggot injury are the following: (1) Breed hornless sheep and thus avoid injury from horns and consequent infestation around them; (2) lamb as early in the spring as possible—considering other conditions; (3) shear either before lambing or as soon after as possible, and thus avoid the infestations which almost invariably follow in heavy-wool sheep when warm, humid weather comes on.

In Australia very extensive work has been done looking toward the de-



Black Blowfly or Common Wool-Maggot Fly of United States as Seen From Above. (Enlarged.)

struction of maggots in wool, but nearly all the remedies devised have serious objections, so that dependence must be placed almost entirely upon preventive measures. If sheep become infested, however, the wool should be clipped from about the portions containing the maggots. It is necessary to begin the clipping outside the infested area, so as to avoid driving the maggots back into the unsoiled wool and thus extending the trouble. When the maggots have been concentrated in a certain spot by clipping around them, the application of stick dip in concentrated form or the use of chloroform, especially if the infested area is covered immediately with a piece of oilcloth, will destroy the maggots, and the entire mass then can be clipped off. Mixtures of turpentine and tar have been tried in Australia for the destruction of wool maggots and the prevention of subsequent infestation, with a fair degree of success. It is important that something be applied to deodorize the infested parts and hasten healing. Some shepherds use air-slaked lime dusted lightly over the parts to dry up the discharge and reduce the odor. This undoubtedly is accomplished to some extent, but there is some danger of forming crusts and having maggots infest the sore places or wounds beneath these.

On large sheep ranges, when the lambing is done during seasons which are favorable for infestations, it is best to have the flocks divided into rather small units and carefully watched, so that any fly-blown sheep may receive immediate attention. To protect lambs and other sheep during the summer months from being blown by bluebottle flies an effort should be made to prevent diarrhea, and when sheep get dirty they should be promptly trimmed up. Apply to the rump, and to the parts fouled by diarrhea, grease containing a few drops of crude carbolic acid or tar oil. The grease will hold the tarry odor in suspension and act as a fly repellent.

AMERICANS CRUSH GERMAN ASSAULTS

Heavy Loss on Boches While Lines Hold Firm.

WEEK AIRMEN HELP

Also Repel Hun Hordes With Slaughter—Take Heights and Give Up One Village.

Washington, D. C.—Complete repulse of heavy attacks northwest of Arras, with heavy losses for the Germans, was reported in General Headquarters' communique. The Americans, which were advanced by the last of the German positions of Belleu wood, remained intact.

Successful bombing of the railroad between Dommary and Baroncourt by American aviators, all of whom returned safely, also was reported.

On Thursday afternoon our troops captured Chateau Thierry, the last of the German positions of Belleu wood, taking 50 prisoners, a number of machine guns and mortars, in addition to those of the preceding day.

Early this morning the enemy launched heavy attacks on a front of more than 1 1/2 miles on the line of Bourches. The attacks, which were preceded by intense artillery barrage, broke down completely our positions intact. The enemy was very severe.

Last night our aviators bombed good effect stations at Dommary, Baroncourt, northwest of Metz. Our machines have returned.

With the American Army in France, the excellence of the American army fire was largely responsible for the capture by American marines of approximately 400 prisoners in the village which resulted in the clearing of the Belleu wood, northwest of Chateau Thierry.

The Germans, who had been told to capture because the Americans would torture them, started to run for the American machine-gunsners and made the wood untenable, but the artillery barrage was so perfect that the Germans were cut off from escape.

Among the prisoners are six officers, a major, a captain and four lieutenants. All were poorly clad and had pieces of bread tied to their waists with strings. The prisoners said they were glad to be captured and several expressed a desire to go to the United States, after the war.

All of Germany's plans, they added, called for ending the war next fall. The scarcity of officers in the German army is shown by the fact that one of the prisoners, a first sergeant, commanded an entire company. He said this was a common thing now. All the prisoners expressed admiration for the fighting qualities of the Americans.

Paris.—A concentrated fire from the French guns caught powerful German troops attempting a counter attack between Courcelles and Mery, and not only drove back the advancing waves, but inflicted very heavy losses, according to the war office announcement Friday.

The Germans gained a footing in the village of Laversine, but other attempts in this region failed. The Germans have not recovered from the severe blow they received on the French left flank, where throughout the night and in the morning the battle quieted down, giving the allies full opportunity to establish themselves strongly. In this engagement the enemy lost 1400 prisoners, 10 field guns and numerous machine guns.

Farther to the east, around the center of the line, the French took the initiative, delivering a number of small and successful counter attacks. As a consequence the village of Mellor and the important height of Coix Recard were retaken, thereby forcing the Germans back across the Metz river.

The Germans made a violent attack on the American sector between Bourches and Belleu wood, on the Marne front. The Americans broke up the attack and inflicted serious losses on the enemy, holding all the gains which they have made.

Hun Divers on Decrease.

London.—In an interview with the Petit Parisien, Sir Eric Geddes, first lord of the admiralty, said:

"The allied navies continue to sink more German submarines than the enemy can build. It is certainly a fact that since January we have sunk more submarines than they have built. We attack their submarines 70 times a week on the average. We base our returns of submarines destroyed only on those we are sure of, having seen wrecks or secured the crews; but most of the other submarines hit are in urgent need of repairs."

Kaiser's Relative Slain.

St. Louis.—Frank J. Michael, 23 years old, of this city, who was killed in battle in France, was a distant relative of the kaiser, according to his mother, Mrs. William J. Michael, who said her maternal great-grandmother was a second cousin of the German emperor.

"We are all ashamed of our relationship with the Kaiser and my boy showed it by giving his life to whip him," she said.