

Home and Farm Magazine Section Editorial Page

Suggestions From Our Associate Editors, Allowing For an Interchange of Views, Written by Men of Experience on Topics With Which They Are Fully Acquainted—Hints Along Lines of Progressive Farm Thought.

HANDLING THE BY-PRODUCTS.

MARKETING is the farmers' chief problem.

Neighboring canneries are important in handling the by-products of the farm.

They are properly community enterprises, and bankers and merchants can profitably assist in putting them on a sound business basis.

Here is rather an interesting story on the starting of a new cannery at Vancouver, Wash.:

"This cannery began business two weeks ago," said G. Misch, of Vancouver, in a recent interview, "with 25 women, and today is employing 60. More will be added just as soon as the business warrants it. For years the small rancher, with from 5 to 10 acres each, has been unable to get rid of his produce. If he shipped it to the commission men he might get fair returns for it, but in the great majority of cases he did not. I know one man, for instance, who had four acres in strawberries. He allowed them to remain on the vines and rot because he could not market them. Now, with the cannery established, he can sell them all, as he has done, and will receive between \$400 and \$500 for them. The opening of this cannery will mean \$10,000 to the small ranchers.

"Just at present strawberries are the only fruit being handled. These are being preserved in barrels and shipped East, where they are made into syrup. Clarke county is full of ranchers who have been unable to sell their products, and it has been next to impossible to have anything done for them. The cannery means that fruits and vegetables which otherwise would go to waste can be marketed and the producer will be well paid for his labors. Strawberries are not the only thing which will be handled, but all kinds of small fruits and vegetables.

"The cannery is owned by the granges, and between 600 and 700 men and women own stock in the enterprise. It is not expected to be a dividend-payer the first year, but it is believed it will at least break even.

"At Richfield a co-operative starch factory is to be started at once, and here the rancher may take his potatoes, for which he will receive 90 cents a hundred pounds. I had six acres of spuds this year, from which I realized 29 cents a hundredweight, although they cost me 46 cents to raise."

NITROGEN FROM THE AIR.

THE widespread extraction of nitrogen from the air by means of electrical currents, and the use of this nitrogen, in composition with substances like lime, as the world's principal land restorative, is predicted by Professor O. F. Stafford, head of the department of chemistry in the University of Oregon. Extraction of nitrogen for fertilizing purposes is already on a commercial basis.

Professor Stafford says decrease in productivity is as perilous to the adequacy of the world's food supply as the increase of population. Ultimate exhaustion of the artificial fertilizers such as the Chilean nitrates will leave the future densely populated planet in danger of famine if the soil is permitted to become depleted. "Most of the available agricultural land has been taken up now," says Professor Stafford.

Nitrogen supply in the atmospheric belt surrounding the earth is inexhaustible. "There are 34,000 tons of nitrogen in the atmosphere for every acre of land on the earth's surface," says Professor Stafford, "and it is by use of this that the earth's producing power will be kept up."

So much electrical power is necessary for extraction of this nitrogen, and for its transformation into usable form, that only a few countries can hope to become great nitrogen-extracting centers. One

such country is Norway, where the process is now being used in several splendidly equipped plants. Another such country is Oregon and Washington, which are amply endowed with waterpower sufficient to put the two beyond competition from most of the world's geographical divisions in cheap manufacture of nitrogen fertilizers.

OUTDOOR WORK FOR WOMEN.

OVER at Ambler, Pa., the other day they held a convention. It was for the purpose of discussing outdoor work for women.

Recently many women have been taking an interest in the growing of fruit and the raising of poultry. And when a woman takes interest that means she works.

Some of the largest and best managed farms in the country are run by women.

Some colleges are teaching girls agriculture, in which plowing is part of the regular curriculum.

In fact, we published a photograph recently of just such an instance.

The growing of berries offers a field to women who like to work outdoors.

Women can also grow garden seeds; that is, operate small tracts which grow flowers for the profit there is in selling the seeds.

Another field for profit is the raising of plants required by druggists. There are a large variety of such plants. Those who make a specialty of raising them find their enterprise well rewarded.

Outdoor work is health-giving. It is enjoyable—when the weather is right.

Women find they soon learn to enjoy the exercise they get in the garden.

Independence is one of the privileges enjoyed.

Many women prefer to earn their own livelihood rather than be dependent on relatives.

There is no more independent life than that of the gardener and poultry-raiser.

SPEND THE MONEY AT HOME.

AMERICANS spend \$560,000,000 abroad annually.

We favor spending this money at home.

Let the rich Americans spend money seeing their own country.

To this end we favor the program of Mark Daniels, general superintendent of national parks.

Among the changes Mr. Daniels favors are the following:

Establish San Francisco as the permanent headquarters of the national park system.

Make the parks vastly more popular as resorts by attracting builders of fine hotels through long term leases in place of the present year-to-year leases.

The organization of a single administrative system for all parks.

Ultimate elimination of the army and substitution of a force of mounted police similar to the Canadian Royal Northwest mounted police.

Elimination of ugly structures and adoption of a type of artistic architecture that will harmonize with the environment of natural beauty.

Better accessibility to the parks through the building of more roads and trails.

WHAT OUR NEIGHBORS ARE DOING.

HERE are some of the things our neighbors are doing:

Through the Wenatchee Valley Fruit Growers' Association 10 straight car loads of peaches will be shipped from the valley as soon as the season is on. The fruit will be marketed in bushel baskets, holding about two and a half boxes of peaches. The peaches will not be wrapped or packed, an innovation fruit shippers are watching carefully.

Work has been commenced on the 400-acre tract of land one mile from Hermiston, belonging to R. N. Stanfield, with the purpose of seeding the entire acreage to alfalfa.

Mr. Stanfield has lived in that vicinity for 35 years and owns a large alfalfa ranch on Butter Creek. He expects to have the tract in condition in time to produce two or three crops next year. He has already built a good house and barn. He also owns 120 acres north of Hermiston, from which the first crop of hay has just been harvested.

Besides Mr. Stanfield several other men are seeding large tracts to alfalfa this season.

The Washington-Idaho division of the Farmers' Educational and Co-Operative Union at the closing session of the annual meeting held in Spokane reaffirmed its stand in favor of the state-wide prohibition amendment which is to be voted on this fall.

The union also indorsed the Quincy irrigation project and bonding arrangement in the present referendum measure which also will come before the voters of Washington in November.

METHOD IN MADNESS.

AN INDIANA religious sect has adopted resolutions that it will have nothing to do with automobiles.

It is not quite sure whether they are a work of the devil.

So the brethren decided to "play safe."

If it were not amusing, it would be pathetic to find such a group of people living in the world, yet not of it.

The futility of the resolution recalls the old lady with her broom trying to sweep back the rising tide.

Old King Canute tried to do the same thing with a simple command—and commands of kings were the resolutions of those days.

But there is, after all, some method in the seeming madness of those Indianans.

They may have had experience with the motor car.

There is nothing that will take piety out of a man quicker than an automobile with a mean disposition.

Perhaps they wanted to retain the piety.

A GOOD INVESTMENT.

EVERYONE will agree that S. Benson, of Portland, is a good business man.

When a man starts in this western country with nothing but his own resources, native ability and strength, and accumulates a fortune of \$7,000,000 honestly and honorably, it seems safe to say that he is a good business man.

Mr. Benson is a firm believer in good roads.

When he says that the Pacific Northwest is losing a revenue of \$18,000,000 a year from automobile tourists by not having good roads, we believe him.

Mr. Benson believes in constructing main trunk highways as well as roads to the farm.

We believe in both kinds of roads.

We believe that the farmer would get his share if \$18,000,000 were spent in the Pacific Northwest.

DO YOU WANT A PONY?

WHILE at the stock show at Union, O. M. Plummer, secretary of the Union Stock Yards, and general manager of the Pacific International Livestock Exhibition, bought a pony.

This pony is to be given as a prize for the boy or girl who makes the best gain in pig production this year.

The awards will be made at the boys' and girls' show at Tacoma, this fall.

This prize is given every year by the Union Stock Yards.

SAVE THE SKUNKS.

A ROSE by any other name would smell as sweet.

A skunk if called a fragrant flower would smell no better.

But the U. S. Department of Agriculture has come to the rescue of this much-hated animal.

It is declared to be useful to the farmer in destroying noxious insects. It is also valuable for fur. If domesticated and raised in captivity they can be made a source of profit.

Anyway we are glad the skunk is good for something.

He is a failure in the perfume business.

LA GRANDE HENS BUSY.

ONE HUNDRED EGGS from four hens in one month, with one contributing two eggs the last day, is the performance of four Silver Campines owned by C. A. Nichols, of La Grande.

The eggs are so fertile that an average of 95 per cent of chicks have been hatched.

These are the first Campines in that section of the Grand Ronde Valley.

These La Grande hens deserve a medal.

GOOD FOR THE BOYS AND GIRLS.

INDUSTRIAL clubs have been formed in many places for boys and girls.

The industrial club at Gresham, Oregon, has 80 boys and girls; ranging from 10 to 18 years of age.

The Oregon Agricultural College is co-operating in this movement.

It is a good thing. Mothers and fathers should encourage it.

WINNING OUT.

THIS is an age of specialization. Only those succeed in a big way who pick out some particular job and stay with it till they know more about it than the other fellow.

Concentration is the surest road to success, finance and honor.

Keep your mind on your job, whatever it may be.

TO ADVERTISERS.

Advertisers in this locality who wish to fully cover all sections of Oregon and Washington and a portion of Idaho will apply to local publishers for rates.

General advertisers may address C. L. Burton, Advertising Manager, 411 Panama Building, Portland, Oregon, for rates and information.

The publishers will accept business from no advertiser whose reliability can be questioned.

The Housewife's Epitaph.

Here lies an old woman who always was tired.
She lived in a house where help was not hired.
Her last words on earth were, "Dear friends, I am going
Where washing ain't done, nor sweeping nor sewing,
But everything there is exact to my wishes,
For where they don't eat there's no washing of dishes.
I'll be where glad anthems forever are ringing.
But having no voice I'll be clear of the singing.
Don't mourn for me now, don't mourn for me never;
I'm going to do nothing forever and ever."

An Endorsement of Nature.

Dame Nature is ever busy
Each season of the year,
She hath full much to perplex her
To clothe her world so dear.

She hath a palette of color
For spring, summer and fall,
Whilst for the garment of winter
She owns the snowflakes fall.

She loveth the wondrous ev'ning
When the pale moon blends
Its light with purple shadows
As night all slow descends.

O, Nature is every busy
With gentle, subtle art,
Then love her, mortals, and greet her
With mind and soul and heart!

—New York Mail.