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DAIRY BREEDERS' ALLY

The Washington County Breeders association, on November 18 at Hillsboro, held an annual meeting at which time a remarkable record of growth and accomplishment was announced.

Begun in February of 1946 with the goal in mind of dairy herd improvement and the bettering of herds through scientific practices and measures, including artificial insemination, the group is carrying on a vigorous private enterprise which might well mean higher standards for the dairy industry of the county.

With the ready market for fluid milk and milk products now prevalent in the Portland marketing area, and the accompanying shrinkage in numbers of dairy cows, the problems facing the association are concerned mainly with quantity and quality of output per cow.

Obviously, from a scientific viewpoint, the most reliable method of improving a dairy herd is by selective breeding, with particular emphasis on proved sires whose previous offspring had showed favorable milking and butterfat records. However, it is not feasible on a small farm, where cost accounting shows plentiful liabilities at the outset, to maintain a costly proved bull year around for the amount of service that can be expected from him. And hiring of highly desirable breeding animals is too often impossible.

The association circumvents the unavailability of proved sires through the scientific method of artificial insemination, through a network of similar associations with headquarters at Corvallis. Here, prolific bulls of high production records are readily available for affiliates. And the endorsement of test-tube calves shows in the county by the fact that it ranks with Malheur county as the only ones requiring the services of two technicians to administer the improvement program.

The breeders association, to be sure, is not unanimously accepted by all dairymen in the county. And its beginnings were complicated by numerous expressions of dissatisfaction and disappointment by some who probably expected too great a result from a new method.

Gradually, with the accumulation of herd records and experience in the program, the association's position is improving and its members are expressing a growing confidence in its program.

It must not be supposed, of course, that only small dairies are cooperating in the artificial insemination program of the association. In the eastern end of the county, such larger concerns as Alpenrose, Reedville and Lindlow Brothers dairy herds have had a part in the improvement schedule.

One of the questions which is sure to provoke a wide and varying range of replies concerns the best breed of cattle for marketing purposes. Probably the three leading breeds are Jersey, Guernsey and Holstein. Traditionally, the Jersey is associated in many minds with richness, closely seconded by Guernsey, with the Holstein considered productive of more quantity with less butterfat.

Present marketing standardization calls rather rigidly for 3.8 per cent butterfat, well within the range of Holsteins. So, for the present, this latter breed, would logically seem the best—an assumption that incidentally is indicated by the growing popularity of Holsteins. And, conversely, it would seem that production of extra butterfat is comparably less remunerative than it should rightfully be.

Under the controls and checks of the artificial insemination program, however, it is possible to select a sire with any favorable production record demanded, regardless of the breed. There are, in explanation, Jersey and Guernsey sires whose daughters have set high quantity marks in lactation test periods and these characteristics may be introduced into herds of members by way of the test-tube method.

The thoroughness with which the dairy breeders association is meeting the problems of the industry in the county bespeaks it as truly the dairy breeders' ally.

GREAT DANGER POINT

"The West has too often despised the Asian and the African and still, in many places, denies them not only equality of rights but even common humanity and kindness. This is one of the great danger points of our modern world. . . . The progress of some races in knowledge or in invention, their success in war and conquest, has tempted them to believe that they are racially superior and has led them to treat other nations with contempt. A recent example of this was the horrible attempt, so largely successful, to exterminate the Jews. In Asia and Africa, racial superiority has been most widely and most insolently exhibited."

—Pandit J. Nehru.

"STARTLING PREDICTION?"

It took the semi-hysterical crystal-ball gazing of a nationally syndicated columnist, whose radio boast is his "startling prediction of things to come" with a claimed 84 percent record of accuracy, to bring the matter to mind.

Said newspaper-radio soothsayer predicts that the federal government will throw open Alaska as a field for paper manufacturers, in seeking an answer to the great Canadian monopoly which limits the availability of newsprint in the United States.

The existence of diminishing sources for paper with which a newspaper is able to meet its publication responsibilities is well recognized by the newspaper industry. Such a situation in some instances has hampered smaller publications and, by inference, has jeopardized full enjoyment of the rights of free press.

It is indeed startling, however, to learn in the excited "predictions" of said soothsayer that the government will now throw Alaska open for pulp paper manufacturers.

For one who is credited with having been around to a marked degree, this radio-newspaper oracle should know that for the last twenty years Alaska has been eyed by pulp manufacturers as a happy hunting ground but, when offered to them, they proved reluctant to enter the field.

Certainly a significant supply of pulp paper might be obtained from the lush growth of timber in Alaska. So much of it is admirably unsuited to any other purpose that utilization in paper manufacture would be welcomed as a means of increasing the territory's revenue.

The cry has been general that there is not a source of timber for paper making processes, other than in Canada and in the south. However, anyone who has travelled the bypaths of Southeastern Alaska is somewhat at a loss to know why, in the desperate search for wood, that someone has not gone to Alaska and used the endless, scrubby spruce trees that are readily noted along the coastline.

The government, it is true, largely controls the supply of timber and the forest service rides herd in many ways. Regulation of loggers is a continuing matter while, at the same time, a campaign is underway for development of a pulp-paper industry in Alaska.

The matter of adequate supply of paper is of high interest and importance to the welfare of the country. Without newsprint, there is no Press. And if a monopoly would be able to shut off or turn on the supply of paper, said monopoly would have life or death power over many features of our life.

There is hardly any startling prediction to be made as to allowing the pulp-paper industry to enter Alaska. In fact, Alaska is more than willing to welcome such an enterprise.

SOUTH POLAR FLIGHT

Twenty years ago, on November 29, an event of long-range effect took place at the bottom of the terrestrial globe, when Admiral Richard Byrd first flew over the South Pole.

This was the forerunner of extensive exploration which gave amazing evidence of the unexpected wealth lying in the South Polar regions. It took determination, planning and preparation as well as a spirit of adventure, to successfully culminate the first flight with wide-spread explorations. And the world gained significantly in knowledge by the effort.

There has not been much recent attention to the South Pole, beyond the news that an expedition planned this year was cancelled by presidential edict—allegedly for political reasons.

True, there have been other nations anxious to get a toe-hold on the polar continent and even Russia has come up to her expectations by claiming that explorers carrying her pre-revolution flag, like the mythical Kilroy, had also been there.

There may come a time when the wealth of the South Pole will be well worth disputing. And come that day, Byrd's flight and subsequent explorations will be more fully recognized as a background fact contributing to the national interest.

ATOMIC DECISIONS

"The recent atomic explosion in Russia brings closer the time when decisions must be made on major issues of civilian defense, including the matter of dispersal out from congested urban areas of facilities such as those of Government in Washington."

The report made by our Biology and Medicine staff also comments on problems of providing warning of attack, shelters, firefighting after an attack, medical care, etc."

U. S. Atomic Energy Commission.

Migrating Trappers Found Missionaries Unreceptive

PATTERN OF CONTROLLING OREGON COUNTRY
DEPENDENT ON FREEZING OUT "UNDESIRABLES"

By Hervey S. Robinson
(Continued from last week)

The experiences of our free trappers and their families on the way from the "wilds" of the Rocky Mountains to the "civilized" settlements of the Willamette valley reveal the attitudes of the Hudson's Bay company, the Methodist missions and the American missionaries in the upper Columbia river country and explain some later events. Especially significant was the unfriendly attitude of the Methodist missions toward these intractable immigrants.

The first clash between the mission and the independent trapper class had occurred in 1834, shortly after Jason Lee and his missionary party had settled in the vicinity of French Prairie. Prior to that time Dr. John McLoughlin, chief factor of the Hudson's Bay company had exercised practically supreme rule throughout the territory.

His will had the force of law in so far as British subjects and employees of the company were concerned, and the few Americans in the country were either absorbed by the Hudson's Bay company organization or kept in a state of economic dependence which made them easy to govern.

When the Methodist missionary party under Jason Lee arrived, Dr. McLoughlin arranged with their leader "a code of rules and regulations for the preservation of law and order" leaving him to enforce them in so far as the Americans were concerned. It is quite evident that Lee regarded himself as the de facto governor of the Americans in Oregon and soon constituted himself an agent for planting a Christian American colony in the country.

It had been the policy of Dr. McLoughlin to keep undesirable from locating in Oregon by refusing to furnish them with supplies or purchase furs and produce from them and the mission government had adopted the same policy.

When, in October 1834, Ewing Young a famous old Rocky Mountain trader, brought a band of Americans mostly trappers, from the Rockies down the Willamette valley from California, these intractable Americans simply did not fit into the picture and were boycotted by both the Hudson's Bay company and the mission.

The mountain men were not to be intimidated. They defied the Doctor's orders and the rule of the missionaries. They took land in the Yamhill basin across the Willamette from the mission, ignored the boycott, laughed at threats and lived off the country as they had learned to do in the mountains.

At length by a coup, which space will not permit us to describe here, Young compelled his opponents to sue for peace and accept his presence in their midst.

When Newell, Meek and the rest of their party arrived at the newly established Methodist mission at the Dalles, travel weary, cold and hungry on Sunday, October 11, 1840 and sought food and shelter, the missionaries refused their hospitality simply saying "This is Sunday."

This refusal cannot well be excused, as most historians have tried to do, upon the grounds of religious scruples regarding the Sabbath. Daniel Lee and his associates simply did not propose to encourage these, to them, undesirable elements to locate in their vicinity. At length, after much vain pleading the disgusted and disappointed immigrants moved farther down the valley and encamped for the night.

Twenty-seven years later Newell wrote of this occurrence, "I was never treated so badly in my life by an American as we were at The Dalles."

Toward evening David Carter came from the mission to explain the "apparent" lack of hospitality and invited the travelers to prayer meeting. They accepted. Newell said that they wanted to show the missionaries that they could both fast and pray. The American mountaineers did not participate actively in the prayer meeting. They did not feel like praying and possessed too much innate reverence to make a mockery of prayer.

Not so with Jandreau, a French Canadian of the immigrant party. In the midst of the meeting he fell upon his knees and with clasped hands, upturned eyes, and tears rolling down his cheeks appeared to supplicate "the Throne of Grace" in an agonized torrent of idiomatic French. The delighted missionaries chimed in with fervent "Amen's" and "Hallelujah's" but the mountain men could not restrain their mirth, for Jandreau was not praying at all. He was reciting a tale from the "Arabian Nights" which they had often heard around the camp-fires in the mountains.

On leaving The Dalles the travelers proceeded down on the south side of the river as far as a point opposite Wind River Mountain, subsisting upon dried salmon, given them by friendly Indians. Here the Indians helped them in crossing to the north bank and they followed that bank as far as the mouth of the Sandy, where they recrossed

the Columbia and on December 15, 1840 arrived on the Willamette River at the mouth of the Clackamas, having been on the road for more than two and a half months.

Five days later, on Sunday, December 20, Meek applied to two Methodist missionaries, Rev. Alvin Waller and Alanson Beers, whom they found preaching to the Indians near the present site of Milwaukie, for food for their hungry families. The answer was the same as at The Dalles. "This is Sunday." However, after much persuasion, Rev. Waller relaxed the rules enough to grudgingly, allow the emigrants a peck of small potatoes.

Next day Newell went to Fort Vancouver, where his credit was good, with the Hudson's Bay company, and returned with dried salmon, sugar and sea-bread, which served to keep the families from starvation.

The next problem was that of location. The next day after Newell's return from Fort Vancouver, he and Meek went to Willamette Falls where they met an old comrade William Doughty, who on a former visit had acquired a cabin on the Tualatin Plains.

As soon as possible the little village of mountain men was moved across the Willamette to a hill overlooking the falls, the later site of West Linn, where they were soon joined by two other Rocky Mountain men, Caleb Wilkins and George W. Ebberts.

Together this group selected for their settlement an area north and east of present day Hillsboro, then as today, a most inviting countryside and arriving here with their families on Christmas day settled down in their "Rocky Mountain Retreat," as they named it, to spend their first winter subsisting, not on the meat of buffalo and mountain game as had been their custom, but on boiled wheat and miscellaneous provisions secured from the Indians, or supplies shared with them by the Hudson's Bay company servants and others.

The settlement was almost immediately augmented by the arrival of a party of independent missionaries who had made the acquaintance of these trappers as their guides in crossing the Rocky Mountains. Unlike their brethren of the Methodist mission they respected their rugged manhood and commanded their respect. The pious educated missionaries and the rough uncultured men from the mountains, working together in harmony made the "Rocky Mountain Retreat" a center of religious educational and charitable activities.

All of the ex-trappers in this community, Newell, Meek, Ebberts, Wilkins and Doughty were active in the organization of the provisional government in 1843 and held important offices at one time or another, under it.

(To be continued)

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