

**RURAL ENTERPRISE**

An independent—Not neutral—news-paper, published every Wednesday, by Wm. H. WHEELER

\$1 a year in advance. Arrearages, 12 1/2¢ a month. Advertising, 20¢ an inch; no discount for time or space; no charge for composition or changes. "Paid-for Paragraphs," 5¢ a line. No advertising disguised as news.

**SOME GOOD ADVICE**

Elsewhere on this page Prof. Hyslop of O. A. C. pretty effectively pricks the bubble of Belgian supremacy over this valley in wheat production. He gives figures to back his statements.

But he gives both sides of the picture. He notes certain limitations to our opportunities for producing top-notch wheat crops. An article from the Farm Journal, also to be found on this page, also gives some reasons why the maximum wheat crop may fail to be the optimum.

We are not inclined to be pessimistic over the outlook for dairying in this valley while the per capita use of dairy products in the country is increasing and coconut oil substitutes are falling off here in the face of a campaign for better nutrition, especially for children.

Prof. Hyslop, however, is constructive in his advice, as the entire O. A. C. force is wont to be, and points to the increasing use of legumes as a main reason for faith in future crop-growing in the Willamette country.

In coming days, instead of bemoaning freight-rate inducements which encourage shipment of alfalfa hay from eastern Oregon to the coast, to the disadvantage of the local grower of poorer hay, we may see this region producing the best. And when that time comes there will be less temptation to sell it for shipment. It can be turned into dairy products as profitably here as anywhere and meantime retain practically all the fertility for our own crops.

In the general interest of better and more profitable farming we are glad to be able to broadcast such a helpful letter as that of Prof. Hyslop.

**DONKEY HOTEY, TELL US**

Tax exempt certificates take money which should be invested in industries that employ labor and promote community prosperity.—Salem Statesman.

Please, please, Mr. Statesman, tell us what's done with that money after those securities had been bought with it. Stop repeating the above refrain of the parrot press long enough to name the rascal who got the money and is paying interest on the bonds and hiding the price of them in a stocking where the assessor can't find it and it can't employ labor or promote prosperity. We don't care how soon tax free securities are prohibited, but we want to see the face of the fool who is holding so many millions of idle dollars and paying even a low interest on them. He's even wiser than a capitalist. He's a phantom!

We have enough farms, enough farmers and enough farm products.—Farm Journal.

Result, low prices for products and low incomes for farmers. Increase the number of farmers, spend public money on reclamation schemes, clear up logged-off land, and you will keep the prices of these things down, to the advantage of producers of high-priced labor and manufactured articles in the city. Portland is doing this and telling farmers she is bringing more farmers to increase agricultural prosperity and in gratitude they must help her keep the income tax off her tax dodgers and the oleo restrictions off her butter counterfeiters.

The "regular" republicans in congress talk turkey to the "irregulars," but require them to eat crow.

In column 3 on this page Prof. Hyslop discounts some current accounts of superiority of Belgian wheat culture over that of the Willamette valley. The college instructor in his letter to the Enterprise is not propounding vague suppositions but discussing established facts. His allusion to valley land that is too good for wheat because it may be made to profitably yield products more valuable than any wheat crop is in interesting contrast to statements in column 6. There land is told of that is too poor for wheat because the yield will not pay for seeding and harvesting.

Portland was able to beat the "cow counties" on the oleomargarine bill as on income tax. One hypocritical claim was that the making of bull butter helped the cotton planters by consuming cottonseed oil. Nearly all the oil used in making imitation dairy products comes from Philippine coconuts. A ship is expected to arrive in Portland tomorrow with 3800 tons of this oil.

A dispatch from Pacific Grove, Cal., says that Mrs. Francesca Monoson found a live chicken in the throat of a rooster that she killed, but that the little thing died. Didn't she mistake a crow for a chick? We have frequently known a crow to come from the throat of a rooster.

A bill providing for a costly commission to arbitrarily fix the prices of agricultural products has been introduced in the federal senate by Shipsted of Minnesota. It will probably die more expeditiously than did the McNary-Haugen bill.

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**WRIGHT & CO.** Funeral Directors. W. L. Wright, Harrisburg. Mrs. J. C. Bramwell, Halsey.

**TUSSING & TUSSING** LAWYERS. Halsey and Brownsville Oregon.

**Some Land is too Good for Wheat**

**Prof. Hyslop Thinks This Valley Does Well in the Circumstances**

**BUT IT MIGHT DO BETTER**

Belgium raises five times as much wheat as the Willamette valley, although less in total area and having less acreage in wheat. In other words, in that intensely cultivated little kingdom the wheat yield is over five times as great as that of Willamette valley wheat land. Due to conservation of barnyard fertilizer, Belgium wheat lands are more productive than ever before during 1500 years of cultivation, while the wheat lands of the Willamette valley are worn out after only 50 years of cultivation.—Oregon Voter.

Corvallis, December 9

The material quoted about Belgian wheat growing seems to be a little bit off as to its statistical basis. I have before me the Willamette valley wheat acreage for the years 1921-23 inclusive, and it is 223,466, with an average production for the same years of 4,605,517 bushels. The Belgian acreage for the same time was 327,600 acres, and an average annual production of 12,566,333 bushels, so that Belgium's production is not 5 times that of the Willamette valley, and is not quite twice that of the Willamette valley. Our average is about 20.6 bushels an acre and that of Belgium is 38.4 bushels.

I do not have figures available showing the area of that country, but imagine that under similar soil and economic conditions, we would have a considerably larger production ourselves.

**Conditions Differ**

Because of their intensive agriculture, necessitated by a very dense population, and the rather general use of livestock, they are in a considerably better position from the standpoint of manure for use on their land. Further than that, the wheat farmers of Belgium are at quite an advantage when we consider Belgium's labor items and the ability to sell the wheat. Belgium is an importing country for wheat, and therefore their wheat is in competition with wheat from other countries, plus freight and handling charges, and possibly certain duties, although I am not positively informed on the latter point. In this country we are a surplus producing nation, producing many bushels more than we can consume, and so our price is the price to the consumer less the transportation and handling charges, and this is quite an important item. It means that in many cases wheat cannot be produced on so valuable land, nor can as great expense be indulged in its production.

We were to have some stabilizing agency as was proposed under the wheat export plan set forth in the McNary-Haugen bill, our people in the United States would probably more nearly pay what foreign importing people have to pay for their bread. Farmers would then be assured of a better price for their grain. I feel that we have with the present short crop of wheat something of the conditions that would have been met under the McNary-Haugen bill, had it gone into effect, except that this year we have little export business and are not far from a wheat shortage. There is now little to export, our wheat is pretty much on a domestic basis and prices are pretty good. With the export marketing plan, I think that something of this sort would work out pretty generally each year, and without the neces-

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sity of curtailing the acreage, and hazarding our food supply.

**Unprofitable Livestock**

With reference to the improvement of Willamette valley wheat growing conditions, the very general and extensive increase in the number of livestock animals would probably meet with marketing difficulties in a short time. You are doubtless informed of a previous over-production of hogs and of the present cattle situation, and of the fact that we are shipping out a good many dairy products from the state at the present time, so that sudden and large expansion in those industries would doubtless reflect on our ability to market those things here in the Pacific northwest. So probably the very extensive and general use of barnyard manure is not likely to be enlarged upon very much.

One thing is certain, and that is that the manure that is now being made should be more generally used in connection with plant food replacement, and assist in the building up of our soils to a more profitable production stage.

**Rotation and Livestock**

Probably the most feasible thing for us to do is to incorporate more leguminous plants into our cropping system. Of these, we can expand to some extent upon alfalfa acreage, and produce quite a good deal more hay of that sort. We can very profitably expand on our vetch acreage for hay purposes, and in some lines for seed. In clover, our acreage could be expanded quite materially, and especially that devoted to seed production.

Among those things, which include purple vetch, hairy vetch, and a few others of that sort, and the clover seed, we have a marketable product and will get an improved soil condition that will result in better cereal yields.

Another step that needs to be made is in the use of more cultivated crops in connection with the cereals. A greater use of corn, potatoes and beans in the cropping system will not only save production costs, but will also result in increased yields of the cereal. So you see that in summing the matter up there are a number of points that are of rather general importance, and none of them that are really new. Varieties of wheat and eliminate We should use standard va-

the others. We should, as far as possible, get our wheat planted in the fall rather than in the spring.

The wheat should be grown in a rotation which will include a cultivated crop and a legume crop along with the grain.

There are instances where commercial fertilizers will help out quite materially.

There are sections where the use of lime will be especially beneficial to the legumes, and this in turn will be beneficial to the cereals through the rotation.

The barnyard manure and crop residue should be gotten out on the land to take their part in the building up of larger yields.

Above all things a stabilized plan for disposing of our food supply insurance or in other words our exportable surplus will assure permanently better methods.

G. R. Hyslop, Prof. Farm Crops, O. A. C.

**THE MARKETS**

**Portland**  
Wheat—Big Bend bluestem, hard white, soft white and western white \$1.57; hard winter, northern spring and western red, \$1.52.  
Hay—Alfalfa, \$19.50@20 ton; valley timothy, \$19@19.50; eastern Oregon timothy, \$21@22.  
Butterfat—50c shippers' track.  
Eggs—Ranch, 30@32 1/2c.  
Cheese—Prices f. o. b. Tillamook; Triplets, 31c; loaf, 32c per lb.  
Cattle—Steers, good \$7.85@8.25.  
Hogs—Medium to choice, \$11.50@12.50.  
Sheep—Lams, medium to choice \$12.00@13.50.

**Seattle.**  
Wheat—Soft white, \$1.69; western white, \$1.68; hard winter, western red northern spring, \$1.66; Big Bend bluestem, \$1.68 1/2.  
Hay—Alfalfa, \$25; D. C., \$29; timothy, \$27; mixed hay, \$24.  
Butter—Creamery, 51@52c.  
Eggs—Ranch, 46@48c.  
Hogs—Prime, \$12.50@12.75.  
Cattle—Choice steers, \$7.75@8.00.  
Cheese—Oregon fancy, 28c; Oregon standards 26c; Washington triplets 28c.

**Spokane.**  
Hogs—Prime mixed, \$11.85@12.00.  
Cattle—Prime steers, \$7.50@8.00.

There is sufficient flax acreage in the Willamette valley to provide raw material for the proposed new \$640,000 linen mill at Salem for many years, according to announcement made by directors of the company following a survey conducted by a flax expert brought from the east to investigate the situation.

**Some Land is too Poor for Wheat**

**Horses Supplant Tractors on Farms Less Than 1000 Acres**

**AN EASTERN OREGON VIEW** (Farm Journal)

The lean years of 1920 to 1923 wrought big changes in the western wheat country. Listen to Dwight Meisner of Ione, Ore.: "Last spring we couldn't afford help, so Mrs. Meisner and I tackled it alone. We had lots of land to cover. Our winter wheat had all frozen out, so we had to reseed that as well as get our plowing done. We rigged up a 36-horse team and put the crop in with that." A lot of land can be covered in a day with one driver and a 36-horse team.

The Perringer ranch of Pendleton, with 2,000 acres of summer fallow each year, tried mounting a blade weeder on wide rollers, thereby eliminating friction and enabling the weeder width to be doubled. One man now cultivates 60 acres a day with this improvised weeder, and farmers all over the Columbia river basin are adopting the new style.

This matter of labor saving devices means less hired help and less cash outlay per bushel in raising wheat. The labor saved is a real factor on large farms where labor is a cash cost. Which brings up the second big trend—the consolidation of farms.

Everywhere can be seen empty farmhouses. This is a part of the nation-wide drift to the cities, but it isn't bothering our wheat farmers.

A man puts it this way: "Our profit per bushel on wheat is usually not too high—about 20 cents is the average on my farm, so I've got to have at least 10,000 bushels to have much of a net income. I'm going to get hold of a little more land some way. I've cut my costs all I can, and the only way I can make more money is to raise more bushels."

Another farmer near Arlington said last year: "I'm the only piker around here I have only 700 acres of wheat and I haven't a neighbor within 15 miles with less than 1000. I've got to get more land or get out."

**Debbin Redivivus**

Another change since the war days is the return to horses. Anyone wanting some fine bargains in used tractors can locate them between Spokane and Walla Walla on Washington side or across the Columbia river in Oregon between Pendleton and The Dalles.

A former tractor salesman lately said: "When the price of wheat fell in 1920 the people in this country quit buying tractors. My company tried to stimulate buying in 1922 by newspaper advertising. The cost was wasted because every paper carrying our ad also carried classified ads by farmers which read this way: 'Wanted—To trade my 75 h. p. tractor, good as new, for horses. Any reasonable offer considered.'"

Farmers say that on paper it works out that tractor farming is efficient, but that in practice the tractor farmers for the most part go broke. Horses take work, but the man running his farm supplies the most of it himself. Tractors cost cash to run, and the farms won't raise gasoline and spare parts as they will hay.

**Wheat Acreage Abandoned**

During the war many acres were plowed up which were not really safe for wheat farming. Even with the utmost ingenuity in cutting costs, unless land yields at least ten bushels an acre after summer following it can hardly be farmed profitably. So in the Pacific northwest, as in Kansas and Oklahoma, we see actual farm abandonment on this kind of soil. One county in the northwest, where most of the soil was of this type, had nearly 1000 more farm families in 1915 than it has today.

Where wheatgrowing in the middle west is suicidal with yields of less than 15 bushels an acre every year it is carried on at a profit on many western farms with yields of only 15 bushels every other year.

Attractive prices are given on half-ton lots or more of

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