

## LINN COUNTY FARMERS MAKE PROGRESS ON RANCHES DURING PAST YEAR; IMPROVEMENT NOTED

COUNTY AGENT MAKES REVIEW OF YEAR FOR  
DEMOCRAT READERS ON NEW YEARS DAY;  
INCREASED PROSPERITY PREDICTED

By S. V. Smith, County Agent

The year just closing has generally been a profitable though trying one for the average Linn County farmer. Probably never was a crop produced under more adverse conditions than that of the past year.

Help was not only exceedingly high priced but scarce and in many cases impossible to find. Supplies, materials and machinery used to plant and harvest the crops were for the most part, so expensive as to be almost prohibitive. Yet, on the whole the job of producing Linn County's share of the wherewithal to feed the people was well and very little of it was lost because of lack of help to gather it in. This was due to closer cooperation among farmers and systematic planning and exchanging of labor. Although prices received for crops and produce have generally been good the profits have not been "enormous" as sometimes charged, because of the greatly increased cost of production.

**Much Corn Planted**  
One very noticeable feature of Linn County farming this year was the increased acreage of corn. This crop is rapidly coming into favor in the county particularly as a silage crop. In fact it is nearly completely ensiled this year that there will be difficulty it is feared, in finding a sufficient quantity of seed corn for planting next years crop with out bringing in seed from the outside. This is not objectionable if the imported seed is grown under similar or less favorable conditions than those of Linn County.

It is estimated that the acreage of corn grown in the County this year was double that of last year which was an increase over the normal acreage. Most of the estimates of the number of silos erected during the year place the increase at about 100 per cent over the number on the farms last year.

**Silo Good Investment**  
There is no question in the minds

of farmers who think for themselves, that the silo is a good investment when properly constructed and filled. There is still, however, a lot to learn about making silage under Willamette Valley conditions before the art is perfected. Immature corn does not make the best silage and some who have their first experience with silage this year may be disappointed with results and may condemn the silo. But that will not have very weight with men who have learned more about the science of silage making from several years experience with it. Early planting of corn will have to be done by most Linn County farmers who expect to have good silage. This and care in securing early maturing varieties of corn doubtless, will solve the maturity problem. Another important factor in the same problem also is the field selection of seed. The early maturing ears when planted will tend to produce early maturing corn.

**Vetch Good This Year**  
Although the acreage of vetch was very small due to the fear of another aphid attack similar to that of last year and also to the scarcity and consequent high price of seed, the yield was good and no aphid trouble was reported. This crop, called by some "Willamette alfalfa" is a most valuable hay and silage crop especially when mixed with small grain, usually oats. This combination is excellent for the dairy cow and is valued highly therefore by the dairymen as a milk producing hay or silage. As a silage it is fast coming into popularity as it can be ensiled early in the summer and fed when the usual dry weather comes later to cut down the value of the pastures.

The scarcity of and demand for vetch seed will doubtless make it a valuable seed crop also for the present at least.

**Small Grain Good**  
The acreage of small grain was considerably above normal this year due

to the high prices and appeals of the Gov't to plant more wheat. Yields were unusually good on the whole and prices high enough to make these crops profitable.

Although the proportion of small grains to vetch and clover is thought by farmers to be too high for the good of the soil fertility of Linn County yet it is hoped that this will gradually adjust itself as conditions drift back to normal.

**Big Hay Crop**  
The hay crop was larger this year than usual. Much of this is cheat and mixed grass hay which is usually considered as horse hay. Owing to the decrease in the number of horses there is less demand for this class of hay than for "cow hay" (clover alfalfa and vetch) This point is of considerable significance in that it touches another serious problem confronting many valley farmers. Land which is too wet to grow other crops profitably has been devoted to producing cheat hay. Now that the demand for this class of hay is decreasing it will mean that drainage of wet lands will be still more necessary. Drainage is becoming more and more popular as it is demonstrated that the increased yields and improvement in condition of the soil more than pays for the investment.

**Drainage Districts Planned**  
So urgent is this necessity for drainage becoming that the County Agent receives many requests from farmers for information in regard to farming drainage districts. Several of these are being contemplated in various parts of the County and it is predicted that this will be the most noticeable feature of agricultural improvement in Linn County during the next ten years.

**Interest Growing in Fruit**  
High prices for berries, prunes and most other fruits have attracted many people to Linn County where these are grown with comparative ease. Whether or not the berry and prune business will be overdone is a common question. Those who have kept in close touch with the situation however are quite sanguine as to the outlook for several years to come. New canning factories at Albany and Corvallis and additions to the Lebanon and Brownsville canneries increased the capacity of the local market for all kinds of fruit and some vegetable such as beans and squash.

**Better Stock Epidemic**  
A general trend toward purebred stock is noticeable in Linn County

where already there are more breeders of purebred stock than in any County of the state. A County Breeders' association has just been perfected to further the interests of the breeders and promote the use of better breeding stock. This organization will doubtless do much to advertise Linn County as a purebred stock center. It has about seventy-five members at present.

**Farmers Working Together**  
Linn County farmers are learning more and more how to work together and are attacking their common problems in an organized way through a County Farm Bureau assisted by the County Agent.

Work during the past year was done along several definite projects such as rodent control, cooperative stock shipping, wool and mohair pooling, testing of fertilizer and lime, corn variety tests, fairs, poultry culling, and boys and girls clubs.

Such work is done primarily through the various community committees selected by the people in their respective communities each member of which acts as leader of a project on the community program for improvement.

It is believed by Agricultural Canners that this feature of farmers cooperative work is the most promising of any development along that line for many years. It is proving to be true wherever it has been put into practice. Linn county now has nineteen committees at work and much progress will be expected in those communities during the coming years. Others are to be organized during the coming year.

**WATCH LINN COUNTY GROW!**

**Frightful Experience.**  
"What was my most thrilling experience?" mused the ex-pilot. "Ah! I could never forget it. It was a bright starlight night, but the lurid flashes around us obscured all else as we sped through the air. The advancing enemy was hard upon us, while all around we heard the weird, savage music so terribly familiar, and the thud as of a thousand falling meteors. We dived, looped, corkscrowed till our senses were numbed. I felt a sharp pain in my right foot, a dull weight in my side—I was falling, falling—and knew no more till I found myself lying on the ground badly smashed some hours later."

"And that was really your record aerial engagement?"  
"No," he replied; "it was my first experiment with the jazz."—Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph.

## MAXWELL DEALER HAS MANY SALES

Waldo Anderson & Son Report Big Business With Prospects Good

Anderson & Son have been in the seed, implement and automobile business in Albany they have built up a fine trade and have won the confidence of a large circle of clients. The junior member of the firm, Oren Anderson, is special sales manager in the automotive end of the business and during the four years that they have handled the Maxwell car and truck and other makes of cars he has sold between 500 and 600 vehicles in this territory.

Besides the Maxwell, the company handles the Chalmers automobile and an increased demand for this type of car is expected during the coming year.

Besides carrying a full line of agricultural implements of all kinds the Andersons do a large commercial seed business and buy a large amount of clover and other seeds each year. They also operate a cleaning plant.

Mr. Anderson reports an excellent business during the year just closed, and has confidence in an even greater volume of business in 1920.

**Small Fruits Industry Growing**

In spite of the damage done by recent cold snap to some berry vines that had been put up on the trellises, increased acreage is going in rapidly.

All berry vines and cones left down will make more roots and plants than ever from the soil enriched by the heavy snow fall.

Tips and plants will be multiplied and will be more valuable as part of the crop and all growers should prepare to save them.

As an example of what can be done two boys in western Oregon have taken up and sold at 33 per thousand 230,000 strawberry plants.

They have done this during the month just before the storm and what is more important they took the plants from a ten acre field.

That is .69 an acre for plants, and before spring there will be as many more rooted and ready to take up for new plantations.

Another field of three acres yielded 100,000 plants or \$100 an acre as a mere by-product of the small fruit industry.

There is going to be the greatest possible demand for small fruits and for new plants to extend acreage and all should help supply them.

**Small Fruits Thoroughly Tested**

Small fruitgrowing for jam plants, canneries, juice factories and evaporators has passed the experimental stage and is as stable as wheat or corn.

For over twenty years western Washington and Western Oregon and northern California have grown berries and small fruits for market.

The first loganberry plants were set out in the Willamette valley twenty years ago, plants directly from the farm of the originator.

The originator of this combination berry, a cross between the wild blackberry and the red raspberry was Judge Logan of Santa Cruz, Cal.

From this planting the cultivation of this small fruit was extended all over the territory west of the Cascade mountains, and still going.

Crops as high as 13,200 pounds to the acre have been harvested and an average yield of about four tons to the acres was made last year.

Small fruit crops have become so important and profitable that the successful grower will have to give more attention to cultivation.

The use of lime fertilizer and sheep manure is recommended by men familiar with the business.

**Here From Portland—**

Ralph Green of Portland was in the city today to visit his parents Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Green.

**Returned From Portland—**

Miss Lillian McKinney returned home yesterday from Portland where she had been to visit her sister.

**Went To Dever—**

Herb Shultz left on the morning electric for Dever this morning on a business trip.

**Visits Parents Here—**

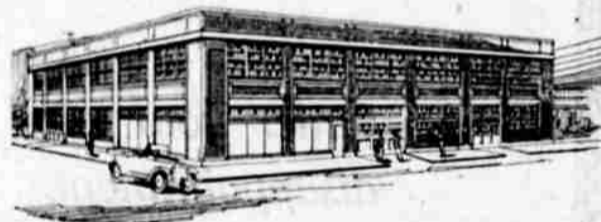
Dr. Van Bilyeu returned to his home in Portland this morning after spending Christmas here with his parents Mr. and Mrs. J. M. V. Bilyeu. Mrs. Bilyeu remained for a longer visit.

**From O. A. C.—**

W. M. Dinwiddie a student of the O. A. C. registered at the St. Francis last night on his way from a trip to Brownsville his former home.

With 20,000 feet of floor space in our new, modern brick building, we offer to Automobile Owners the advantage of ample room and absolute protection against fire. Open day and night, we are always at your service—never any bother or worry about keys.

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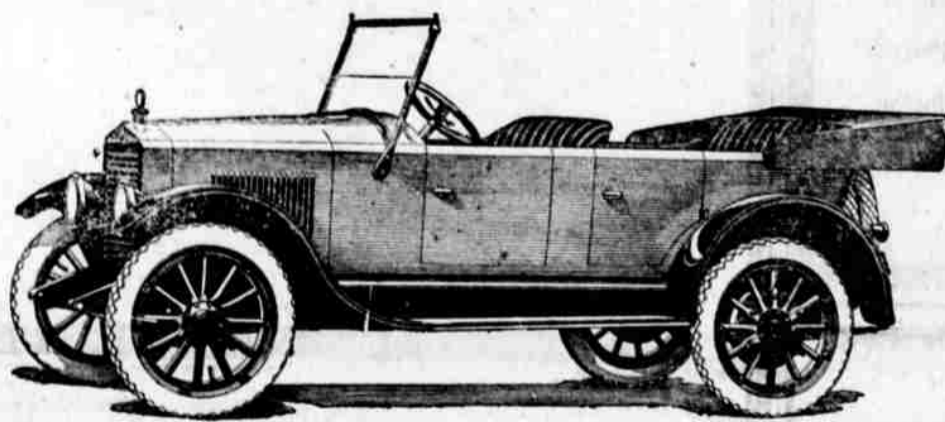
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IT EXPLAINS WHY

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In response to an insistent demand on the part of Reo distributors for a six-cylinder motor that would fit into the standard Reo chassis, the Reo engineers, some two years ago, set to work on the design of such an engine.

The result is the announcement of this New Reo "Six" which we feel confident represents the highest degree of refinement in motor design.

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