

THE LANE COUNTY NEWS

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And Remember to Get a Stop-Over for Springfield.

SPRINGFIELD, OREGON, MONDAY, APRIL 19, 1915.

THE DAY OF RECKONING WILL COME.

The legislative history of two years of Democratic rule was completed March 4. These two years have been marked by one of the most active periods of law-making this country has ever seen. With a house ready and able to execute his decrees down to the last word and with a working majority in the senate, President Wilson took the oath of office March 4, 1913. With prophetic eagerness he summoned Congress in extra session a month later. With the exception of six weeks of respite last fall the party machinery has been in operation ever since, grinding out experimental laws that affect every phase of our social and commercial life.

What does a study of that record show?

It discloses the fact that during that time the Democratic congress enacted and the Democratic president has signed more crude, imperfect and nugatory laws than ever were written during the same length of time by any American congress. It furnishes an indictment of haste and lack of legislative intelligence that is bound to be humiliating to the party responsible.

That there has been a tremendous quantity of legislation cannot be denied. More than four hundred public laws have been placed upon the statute books by the Democrats since they came into power. These are designated "public" because they appropriate money for general purposes or affect general law. In addition to these, hundreds of private bills have been passed.

Those who have closely observed the methods of legislation used by the Democratic majority are not surprised at the faulty results. One wouldn't expect a contractor who had been out of the business for twenty-five years to be very successful if he went back into the business. The present administration has been admittedly notable for its steam roller short cuts in enacting laws. Every important bill passed has been put through with small consideration beyond that of party expedience. As soon as the President proposed a law, then the caucus approved it, the majority rushed it through committees and back to the President for his signature,—all with as little debate as possible, and under iron clad special rules that permitted no chance for intelligent consideration or amendment.

It is conceivable that a few bills might be put through a legislative body in this way and emerge in perfect form. But to use such methods indiscriminately, as the Democratic Congress has done, is practically to insure the enactment of laws which future Congresses must either repeal or spend many weeks to amend. This is the task which Democratic haste and lustful use of a powerful majority has created for future Congresses.

COMMUNITIES STUNG BY CHEAP PAVEMENT.

At Oregon City and Spokane fights are raging over cheap forms of paving. That is something no community should tolerate—the various kinds of cheap paving.

At Salem and in other cities are miles of paving of the cheaper grades in ruins.

The clamor of the property owner for something cheap is a delusion and is very expensive.

There is only one worse form of infliction and that is the paving put down by a lot of politicians.

Municipal paying plants have bankrupted more communities than any other form of municipal ownership.

In Ohio and older states the people have learned that only the best and higher priced pavements are worth laying. Hundreds of miles of country roads in Ohio and the middle states are put down in vitrified brick on concrete. On the Pacific and Atlantic coasts the best grades of bituminous pavements are being laid.

Cheap pavements are an abomination that no community ever gets stung with a second time.

RAILROADS AND THE PUBLIC.

While we have a good many miles of railroad for a new country there is urgent need for improvement on those already built and the construction of many more additional miles, leading into new territory in order to secure its ultimate development and settlement, says the Pendleton Daily Tribune. Everybody is interested in the expansion of the railroads and everybody would like to see as good road beds in this state as are those in the most thickly settled sections of the East. We cannot afford to be eternally at war with the railroads, as we want more of them and should be disposed to encourage their construction rather than their destruction.

One hundred forty years ago today occurred the battles of Lexington and Concord. Fifty-four years ago today occurred the first bloodshed of the Civil war. Will the present war in Europe have as large an effect upon history as did the two wars on this continent, or will the strife in the East end with each nation exhausted, but with boundaries—and hatreds—much as they now are?

THE SUGAR-BEET PROBLEM

(Continued from Page 1.)

yields of 12 tons or better are secured, there is money in the culture of sugar beets.

Difficulty is to Secure Acreage.

On the other hand, there are

certain obstacles to overcome and certain factors which may appear to be disadvantageous to this industry. In the first place, it requires a considerable amount of capital to build and to operate the factory and to provide working capital for growers of the sugar beets. This large amount of capital is

in active use only for a relatively short season as the sugar making campaign does not normally extend over from ninety to one hundred and twenty days. However, numerous factories, at places where beets are produced successfully, have amply demonstrated that the investment is a paying one so the principal obstacle to be overcome is that of securing a sufficient acreage of beets for a long enough period of time that the plant may be assured of raw material on which to work.

The difficulty is to secure enough farmers interested in the culture of beets on a small scale who will bring up the total acreage up to about five thousand or more acres for the factory. It is not advisable to have a few with extremely large acreages, for the reason that the crop is one with which most farmers are not familiar and one who has had no experience with the crop is in great danger of failure if a large acreage is undertaken. Five to ten acres the first year is enough while one is gaining experience. After having learned the ins and outs of beet culture the larger acreages may be safely tried.

Requires Care and Labor.

The crop is an intensive one, requiring a considerable amount of careful hand labor and this is a type of work which many grain farmers are not accustomed to. It will mean the securing of a considerable amount of transient labor for such periods as the thinning and hoeing and the digging and topping of the beets. In order to grow the crop successfully and without friction and labor troubles, it is necessary to have a considerable amount of working capital so that help may be paid off promptly. It costs usually from \$35 up to, in some cases, \$45 per acre, to produce the beets and about \$6 to \$12 of this must be paid out for thinning and hoeing some time before the harvest time for the crop.

Our climatic conditions in general are very favorable for the culture of sugar beets in that we may get them seeded rather early and we have excellent growing conditions for them during the summer. It is true that our long, dry periods on the unirrigated soils will limit to some extent the yield of the beets unless very good cultural methods are practiced. However, in the fall, it will be necessary to get the beets dug moderately early in order to avoid serious second growth.

Dig to Avoid Second Growth.

The fall rains which come on are likely to start the second growth of the beets which will lower their sugar content and if this is carried on to too great an extent it will make them less valuable for manufacturing purposes. However, it will be distinctly to the advantage of the farmer, as well as the manufacturer, to have the beets dug reasonably early. Our season by the middle of September is cool enough that the beets will keep very satisfactorily and if we leave them in the ground until it gets muddy, it will add materially to the cost of harvest. Under ordinary conditions the beets should be harvested by the first to the middle of October not only from the standpoint of avoiding serious second growth but also to avoid the expensive digging in the mud.

Valley Climate and Soil Suited.

As far as climatic and soil conditions are concerned, I believe various parts of the Willamette valley and Southern Oregon section will successfully produce them, provided proper cultural methods are used.

The preparation of the soil for sugar beets should, if possible, include the turning under of a clover sod which has previously been well manured. It is the desire of the sugar beet grower to produce a large number of medium sized beets and in order to do this it is necessary to have a rich soil. The clover sod should be plowed under in the fall or early in the spring and then a good, heavy application of barnyard manure may be applied at the same time. If you are in the section where there is some necessity for re-plowing the application of the barnyard manure should be made in the spring and plowed under later.

Methods of Planting.

The sugar beet crop responds very well to a good, rich soil, and this allows a considerably heavier stand of plants. Ordinarily, the seed that is supplied should be passed over a grader

which will sort out the exceedingly large and small seeds and which gives a small, medium and large size of seed. It is always a good plan to screen out the exceedingly large seeds because they frequently clog up the drill. Also, by eliminating these large seeds it is possible to so regulate the drill that it sows more nearly the number that are desired. Usually, 15 pounds per acre of common, ungraded seed are used. Fifteen pounds per acre of the large seed, about ten pounds of the medium seed and about eight pounds per acre of the very small seed will provide an ample stand if the seed is good, and thus graded seed will save several pounds of seed per acre.

The land must be kept harrowed and should be carefully leveled by going over it with a float before the seeding of the beets. The sugar beets are ordinarily sown rather early, but not so early as to be caught by cool, wet growing season in the spring.

Sugar beets are usually sown in rows from 16 to 30 inches apart although the common distance is about 21 to 22 inches. The seeding should take place as soon as the ground warms up well but should not be while the land is still cold and wet, nor should the seeding be delayed until the dry season is advanced, usually, the seeding in various parts of Southern and Western Oregon sections should take place from the first of April up to about the tenth of May.

Work for Boys and Girls.

When the fourth leaf appears, workmen with hoes pass along the rows and cut strips of beets as long as the width of their hoes from the rows and leave single plants of where possible or blocks of beets sometimes as much as two inches in length, then cut another strip, and so on. This leaves the single beets or blocks of beets at intervals of about ten to 14 inches and usually small boys or girls, working on their hands and knees astride the rows, pull all but the strongest beet which leaves the thinned beet in the field at about ten to fourteen inches apart. Great care must be taken to avoid pulling all of the block of beets and also to be sure that the entire beets are removed by the pulling process, as if the tops only are covered, the roots will again sprout up and thinning will not have been accomplished. The thinning must be done before the beets get large, as the cost of thinning after the fourth leaf has appeared very rapidly increases with the development of the roots.

Immediately after thinning, the land should be carefully cultivated, using a fine tooth type of cultivator which will stir up the soil without covering up the beets. In many instances it is necessary to use fenders to prevent the soil covering up the small plants. From this time on, as frequently as necessary to maintain a good mulch, and to keep the weeds in check, a cultivation should be given until the leaves get so large that the cultivator and the tramping of the horses will break them off. As the season advances, there will be some weeds between the rows which cannot be gotten by the cultivator, and these will necessitate more or less hand hoeing.

Deduct Dirt and Topping Tare.

Late in the fall experts from the sugar factory examine the beets and determine their sugar content in order to find out if they may be profitably manufactured. Whenever the content of the beet reaches that point that profitable manufacture may take place, notification is given the farmer to begin digging. The beets are lifted by a beet digging machine and are usually picked up and thrown into piles where they may be topped by hand. The beet is grasped in one hand and the top is cut off at the lower edge of the leaf scars by means of a short, rather heavy knife. They are then thrown into piles of pieces of ground that have been raked smooth and free from trash. The beet tops are usually piled up also so that they may be available for feeding purposes. Beet forks are used to scoop the topped beets off the ground into wagons and they are then hauled to the dump or to the factory. At the loading station or at the factory the beets are examined as to topping and for the amount of dirt. Usually a sample is taken and retopped if necessary, and the dirt is scraped off and weighed. This gives the dirt and topping tare which is applied to the load

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Beets are usually paid for on the sliding scale or by the flat rate. In the case of the flat rate, a definite sum is paid for each ton of beets regardless of their sugar content, provided they are above the minimum of 12 per cent. On the other hand, with the sliding scale, the amount paid for the beets is proportional to the amount of sugar which they contain, although beets having less than 12 per cent of sugar are rarely used for manufacturing purposes. The returns from a ten-ton yield is usually \$45 or more, and the larger yields especially where the sliding scale is used, oftentimes return more than \$75 per acre. In proper hands, there is money in culture of the intensive, cultivated crop of sugar beets.

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