

# The Great Outdoors

Where Bread, Meat, Clothing, Health and Vigorous Humanity are Produced

## Pierce Downs the Portland Ring

### The Wise Guys Angle for the Farmer and They Get the Hook

Last week we left the governor with "his back to the wall" fighting the legislative highlanders from Portland. Since then the Oregon law makers have adjourned and there has been time to count the dead and wounded on the field of battle, and the governor's friends are not among the mourners.

When Governor Pierce opened the conflict by firing the Portland dock commission bodily it looked to outsiders as if he had made a colossal blunder, but in the light of succeeding events that act might have been the foxiest strategy of the season. Its direct outcome, the reversal of his action and restoration of the commission, and making it independent of the governor, filled his opponents with arrogant pride and they undertook a program which was impossible because of its very insolence. Pierce gave them their day with the dock commission, a local affair with which he was little concerned, and in return got the bulk of what he was really seeking. Portland rode her high horse to a fall so emphatic that its echoes still reverberate.

Last Sunday's Albany Democrat said:

The announced intention of the house and senate machine, headed by the Multnomah delegations, was to "get" the governor.

The governor had headed a strong sentiment for an income tax and had seen this idea become a law and then be repealed after a heavily moneyed attack upon it. As with the income tax, so with numerous issues. The idea of the governor was the readjustment of state government so as to relieve ordinary citizens from more than their share of state burdens and so as to force the powerful few to take up and bear something approximating their just share of the burden.

These lads introduced the Ritner bill to abolish the market agent's office and place grain inspection back in the public service commission. The bill was dropped. Attempts to shear the governor of his constitutional executive powers and give them to the board of control, failed. It was wished to take the control of the state prison from him, appointive control of the fish and the game commission and of the port of Portland commission. The latter, a local matter, alone succeeded. The last effort was the Ekwall bill to legislate a judge into office. It failed.

Governor Pierce drove the legislature into a corner and with its own whip flayed it. Without Mr. Pierce and his avowed defense of real property from further increases in taxation, real estate would, by hook or crook, have been made to pay.

The new taxation consists of a tobacco tax and a levy on the gross earnings of utilities, and the payment into the general fund of earnings of self-supporting state activities.

Those members intent upon charging property with the whole bill for state government had fought and usually contributed to repeal the income tax. They started something, is that repeal, and at Salem the other day they feared to finish it. The governor whipped them out. One of them, Senator Dennis, speaking of the revenue bill, said:

"Fellow senators, we may as well admit that this republican legislature has been gyped and fooled by the democratic minority in the state house. We have been wrangled, corralled and snubbed up by the boy with the big white hat and the white-faced calves. The only thing for us to do is step up and take our medicine."

Dennis and his fellows started the fight. They set out to get the governor. The public is well content to see them taken in themselves.

Crawfordsville, which last year had the biggest 4th of July celebration in its history, is planning to repeat and exceed this year.

## Fur Farming in the Beaver State

### Foxes Valued at \$100,000 Brought to Oregon in one Shipment

Mr. Waggener's silver fox farm at Ash Swale, described in the Enterprise a few weeks ago, the starting of a chinchilla rabbit farm by a couple of Brownville young men, a skunk farm in the same neighborhood and Duncan McKercher's deer park at Crawfordsville are Linn county instances of the tendency of the American farmer to get out of the overcrowded beaten track and try something new.

Prince Edward Island has the lead in the breeding of foxes and a recent number of the Dearborn Independent chronicled a shipment of 100 of these animals, valued at \$1000 each, from that province to Oregon.

Fur farming is being so widely established, and so many inquiries regarding it are being received by the United States department of agriculture, that the biological survey of that department has sent out a questionnaire asking for full figures regarding foxes of various species, kinks, raccoons, minks, muskrats, possums, martens, squirrels, beavers, fishers, rabbits and any other fur bearers which may be raised in captivity. When the returns are tabulated and a comprehensive bulletin issued there will be a large demand for it in all parts of the country.

"Wild" game may be domesticated and treated in life and at slaughter as humanely as our laws presume sheep or cows to be handled. The money now spent in "protecting" such game to be shot at by sportsmen at certain seasons, with regard to the suffering inflicted by poor shots, could be much more economically handled in the new way. And the day is coming when it will be and when enlightened people will look upon present day practices as something as barbarically cruel as we now regard the sufferings inflicted upon many domestic animals before humane legislation in their behalf was thought of.

A movement is on foot to prohibit the setting of traps for wild animals which do not kill when they catch. Thousands of creatures caught in man-set traps die lingering and painful deaths before the trapper takes the trouble to visit his work. Some gnaw off a leg and escape. All the thought the average trapper seems to have in such cases is regret that he failed to appear in time to get the hide. The agony he inflicts on a dumb brute concerns him not a whit.

In some parts of this state bears are becoming so scarce that there was an effort at the late legislative session to fix a closed season for them, for fear the backwoods farmer's sheep might multiply too fast, perhaps, and to afford "sport" for the dandy who likes to go out with a gun and wound or kill something.

The Belgian hare has lost his popularity. The red New England rabbit, bred for its fur, was developed into a popular-hued prolific animal. Now the chinchilla rabbit is being bred to produce a fur said to be equal to genuine chinchilla and in Vermont and Oregon the industry is becoming quite prominent.

D. M. Haskins, Newberg, is vice-president of the American National Fur Breeding association and owns 175 pairs. Dr. S. C. Browne and Thomas Small of Seio have good starts at the business.

Why is a buckwheat cake like a caterpillar? Because it makes the butterfly.

## VEAL POULTRY EGGS CAPONS HOGS

We want your produce and guarantee the highest market prices. Our business established 44 years ago. Reference, Bank of California PAGE & SON Portland, Or.

## 155 Oregonians Ask Seed Wheat

Salem, Or.—The state board of control held a special meeting here Saturday and considered approximately 155 applications for loans under the so-called farm relief bill enacted at the recent session of the legislature. This bill authorized an appropriation of \$1,500,000 with which to purchase seed wheat for the grain growers of eastern Oregon, whose crops were destroyed as a result of the recent cold weather.

One hundred and two of the requests for loans received by the board aggregated \$83,402.52, or an average of \$818.

Although represented at the time the appropriation was made that practically all of the wheat east of the Cascade mountains had been destroyed, more recent reports indicate that the loss has not been as extensive as pictured to the legislature.

It also has been reported to the board that a large number of the farmers who suffered partial losses of their wheat crop are financially able to reseed their lands and will not apply to the state for assistance.

## Oregon Hens Lead

(Corvallis Independent)

Corvallis hens are starting the world in three contests in three corners of the United States by their laying.

In Puyallup, Wash., among 122 pens, the Hansen White Leghorns, from near Corvallis, are 25 eggs in the lead, five hens having laid 138 eggs during December and January or an average of 27.6 a month for each. They have taken eight firsts out of a possible ten in this contest, which is international in scope, and which Mr. Hansen says is the keenest competition in the world.

In Storrs, Conn., another pen is in the lead in an entry of 140 pens. In Los Angeles in a competition of 50 pens the Hansen entry is second on account of sickness during January. Mr. Hansen believes his pen will make up for lost time, the illness having passed.

## Few New Varieties Are Recommended for Garden

A garden on a farm is for a very definite purpose, as a rule. It generally is not planted directly for profit, but to provide the family with the good things to eat which it could not otherwise have.

If your farm garden is like most others you will have a pretty good idea just what varieties of different vegetables you will plant. These varieties will be the ones that have succeeded best for you in the past. By all means, make these your main planting.

But there is one thing that every one who is planning the farm garden should do. He should plan on experimenting with just a few novelties or new introductions.

Most of our standard vegetables were at one time novelties or new introductions. All the time new varieties are being developed. These are manifestly not all improvements, but there is always a chance that something new will be unusually good. Hence, while it pays to go slow on anything that will readily increase the amount of time the garden will require for its care, the annual tryout of a few new varieties is almost sure to be amply repaid in the long run.

## Tricks of Trade During Winter Orchard Pruning

Growers of fruit trees who do their own pruning will find it both interesting and profitable to apply some of the "tricks of the trade" during this winter's pruning. One of the most interesting of these is to put living ties in the tree. They are of principal value when applied to young vigorous trees. If a tree of this type is found to have a scaffold limb which is not firmly knit to the trunk of the tree it can be tied there by twining together two twigs from 6 to 18 inches above the crotch and one of which has its origin from the weak limb and the other from the more solid part of the tree. These should be wrapped around each other as tightly as is possible without breaking the wood and the ends should not be cut off until after several years' growth and the twigs have firmly grafted together. Such treatment will form a living tie which will have a greater strength than any artificial one that could be put in.

L. E. Blain, pioneer clothier of Albany, has presented the Albany college library with 31 volumes covering the fields of science and literature.

## Sprouted Oats for Laying Hens

It frequently happens that one little suggestion in a farm paper is worth more to a reader than the cost of several years' subscriptions.

The farming articles published in the Enterprise are not the "guess-work" of white-collared easy-chair farmers," as such published articles are sometimes glibly called, but are the result of careful and painstaking experience, whether on an ordinary farm or at an agricultural college.

An instance came to notice in our correspondence this week. In the Enterprise of Jan 21, was an article of two or three dozen lines telling how in the absence of green feed, hens may be put in better condition by sprouting oats by the heat of the kitchen stove in five small muslin bags, starting one each day.

Perhaps no Linn county poultryman has been short of green feed for his birds, and perhaps there has been a time when eggs were scarce and highest when some of them might have increased their output (and income) by following the advice referred to. But the Enterprise, though specializing in Linn county farming information, is read in places far away.

Frederick H. Morrill writes from Haverhill, N. H.:

"In your paper I saw a method of sprouting oats. As we have 20 hens and they were not doing well in the egg line I thought I would try it. I bought a bag of oats, price \$2 for 80 pounds, and started six bags and they are doing a lot of good I believe."

Those oats, in sprouting, took something from the air, the light and the water that the dry grain did not contain, and those hens were benefited by it.

## THE MARKETS

Portland  
Wheat—Hard white, \$1.94; soft white, northern spring, hard winter and western white, \$1.88; western red, \$1.86.  
Hay—Alfalfa, \$19@19.50 ton; valley timothy, \$19@20; eastern Oregon timothy, \$22@24.  
Butterfat—47c delivered Portland.  
Eggs—Ranch, 25@27c.  
Cheese—Prices f. o. b. Tillamook: Triplets, 26c; leaf, 27c per lb.  
Cattle—Steers, good, \$7.75@8.25.  
Hogs—Medium to choice, \$10.5 @ 12.25.  
Sheep—Lambs, medium to choice, \$11@16.

Seattle  
Wheat—Soft white, northern spring, \$1.90; western white, \$1.88; hard winter, \$1.87; western red, \$1.86; Big Bend bluestem, \$2.10.  
Hay—Alfalfa, \$22; D. C., \$28; timothy, \$26; D. C., \$28; mixed hay, \$24.  
Butterfat—45c.  
Eggs—Ranch, 23@30c.  
Hogs—Prime mixed, \$12@12.25.  
Cattle—Choice steers, \$7.50@7.00.  
Cheese—Washington cream brick, 19c; Washington triplets, 19@20c.  
Washington Young America, \$1@22c.

Spokane.  
Hogs—Prime mixed, \$12@12.25.  
Cattle—Prime steers, \$7.25@7.75.

Boys' club work this year should furnish farm leaders with fine opportunities to reach some parent farmers who are difficult to reach otherwise.

Any soil that will produce good crops of corn or potatoes will produce good crops of sugar beets, provided the sugar beets are properly cared for.

## Electric Power on the Farm

### Difficulties in the Road Are Bound to Be Surmounted

The farms of the United States some day will be electrified. The labor of farming will be made less burdensome through the use of electric power. But while it is true that this power is now being furnished to 2 1-2 per cent, or 164,347 of the 6,500,000 farms in the country, the problem of supplying rural districts has by no means been solved.

The farmer is potentially a heavy user of electric power. But he and his neighbor are widely separated and so far it seems that the expense of getting electric power to him will be considerable. Long steel tower electric transmission lines are built across country and to those not familiar with electrical development it seems an easy matter to run a wire off these lines to every farm they happen to cross, to supply the farmer with power.

The lines carry from 6,600 to 200,000 volts. In the majority of cases it is impractical and too expensive to tap a line and reduce the voltage to a degree it can be used on a farm. More current would be lost in the transformer than would be used on the farm.

The only feasible plan evident so far seems to be in the building of low voltage lines extended from a transformer substation in a nearby town.

At present, too, the rate is not one to encourage a liberal use of power on the farms, and in some of the experimental areas it has been found that three rural users of power to a mile use less electricity than the average.

That the farms shall be supplied with electric power there is no doubt but that the use of it on the farm will be greater than in a small business in the city cannot be ascertained. It will be employed for lighting and small power in the home. On the farm to pump water, saw wood, grind feed, milk cows and churn.

## Plan Now for Next Year's Potato Crop

### Every Grower Should Arrange to Get Best Seed.

Because of the bumper potato crop just harvested, 454,000,000 bushels (a record for the United States) and the relatively low price obtained, many farmers will be inclined to delay consideration of next year's planting, says Prof. E. V. Hardenburg of the New York State College of Agriculture at Ithaca. This is poor procedure, he declares. He cites an old and fairly safe axiom—"plant potatoes when seed is cheap." Good seed is available in abundance and at relatively low cost.

Therefore, says Professor Hardenburg, every grower of potatoes who has any doubt about the quality of his seed stock should arrange at once to get the best strain of his particular type as close to home and as cheaply as possible, even if it is his near neighbor who has it. Successful potato marketing begins with successful potato production; high yielding and high quality potatoes cannot be produced without good seed.

A very ordinary hill of potatoes producing only two average sized tubers (eight ounces each) when spaced 3 feet by 18 inches in the row will yield at the rate of 161 bushels an acre. Yet, he points out, this is 50 per cent above the average yield of New York state. The reason? Too many missing, weak and diseased hills in our potato fields. Yet figures and common sense show that it costs as

much to plant, cultivate and spray a poor stand as it does a good stand.

The potato is one of the most expensive field crops grown, principally because of the high labor and fertilizer cost of production. Better yields from a smaller acreage is one of the best ways to lower cost of production, and this means better stands of healthy, high-yielding plants. Well selected seed potatoes will outyield average seed stock by 50 per cent, demonstrators all over the country have shown. During the past season the department of vegetable gardening of the state college of agriculture tested 47 strains of the best Green Mountain, Rural, and Irish Cobbler seed stocks available in order that the relative yield and disease content of even these might be determined. Several of these seed strains showed no disease whatever. The average yields of all strains of Rurals, Green Mountains, and Cobblers, were 389, 342, and 245 bushels per acre respectively, and growers interested in obtaining new and better seed potatoes for next year's planting should inquire early either from their county farm bureau agent or from the department of vegetable gardening of the state college of agriculture.

## Peas Should Be in All Gardens

### Several Other Standard Vegetables Are Entitled to Good Attention.

Peas ought to be in every garden the whole season through. Alaska for the earliest, Fillbasket to follow Alaska, and possibly Gradus or Nott's Excelsior will more than supply you with early varieties. Main crop varieties to furnish you peas to can for winter include Dwarf Champion, which is far and away the best variety for the small garden.

The biggest and best sweet pepper is considered to be the Chinese Giant. Ruby King is another well known mango pepper but usually not as good as the Chinese Giant. Then among the hot peppers there is Red Cayenne, and a little of this pepper will go a long way.

Among the pumpkins one of my favorites is the Cushaw, says a writer in the Successful Farming. Some classify it among the squash, for it has the shape of a squash in some measure, but it makes a pie like pumpkin. Sugar and Buff Pie or Quaker Pie are first-class pumpkins, and, by the way, it is a mistake not to have pumpkins to put away for winter, so plant enough.

Table Queen, Squash. There is a new squash, commonly termed Table Queen, which ought to be in every garden. It is a small individual size, fine barker and a good keeper. Plant these and one larger late variety and you can even get along without sweet potatoes if you find them hard to grow.

The early squash comes along at a time when your appetite is just set for them. The White Bush Scallop and the Summer Bush Crookneck varieties are standards.

Radishes are usually about the first things out in a garden, or at least radishes generally make the first returns. Besides the early ones such as Early Bird, Scarlet Turnip, and all those, have a few summer radishes such as Icicle or Chartier, and try just a few of those winter radishes, such as Chinese Rose Winter, one of the best, or Celestial, or Scarlet China.

With tomatoes for the home garden you will make no mistake with Earlann, Chalk's Jewel, New Stone, and Ponderosa.

## Turnips in Abundance.

Turnips in abundance will be had from one or two ounces of early seed, or if you eat as few as some of us, a packet or so of early seed. White Milan, Early Snowball are good early varieties. Late varieties, of which you should plant in order to store plenty for winter, include White Egg, or the old standby, Purple-top Strap Leaf.

In addition to these standard vegetables you are going to lose half the fun and good of your garden if you fail to raise some of the special crops such as salsify, endive, kohlrabi, okra, parsley, kale and the many other odds and ends that after all make a variety of foods that not only please the appetite but return dividends in health.

Owners of 70,000 sheep which will be pastured in four national forests of Oregon this year met in Bend Saturday, February 23. The meeting will be the first of its kind held in Bend and represents owners of flocks that will be pastured in the Deschutes, Santiam, Umpqua and Cascade National forests during the coming season.

Hearing of the wool rate case has been set for March 23, according to announcement made at the offices of the public service commission. The hearing will be conducted by representatives of the interstate commerce commission and will be held in Portland.

More than 40 acres of carrots have been planted by farmers of The Dalles district under contract with the local cannery.

Of the approximate 3500 carloads of apples harvested in the Hood River valley last fall less than 100 cars remain unshipped.

To reduce your present high cost of feeding use Alfalfa Meal Molasses This is Alfalfa Meal and pure Cane Molasses. A really good dairy feed Fresh shipment just received

# O. W. FRUM