

Oregon Agricultural College is the Friend of the Farmer

Page of News Notes and Interesting Articles Specially Written by College Experts For This Newspaper.



View of Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, Oregon, the Sole Aim of Which Is to Aid Agriculturists.

FAKE CHOLERA CURES EXPOSED BY EXPERTS.

ALMOST every imaginable remedy for hog cholera has been tested from time to time by the United States Department of Agriculture and by the various Experiment Station workers, and no successful treatment has ever been discovered," says Dr. B. T. Simms, veterinarian at the Oregon Agricultural College. "The more serious a disease is and the greater the monetary loss caused by it, the larger the number of so-called cures that appear on the market. Since hog cholera has caused in the United States during the past year a loss of about sixty-five million dollars, there has been placed on the market recently a large number of these alleged cures."

Warning has been issued stockmen by the Federal department against these alleged remedies and especially against the spurious claims concerning a proprietary preparation called Benetol. False claims have been made to the effect that officers of the Department of Agriculture have received official reports of the use of the so-called cure with most beneficial results. The only report received was presumably from the promoters themselves.

It is further said by the Department officers that the remedy, Benetol, now offered as a cure for hog cholera, was advertised some time ago as a remedy for tuberculosis, typhoid and cancer, according to the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Prevention of spread is the most effective way to combat the disease, and the only remedy recommended is anti-hog cholera serum.

INSOLUBLE BRAND PAINT COSTS SHEEPMEN HEAVY.

PROBABLY one of the greatest crimes of the sheepmen on the range is the use of insoluble paints for painting the flock," says O. M. Nelson, instructor in animal husbandry at the Oregon Agricultural College. "Paint on fleeces is the greatest objection manufacturers make to the use of territory wool. There is no subject of more importance in preparing wool for market than the proper painting of sheep.

"It has been estimated that insoluble paints cost the growers from one-third of a cent to one cent a pound. The following is an enumeration of a few of the items that make up the loss from the use of insoluble paints:

"Cost of mill labor in clipping paint locks.

"Loss of wool from the best part of fleece.

"Injury to other wool in scouring stains from partially dissolved paint.

"Damage to yarn and fabrics by specks of paint too small to be detected in grease wool.

"Loss through refusal of manufacturers to buy painted wools in best market."

From various tests made by the Wyoming Station it appears that not all paint labeled perfect scouring is in reality such. By making a careful investigation growers can probably learn which paints will scour out completely without leaving any stain or inflicting any damage on the fleece.

SELECTING THE GROUND FOR GROWING POTATOES.

A DEEP, mellow, well drained and well aerated soil is really preferred for the best growth of potatoes, according to Professor H. D. Seudder, who has prepared a college bulletin on "Growing the Oregon Potato Crop." "Since potatoes are rather deep rooting they should be afforded a well drained sub-soil. While the mellow

loam that is so nearly ideal for most other crops is perhaps ideal for potatoes also, sandy loams are perhaps the best natural potato producing soil type in Oregon, especially if they are well supplied with humus. The silt loams, common to both Eastern and Western Oregon, are excellent for potatoes when well drained, deeply plowed and kept supplied with an abundance of humus. This type has been and doubtless will continue to be one which produces the major share of the crop, since it covers the largest area of any soils in the state.

"It is rather more difficult to produce good crops on the clay loams, although good yields may be obtained. On this type of soil potatoes mature more slowly, are likely to be more or less ill shaped and are more subject to disease. In fact of all soils this type requires the most careful management and the most intensive tillage to produce satisfactory results.

"Newly cleared timber lands, especially the red hill silt loams or gray silt valley loams of Western Oregon, are nearly always excellent soils for potato production. As a rule, potatoes are one of the best first crops that can be grown on such newly cleared land."

COLLEGE STUDENTS SEE STOCK METHODS ON FARM.

A PARTY of 18 students of the Agricultural College visited the farms of a number of Oregon livestock breeders during four days early in May. The party was composed of seniors and juniors of the Animal Husbandry department and made the inspection under the direction of three members of the faculty. The trip extended through the central and lower Willamette Valley sections and included visits to nine farms on which pure bred live stock is raised. The visitors were made to see how the practical live stock industry is carried on by successful producers, and investigated breeds, management, feeding and equipment.

"We were cordially received wherever we went," said Professor E. L. Potter, head of the department. "The young men were helped to see the point of contact where the instruction of the College applies to the practical business. Owners not only conducted the party through the plants, but often gave them valuable points on the history of the stock and timely suggestions on management. At the Chalmers farm, near Forest Grove, the boys were given a most interesting account of the development of the Shorthorn cattle by a former neighbor of Cruikshank, the great Shorthorn breeder. At Mr. Brown's place, near Carlton, the owner gave the students a most interesting camp fire address.

"These visits of inspection are annual affairs and part of the regular work of the junior and senior classes."

PLANT DISEASE CHECKED.

THE IMPORTANCE of selecting resistant strains of plants in combatting plant disease is the gospel brought from Wisconsin to Oregon by Professor L. R. Jones, head of plant pathology at Wisconsin University. Professor Jones was on his way to California to address the California Fruit Growers' Association, and stopped to see the work of the Oregon Agricultural College. During his stay here he conducted a short seminar for the class in botany, emphasizing the duty of plant pathologists in preventing the spread of diseases.

"Spraying plants already diseased is merely temporizing," said he. "The practice was of any value in keeping the It is often necessary and must be done,

but at the same time our efforts should be directed to developing strains of plants that are more resistant to disease."

The success has been recently shown in Wisconsin, where growers were combatting cabbage yellows. The trouble had grown so serious that it threatened to deprive an entire district of its best crop. No soil treatment or cultural practice was of any value in keeping the disease under control, and attention was directed to developing strains that resist the disease. When final plantings are reported for this season it will probably be found that the problem has been solved.

SEWING CLUB FOR GIRLS.

"YOUNG girls the world over love to sew and make beautiful things," says Mrs. Lulie Robbins, who will direct the Extension work of the girl's sewing club. If they follow her simple and attractive instructions perhaps they shall never get over it. Here are some of the directions:

"Do not try to do too much at one time. It is better to sew a short time and keep the work even. Can you tell what will happen to your stitches if your fingers become tired?

"Do all the work for yourself, but if you do not know what to do ask an older person.

"Protect your work by wearing an apron.

Have a box or bag in which to keep your scissors, thimble, needles, thread, tape and pins.

"Keep an account of all you do and the kind of material you use, in a notebook. If you find that any material is hard to sew, make a note of it. A few questions will be asked in bulletins, but they will not be difficult to answer."

JOHN DAY MINERALS.

THE Day Valley are described in detail in the mineral resources of the John by Arthur J. Collier, of the University of Oregon, in "The Mineral Resources of Oregon," number three, just issued by the State Bureau of Mines and Geology. The article deals very largely with the coal deposits of the John Day and Heppner regions, and throws many interesting side lights on the geological formation of the great John Day fossil belt. Copies may be had by requesting them of Dean H. M. Parks, O. A. C., Corvallis, director of the Bureau of Mines.

ZOOLOGIST IS STUDENT.

PROFESSOR George F. Sykes, head of the Department of Zoology at the Oregon Agricultural College, has gone East to do advanced work at some of the university summer schools. Professor Sykes has written a number of useful and charming bird stories dealing with the economic importance of some of the birds of the Northwest, and is engaged in making a study and collection of pestiferous rodents, with a view to the best control measures. He will do his summer work either at the national graduate school held this year at Columbia, Missouri, or at one of the famous Eastern universities.

GRASSHOPPERS MAKE RAID.

GRASSHOPPERS are reported by special wire to be devastating the crops of certain parts of the Klamath country, and Professor H. F. Wilson, entomologist at the Agricultural College, has gone to the help of the farmers there. The likelihood of this invasion was foreseen and considerable publicity has been given to preventive and remedial measures. Relief can be had only by co-operative action, which will come when the need for it is sufficiently pressing. Poisoning, drag-

ging and dosing in hopper dozers are remedial measures that bring satisfactory results when taken up by citizens co-operatively. Bankers, railway officers, business men and professional men joined hands in Kansas last year to fight the pests, and under the leadership of the Agricultural College entomologist saved millions of dollars' worth of crops.

LOGANBERRY BY-PRODUCTS.

METHODS of converting loganberries to by-products is the subject of an Experiment Station bulletin recently issued by the Oregon Agricultural College. This new bulletin, written by Professor C. I. Lewis and Assistant F. R. Brown, deals with the entire subject of picking, handling and manufacture of loganberries into the most valuable form of by-products which they may be made into. In addition to the points usually covered are several special features, among them the reports of various tests on the manufacture of juices, and a number of attractive household recipes for loganberries. The bulletin is free to the people of Oregon and copies may be secured by writing the Experiment Station, O. A. C., Corvallis, Oregon.

Twenty miles of roadway around Chicago is soon to be concreted at a cost of \$12,000 a mile.

THE LIFE CAREER

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A. H. BURTON

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Principles—1 Favor longer terms for country schools, consolidation where practical, better teachers, teachers promoted for merit only, practical courses, State's money more economically expended.



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