

A New Linen Mill Coming on the Coast

Flax Culture May Be a Profitable Venture in Linn County

Wake up! "The world do move." Many a Linn county farmer can make a little money raising fiber flax.

A lease running thirty years on fourteen acres and part of the plate plant in the steel shipyard at Vancouver, Wash., was signed last week by Fred S. Gilbreath, representing eastern capitalists, which insures the location there of the big mills of the Washington-Oregon Linen Mills company. The machinery has been purchased and the mill will be in operation within six months.

But the above is not the only promising development. There may come a factory here at home if our farmers take to growing the fiber on a considerable scale.

D. M. Sanson, linen mill operator at Toronto, Can., was in this valley last week. The Eugene Register reports that he said, at a luncheon of the chamber of commerce:

"The flax situation in Oregon is just where it might lead to great things, and attract not only national but world-wide interest." He pointed to the rapid development of the flax industry at present and the diminished supply. Demoralized conditions in Europe, especially in the leading flax-producing countries, have practically brought the industry to a standstill there.

The Oregon flax was the finest he had ever seen and admirably adapted to the production of high-grade cloth. The conditions in this state, especially in the Willamette valley, are ideal for raising flax. The soil, the climate and the water in the valley are better adapted to flax than in any other section of the world.

Figuring flax at \$88 a ton, and allowing a minimum of two tons to the acre, I believe the farmer could make \$50 clear profit from each acre," said he.

W. P. Bartran of the Perfection Flax Filling Machine company, Toronto, 14 of whose machines are operated in this valley, was with Mr. Sanson on his trip.

The Albany Democrat, reporting a similar visit to the Aldany chamber of commerce next day, said: "Mr. Sanson first became interested in this valley by receiving a specimen of flax sent by request of Governor Pierce to a meeting of flax growers held in New York city."

"Why produce the material here and ship it east for manufacture?" was one of his questions.

"The demoralized conditions in Europe have forced the mill operators to search for a new field for raw products."

It is with the idea of establishing such an industry in the state that he is making the present survey of Oregon.

Should Get Acquainted With Various Machines

During the winter months is a good time to get acquainted with the farm machinery and equipment. The more we know about our machines, the more efficiently they will be handled, and the less trouble will be encountered, and the more pleasure we can obtain out of farm life.

Start with the tractor and automobile; they are similar in a good many respects. Get the instruction book and study the motor; note how it operates, how the carburetor works, how the gas is ignited, how the mechanism is lubricated, why some parts need more and a better grade of oil than others. Study the troubles of the motor, and the gauges. After the motor and its accessories are thoroughly understood, go to the transmission, then the wheels. On the automobile, find out all you can about tire repairing.

Other machines can be studied in the same way, the lighting system, the water pump, the spraying machine, and the farm implements. They can not only be studied with the idea of using them more efficiently, but so that repairs and adjustments may be made without outside assistance.

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Red Polled Kine on Oregon Farms

They Are Hardy, Yield Much Milk and It is Rich in Fat

During the season of the fall fairs each year the newspapers bring reports of prizes won by Frank M. Porter of Halsey all through the northwest on his red polled cattle. An Enterprise reporter quizzed Mr. Porter recently on the breed and his experience.

It is often claimed that a general-purpose animal is a no-use animal, and on this pretty popular theory the White Leghorns are the predominant breed of fowls in this country, bred for eggs and not for meat, the Jersey is the butter cow and the Holstein, the milk and cheese cow.

A few people keep Plymouth rock fowls for both eggs and meat and the milking short-horn cattle have their champions as dual purpose kine.

Questioned, Mr. Porter said he chose the red polled cattle because they are good butter producers and have a carcass valuable for meat and, quite as important, are more hardy than the delicate Jersey. He was not prepared to give that attention and care required by the Jersey if she is to do her best.

About 1905 Mr. Porter bought a male and a female of his chosen breed and also took a few animals on shares.

F. M. Sargent of Scio raised the same breed, but he has gone out of the business. Mr. Porter is satisfied with results and now has over 60 of the animals.

Cattle are down now, but up to a year ago he seldom sold a bull calf for less than \$100. He has had a demand in California, Idaho and Washington for all his spare animals as breeders and has only sold for beef such as he considered off quality—the culls of the herd. These registered cattle, as well as registered horses, are carried by the Southern Pacific at reduced rates.

Among advantages claimed for the red polls are the absence of horns; the round, compact build; the good foraging characteristic and the solid color, with no individuals varying in type from the characteristic markings. They beef at 1250 to 1850 pounds and their butterfat record runs up to 951 pounds.

Fifteen years ago Mr. Porter sold a bull to a Yakima man who used it to cross with short-horns. Last year the purchaser's father came to the Pacific International stock show so well pleased the result of the son's venture that he paid Mr. Porter \$1500 for a bull which he had bought as a calf in Minnesota for \$500, paying \$75 freight to bring him home. The animal weighs 2100 pounds.

Consider Saitpeter for Stumps Is Big Failure

In a recent letter from A. J. McAdams, land reclamation specialist for the University of Missouri, concerning the much-discussed method of using sautpeter for rotting stumps so they could later be burned out, he states that they tried out this method thoroughly in Wisconsin and could see no results or benefits at all. Also that it has been tried out without results in the Pacific Northwest, and that he understands that the land clearing specialists in Minnesota have had the same negative results.

If these several land clearing experts, after carefully testing out this method, pronounce it worthless for practical purposes, we think we can safely agree with their conclusions, says the Indiana Farmer's Guide. However, we are always open to conviction. One or two isolated stumps mean little or nothing, however, unless they can be compared with similar ones not treated.

With a closed storage house the repairing of farm machinery is more tempting.

The prudent employer doesn't broadcast all the time; he frequently puts the receiver to his ear.

Live Stock Not Improving Fast

High Percentage of Low Grades Caused by Poor Breeding.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

In spite of the numerous methods of stimulating the improvement of live stock and in spite of the increased profits which come from such improvement, says the bureau of animal industry, United States Department of Agriculture, the need for such improvement is still apparent on almost every hand. Go to any of the public stock yards, say the government observers, and you will find only a small percentage of the meat animals in the highest market grades. Only about 5 per cent of the cattle received at Chicago, the largest live stock market, grade as prime or choice. Sometimes insufficient feeding keeps down the grade, but the principal cause of the high percentage of low grades is poor breeding.

Dairying Hampered. Similarly, the dairy industry is hampered by many inefficient cows. The average milk production of the dairy cows in this country is scarcely two-thirds that of the cows in some foreign countries, and less than one-third that of the well-bred and well-managed dairy herds here. Horses, mules, sheep, goats and poultry are equally in need of improvement.

Better Breeding Seen. At the same time the Department of Agriculture calls attention to the possibilities for animal improvement. It does not overlook the fact that far-sighted and energetic stockmen and farmers have done much in the direction of better breeding and have developed thousands of herds and flocks to which the foregoing comments do not apply. Nevertheless, the average quality and productive power of American live stock are said to be much lower than need be in the light of what is now known of animal breeding, feeding and management.

Small Potato Will Make Good as Seed

Tubers Reproduce Plant From Which They Come.

The old question about the size of potato seed comes up this year. Some people think that a small potato will be sure to give a hill of small tubers; that is, that it will reproduce itself. That is not always true, says the Rural New Yorker. The potato seed, whether large or small, is likely to reproduce the plant from which it is taken. Seed taken from a large, well-developed hill will be likely to reproduce the yield, whether the seed is small or large. A hill of potatoes giving only two or three large-sized tubers would not be selected for seed under what is known as hill selection, because the tubers would reproduce the plant from which they come and give only a small yield. A small tuber taken from a hill giving a heavy yield would be likely to duplicate that yield, and it is not likely that a large tuber taken from the same hill would do any better. The plan followed in hill selection is to study individual hills and select the tubers from those hills, or those plants which give finest yield. Of course, where the crop is dug and all thrown together, it is impossible to know the parentage of any particular seed, so that it is usually better when taking seed from the bin just as it comes, to select the large tubers, or those of medium size, for planting, but when the percentage of the seed is known and the best hills are selected it is quite likely that the little potatoes will serve for seed just as well as the large ones.

When Mammoth Clover Is Wanted for Seed Only

When mammoth clover is wanted for seed it is well to either pasture the field until about the first of June or clip it, leaving the clippings on the field to act as mulch. If short of pasture use this field of clover early in the season for that purpose. However, if the fertility of the soil is of most importance, let the clover grow, then in June roll or pole it down, going around the field in the same direction that the mower will go. The heads of the clover will straighten up and the seed crop can be harvested without handling so much straw. By this method a heavy growth of organic matter is left on the ground to be turned under when the ground is plowed for corn.

FOR SALE—White Leghorn **BABY CHICKS** from two- and three-year-old hens mated to cockerels having dams with records of 247 to 303.
N. Hedlund, Halsey, Oregon, Phone 55F52, Brownsville.

Potato Reliable Farm Vegetable

In Spring Plow, Disk and Harrow Until Soil Is in Good Condition.

The "Irish" potato seems to me, says a writer in an exchange, to be one of the most profitable and reliable vegetables than can be grown, as it is a crop that very seldom fails.

For early potatoes an ideal place should be selected, such as an old garden spot that has been improved for several years, or a place where clover has been plowed under for several years in succession. The clover causes the land to be rich and loosens up the soil. The soil should be of a medium nature, light sandy just enough to be in a good state of fertilization. Manure the patch broadcast with good stable manure. In doing this not so much is needed in the row at planting time. Break the ground good and deep, then in the spring plow, disk and harrow until the soil is in a good pulverized condition. Lay off the rows 8 or 8½ feet wide, making the rows good and deep. If possible cut your pieces of potatoes so as to have two eyes on each piece and use the whole potato in doing so, as the larger the piece the better the germination and start the young plant will have.

Plant Quite Early. Plant earlier than any of the rest of your neighbors, say in March, covering the potatoes after dropping, with manure and then deep with soil. Even if the ground does freeze on top the potatoes are getting a start. As soon as the freezing weather has passed take a drag and run it across the patch, then give a harrowing which will again loosen up the soil. Planting at this time, we know it is too cold for the young potatoes to come up, but the pieces will sprout and take root and young potatoes will begin to set on even by the time the plant reaches the top of the ground. Try a small patch planted at this time and see the results, then compare with your neighbors and see if you don't have earlier and better potatoes.

Strawing Late Potatoes. In strawing late potatoes prepare your ground in the same manner as you would if going to plant without the straw, having it in a good condition for planting. Lay it off in rows about 2½ feet wide and drop the potatoes about 10 or 12 inches apart, covering them with an inch or so of soil. Now bring on your straw and scatter it over the entire field of potatoes to a depth of 8 feet, as after a rain or two the straw will settle down. After the planting is all done, nothing more is required until digging time.

In digging a manure fork is used, the straw being lifted off and your potatoes are found lying on top of the soil. Planting in this way saves a great deal of time and extra work and they will stand more of a drought than those planted in the soil. The straw, when once it becomes wet, holds the moisture, thus causing the small potatoes to continue growing while, if in the soil, they would not have enough moisture, as it soon becomes dry and hard.

Fertilized and Limed Soil for Clover Crop

At the Ohio agricultural experiment station on land that has been properly fertilized and limed and worked into a good seed bed, six pounds of clover seed per acre has produced a seven-year average yield equal to that from twelve pounds of seed under the same conditions.

Slightly acid soils now in winter wheat, according to L. E. Thatcher, associate agronomist at the station, may be put in good condition for red clover by top-dressing the wheat with a ton or more of finely ground limestone per acre when the ground is bare and frozen. A top-dressing of acid phosphate or 0-14-4 fertilizer early in the spring before sowing the clover will greatly help the stand and reduce the amount of seed needed.

A dairy barn doesn't need to be costly to be clean.

More Prizes Open for Holstein Herds

Bossy Brings \$160 at a Montesano Auction Apathy Here

A new feature is provided this year, in favor of exhibitors, in the prize offers at the National Dairy show. The rule requiring not less than five entries in the judging ring to fill the class has been revised and the following scale of prizes is now effective: One herd, \$75; two herds, \$100 and \$75; three herds, \$125, \$100 and \$75; four herds, \$150, \$125, \$100 and \$75; five or more herds, \$250, \$150, \$125, \$100, \$75 and \$50. In addition special prizes totaling \$500 are offered on Holstein herds in this one class by the Holstein-Friesian association.

Special prizes of cash, metal medals and gold and silver medals to the value of \$25,000 will be offered this year by the association for the showing of Holsteins at fairs and dairy cattle shows having district and state-wide regional and national prominence. These are in addition to the regular prizes.

At an auction sale of cattle of various breeding at Montesano a few days ago a Holstein cow topped the list at \$130.

The Holstein is a great milking breed of cattle. The Holsteins are more popular among cheese makers than with producers of butter, but they are by no means poor butter yielders. Linn county is partial to the little Jersey among cows and the White Leghorn among hens, but there are those who appreciate the hardiness and casein producing qualities of the larger kine and the handsome, large, meaty body of the Plymouth rock or other large fowls.

A get-together affair scheduled for the friends of the Holsteins at Harrisburg for March 14 failed to arouse the interest it might have produced, but farmers who are satisfied with the results and prospects of that breed will give no less enthusiasm than before to their specialty.

Let's adopt now a permanent policy of legume growing.

Fruits and vegetables are health, and health is more than farm profits.

Top-dressing with manure is decidedly beneficial, with little danger of injury.

"Like father, like son" is as true in the plant world as among men and animals.

Flax may be seeded early in the spring or up to June 15. The earlier seeding is generally better.

A farmer in one community can capitalize on the experience of farmers in other communities through the medium of the county agent.

A one-cent postal card may bring you from the agricultural college publications worth hundreds of dollars towards better farming.

The best time to sow alfalfa is undoubtedly in August, after the first good rain, but a spring seeding may be successful if the conditions are good.

Hogging off corn has been found to be a very satisfactory method of harvesting the corn crop and finishing pigs for the market and is becoming a popular practice.

Agricultural News

Trustees of the Columbia Basin Irrigation league will meet in Portland March 27 to outline the summer and fall activities of the league.

Frank E. Lynn of Perrydale, Polk county, was reappointed a member of the Oregon state fair board for a term of four years. His first term expired on March 14.

Goat shearing is making good progress in the Willamette valley and most of the mohair buyers are now out with offers of 55 cents for mature hair and 75 cents for kid hair.

With a pack worth almost \$80,000 in 1924, and with prospects for a pack of \$150,000 in 1925, the Ashland cannery is now planning on the construction of another building to enable them to handle the larger output this year.

As a part of the \$3,000,000 construction program to be undertaken in Oregon by the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph company this year work on the installation of two additional long distance circuits between Portland and Salem will be started shortly by that concern, it was announced by C. E. Hickman, division superintendent.

Rhea Luper, state engineer, has received a request from the directors of the Warm Springs irrigation district to conduct an investigation to determine the amount of water available for use by the project. The Warm Springs district proposes to sell half its water supply to the United States reclamation service for use on the Vale project.

THE MARKETS

Portland

Wheat—Hard white and soft white, \$1.66; northern spring, hard winter and western white, \$1.65; western red, \$1.63.

Hay—Alfalfa, \$18.50@19 ton; valley timothy, \$19@20; eastern Oregon timothy, \$24@25.

Butterfat—48c delivered Portland. Eggs—Ranch, 25@28c.

Cheese—Prices f. o. b. Tillamook: Triplets, 23c; loaf, 29c per lb. Cattle—Steers, good, \$8.25@8.75.

Hogs—Medium to choice, \$12.00@14.00. Sheep—Lams, medium to choice, \$11@16.

Seattle

Wheat—Soft white and hard winter, \$1.68; western white, \$1.67; western red and northern spring, \$1.65; Big Bend bluestem, \$1.95.

Hay—Alfalfa, \$23; D. C., \$23; timothy, \$26; D. C., \$28; mixed hay, \$24. Butterfat—45c.

Eggs—Ranch, 28@29c. Hogs—Top hogs, \$14.25. Cattle—Choice steers, \$8.25@8.85.

Cheese—Washington cream brick, 19c; Washington triplets, 19@20c. Washington Young America, 21@22c.

Spokane

Hogs—Prime mixed, \$12.75@14.00. Cattle—Prime steers, \$7.75@8.25.

News Notes From All Over Oregon

Gleaned by the Western Newspaper Union for Busy People

The work of extending the Umpqua river jetty a distance of 1300 feet has begun.

David R. Vandenberg, Portland attorney, was appointed deputy district attorney of Klamath county.

June 5 and 6 are the dates for the 23d annual picnic of the Umatilla County Pioneers' association.

It has been decided to transfer the state prohibition department headquarters from Portland to Salem.

T. A. Rinehart, for the last two years secretary of the state tax commission, has submitted his resignation, to become effective April 1. He will be succeeded by Ralph Wirth.

Activities of the state traffic officers resulted in 175 arrests during February, according to a report prepared by T. A. Rafferty, chief inspector for the state motor vehicle department.

Salem business and professional men raised approximately \$220 toward a fund to send the Salem high school basketball team to Chicago to participate in the national tournament there.

Governor Pierce, upon recommendation of Thomas B. Kay, state treasurer, appointed the National City bank of New York city fiscal agent for the state of Oregon at the eastern financial center.

The West Coast Power company which lately purchased the electric plant at Reedsport, has announced a

(Continued on page 5)

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