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ON THE GROWING OF ALFALFA

Seventh Grade Pupils of Irrigon School Write Intelligently on This Important Subject.

The pupils of the Irrigon school, underh to tutorship of Prof. L. B. Kicker, are being instructed along practical lines. Mr. Kicker has for some time been teaching a course in agriculture, which the children have taken hold of in good shape. The following essays on "Alfalfa" show that they are getting hold of these subjects in an intelligent way. We print them under the headings as they come to us:

I live in a little cottage in Irrigon. It is a little brown house with green beds of alfalfa on either side. Of evenings I sit outside and listen to the chirp of the frogs, the twittering of the birds as they are going to rest. Far across the meadows I hear the owl just coming from its sleep.

One day there was a little meadow lark that came to build her nest in the sweet alfalfa. By and by the mowers came to cut the hay. I thought of the little meadow lark who had by this time some little ones. So I put on my hat and went out to where the nest was. The mowers were about to destroy it. The mother was gone to get the babies something to eat, so I took the nest and little birds and put them into a safe place. When the mother came and found what had happened and what had become of them she set up a sad chirp and flew away never to return. I was very sad and took the little birds and raised them so they could fly away.

One night as I lay on my pillow, looking out of the window, I saw a light moving around the field. The next day on asking my father what it was I found out that it was some men irrigating. I was very glad for I know that it was nearly time for the harvesting. After this the flowers begin to come out and the sweet aroma comes over the fields pervading nook and crannie. And this is the time the bees are busy; they hum and sing all day long.

Soon the mower is started to work and by the first of June the first crop is cut down and the smell of new mown hay greets us. This is raked up, put in small shocks and then stacked.

In another week we see the men in rubber boots again and the thirsty plants are given another drink. In two or three weeks the crop is again ready for the sickle and the work is repeated in this way four times in one year.

GERTRUDE JOHNSON,
Irrigon, Ore. Seventh Grade.

Alfalfa a Money Maker

We live on a farm two miles from town and have 23 acres of land, eight of which is in alfalfa. We have six milk cows and five horses.

We cut hay four times each season and average about one and one-half tons to the acre per cutting, or in all we have harvested about fifty tons to eight acres each season. Some of the alfalfa was sown a year ago and therefore does not produce at its best.

Alfalfa enriches the soil. Last year we plowed up a small plot of old alfalfa and planted it to muskmelons, which produced \$120 in one year.

BATIE RAND,
Seventh Grade.

The Irrigation of Alfalfa

Alfalfa grows in nearly all parts of the world, but it is not very popular in the east on account of the clay soil and possibly an over-abundance of water.

The two principle ways of irrigating alfalfa are: First, by flooding the checks; second by furrows.

In Idaho farmers use the sub irrigation system, they can do this because the subsoil and hardpan are so near the surface.

(For those who do not know what subirrigation is)—Long trenches are dug and water is allowed to fill them. When the water strikes the hardpan it naturally spreads out over the land. Alfalfa should be irrigated before and after cutting, and the check gates should be left open from two to three hours. If left open too long it will wash all the fertilizer away and spoil the crop.

We use the flood method here, because it spreads more evenly and gives us four cuttings.

Last year we got about 250 tons from about 36 acres.

RALPH G. WALPOLE,
Seventh Grade.

Alfalfa week came just about right for our school, both as to time and subject. We are very much interested in alfalfa here, in fact it is going to be the main thing that people are going to raise here. It is a sure crop every year and is, therefore, much safer to depend on than fruit.

We brought all kinds of specimens to school and examined them in every way; then we wrote compositions on every subject.

I am afraid that I will have no subject to give my composition, but I will write something about alfalfa which I have learned about it because I live on a farm where I have seen it sown, irrigated, grown and reaped.

It is important to get a good clean seed, and therefore it is best to let one crop of hay go to seed.

Father got the best stand in this way once. He mowed it and then after he had the checks all prepared he scattered a very thin layer of this seed over it and then ran a disc over it once or twice. The disc should be set straight so that it will merely press the hay into the ground leaving the ends stick up. This, then, will serve as a protection against the wind and the small alfalfa will not be hurt in the least by the wind.

We have eight acres in alfalfa, and had about 48 tons of hay from it last year. We do not sell hay as we feed it all to the cows and horses. In this way we get more for it. We have figured out that we get about \$16 per ton for our hay in this way, besides having fertilizer to use.

GERTRIE KICKER,
Seventh Grade.

OREGON INDUSTRIAL REVIEW

What Factories and Improvement Works Are Doing to Give Employment to Labor.

Compiled by the State Bureau of Industries and Statistics.

Tillamook cheese factories produced 4,101,962 pounds in 1913 as against 3,996,250 pounds in 1912.

Cars on the first interurban street car line at Medford began to operate March 20th.

Hillsboro Commercial Club is backing the Boeker wickerwork factory, and a project for a new sawmill.

A meat packing plant with cold storage facilities on a large scale is assured at Redmond.

H. J. Firchan of the Albany bakery has the backing of Montana capitalists for establishing a cracker factory.

The Oregon Welfare Commission is considering raising the apprenticeship period for women learners to eighteen months.

Contracts have been let for the construction of eight concrete bridges on the Columbia river highway.

The state pedler law, held to be in restraint of trade, is being attacked in the federal courts at Portland by a tea company.

West Linn citizens have decided to support the erection of two new school buildings to cost \$12,000 each.

Astoria Masonic lodge will erect a fireproof office building and lodge hall.

The shipbuilding industry at St. Helens increases in activity.

The Oregon Supreme Court sustains the minimum wage and eight-hour laws enacted by the last legislature for women.

A favorable sign all over Oregon is the establishment and extension of local packing plants with cold storage facilities.

Roseburg and Eugene report prospect for a very favorable building season.

Development organizations are campaigning against the Blue Sky law.

Calipooia grange has adopted resolutions strongly opposing the eight-hour laws.

Engineer Fontaine of the Willamette Pacific says 2000 men will rush the railroad between Eugene and Marshfield to completion this fall.

A steel and wood truss bridge will be built across the Chetco river in Curry county.

A ten-hour law for men is sustained by the recent decision of the Oregon Supreme Court.


A Salem bank capitalized at \$100,000 pays \$6,000 taxes—six per cent on its capital stock.

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Portland Flouring Mills Co., Portland, Oregon

The Eugene Commercial Club will make securing factories and payrolls of first importance in its publicity work for the coming year.

Cottage Grove business men have a committee raising \$10,000 stock subscription for a cannery.

The shipping that went over the Coos Bay bar in 1913 aggregated 465,000 tons.

Clackamas county is to have a new jail.

The historical courthouse of Marion county is being remodeled for about the fifteenth time.

The case of Frank C. Stettler vs. the Oregon Welfare Commission will be appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States.

A new armory is to be built at Portland on the east side, to cost \$50,000.

The Knights of Pythias will erect a two-story lodge building at White Plains.

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