

FLAX GROWING MAY SUCCEED

PRACTICAL FLAX MAN GIVES POINTS ON PROTECTION

Thinks Convict Labor Would Need
Special Handling but Might Do.

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, Aug. 9.—(To the Editor.)—Your statements relative to the purposes for which flax is grown and labor are correct, but there are several features in the industry of flax raising which the growers in this state are sadly ignorant of and which have militated against the successful growing of flax and the profitable handling of the product.

Flax draws heavily from the soil, should not be sown two seasons in succession upon the same soil and should be followed by a crop of the nitrogenous family.

Seed should be selected in accord with the principal use the crop is to be directed. French, Belgian Russian and Irish seed give different returns in fiber and seed.

The bow or seed pod must be stripped at once after the flax is pulled, dried and milled. The bundles are bound and placed in the water for retting. The character of fiber is governed absolutely by this process, and only a person having had practical experience knows how to handle flax during this period. When the flax is ready to be taken from the water it must be spread not too thick, evenly upon a pasture or hay field, (the drip is good top dressing), and allowed to dry, then rebound and shocked for several days, when under favorable climatic conditions it is ready for milling, same being regulated by the uses to which the fiber is to be put, Hessian, twine or other.

The writer has handled flax from seeding to the cambric handkerchief and the artistic patterned damask, but does not claim to know all by any means. I merely inflict this letter because I once considered flax a national crop and would like to see it grown successfully here—labor from the continent might be secured. In the countries where flax is grown labor is cheap and women do much of it both in the field and the mill. The labor you speak of requires special handling but might do. I shall watch progress with very great interest.

(Professor Hyslop thinks these points made by a Lane County citizen very valuable and approves the idea of one flax crop in a rotation. Further, owing to the readiness with which flax crops develop soil diseases, he favors long rotation periods, preferably from three to six year.—Ed.)

WHAT SPECIAL EDUCATION FARMERS SHOULD HAVE

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, Aug. 9.—"What should education give the farmer, not as a man but as a farmer?" inquired Dr. P. P. Claxton, United States Commissioner of Education in an address to the students of the Oregon Agricultural College on his recent visit to the coast. Among other things mentioned as necessary to the farmer's special education for his profession the commissioner then mentioned the following:

It should give a knowledge of the soil, out of which he is to make his living and what profit he may. It should teach the farmer the physical properties of the soil so that he may keep it in that condition of tilth that favors moisture for growing crops, accessibility of free plant food, freedom from expensive weeds, capilarity, and minimum erosion. It should also teach him the chemical composition of his soil to the end that he may know the elements which contribute to fertility, the elements that are deficient for any given crop, and how to unlock the stored elements that the plant cannot secure unaided.

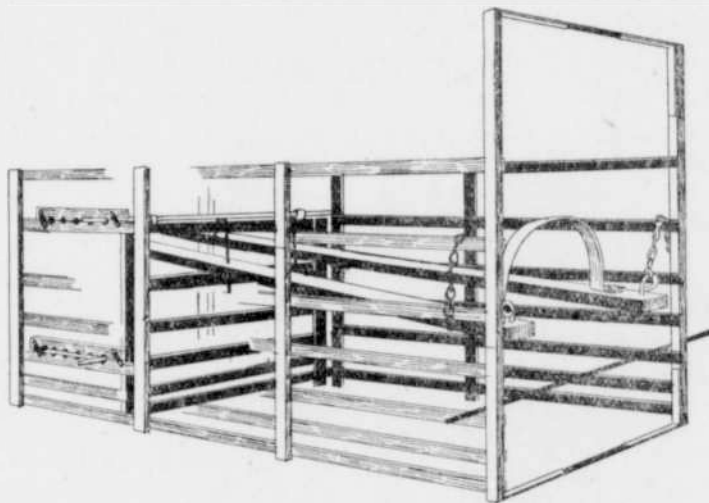
It must give him knowledge of the plants which he will grow. He must know that they are formed by a very fixed and definite combination of elements from soil, air and water, and that if the soil in which they grow

THE OREGON BREEDING CRATE

Prepared By

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A breeding crate for swine is desirable for effecting matings which would otherwise be difficult or impossible, for saving risk to valuable boars and sows, and for conserving the vitality of boars. Extremes of size in sexes are difficult to mate; some sows do not respond to the advances of certain boars; there is danger of heavy animals slipping and injuring their feet and legs; old boars sometimes become vicious and rough with sows; and young boars frequently acquire the habit of masturbation because sows will not stand readily. All of these dangers are decreased by the use of a breeding crate.



A crate may be of very simple construction and serve in most cases; but difficult matings show such crates to be inadequate, and one which is servicable under all conditions is desirable but has hitherto not been worked out. The things which must be looked to in the construction of a crate are, first, that it restrains the sow; second, that she be held in an accessible position; and third, that she be held so without endangering the boar.

does not contain each soil element in sufficient amount the plants will make a short crop, no matter how rich the soils in all the others. He must learn how to propagate, cultivate, harvest and market his farm crops, and how to store and utilize farm products.

It must give him a knowledge of animals so that he will be able to select, breed and raise livestock in an efficient manner. He must learn what feeds to select of those available, how to secure balanced rations from them, and how to feed for best results. He must then know the time and place for economical marketing or conversion to his own use.

All these things are additional to a general education including chemistry, physics, bookkeeping, engineering, and shop work.

In view of the many general and special requirements of education for the farmer Dr. Claxton does not look with favor on the very general practice of supplying young girls or others lacking in this knowledge as teachers of farmer's sons in the country schools. "It used to be said," concluded he, "that those who can, do, and those who can't, teach; but it is coming to be recognized that only those who know a subject can teach it."

LANE POMONA GRANGE MAKES FORWARD MOVE

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, Aug. 9.—Adoption of a road patrol system for repairing roads before the damage is extensive and its repair expensive has been endorsed by the Lane Pomona Grange, reports the Eugene Register. Other progressive steps favored are the following:

A public market at Eugene where producers and consumers can transact business direct.

Improving the dairy industry by weeding out unprofitable cows, practicing more economical feeding and management and better breeding.

Uniform breeding and handling and co-operative marketing of farm livestock.

Developing the poultry industry by



cooperative breeding, packing and marketing clubs.

A system of drainage projects. The grange was addressed by C. E. Spence, master of the State Grange, who stated that too much money is given to road contractors.

SALES LETTERS VALUABLE IN SECURING ORDERS

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, Ore., Aug. 9.—The sales letter that is so effective in the hands of the mail order expert fails to appeal as strongly as it should to the local merchant, according to Clyde I. Blanchard, O. A. C. teacher of stenography and one of the four winners of the world championship efficiency contest. "Although the local man feels that he cannot use this weapon effectively it has been proved beyond a doubt that he can make it more effective than can the mail order man. We all know that by means of these letters New York and Chicago houses are continually taking business right from under our noses here in Oregon. It is needless to remind you what the mail order houses have been able to do with a two-cent stamp and a letter sent to people in all parts of the world, people they have never seen and in all probability never will see.

"Surely the retail merchants should

be able to do as well with friends and acquaintances as the mail order men do with entire strangers. If any have tried and failed to get business by personal letters in connection with consistent newspaper advertising, their methods rather than the system was probably at fault. An important step in securing results is use of artistic and dignified dress for your correspondence. A neat return tastily printed on your envelope will often be the means of saving your letter from the wastebasket.

"Dignity, good taste and orders are secured by having very little printing in the letter head to distract attention from the typed message, which is the all-important thing. In ordering your stationery have printed only the data necessary to enable correspondents to transact their business efficiently. Never have the city and state off to one side at the right, connected by dotted lines to "19—." The style never was artistic, and besides it is a bad time-waster. Far better have the state and city printed at the top with the heading, leaving room for the date at the usual place.

"The personal letter may also be a means of keeping track of cash customers whose names are not entered on the firm's books. And certainly the cash customers are worth looking after. Sometimes they quit the firm because of some misunderstanding easily adjusted, and the personal letter will enable the proprietors to learn the fact and make the adjustment, thus retaining a most profitable patronage."

SMALL SEED PRODUCTION IN PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, Aug. 9.—Although Western Oregon is a particularly good place for the production of many small seeds which may be used locally for seeding purposes, in many instances there is not enough small seed of the grasses, some legumes, rape and some other plants to meet the local demand, writes Professor G. R. Hyslop in the O. A. C. Oregon Countryman.

"Of the leguminous seed crops which may be grown in Western Oregon, the following are marketed quite extensively: red clover, alsike clover, white clover, common vetch and hairy vetch. Also, some crimson clover is marketed, although considerably less extensively than any others mentioned. Under red clover may be included both the common red and the mammoth, either of which makes excellent seed yields in the Western Oregon section and which are being quite extensively grown and marketed. Alsike clover is also widely grown so that more of both it and the red is produced than is used."

STUDENTS WIN DEGREES ALONG DIFFERENT LINES

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, Aug. 9.—Students graduated from the Oregon Agricultural College in June 1915, represented work done along 18 different but more or less closely related lines. Of the 236 receiving bachelor degrees 82 had taken agriculture, majoring either in horticulture, agronomy, animal husbandry, dairying, or poultry husbandry, and 64 graduates, the second largest class, had taken home economics, which includes both domestic science and domestic art. The other groups were classed as follows:

Nine in forestry; 1 in logging engineering; 1 in civil and irrigation engineering; 11 in civil engineering; 10 in electrical engineering; 8 in mechanical engineering; 3 in mining engineering; 4 in industrial arts; 20 in commerce; 10 in pharmacy; 5 in pharmacy special; and 9 in music.

The fourteen graduate students receiving degrees were divided, 12 in agriculture, and 2 in home economics. Among the 12 was a young woman graduate, Miss Kate Failing, of Portland, who received a masters' degree.

The 38 one year vocational students who received certificates were divided, 36 in agriculture, 10 in home economics, and 2 in commerce.