

NEIGHBORING TOWNS

CONGRESS AND DOINGS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST.

Budget of Interesting and Spicy News From All the Cities and Towns on the Coast—Thrill and Industry in Every Quarter—Oregon.

Algin has shipped 85,000 railroad ties this spring.

The state selected 200 acres of school land at The Dalles land office last week.

A number of young lambs were killed in Grass valley by the recent cold weather.

Wasco county's roadgrader has been at work for the season, starting in on high ridge.

The Homer took a cargo of wood for the San Francisco market factory on its trip from Coos bay.

An Oakland firm shipped 1,500 pounds of chickens and dressed turkeys to San Francisco last week and 650 dozen eggs to Portland.

A. J. Davis, the Montana millionaire, whose estate is involved in litigation, an alleged wife having appeared unexpectedly on the scene, used to be in Coos county, where, as elsewhere, he passed for an old bachelor.

The Clatskanie council has bought a water system owned by Mrs. Amanda Merrill, with a sufficient plat of ground to insure permanent possession of the spring that supplies the water and enough ground on which to install tanks or fencing for protection.

The lumber manufacturing industry in the Blue mountains is rapidly reviving. The Grand Ronde Lumber Company's mill at Perry was started on Saturday, and the big mill of the Willard Lumbering Company at Five Points began cutting for the season's output a few days later.

The semi-annual statement of the treasurer of Josephine county on March 31 last showed: Paid into the general fund, \$8,350.17, of which \$3,583.42 was for the cancellation of warrants and \$408.23 for interest thereon, leaving a balance on hand of \$4,358.53. The school and other funds show a balance of \$415.87.

The Schütz dramatic company, whose fame and name is common in the smaller towns of the state, met with a catastrophe in Curry county last week. The rig that was transporting them fell through a defective bridge, and several members of the party were injured. The circuit will be resumed when everybody has recovered, dates being moved back.

The annual financial exhibit of Gold Hill shows a prosperous state of affairs in that little town. The total receipts during the past year were \$1,301.55, of which \$1,200 came from liquor licenses, and the expenditures were \$646.82. The outstanding liabilities amount to \$25.21, which leaves a balance in the town treasury of \$629.68. No tax levy has yet been made.

Agent Borie of the O. R. & N., at Pendleton has received from the headquarters of the company in Portland payments of the claims of Pendleton houses on account of supplies and board furnished during the great flood of June, 1894. The O. R. & N. pays the business men and takes assignments of their claims, and will adjust the matter with the Union Pacific through the courts.

The Dalles is having a building boom. Max Voight is rebuilding his brick block that was destroyed by fire several years ago. Mr. Voight's building will cost \$65,000. A. M. Williams is putting up an additional store adjoining his property, to cost \$30,000. Besides these, there are a number of private residences going up, while other buildings are being raised and improved.

The Corvallis Times confirms the report of a new flouring mill for Monroe. Orders for \$600 worth of new machinery for the mill were placed last week in Portland. The mill is to be located on the farm of E. Maude, one and one-half miles north of Monroe. It is to be roller process, with steam power, and the capacity to be fifty or sixty barrels per day. Work is to begin in a short time.

The Rochester quarry, near Elk City, Yaquina bay, is getting ready to begin operations at an early date. A complete quarry plant has been ordered and shipped from St. Paul, Minn., and is expected to arrive in about three weeks. The plant will consist of a big double-hoisting engine, a channelling machine, steam drill and all the necessary hoisting apparatus for two derricks. The plant will be first-class in every respect, and will cost about \$6,000.

Dr. Edmund W. Fall has disappeared from Seattle, leaving behind many creditors. The doctor was at one time resident of Salem, Or.

Farmers around Oakesdale are taking a great interest in fruitgrowing and an unusual number of fruit trees are being planted this spring.

A Pennsylvania syndicate, owning 5,000 acres of timber land in Skagit county, has had it surveyed, and established a camp for the purpose of logging the land off.

The oldest farmers in the Walla Walla valley are all agreed that the present spring brings brighter prospects for a heavier harvest than any other year in their long experience.

The penitentiary commissioners have awarded contracts for furnishing supplies to the following firms: Tobacco, Rosenfeld-Smith & Co.; groceries, Guss Winckler and the Schwabacher

Co.; butter, Maxon & Ferguson; beef, the Washington Dressed Meat Company.

Victor Paul, the clerk in the Blaine hotel, has this winter shot and taken over 800 wild ducks and brant in Semiahmoo bay, besides over 300 wild pigeons and other birds in the woods. With the exception of liberal presents to friends, the fowls were consumed at the hotel.

The Cornwall mill, Bellingham bay, shipped last month five cargoes; four coastwise and one foreign. The total cargoes equalled 2,110,000 feet of lumber, and 350,000 lath. The Pacific Coast Milling Company, 300,000 feet of finishing lumber, and 2,500,000 shingles. Woodin's mill, 170,000 feet of finishing lumber, 200,000 feet of unclassified lumber, and 1,000,000 shingles.

The courthouse in Spokane is to be lighted with gas. Heretofore electric lights have been used. In the courthouse and jail 108 gas burners will be placed. The county will pay \$2.25 apiece for them. They will give 6480 candle power. The county will pay \$55 per month for the gas from now until October 1. Heretofore about \$90 per month has been paid to the electric light company.

In the federal court in Tacoma Judge Hanford issued an order directing Receiver Andrew F. Burleigh, of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, to pay the St. Paul & Tacoma Lumber Company the judgment recently awarded for excessive freight charges paid for hauling sawlogs to the mill. This judgment is for \$5,903.87, and was awarded by a board of arbitration, consisting of Philip Tillinghast and C. D. Stimson.

A. H. Kellogg has just completed planting 1,400 cherry trees and now has perhaps the most carefully planted orchard in island county. The trees were planted on what is known as the circular system, in rectangles 16x18 feet. By planting in this form about one-seventh more trees can be put upon an acre, while the rows, radiating from every point in the orchard, present a very pleasing effect.

In Walla Walla one day last week, a number of boys were fishing in Mill creek. One of the boys felt his hook catch on some object at the bottom of the creek. Giving a jerk he brought out a large pasteboard box, somewhat torn and broken by the water. Opening the box the boy and his companions, who had gathered around him, were horrified to see the tiny form of a babe, entirely nude.

John Kane, who, in the winter of 1891, was sent to the penitentiary for Olympia for breaking into Fred Carlyon's jewelry store, has been pardoned by Governor McGraw. Kane is the man who deliberately kicked a window out of a store in broad daylight and took a silver cake basket, expecting to get a few months in jail and thus escape a hard winter. Judge Robinson gave him a sentence of ten years, nearly half of which has been served.

Idaho. The Boise Basin, since 1863 has shipped \$150,000,000 worth of gold.

Over seventy-five new postoffices have been established in Idaho during the past three years.

Judge Standrod may call a special term of court for Bingham county later on in the season, to wind up the business of the docket of the last term.

The Potlatch country will raise the largest fruit crop this year since fruit trees were planted in the section. It will be almost double that of last year.

Petitions are being circulated in Moscow asking for the pardon of Mrs. Margaret Hardy, who was sentenced to the penitentiary for life for murdering a little colored child, and was afterward sent to the asylum for the insane.

Since the fire at the Tiger-Poorman mills all the men are idle, except a few that are needed to work the pumps and do necessary work about the mines. The Poorman boilers have been put in order, and the smokestacks raised again, but little work is being done, except to keep the Tiger from flooding.

The Idaho immigration congress has adjourned after three days' session in Boise. The Idaho Immigration Association was formed, each county being entitled to two members. The officers are: Eugene Buchanan, of Moscow, president; J. M. Haines, of Boise, secretary; J. O. Baker, of Boise, treasurer.

Montana. Work has been resumed on the Iduna mine in the Ground Squirrel district and considerable development work will be done.

The president and stockholders of the Butte & Boston Mining Company, which recently failed, are in Butte making an investigation of the company's affairs.

The successful operation of the Trail smelter in the Roseland district is the beginning of a prosperous era for that section, the importance of which is but little realized by the denizens at this time.

R. M. Davidson, of the Davidson Grocery Company, of Butte, has taken an option on the Drummond coal claims, and has let a contract to sink the shaft several hundred feet deeper. So far the property has given good indications of containing a valuable deposit of lignite coal.

The geological survey has reported to Secretary Smith on the operations of the survey during the field season of last year. Investigations of the mineral resources of the Uncompahgre and Uintah Indian reservations showed deposits of hydro-carbon mounds of the asphaltic species covering 13,500 square miles in Utah.

SHIPWRECK IN PORT

TERRIBLE DISASTER IN SAN FRANCISCO HARBOR.

Six Seamen and the British Ship Blairmore Completely Swallowed Up During One of the Severest Squalls Experienced in Years.

San Francisco, April 13.—No stranger disaster ever happened to a vessel than the accident which befel the British ship Blairmore at 7 o'clock this morning. While riding at anchor in Mission bay, one mile east of the Union iron works, the vessel was struck by a violent squall, which, together with the swift flood tide, threw her on her starboard side, capsized her completely and sank her in less than five minutes.

Fifteen seamen struggled in the water, while six were confined in the vessel's hold, and were probably pinned down by the falling damage used to hold the ship's ballast in place. The imprisoned sextant never reached the deck, as did their comrades engaged with them in handling ballast below, and their bodies are imprisoned in the hull.

The Blairmore's mast lies level with the bay bottom, under seven fathoms of water, and not a sight of the sailors' sunken tomb is visible above the waves. Here and there on the surface of the water, near the scene of the calamity, is a piece of drift from the wreck, but beyond this the vessel and men have been completely swallowed up.

The unfortunate who lost their lives were: T. Ludwig, first mate; Henry Clark, able seaman; Roland Siegle, apprentice; G. Renbaum, able seaman; H. Sinstrand, watchman; Sam Kerry, steward. The latter was shipped here and is a native of Brooklyn, N. Y. The balance of the men on board were those seamen usually held to stand by the vessel after she discharges her cargo and is awaiting another.

The regular formast hands were all discharged on the arrival of the vessel from Newcastle two months ago. The squall that caused the disaster was the most severe experienced on the south arm of the bay for years. The wind was so severe that a number of ships anchored near the Blairmore signalled for tugs to move them up the bay. The flood tide working at the keels of the ship had a tendency, being counter to the wind, to upset hulls not weighted with a cargo.

BRADSTREET'S REPORT.

Some Favorable Features of the Week's Business.

New York, April 13.—Bradstreet's tomorrow will say: "While there is no general increase in business there are several encouraging features. First, the advance in prices of flour, wheat, corn, pork and sugar, together with that of steel billets and beams, and other iron and steel products. The advance in wheat has continued so much longer than expected that the trade is again discussing the likelihood of this being the beginning of the long looked for advance for cereals, which they believe must come after the extreme depression of the last few years. Unfavorable crop reports from central Western states confirmation of previous short-crop reports from Argentina and Australia, small supplies in Europe, and afloat therefor, but, above all, a revival of speculation in wheat, are underneath prices."

Bradstreet's exhibit of comparative prices of 108 staple articles, including live stock, shows higher quotations for 28 products of April 1, 1896, compared with 56 which are lower and 18 which are unchanged in contrast with quotations on January 1. Contrasted with one year ago, there are increases of quotations for 28 items, while five are unchanged, and 49 are lower.

Exports of wheat, four included as wheat, from both coasts of the United States, amount to 1,764,000 bushels this week, compared with 1,693,000 last week and 2,934,000 in the week last year. Indian corn exports amount to 1,891,000 bushels this week, compared with 2,199,000 last week. Business failures in the United States this week number 21, compared with 26 last week, and 225 in the week a year ago.

COUNTERFEITER'S CAVE.

Discovered on a Small Island in Indiana.

Bristol, Ind., April 13.—Two deputy United States marshals are taking turns at watching an island in St. John's river, in the northeastern part of Elkhart county, on which a subterranean counterfeiter's den has been located. The cave was discovered a few days ago by two boys, who, while boating on the river, had landed on the island. The subterranean chamber is about 25 feet square and 18 feet high. It was well ceiled with small splings and plank. A door on either side opened into two smaller rooms. Immediately under a hollow stump was a sort of furnace, which got its draft through the entranceway. Double banks for eight persons were against one side of the room and on the table were dishes and cooking utensils. A chest with a complete set of counterfeiter's tools was found, and piles of spurious gold and silver coins of various denominations. The coins represented a face value of a little more than \$4,000.

The agents of the government who have visited the place say the workshop was evidently that of men of means. There was found in the cave the pocketbook of William Crampacker, a wealthy man living near Bristol, who was murdered a year ago. His murderers have never been discovered.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

There is but little moving in local markets and prices remain unchanged, although eggs, and poultry are both scarce and much firmer, a few sales of the former being made at 9c and a 50-packer lot going readily at 8 1/2c. Butter continues weak.

Wheat Market.

The state of the foreign wheat market, which is our criterion, is well set forth in a London letter to a local shipper, which says: Wheat during the past week has been a very poor trade, and the depressing American advices, coupled with Russia and India pressing wheat, has taken all the strength out of the market. The flour trade is wretched. Local quotations are: Walla Walla, 55 to 56c; Valley, 58 to 59c.

Produce Market.

Flour—Portland, Salem, Cascadia and Dayton, are quoted at \$3.00 per barrel; Goldrop, \$2.95; Snowflake, \$3.20; Benton county, \$3.00; Grahams, \$2.65; superfine, \$2.25.

Oats—Good white are quoted weak, at 20c; milling, 28@30c; gray, 23@24c. Colored oats are quoted as follows: Bage, \$4.25@5.25; barreis, \$4.50@7.00; cases, \$3.75.

Hay—Timothy, \$9.00 per ton; chest, \$8.00; clover, \$6@7; oat, \$5@6.50; wheat, \$5.50@6.50.

Barley—Feed barley, \$13.50 per ton; brewing, \$15@16.

Millstuffs—Bran, \$13.00; shorts, \$15; middlings, \$18@20.00; rye, 92 1/2c per cental.

Butter—Fancy creamery is quoted at 35c; fancy dairy, 25c; fair to good, 20c; common, 12 1/2c per roll.

Potatoes—New Oregon, 20@30c per sack; sweets, common, 5c; Merced, 3 1/2c per pound.

Onions—Oregon, 55c per sack.

Poultry—Chickens, hens, \$3.50 per dozen; mixed, \$3.00@4.00 per dozen; ducks, \$4.50@5.00; geese, \$5.00; turkeys, live, 14@15 1/2c per pound; dressed 16c.

Eggs—Oregon, 8 1/2c per dozen.

Cheese—Oregon cream, 14@15c per pound; salt cream, 9c; skim, 4c 1/2c; Young America, 10@11c.

Tropical Fruit—California lemons, \$3.00@3.25; choice, \$2.00@2.50; tangelos, \$6.50; bananas, \$1.75@2.50 per bunch; California navel, \$2.25@3.50 per box; pineapples, \$5@6.00 per dozen.

Oregon Vegetables—Cabbage, 1c per lb; garlic, new, 7@8c per pound; artichokes, 55c per dozen; sprouts, 5c per pound; cauliflower, \$2.75 per crate, 90c@1 per dozen; hothouse lettuce, 40c per dozen.

Fresh Fruit—Pears. Winter Nellis, \$1.50 per box; cranberries, \$9 per barrel; fancy apples, \$1.50@2; common, 50@75c per box.

Dried Fruits—Apples, evaporated, bleached, 4@4 1/2c; sun-dried, 3 1/2@4c; pears, sun and evaporated, 5@6c; plums, pitless, 3@4c; prunes, 3@5 per pound.

Wool—Valley, 10c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 6@8 1/2c.

Hops—Choice, Oregon 2@3c per pound; medium, neglected.

Nuts—Almonds, soft shell, 9@11c per pound; paper shell, 10@12 1/2c; new crop, California walnuts, soft shell, 11@12 1/2c; standard walnuts, 12@13c; Italian chestnuts, 12 1/2@14c; pecans, 13@16c; Brazil, 12 1/2@13c; filberts, 12 1/2@14c; peanuts, raw, fancy, 6@7c; roasted, 10c; hickory nuts, 8@10c; coconuts, 90c per dozen.

Provisions—Eastern hams, medium, 11 1/2@12c per pound; hams, picnic, 7 1/2c; breakfast bacon 10 1/2@10 3/4c; short clear sides, 8 1/2@9c; dry salt sides, 7 1/2@8c; dried beef, hams, 12@13c; lard, compound, in tins, 7 1/2c; lard, pure, in tins, 9 1/2@10c; pigs' feet, 8@8 1/2c; pigs' feet, 4@4 1/2c; kits, \$1.25. Oregon smoked hams, 10 1/2c per pound; pickled hams, 8 1/2c; boniness hams, 7 1/2c; bacon, 10 1/2c; dry salt sides, 6 1/2c; lard, 5-pound pails, 7 1/2c; 10s, 7 1/2c; 5s, 7 1/2c; tierces, 7c. Country meats sell at prices according to grade.

Hides—Dry hides, butcher, sound, per pound, 11@12c; dry kip and calf-skin, 10@11c; culis, 3c less; salted, 60 lbs and over, 5c; 50 to 60 lbs, 4@4 1/2c; 40 and 50, 4c; kip and veal skins, 10 to 30 lbs, 4c; calf-skin, sound, 3 to 10 lbs, 6c; green, unsalted, 1c less; culis, 1-2c less; sheepskins, shearings, 10@15c; short wool, 20@30c; medium, 30@40c; long wool, 50@70c.

Merchandise Market.

SALMON—Columbia, river No. 1, talls, \$1.25@1.60; No. 2, talls, \$2.25@2.60; fancy, No. 1, flats, \$1.75@1.85; Alaska, No. 1, talls, \$1.20@1.30; No. 2, talls, \$1.90@2.25.

BEANS—Butter white, No. 1, 2 1/2c per pound; small, 3c; bayon, 1 1/2c; Lima, 4c.

CORDAGE—Manilla rope, 1 1/2-inch, is quoted at 8 1/2c, and Sisal, 6 1/2c per pound.

SUGAR—Golden C, 5 1/2c; extra C, 5 1/2c; dry granulated, 6 1/2c; cube crushed and powdered, 6 1/2c per pound; 3/4c per pound discount on all grades for prompt cash; half barrels, 5c more than barrels; maple sugar, 15@16c per pound.

COFFEE—Costa Rica, 20@23 1/2c; Rio, 20@22c; Salvador, 18@22c; Biocha, 27@31c; Padang Java, 30c; Palembang Java, 28@29c; Lahat Java, 23@25c; Arabuck's Mokka and Lion, \$20.30 per 100-pound case; Columbia, \$20.30 per 100-pound case.

RICE—Island, \$4@4.50 per sack; Japan, \$4.00@4.50.

COAL—Steady; domestic, \$5.00@5.75 per ton; foreign, \$5.50@11.00.

MEAT MARKET.

BEEF—Gross, top steers, \$3.25; cows, \$2.25@2.50; dressed beef, 4@5 1/2c per pound.

MUTTON—Gross, best sheep, wethers, \$3.00; ewes, \$1.50@2.75; dressed mutton, 5c per pound.

VEAL—Gross, small, 5@6c; large, 3@4c per pound.

PORK—Gross, choice, heavy, \$3.25@3.50; light and feeders, \$2.50@2.75; dressed, 3 1/2@4c per pound.

SAN FRANCISCO MARKETS.

Flour—Net cash prices: Family extra, \$3.75@3.85 per barrel; bakers' extra, \$3.5@3.65; superfine, \$2.85@3.00.

Barley—Feed, fair to good, 7 1/2@8c; choice, 7 1/2@8c; brewing, 80 1/2c.

Wheat—Shipping, No. 1, \$1.08 1/2; choice, \$1.11 1/2; and No. 2, \$1.17 1/2@1.22 1/2.

Oats—Milling, 25@28 1/2c; superfine, 30@35; fancy feed, \$2 1/2@3; good to choice, 20@27 1/2c; poor to fair, 6@6 1/2c; gray, 7 1/2@8 1/2c.

Hops—Quotable at 2@4c per pound.

ALL ABOUT THE FARM

SUBJECTS INTERESTING TO RURAL READERS.

Potato Planting with Modern Machinery—Good Fences Are Important—Many Pleasures in Farm Work—How to Guard Against Hog Cholera.

Planting Potatoes. In planting potatoes, either for home or for market, the first essential, says the American Agriculturist, is a well-drained, rich plot of land. A field which has been two years in clover is usually the best. To this apply a heavy dressing of well-rotted barnyard manure. Break the sod in the fall or the winter three or four inches deep, then in spring turn it over to a depth of eight or nine inches, and cut up thoroughly with a disk harrow, continuing the operation until the seed bed is well fined and in the best condition. Use a smoothing harrow to compact it sufficiently, so that it will not be dried out unduly. The ground is now ready for planting. The old method of hand planting will probably continue for the



FIG. 1. HAND CUTTER.

general farmer who cultivates but a small patch for his own use. The potatoes are cut by hand to two eyes, dropped in rows three feet apart, with the hills eighteen inches apart in the row if they are to be plowed one way, and two and one-half to three feet apart if they are to be cultivated crosswise. Checking, however, is hardly ever necessary except where the land is very foul. For commercial planting, hand processes are entirely too slow, consequently inventors have constructed machines both for cutting the potatoes into suitable sized pieces and for planting them. There is also on the market a machine which cuts the seed and at the same time does the planting. Figs 1 and 2 represent a hand potato cutter which will do the work of eight or ten persons. The potato is dropped into the hopper, the handle brought over and pressed down, and the potato is cut into pieces of a uniform size. Fig. 1 represents the bottom of the hopper, crossed by six knives, with one running lengthwise. The number of knives can be decreased so as to make larger pieces of it, or can be increased and smaller pieces obtained. This machine can also be used for cutting beets, turnips, carrots, and other roots for stock feed.

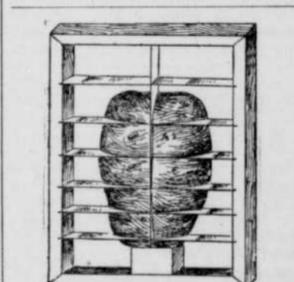


FIG. 2. KNIFE OF HAND CUTTER.

Machines for planting potatoes at the rate of four to eight acres per day are no longer an experiment. One man only is needed to operate the machine that plants cut seed, while the automatic cutter and planter requires a man and boy. These implements open the furrow, drop the seed, and any desired amount and kind of fertilizer, and cover evenly with soil to a uniform depth, bringing an even stand. A marker indicates the next row and keeps the rows straight. One of these machines soon saves its cost on a farm where potatoes are grown to any extent.

Pleasures of Farm Work.

Many people despise their work, when they ought to be thankful that they have something to do. A man or woman who goes through life loathing his daily work is a miserable mortal, who makes this world full of hell, and prepares the way for plenty of it in the next, says Rural Life. A child that has not been taught to work has not been half raised. An education that does not develop habits of industry is a curse to its recipient, and the recipient is a curse to the State. In this new country of ours there is abundant opportunity for everybody who loves to work to get rich. Industrious people are the happiest, most virtuous, and companionable of all society. Industry begets all the cardinal virtues, while indolence begets misery, want, vice and crime, and these things follow the rich as well as the poor. I met a farmer not long ago who had learned to hate his lot upon the farm. He had determined to sell out and go to a certain little village and open a restaurant. The village has already twice as many restaurants as the customer needs. The farmer has never had any experience in running a restaurant or walking in town life. It is, therefore, safe to predict that he will utterly fail and learn to hate the restaurant tenfold worse than the farm.

Guard Against Hog Cholera.

On farms where cholera appeared last summer and fall new hog lots ought to be provided this spring, and

the animals should not be allowed to run in pastures which were frequented by diseased stock. If necessary, sow a patch of clover, which will take the place of a regular pasture field. Lots can usually be moved at comparatively small expense. Unless precautions of this kind are taken, another outbreak may occur at any time. Proper sanitation, food and good care may ward it off.

Different Kinds of Bone Meal.

Bone meal is not confined to one name, but is known also as ground bone, bone flour, bonedust, etc. We find in the market raw bone meal and steamed bone meal. Raw bone meal contains the fat naturally present in bones. The presence of the fat is objectionable, because it makes the grinding more difficult and retards the decomposition of the bone in the soil, while fat itself has no value as plant food. When bones are steamed, the fat is removed and the bone is more easily ground. Moreover, the chemical nature of the nitrogen compounds appears to be changed in such a manner that the meal undergoes decomposition in the soil more rapidly than in case of raw bone. The presence of easily decaying nitrogen compounds in bones hastens, in the process of decomposition, to dissolve more or less of the insoluble phosphate. Bone meal should contain from 3 to 5 per cent. of nitrogen, and from 20 to 25 per cent. of phosphoric acid. About one-third to one-fourth of the latter appears to be in readily available condition. Raw bone meal generally contains somewhat more nitrogen (1 or 2 per cent.) and rather less phosphoric acid than steamed bone meal. The fineness of the meal affects its value; the finer the meal the more readily available is it as plant food.—Bulletin New York Station.

Draining in Place of Grading.

It is often said by farmers that low, wet places need to be filled in so that the water that now settles in them can run off over the surface, says the American Cultivator. But anyone who tries to grade up even a small hollow knows how ineffective this method proves. A tile drain dug through the center of the wet place, if a small one, and with two or three branches if larger, will do the work much more cheaply and effect a permanent improvement. Where a large quantity of water runs into the low place from adjoining uplands the drain may not at once be able to remove it. But water standing over a field even for two or three days, while an under-drain beneath it is carrying off the surplus water, does no harm to any crop. There are, in fact, no crops on the land in spring excepting winter grain. We have had winter wheat covered on a flat piece of land several inches deep with water, which froze over the surface, but without any injury to the wheat. The water sank away under the ice. By the time a thaw came the surface was dry and the crop had simply been saved by the ice from exposure to the freezing and thawing of surface soil it would otherwise have received.

Small Litters Are Best.

I believe that a sow that produces six or eight pigs at a litter will bring a better income generally than one that produces twelve or fifteen pigs, says a writer in an exchange. The reason why I think so is this: A sow in farrowing twelve or fifteen is almost sure to have a lot of them small, very runty and no account whatever. Almost sure to be all sizes, and what is more disgusting than to have a large litter of pigs of all sizes. A litter of this kind seldom grows and does as much good according to the food consumed as a smaller litter. The unevenness of the litter seems to be the worst feature of the situation, for the reason that the larger ones fight off the smaller ones, and thereby, after a while, the smaller ones begin to dwindle and die, and after all, you have nothing left of your large litter but a few of the larger ones, where, if you had eight good pigs to start with, you would not be bothered with the trouble I have spoken of.

Seeding to Grass.

A Connecticut farmer, who gives no clue as to the character of the soil, nor the kind of farming he is engaged in, asks advice about seeding clover to grass field that has been in hoed crops for two years, but for which he has no manure or fertilizer unless he buys on credit, says Storr's Agricultural Standard. If he has use for the fodder, a crop of oats and peas, and clover grown therewith, for plowing under in the fall, would be a good order to follow before seeding down. If this plan is adopted, I would advise the use of 500 pounds of bone and 200 pounds of muriate of potash per acre when the oats and peas are sown. Sow one and one-half bushel each of oats and of peas as early as the ground can be worked, plow the peas under and sow the oats and fifteen pounds of common red cloverseed after plowing and harrow lightly. Unless the ground is quite dry the cloverseed should only be bushed in.

Potatoes for Stock.

Exhaustive experiments are reported by the French Society of Agriculture in which a ration composed chiefly of potatoes afforded rapid gains in live weights of both sheep and cattle, a large percentage in dressed weight of excellent quality.