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ARTHUR EDWARD POWELL Editor and Proprietor

EDITORIALS

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

What makes a free press possible? Private Enterprise! In every country where freedom of the press is lacking, or curbed, you will find a totalitarian government...

No country in the world has 12,000 rural daily and weekly newspapers, in addition to the metropoli-



CHAPLAINS WHO MADE SUPREME SACRIFICE—In the annals of the United States Army there is no record of greater personal heroism than that of the courage of four young chaplains who gave their lifejackets to other men on a sinking troop transport and bravely went down with the ship.

tan press, except the United States. No country in the world has a newspaper in practically every town of a few hundred population.

It has often been charged, for political purposes, that advertising controls the American press. This is not so because competition is so varied that no branch of business is powerful enough to dominate the press.

No group of men and women, in the United States is more vitally interested in opposing government ownership of business, as a matter of principle, than are newspaper editors. They are the nation's safeguard against the economic teachings of many of our principal colleges and text books which openly espouse the superiority of government operation of business as contrasted with private operation...

FARM FIRES ARE DEVASTATING

If you are a farmer, remember the summer fire hazards. More than 37 per cent of all farm fires are started by lightning. Keep your lightning rods in order.

Warm weather means dry hay and grainfields and the use of more gasoline and oil on farm properties. Fire from a spark or cigarette will strip a ripe grainfield as bare as a barn wall in minutes.

Each year 3,500 persons are burned to death on farms and some \$90,000,000 worth of farm buildings, machinery and food crops are destroyed by fire.

During National Farm Safety Week, July 25 to 31, check your farm for fire safety. Frequent inspections are important. Look over your barn and house wiring, electric fences and electric equipment.

Check your hay for heating which leads to spontaneous combustion. Thrust a pipe into hay in barns and lower a thermometer into it. If it shows 158° watch it carefully; if above 185° start moving it outdoors;

if 212° call the fire department. Check silos for heating of ensilage; also fertilizers, some vegetable oils, feed and lime.

Examine machinery to guard against sparks starting fires. Make safety rules for smoking and see that they are enforced. Dam a stream or dig a pond for emergency water.

You may save life and property by these fire prevention measures.

New Alfalfa Shows Good Promise Here

Progress with a new alfalfa variety and in reclaiming old orchard soils poisoned by heavy accumulations of arsenate sprays were developments of more than local interest seen at the annual field day at the farm crops area of the Southern Oregon branch experiment station near Talent, Oregon in July.

Harold H. White is now the agronomist in charge of the crops work at the station, working under the general direction of Dr. E. S. Deg-

man, superintendent of all branch experiment station work in the Medford area.

The new alfalfa variety, as yet unnamed, is referred to as French alfalfa since it was obtained by the USDA from France some years ago and sent to Oregon where it was planted in 1937 among 21 varieties in plot tests on the southern Oregon tract.

It soon revealed superior characteristics, including ability to start early growth, recover quickly after cutting, and continue growth later in the fall. Stands lived longer, apparently because of resistance to nematode and disease attacks.

Best plants from the test rows were selected out in 1941, since which time seed has been increased, partly on the station and partly in cooperation with local growers. Seed enough for release for general use is expected to be on hand by the fall of 1949.

Harry A. Schoth, federal agronomist at Oregon State college, believes the variety will prove superior to others now used west of the Cascades in Oregon and in northern California. It may not be hardy enough for colder regions.

A portion of the station tract formerly in orchard has failed to grow profitable crops until this year because of an accumulation of

arsenate of lead amounting to 1600 pounds per acre in the top eight inches of soil.

As sweet clover proved to be tolerant of the arsenic, it was grown for two years and plowed under last fall. Then 500 pounds of soil sulphur was added per acre. The poison was counteracted by this treatment so that excellent grain crops are growing on the land this year. A check plot left untreated and seeded at the same time consists mostly of weeds.

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