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WATER IN THIS VALLEY

In another column on this page is a prediction that the Willamette valley will some day become the greatest irrigated farming section in the United States.

"To one who has always been told that in western Oregon 'it rains thirteen months in the year,' and who has not thoughtfully studied conditions here, this may be startling or seem impossible, even though he realizes, as many do not, that here is a comparatively level plain containing more acres than all the area, for instance, of Massachusetts and Connecticut combined.

Comparatively few Willamette valley farmers have tried to irrigate crops of any considerable size, and many still believe that the cost of doing so would exceed the benefit, though all will admit that there are times, almost every year, when a little water on the land would be worth much money.

The wheat crops which shortly before harvest this year looked like bumper yields but disappointed all hopes when threshed would have gone far towards paying for an irrigation plant on many a farm in return for a little water just at their time of need.

A prune grower along the Willamette river a few years ago put in a pumping plant and irrigated his trees when the condition of the soil seemed to need it. He got a short crop, as did his neighbors, and they thought he had wasted his money. But the next year the trees that had been unirrigated set but a scanty crop while his set and matured a bumper yield with no irrigation since the previous season. The bread which he had cast upon the waters returned to him after many days.

Irrigation will be one factor in this valley in the doubling and trebling of the yield per acre predicted in an article in the Dearborn Independent from which we quote on this page under the caption: "The Agriculture of the Future."

The drainage is another. By it, with proper management, despoiled "white lands" may be brought into the class of the most productive soils in the state.

The state agricultural college, which stands ready to help solve the problems of any farmer who applies, has done wonders in this direction, as in many others, and is graduating young people in its agricultural courses who may play eminent roles in the installation of the new and better agriculture.

Three or four years ago, when the Enterprise suggested that if wheat did not pay the farmer might try other crops, the reply was made by some exchanges that some lands are adapted only to wheat. Of course that is not true. There is no crop producing land on which only one product can be grown. Our critics cited Umatilla county wheat farms. Well, A. F. Knight had a 2000-acre wheat farm in that county. A few years ago, when wheat hit the bottom in the market, he tried onions and sold \$234 worth from three-fourths of an acre. This year he got 210 bushels on the same ground. Next year he proposes to plant three times as many. He is also dairying and raising potatoes. He finds other products pay, whether the wheat results are good or poor.

The census bureau says the most modest city in the country is in Oregon. Do you suppose it got that rating because its skirts are low and its waists high? Well, it didn't. It protested that its population had been overstated.

Deer and pheasants are getting their revenge. A good many hunters are being killed or wounded by hunters' guns.

AVOIDABLE TRAGEDIES

The hunter who fatally shoots a man for a deer is always guilty of manslaughter for he kills a human being in the performance of an unlawful act, namely, in trying to kill a deer before he has ascertained whether it is a male or a female. Added to other penalties he should be forever barred from using firearms.

Nearly every automobile accident is due to criminal carelessness. When a car skids in turning a corner on a wet pavement and the driver claims that he was going carefully he makes a false claim. No matter how slowly he was going, he was going too fast under the conditions. The skidding proves this.

When he runs into another car or a ditch, a post or the river in the fog he is to blame for the results. If the fog was so dense that he could not safely drive in it it was a crime for him to do so.

After every accident which could have been avoided by careful driving the driver ought to be disqualified from ever driving a car again.

Leave the driving of cars to persons who never have been responsible for accidents and the shooting of game to those who never have been known to shoot without knowing what they were shooting at.

Pictures on the stage and the magazine covers have been more decent recently than they were a while ago, but last Monday evening one showed in Halsey that we are glad to say we have not seen advertised by any reputable show house. It was brought by a tramp showman who did not attach his name to his advertising. "Quo Vadis" is a story that cannot be pictured decently. To present it in the movies is to licentiously portray licentiousness. "Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Repair" might be put on the screen in such a way as to be instructive and inspiring and without reproach.

Bulgaria and Greece each tell the league of nations that the other is lying about her. Perhaps both tell the truth now.

Leprosy is Being Cured

Twelve persons have been released from the leprosarium at Carville, La., as cured. There leprosy is being combated with some success among the 250 patients. More patients are expected to be paroled from month to month. Officials at the institution are using the chaulmoogra oil treatment, but with variations. According to Dr. O. E. Denney, physician in charge, two years of isolation for all persons affected with leprosy would eliminate it in the United States. It is estimated that there are now about 900 cases of the disease in this country.

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LAWYERS  
[Halsey and Brownsville Oregon]

Windigo?

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Did you ever hear one?  
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The Great Outdoors

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

The Agriculture of the Future

Biggest Combination of Brains and Muscle Will Win

Ford's Weekly)  
Farming will be surely, adequately and profitably conducted in this country by the same methods that our other large industries are conducted. Not tomorrow, or next month, or, probably, to any great extent within the next ten years. But it is bound to come if this nation is to continue to thrive and live.

The output of the correctly managed, amply capitalized farm will be sold at a price so much lower than the output of inefficient farms that it will be impossible for the latter to continue in business.

The entrance of skilled management—and capital that demands skilled management—into agriculture will be brought about gradually by the increasing inability of more and more of our present-day farmers to continue the battle to make a living.

More and more of those poorly located, worn-out farms will be abandoned. The cities will absorb some of the owners and tenants; others will be given employment by those farmers who run their farms as factories.

There are going to be fewer farms and fewer farmers in this country. And, despite this seeming contradiction of economic law, the price of even the better class of farm land will not greatly increase.

Farming is due to become a highly specialized business, capable of being adequately conducted on half or two-thirds the number of acres now under cultivation. A farm will be valued according to the profit it will show on a balance sheet. When it is seen that a farm cannot make a profit, it will be thrown on the market and thereby become an influence tending to decrease the price of all farm land.

The successful farming system of the future will be the one that combines the daily turnover system with the too-prevalent present one-crop turnover system.

Farming in the future will include the production of milk and its products, poultry and eggs, vegetables and fruits. All are quick turnover products, the two first named being those which can be produced and readily turned into cash every day in the year.

Diversified farming produces a larger gross income for the year and to a great extent insures against the chance of serious loss such as exists in one-crop farming; but, at the same time, it offers no guaranty of farming success. The wider the range of products, the greater is the skill, judgment and persistent effort required. Diversified farming is now practiced, to a greater or less extent, on every farm east of the Mississippi.

Edgar W. Cooley of the agricultural extension dept., International Harvester company, says: "The principles of good business applied in manufacturing and commercial pursuits apply also in the business of farming. The average annual loss on the farms of the United States is about 30 per cent of the gross income."

"The principal sources of this loss are as follows:  
"Failure to test seed corn, \$100,000,000; improper harvesting and storing of seed corn, millions of dollars in yield and quality; planting of infertile seed, cannot be estimated; ravages of corn root worm, more than \$100,000,000; waste of cornstalks in field instead of being put in silo, at least \$500,000,000; failure to treat small grains for smut, fully \$35,000,000; waste of manure through careless handling, \$300,000,000; hog cholera, over \$65,000,000; weeds, fully \$300,000,000; Texas fever cattle tick, nearly \$500,000,000; 'scrub' dairy cows, fully \$745,000,000; depreciation of farm machinery and tools from failure to properly house or care for them, impossible to estimate; soil erosion resulting from one-crop system of agriculture, many millions."

The figures in the foregoing bulletin total \$2,445,000,000, and

they are by no means complete. Except among the thrifty, competent truck gardeners near our large cities the waste of every form of agricultural effort is appalling.

Dairying calls for the growing of leguminous crops that add to the nitrogen supply of the soil, instead of depleting it. If the farmer sells the fat in the milk, and feeds the skim milk to calves, swine and chickens, he is sending away no nitrogenous fertility from his farm except as it walks off in the carcasses of the livestock he markets. Of the 25,000,000 cows, 397,000 belong to the 800 cow testing stations.

A recent bulletin of the department of agriculture says: "It is estimated that the average dairy cow in this country produces daily about 4000 pounds of milk containing about 160 pounds of butter fat."

"In the economical production of milk and butter fat the largest gains are to be obtained through the culling out of those cows that produce less than 4000 pounds of milk, containing less than 160 pounds of butter fat."

THE MARKETS

Portland  
Wheat—Big Bend bluestem, \$1.46; hard white, \$1.43; soft white and western white, \$1.35; hard winter, northern spring and western red, \$1.35.  
Hay—Alfalfa, \$18@19 ton; valley timothy, \$18@20; eastern Oregon timothy, \$21@22.  
Butterfat—55c shippers' track.  
Eggs—Ranch, 41@50c.  
Cheese—Prices f. o. b. Tillamook; Triplets, 31c; loaf, 32c per lb.  
Cattle—Steers, medium, \$6.75@8.00; Hogs—Medium to choice, \$11.75@12.50.  
Sheep—Lambs, medium to choice, \$12.00@13.00.

Seattle.  
Wheat—Soft white, western white, \$1.41; western red, \$1.37; northern spring, \$1.35; Big Bend bluestem, \$1.48.  
Hay—Alfalfa, \$23; D. C. \$23; timothy, \$26; mixed hay, \$24.  
Butter—Creamery, 49@55c.  
Eggs—Select ranch, 57@60c.  
Hogs—Prime, \$13.50@14.10.  
Cattle—Prime steers, \$7.75@8.25.  
Cheese—Oregon fancy, 30c; Oregon standards 26c; Washington triplets 28c.

Spokane.  
Hogs—Prime mixed, \$12.25@12.50.  
Cattle—Prime steers, \$7.50@8.00.

Umatilla county wheat farmers are wanting rain in appreciable quantities for the benefit of the newly-seeded crop, and in some districts the drought that has prevailed practically all fall may make necessary some re-seeding of fields. Only a small percentage of the crop is up yet, although more than half of the acreage has been seeded.

Irrigation in Western Oregon

A Prediction That This Valley Will Lead in the Country

(George Huntington Currey in "Oregon Business")

Gradually southern Oregon took the lead in irrigation and without doubt the big irrigated area of southern Oregon is today in the most prosperous condition of any farming section in the state.

Changing market demands and improved farming methods have recently brought irrigation to the front in the Willamette valley, where many farmers now predict that Oregon will eventually see one of the largest irrigated districts in the United States. Irrigation is no longer a sectional, but a state-wide opportunity.

The successful farm unit is the economic basis of the entire reclamation program. Drainage is not only associated with irrigation problems, but the drainage of swamp and waste lands is as true land reclamation as irrigation. Likewise the matter of clearing logged over lands, the use of public lands and all similar problems must be considered in their proper relation to the watering of the irrigable acres in the state. (Dearborn Independent—Henry

Piffle of Politicians

Frost too early or frost too late, cold wet springs, drouths in summer, innumerable pests—many are the troubles that beset the farmer, says the Canton (Pa.) Sentinel. There is one source of evil, however, masquerading as a friend which, if the farmer gives too much time and thought upon it, may cause him as much trouble, delay his crops and retard his progress as much as all of the drawbacks mentioned above, and that is listening to the professional politician trying to delude the tiller of the soil into believing that there can be legislation enacted directly for the benefit of the farmer and to no one else.

Such legislation never has been or will be enacted for the simple reason that it cannot be enacted.

Frost has no connection with the colors of autumn foliage, says Prof. Sweetser, head of the botany department, O. A. C. Upon the approach of winter nature stops the flow of sap and green coloring matter and by a process not yet understood by botanists the leaf takes on the red and yellow hues.

J. S. Nicewood reports a good potato crop.

Paragraphs for Farmers

Potatoes that are jabbed with forks or cut are not No. 1.

In the United States only 110 counties are pronounced free from bovine tuberculosis.

Aren't you proud of your Oregon? " was often heard from citizens who had inspected exhibits at the state fair.

Eleven growers of low-vine Burbank seed potatoes in Benton county had 35½ acres the first of this month that had passed two inspections by O. A. C.

Nearly 50,000 persons earned \$1,368,000 picking 80,000 bales of hops from 14,000 acres near Salem this year, the hops being worth nearly \$4,000,000.

The largest marketing concern in Oregon and the largest wool marketing organization in the United States is the Pacific Co-operative Woolgrowers of Portland.

Glenn Ohling of Albany had at the state fair a litter of 12 six-month-old pigs that weighed 2670 pounds. He had fed them four tons, at a cost of \$25, and he sold them for over \$260.

Grain, hay and potato yields in Oregon are larger than last year. A 100,000-bushel shortage of potatoes in the United States is mostly too far away to stimulate the price in Oregon.

A big meeting at Aumsville is planned for Nov. 18, when O. A. C. men will make a start for the largest flax demonstration in the west. The plan is to put in 20 acres to ascertain the best kinds of soil and of seed.

Big and little newspapers are proclaiming that prosperity is returning to agriculture. Market Agent Spence says he does not see how it is possible, and that the instances they cite are special producers—isolated instances of the few who have made money. There are profits made on nearly all farm products, but they are nearly all made after they leave the farmers' hands.

Wisconsin has the most comprehensive standardizing and labeling law of all the states. The department of marketing has the power to establish labels and standards for all food and farm products, and it applies to all products packed in the state. The department is given power to prohibit unfair competition. Under these conditions the state produces 70 per cent of the cheese of the country and 50 per cent of the peas.—Market Agent Spence.

Complaint is made that the Oregon co-operative egg association has been so manipulating that cold storage speculators have been getting the short end of profits, both spring and fall. In the spring the price is held so that the ice men have to pay high for their storage stock, and in October the price was held so low in Portland that there was little profit in bringing them out, while the co-operative association was selling cargoes in New York at a nice advance on the Portland price.—Market Agent Spence.

The most satisfying sight the editor saw in a recent trip into the coast mountains was a stableful of dairy cows that get all their rations (salt excepted, perhaps) from the home farm, have a portion of green feed the year round, are happy and yield an income that keeps their owners in the same frame of mind. And a dairy draws less from the fertility of the farm than any other source of income.

Mrs. Freeland and her granddaughter were in Portland over the week end.

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