

THE LANE COUNTY NEWS

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THE SUGAR BEET PROBLEM

Written for The Lane County News by George R. Hyslop, Professor of Agronomy, O. A. C.

OREGON SPENDS VAST SUM FOR SUGAR PRODUCED IN OTHER STATES—FARMS NEED A CULTIVATED CROP IN ROTATION—REQUIRES INTENSIVE CULTURE WITH CONSIDERABLE CAREFUL HAND LABOR—10 ACRES ABOUT ALL ONE FARMER SHOULD BEGIN WITH—RETURNS \$45.00 TO \$75.00 PER ACRE

Within the last few months there has been considerable agitation regarding the establishment of a factory which will manufacture sugar from sugar beets. Several leading towns of Western Oregon have been anxious to secure such a factory, readily recognizing the advantages that follow having such an institution located in their midst. Various things present themselves as arguments for and against the introduction of this new industry. We have heard much said about the purchase and use of "made in Oregon" products. Sugar is one commodity of which we use a very large quantity and which at present is not produced in the state. It is estimated that the average annual consumption of sugar per capita in the United States and in European countries is 79.2 pounds. Reports of the Bureau of Labor place the average annual consumption per capita in the United States alone

at 53.7 pounds. However, this represents the sugar used directly and if, in addition, material of this sort used in confectionary, condensed milk, chewing gum, and other articles were included, it would bring the grand total up to eighty-two pounds per capita per year in the United States.

Oregon Uses 55,166,000 Lb.

Applying this figure of eighty-two pounds per capita per year to Oregon's population, according to the last census, we have at least 55,166,750 pounds of sugar for which Oregon money is spent outside of Oregon. If conditions are such that this material or a part of it may be manufactured at home and provide us with a product of as good quality as may be purchased elsewhere, then it will mean a great deal for the state and for the community in which the factory may be located. Aside from the advantage of

having sugar produced in the locality, a considerable amount of money used in producing it finds its way into the hands of the farmer, the sugar beet worker, merchants and others and is of great assistance to the business of the locality. Another reason for sugar beet culture is the great need for a Western Oregon cultivated cash crop.

Need a Cultivated Crop.

Here in this section, we have for a long time needed some cultivated crop in order to give us the benefits derived from inter-tillage on lands which have been producing little but cereals and certain types of hay. Successful sugar beet culture means tillage and that the crops must be rotated because sugar beets grown alone rapidly decline in yield, while on the other hand, various crops grown in a rotation with sugar beets are usually greatly benefited by the careful

culture which must be given a paying crop of beets. The fact that the land is carefully hoed and cultivated throughout the summer, that it is occupied by a very deep rooted plant, and that the soil is deeply stirred in the fall in harvesting the beets makes the crop a particularly desirable one to include in a rotation.

Sugar beets fit into rotations very well. Systems may be used usually consisting of sugar beets one year, followed by a fall-sown cereal, such as wheat, oats or barley on which clover is seeded in February. The clover may be left one or two years and then be plowed up and the field again put into sugar beets. We need, in the Willamette Valley, cultivated crops for our rotations; yet crops that can be grown on an extensive basis that will yield cash and give desirable results. We have a few crops which are ordinarily cultivated and these

include corn, kale, mangels and potatoes. There is only a limited use for each of these products, with the possible exception of the potatoes. It is, therefore, desirable to introduce some deep rooted crop capable of improving the physical condition of the soil and at the same time giving a valuable cash return. About the best crop that presents itself under these circumstances is the sugar beet.

Need Much Sunlight.

As a plant, it is adapted to rather warm, sunny sections that are well supplied with moisture. It has long been known that the success of sugar beet culture depends to a considerable extent upon the sunlight of the locality and it is therefore usually not a good plan to attempt to grow sugar beets in sections where there is a large amount of summer cloudiness. It has also been stated that

sugar beets are great removers of soil fertility, and it is true that considerable amounts of nitrogen and potash are taken away, but if on the other hand the sugar beet pulp is brought back from the factory and fed to the stock there is practically none of this fertility which escapes. Also, if sugar beets are grown in a good rotation with clover, it is very likely that the fertility conditions of the soil will improve rather than run down as a result of the culture of this crop. The other and most desirable feature of the sugar beet crop, aside from its being a cultivated one, is that it means a considerable cash return for each acre in beets if that acre is properly handled. The yield of beets varies from ten tons per acre up to, in some cases, as much as 16 to 20 or more tons, when grown under very favorable conditions and if

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TESTING OF IRRIGATION AND BEET CULTURE MAY BRING \$500,000 FACTORY HERE

Whether or not the sugar beet can be grown successfully in the vicinity of Springfield, either with irrigation or without, will be given careful tests by a dozen or more farmers living in the territory east north and northwest of this place. Upon the results of the tests depends in a large measure the development of two huge projects, with Springfield as the central point. These projects are a beet sugar factory that would cost in the neighborhood of half a million dollars, and the other project is the completion of the Benham irrigation system with probably 20 miles of mains and laterals.

No definite assurance has as yet been given that either project will materialize, but those who are familiar with methods of beet culture, and with the plans of the Eccles sugar interests feel great confidence that the experiments will prove so successful that irrigation will become general in the valley and that a beet sugar factory will be erected in or near Springfield.

Forty pounds of sugar beet seed were distributed Friday and Saturday among farmers in the vicinity of Springfield with the understanding that they plant it and give it a thorough test. To

those in reach of the present ditch of the Benham irrigation project, Mr. Benham promised water free for the irrigation of the beets in order that it might be determined by experiment what the beets would do with water here in the valley.

Mr. Benham, B. B. Brundage of the Bank of Commerce of Eugene and Don Jolley, representing the Eccles interests were taken over the upper valley last Friday and Saturday by Welby Stevens in his car distributing beet seed to those farmers who were interested enough to agree to make careful tests of the seed.

F. B. Chase, owner of a fine garden and fruit farm in the Pruneville neighborhood agreed to plant one-fourth of an acre, irrigate half and give the other ordinary cultivation without the use of irrigation. L. E. Scribner will plant one-third of an acre, irrigating half of it. Others will plant smaller tracts, but with a view to determining the probable crop if grown on a commercial scale.

Whether or not the beets are of a quality to induce the location of a sugar factory here, Mr. Benham hopes that the experiments in irrigation will be such as to induce an increased use of water on the land in summer time. He is prepared to go ahead with his irrigation project and develop it to the full, supplying water to probably 10,000 acres lying between the McKenzie and Willamette rivers, east and north of Springfield. He has already constructed four miles of canal from the McKenzie westward to a point north-east of Springfield, but has never turned the water through the headgates for commercial purposes.

There is a fall of 10 to 12 feet per mile from the McKenzie intake westward and northward, giving ample fall for a good flow of water. The plans contemplate use of the ditches for drainage purposes during the rainy winter months.

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HAS CURIOUS JAPANESE COINS

When Mayor Chas. L. Scott returned from Portland last Friday evening he brought with him three old Japanese coins of curious design. They belong to the old times, before modern coinage introduced was into that country. Two of the coins are several inches in diameter, and are made of cast iron, inlaid with designs in silver and gold and perforated with holes of various sizes. The third is a little larger than an American dollar, and is apparently of solid copper. It has one oblong hole through it, but no marks to indicate its denomination.

LEAGUE MEMBERS TO ENJOY BANQUET

Arrangements have been completed for the banquet of the Springfield Development League, which is to be held tomorrow evening at 7 o'clock in the Odd Fellows banquet hall. It is to be served by the Progressive Twenty-two.

President J. E. Richmond is to be toastmaster, and toasts will be responded to as follows:

Mayor C. L. Scott, "The Place of a Development League in the Improvement of a Town."

Supt. R. L. Kirk, "The School as a Factor in the Development of a Town."

E. E. Morrison, "The Place the Church Occupies in the Development of a Town."

Carl Fischer, "Manufacturing Industries as Town-Builders."

J. H. Bower, "The City and the Country—How Bring Them Together."

W. A. Dill, "The Press as a Factor in the Development of a Town."

D. S. Beals, "The Federal Reserve System—Does It Help the Country?"

All the toasts are expected to be short, not exceeding eight or ten minutes.

Reapers Repainting Building
The Reapers of America are giving the front of their building at Third and Main streets a

new coat of paint. Extensive changes and refurbishing of the interior of the building has just been completed, and the order now has one of the finest halls in town.

Cuts Foot Severely.

Robert Rae of Spores Siding, while working for Mr. Spores last Friday cut his foot severely, while cutting underbrush. He was brought to Springfield, and a number of stitches were required to close the wound. He is staying at the home of his nephew, Fred Russell and family.

Change Made in Plumbing Firm

A deal was made Saturday evening whereby W. N. Long took over the interest of his partner L. E. Flegal in the plumbing business of Flegal & Long. Shortly afterwards Mr. Long made a deal to take into partnership J. E. Cross of Eugene, formerly his partner when in business in that city.

Mr. Flegal's health has not been good for some time and he wishes to take a rest this summer.

Messrs. Long & Cross are already associated in the building of the concrete structure to be occupied by the Springfield creamery. The firm has the contract for the sheet metal work on the new armory in Eugene and the plumbing contract for the new administration building of the University of Oregon.

Incorporate Local Field of Reapers

Springfield Field No. 101, of Reapers of America last week filed its articles of incorporation with the county clerk. G. T. Davis, F. B. Watke and W. A. Hall are named as trustees and the estimated value of the property owned by the organization is given as \$250.

Loses End of Little Finger.

Naomi Harbit caught the end of the little finger of her right hand in a door at her home this morning, and the end of that member was severely crushed and may have to be amputated.

NEXT FRIDAY AND SATURDAY ARE CLEAN-UP DAYS

Residents Urged to Burn all Refuse Possible, and Put Rest in Boxes for City to Remove—Is in Interest of Sanitation.

Councilman M. M. Peery, the chairman of the health committee of the town council, this morning issued the following notice:

"Springfield residents and property owners are hereby notified that Friday and Saturday, April 23, and 24, have been designated as 'clean-up' days.

"Property owners and residents are requested to burn all refuse possible and gather the balance into boxes or other receptacles and place them on or near the alley so the wagons which the city will provide can get them.

"For Friday and Saturday it will not be necessary to obtain the usual permit to burn rubbish, but you are asked to observe the usual precautions.

"Burn what you can, as you are saving the city just that much expense in hauling.

"It is hoped that everybody will make a special effort to help make Springfield the cleanest town in the valley.

"The city is anxious and willing to lend all assistance possible.

"A clean city means not only a better looking, but a healthier city, and a city is as nice appearing or as dirty as the people make it.

"In the interest of good health, sanitation, and a liveable, attractive city let us all work together to make Springfield not only apparently but really and truly clean from cellar to garret, that the sun may shine next Sunday morning on a really clean town.

"By order of the Town Council.
"M. M. PEERY,
"Chairman of Health Com."

STUMP DEDICATED IN PIONEERS' MEMORY

An old stump hitching block, used by pioneers at Pleasant Hill was dedicated as a monument to these pioneers by exercises held Sunday at that place. Mrs. M. M. O'Leary, Mrs. Al Montgomery, Frank A. Mith, J. P. Fry, I. Hoagland of Shelby, Oregon and Rev. E. C. Wigmore went from Springfield to attend the exercises.

LAND GRANT IS HALTED TO HEAR OREGON PLEA

Washington, April 17.—Counsel in the Oregon and California land grant suit was advised at the United States Supreme Court today that argument in this case, set for Monday next, probably will not begin before Wednesday, owing to the crowded condition of the docket.

Attorney-General Brown, of Oregon, who is here to intervene on behalf of the state, will be admitted to practice before the Supreme Court on Monday, and when the argument begins will ask the court for permission to intervene, as directed by the Senate joint resolution passed just before the close of the last session of the State Legislature.

Thus far, the state has not been a party to this litigation, and it rests with the Supreme Court to say whether it can, at this late date, become intervenor. If permission is granted, the Attorney-General will file his brief on behalf of the state and make an oral argument. In all probability, because of the importance of the case, two days will be allotted for argument.

The resolution of the Oregon Legislature, directing the Attorney-General to intervene in the land grant suit, recites that "it is of vital importance to the development of the entire State of Oregon and several counties in which granted lands are located, that such lands should not be withdrawn from taxation, but that they should be disposed of for settlement and development under terms of such decree as court may deem just and equitable."

The Attorney-General is then directed "to intervene on behalf of the state in such manner as may be permitted by the rules of the court, for the purpose of securing and protecting the best interests of the state and its citizens, and to take all steps and proceedings necessary or permissible to safeguard such interests."

"If permitted to intervene, Attorney-General Brown will lay this resolution before the court, pointing out the vast importance to the state of securing decrees which will permit the prompt settlement and development of the disputed lands. In the event the decree of forfeiture is sustained by the Supreme Court, he will show that the railroad company, which, in times past, has paid more than \$2,000,000 taxes on lands involved in the suit, ceased to pay taxes when the de-