

# THE LANE COUNTY NEWS

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## SOIL DRAINAGE NECESSARY

The benefits of drainage are self-evident when barren swamp lands are reclaimed and brought to full production, says J. E. Larsen, Extension Agronomist, of O. A. C. It is harder for the average man to grasp the benefits to be derived from the drainage of flat lands now producing only a small part of a full crop. The fact remains, however, that water-logged soils must be drained before any scheme of soil improvement will prove successful. Drainage is one of the fundamentals in the improvement progress of wet lands. The benefits from drainage may be classified as direct and indirect.

Under direct benefits, the surplus or excess water is gotten rid of quickly and air takes the place of the excess water in the soil mass. Air in the soil is as important to growing plants as are plant food and moisture. The excess water must be removed before proper aeration will come. This really increases the soil's capacity to hold usable or film moisture. Drainage improves the soil structure by permitting tillage operations, deep plowing, etc., at the proper season. The soil mellow and livens up with drainage and better tillage. Drainage lengthens the growing season. The land can be worked earlier in the season. Heaving of the soils from freezing is caused by the expansion of the water in the soil. This is over come by drainage. The feeding area for plants is greatly enlarged, which means big crops. Under-drainage check soil erosion.

As indirect benefits we might mention the warming of the soil by the air taken in the soil through drainage. A difference of from six to ten degrees is not uncommon between drained and undrained soils. Air also assists in the decay of organic matter, manures, roots, etc. This means more humus, which forms more available moisture during drought periods. Bacterial activity is at its height in a soil that is warm, aerated and rich in humus. These things all tend to liberate plant food. More available plant food means greater yields.

Deep and thorough tillage is needed to loosen up and aerate the soil after drainage. Clover, thorough its deep rooting system, comes to the rescue. Lime, too, is needed to sweeten the soil and improve its structure. Manures do their maximum benefit only in a well drained soil.

Most of our wet lands are near business centers. Transportation facilities are good. The latent plant food is usually very good. These lands will stand the overhead expense necessary to bring them up to full production. Drainage is the key that unlocks this treasure.

## SHORTAGE OF SHIPS ANALYZED

(New York Times.)

The Chambers of Commerce of the United States estimates that because this country has to rely on foreign vessels to carry its sea-borne commerce about \$300,000,000 leaves the United States annually in the form of freight charges paid to foreign ship owners.

"The principal trouble with the American merchant marine is not that it is infinitesimally small," a statement issued by the Chamber to night reads: "It is quite respectable, both in number and tonnage. Its lamentable weakness lies in the fact that it is out of all proportion to the enormous trade of the country.

"Out of a total of 26,701 registered and licensed vessels, less than 3000 ever plow foreign seas. In foreign trade our merchant marine consists of 37 steel sailing ships averaging 1600 tons each, 544 wooden sailing vessels averaging 600 tons, 239 wooden steamers averaging 300 tons, and 331 steel steamships averaging 3800 tons. There are also 537 motor boats and 1106 barges.

## Go Home For Christmas

THE holidays will soon be here. The time of happiness and cheer. Your friends will be expecting you to come home. So will mother, father, sister or brother.

## Low Holiday Fares

Are available for the holidays. On sale between all Southern Pacific stations in Oregon Dec. 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25, 31, and aJn. 1. Return limit Jan. 4. From Oregon to California points on sale Dec. 23, 24, 25, 30, 31, Jan. 1st. Return limit Jan. 3

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## SOUTHERN PACIFIC

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RENEE KELLY



Who Plays "Judge Abbott" in "Daddy Long Legs" at Eugene Theatre, Dec. 13.

"In large merchant steamers, the class that is fast growing in commerce and of a size and speed to render some assistance as naval auxiliaries, the United States stands third, surpassed only by Great Britain and Germany. But 60 per cent of the big and able steamers in the world are owned by Great Britain and not 7 per cent by the United States.

"The trade of the United States has at its disposal only about one-tenth of the shipping facilities available to the British merchant and manufacturer. If the United States is to take its proper place it must not be content with mere rank; it ranks quite high, ahead of France, Italy, Norway and Holland. Americans must have actual commercial sea power in proportion to their trade."

## FREIGHT TRADE PROMOTION

(New York Times.)

The country has begun to take practical measures on a large scale for the promotion of our foreign trade by means of fostering foreign enterprises with American capital. That is the meaning of the organization by the National City bank and its associates in the American International corporation of a company which will do for partly developed countries what many groups of bankers in Europe have been doing for such countries for generations. What the United States has done in this line in the past has been on a small scale and as an incidental achievement rather than as part of a broad gauge plan to obtain for this country a new position in world trade. To gain that position we must not only offer goods for sale but must also offer the capital for the development of enterprises which will increase the purchasing power of the countries with which we would trade, South America, China, Russia, any and every country which needs the stimulus of outside capital to develop its national resources and to create new markets or to enlarge those which already exist.

## ASHLAND WANTS THE OREGON BUILDING

San Francisco, Cal. Dec. 8.—If the Southern Pacific will haul the Oregon Building to Ashland free of cost, it is not wholly improbable that the famous Oregon Parthenon will grace the wonderful park being developed at Ashland through the expenditure of \$175,000 secured by bond issue for this purpose and that of developing the Lithia Springs there. During the past ten days, Editor Bert R. Greer, of the Ashland Tidings, and chairman of the Springs Water Commission has been here in consultation with the Oregon Commission and the Southern Pacific Officials and is serious in his attempt to secure the Oregon building for re-erection in his home city. Just now there is no great hope that the Government will decide to maintain the building here, and contract calls for its removal within ninety days after the close of the Exposition. The best offer that the Commission has had for the building is \$1,000 the concern making this offer agreeing to remove the structure and put the ground in the shape required by the contract. However, Editor Greer figures that the Commission can afford to waive that amount if the famous building could be reset at Oregon's southern gateway, and the public in general will agree. It will cost from twelve to fifteen thousand dollars to wreck the building and Mr. Greer is confident that he can secure that amount in his home city, providing the Southern Pacific will agree to transport the wreckage to Ashland. It is understood that the Springs Commission already has available a considerable sum for the construction of

a casino in the park, and there would be no difficulty about financing the reconstruction of the Oregon building. If the Parthenon is not to be maintained here, it is reasonably certain that all Oregon would delight in its reconstruction at Ashland. That city is spending a very large sum to develop a great resort and the beautification of the mountain park practically in the heart of that city is now in the hands of McLaren, father of Golden Gate Park's landscape beauty, and also responsible for the wondrous beauty of the Exposition grounds. The Oregon Parthenon would have perfect surroundings there, and as a convention hall, museum, casino, or something of the sort it would serve a good purpose and advertise Ashland as nothing else could and result to the great advantage of Oregon in general.

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