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WALLA WALLA, WASH.
SEPTEMBER 17, 18, 1914

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FARMING IS A SCIENCE IN SCOTLAND

R. F. Hynd, in Letter Makes A Few Contrasts Between His Native Land and Oregon.

Editor Gazette-Times:

Notwithstanding the comparative poverty so prevalent here, there is on every hand the evidence of vast wealth. It requires capital to operate the coal mines, large machine shops and shipbuilding yards, hugh factories and a mercantile marine that nearly equals the fleets of all other nations combined. In addition to the wealth employed in home industries a vast amount of British capital is invested in foreign countries and the interest from these investments contributes materially to the prosperity of the middle classes. I find many in this district who have money invested in the Pacific Northwest and the rate of interest they receive is quite pleasing to them.

In the country districts adjacent to the larger cities one sees on every hand the palatial residences of the merchant princes and all over the country, in many cases far distant from the cities, are to be found the homes of the "landlords," some quite modern buildings and others built centuries ago. In every case these homes of the wealthy are located in the most lovely surroundings, beautiful gardens and parks dotted with handsome trees and evergreen shrubs, requiring many men to keep them in order. Quite recently I spent an afternoon on one of these "estates" and many times while admiring the beauties of the place I wondered why one man should have so much, while so many just outside the wall should have so little, of this world's goods. The residence was three stories high and would have covered a Heppner city block, requiring over thirty female servants to keep it in order. Twenty men are employed in the gardens, besides other men to look after motors, horses, cattle and game. The park around the residence contained just one thousand acres and was surrounded by a stone wall about seven feet high. Beautiful elm, beech and oak trees were growing in the park, affording shade and shelter for the fine thoroughbred cattle and sheep, and several hundred deer were roaming around. On one side was a lake about forty acres in extent, well stocked with fish, while wild duck, pheasants and rabbits were abundant. Two much for one man you will say, but the owner had two other "estates" nearly as large and divided his time between the three. The revenue to keep up these homes was derived principally from rents of farms adjoining, and there are many such places as this, as well as other districts in Scotland.

The best of feeling seems to prevail between the "landlord" and the farmers, and it is not unusual for a family to occupy a rented farm for several generations. If a farmer keeps up the fertility of the soil and takes good care of the farm, his lease never terminates, being continued after his death by his family. A farmer who neglects his business or who does not thoroughly cultivate his land is soon told to move as most of the leases specify a termination on two years notice. The rents paid are comparatively low, being less than the interest on the purchase price of a Willamette valley farm, the prevailing rent in this district being from \$5 to \$7 per acre. The cost of working the land is greater, and there is some outlay for fertilizers, but they reap crops that would surprise the average Oregon farmer. Wheat yields 50 to 55 bushels, barley 65 to 70, oats 75 to 80; potatoes, 8 to 10 tons and turnips 20 to 25 tons per acre, these being the principal crops grown, and a yield of 15 per cent above these figures is quite common on some of the

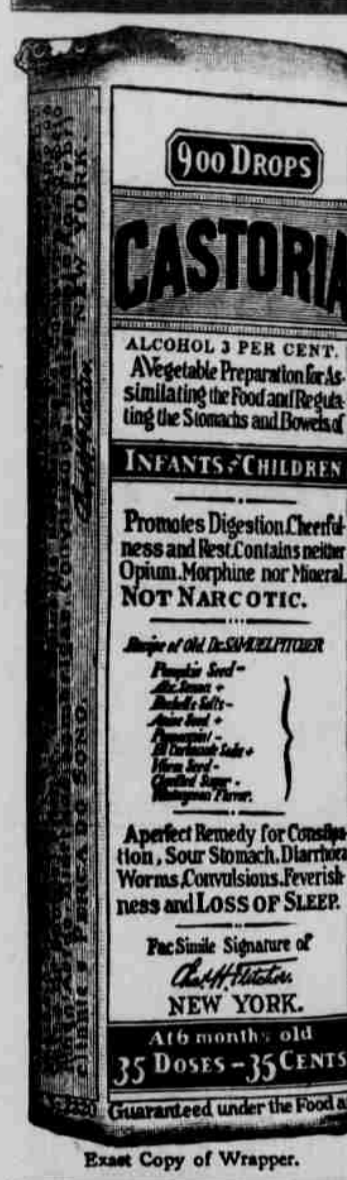
best farms. When Oregon produces such crops, and many sections of the state can do so by proper cultivation and fertilizing, the lot of the farmer will be vastly improved.

Some information gathered from my father's farm will give a fair idea of the methods employed on an average Scotch lowland farm. The place consists of 225 acres, fairly level, sloping to the sea, every foot under cultivation. The buildings are an eight room, two story residence with out buildings, five three room cottages for the hired men, and a block of buildings 150 feet by 13. feet for the accommodation of the stock and implements. All these buildings are made of stone, with slate roofs, and will last for generations. Most of these buildings are devoted to the feeding of cattle and the conversion of the straw into manure. These cattle are brought in from Ireland as feeders, two-year-olds, and fattened on the turnips and hay raised on the farm together with a ration of linseed or cottonseed meal compressed into a solid and called oilcake. This farm feeds between 70 and 80 head each year, and the contrast between the treatment of these cattle and the average feeding of cattle on Willow creek is very marked. "All they can eat and a warm comfortable bed" is the recipe for feeding cattle successfully, and the finished beef they turn out proves that the system practiced here is a good one. The land is all drained and many of the fields are fenced with stone walls about five feet high. The rent paid is \$7.00 per acre. On the farm there are eight men regularly employed, besides extra help during potato harvest. These men are hired by the year and are paid from \$20 to \$25 per month, with free houses for the married men. They board themselves. There is also quite an outlay for fertilizers, as several of the crops get a special application of prepared manure in addition to that produced on the farm. "Cultivate and feed the ground if you want a crop" is the policy adopted. The farm is divided into seven fields or "shifts" and the rotation of crops is as follows: oats, potatoes, wheat, turnips, barley with which is sown clover and grass seed, followed by one year in hay and one in pasture, then follows the oat crop, being seven shifts in the seven years, each crop occupying over 30 acres. In this way the farmer's eggs are not in one basket, as climatic conditions that might make a poor crop in one field might make a good crop in another. Two grain crops are even grown in succession in the same field and the large acreage in potatoes and turnips furnishes plenty of work for the farm hands as every foot of the ground is gone over with the hoe several times during the season, and a heavy application of barnyard manure is spread before the crops are planted. The cost of operating a farm is very heavy but the crops seem to justify the expense.

Other features that add greatly to the comfort and success of the farmers here are the good roads and the home market. All roads are macadamized and as hard as paved streets hence bad roads are unknown. I have made some inquiry into the cost of keeping up the roads, which we would call "permanent" roads, and was very much surprised. I fear the figures would discourage your road enthusiasts so will not give them, but they will cost a mint of money, particularly in the western part of the state. Whether this cost is to be borne by the taxpayer or part of the burden be placed on the owners of automobiles is an open question, but if auto licenses were as costly in Oregon as they are here and the proceeds placed in the road fund, there would, in my humble opinion, be more equity and a better feeling all round. Annual licenses here are as follows: motor bikes, 35.20 h. p.; thirty to forty h. p., \$50; over forty, \$100. Such a tax would not be seriously objected to by the auto owners if proceeds went into road fund, and would assist materially in solving the road question.

R. F. HYND,
Arbroath, Scotland, Aug 1, 1914.

John Kenny and wife and Jimmie Kenny spent Sunday in Heppner.



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R. W. Turner was forced to lay off his threshing crew for several days last week on account of a serious break-down in some part of the separator. The necessary extras had to come from Portland. Mr. Turner would have finished in less than a day when the break occurred.
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