

Agricultural Opportunities

By R. M. Rutledge, Secretary School of Agriculture, O. A. C.

DURING the past two weeks nearly a score of letters have come to my desk asking what an agricultural course prepares its graduates to do. To such a general question the only possible answer is likewise a general one. Personality, previous experience and many other factors are considered in our recommendation for any particular position. None of our graduates won their positions in a day. They first proved their worth by years of conscientious work in the laboratory, field and class room, learning the scientific side of agriculture combined with an equal amount of practical experience in their chosen lines.

Many kinds of positions are filled by graduates of the agricultural colleges of the country. One-third of the people of the United States are directly interested in agriculture and nearly all of the others are indirectly dependent upon its success. Nearly all of the industries related to the handling, storage, transportation, manufacture and buying of the foods of the world require the man scientifically trained in agriculture or its allied sciences. The man with experience in some particular line plus scientific training is always in demand. There is today a wider range of positions and a greater demand for the man trained in scientific agriculture than in any other line.

Previous Training a Factor.

The kind of position an agricultural graduate is fitted to occupy depends upon his previous training and practical experience and upon the particular branch of agriculture studied. The four important factors that have an influence on success in farming are: (1) training for the particular branch of farming followed; (2) practical experience; (3) capital, and (4) a fondness for country life. The Agricultural College can supply the first of these and contribute the fourth, while the second and third are equally important for the success of agricultural enterprises. But in the agricultural training there are several distinct divisions each of which lead to a particular line of work. Only rarely do we find a man is fitted for a wide variety of positions. Likewise, few men fail in all positions. The great problem is to find the right niche. The man who knows the creamery industry both from practical experience and scientific training will probably make a greater success as the manager or foreman of a creamery than he would on an apple orchard. All these factors must be considered when recommending a graduate for a position.

The courses in livestock management are intended to prepare to manage their own farms for the efficient production of horses, cattle, sheep and hogs, as well as for the profitable handling of their products. This is the main purpose of the course and herein lies the greatest opportunity. Men trained along this line, with the summer experience accompanying it, are equipped to be successful herdsman and breeders, and after devoting a year or two as assistants to good managers they should be fit for responsible managerial positions. One of the 1910 O. A. C. graduates of this course is now earning about \$1,000 a year above living expenses and interest on his place, by managing his own dairy ranch near Shedd, Oregon.

Opportunities For Livestock Men.

The field for capable livestock men never offered greater opportunities. Better prices for superior pure-bred stock and for livestock products may be had today than ever before. For the young man who can breed and feed to secure high economic production, who knows type and how to perpetuate it through successive generations, a place of wide influence and distinctive service with its financial accessories is waiting.

Additional opportunities for profitable employment lie in governmental service. For the direction and prosecution of this work college men are especially fitted and are largely utilized.

Probably the most attractive opportunities today in dairying are for men who fit themselves to work on their own farms. Some choose to work as superintendents of the dairies of others. Men desiring to do this should remember that their agricultural college is engaged primarily in giving scientific, theoretical training and that a man must secure practical experience in addition before securing the best positions. One particular need is for county work and teaching in agricultural high schools. In addition there is a field for a limited number of men for college teachers, experiment station workers, and for scientists for the large milk handling and dairy products manufacturing companies.

On all sides we hear of the enviable position of the man with a few acres devoted to small fruit and vegetables. But truck growing, like other forms of intensive agriculture, requires the highest skill and the best training. It is likewise capable of yielding the highest returns. More than any other type of farmer the market gardener can afford to invest in the most expensive land and the costliest farm equipment. Equally he can afford to invest in the very best training for his calling. The men who have the most accurate knowledge of the principles of modern scientific agriculture as taught in the agricultural colleges plus the best practical experience are the ones who are sure to win the largest success. Recently the man who won one of the highest of the prizes for the best managed farms in England as offered by the Royal Agricultural Society, made public the statement that he attributed his success to his knowledge of the principles of scientific agriculture.

Calls For Trained Men.

There are a wide assortment of calls for the man trained in horticulture. Some are called to distant states as well as our own to manage large orchards or to act as orchard inspectors. Many are called to teaching positions, while still others enter the government work in one form or another. In the Northwest competition is becoming exceedingly keen along horticultural lines and it is only the most scientific and skillful that can survive and win the greatest remuneration. Probably the horticulturists more than any other type of farmer recognize this and look to the Experiment Station and college for aid.

The object of the course in agronomy is to give the student such mastery of all the subjects relating to the soil, field crops, rural engineering, or farm management, as will prepare him for the highest type of practical farming or farm management, or for a successful career in agricultural research, teaching or demonstration. The man who knows is always in demand. As a general statement it may be taken for granted that competition is becoming more and more keen and that the young man with the best training is the most likely to succeed.

In such a brief article we cannot tell of the demands which come in for men trained in other lines. There are openings for the entomologist, botanist, plant pathologist, zoologist, and bacteriologist. Last year there were twice as many openings for our poultry husbandry graduates as we could fill. The course in agricultural chemistry fits men to become analysts in fertilizer, cattle food and sugar factories or fill other positions in factories of all kinds that handle or make foods and must employ good chemists.

List to Be Reviewed.

Let the reader carefully review this list and he will find branches which open up attractive opportunities on farms of all types. There are calls for teachers, research workers, extension men coming from colleges, high schools, experiment stations, state and county governments and the Federal Department of Agriculture. Creameries, canneries, fertilizer factories, stock yards, food factories and other agricultural industries are ever on the lookout for the trained man. But all of these calls

are founded on the fact that the scientific agricultural education helps the man on his own farm. This is proved every day by scores of letters from farmers all over the state which come to this college asking for help in solving their problems. If this school can help the man now on the farm, how much more can it help the man who is going onto the farm?

Nearly all of these positions ask for the man with experience. It must not be expected that a young man without any practical experience can fill the best positions, but the man who knows not only the scientific principles but also the practical details of his work, and who is capable of handling men and producing results, can, almost without exception, find profitable employment.

Studying Improved Farms.

The Oregon Agricultural College aims to send its students every summer on to approved farms of all types so that they may gain the practical experience under progressive farm

managers. Those who wish to enter industrial life may find employment during their summer vacations in the various agricultural industries. Through its "Employment Bureau for Students and Graduates" it follows up this work in a systematic manner and makes sure that the student gains the experience and that the farm or factory is worthy of receiving future students. The college does not force its students to take up this work, but men desiring the best positions should remember that their agricultural college can give them only the scientific side and that they must gain the practical experience in the actual work which they wish to follow. Frequently requests come for graduates who have had more experience than can be gained by merely using their summer vacations to good advantage. With this in view the Oregon Agricultural College keeps in touch with its alumni so that a man occupying a minor position for a year or so can then step into a more responsible position for which his experience fits him.

William Hanley For United States Senator Stands For a Greater, Better Oregon



WM. HANLEY.

PLATFORM.

I am a candidate for the office of United States Senator because a great many people thought I ought to be. I was born in Oregon and have lived here all my life. This is my platform:

OREGON FOR OREGONIANS.

The people of Oregon ought to receive the benefit of its natural resources just as stockholders receive dividends. Let those who want to share Oregon's advantages come here to collect them.

RETURN \$3,000,000 DUE OREGON.

There is about \$3,000,000 due Oregon, taken by the general Government from the State of Oregon lands and used to develop other states. Oregon needs this money. It should be returned at once.

CAPITALIZE OUR RESOURCES.

Whether managed by the Federal Government or the state, the proceeds from Oregon's resources, lands, water power, etc., should be secured to Oregon, and, if necessary, capitalized or borrowed against just as a private corporation would do.

NO MONOPOLY.

Natural resources should be held in trust for the people and leased for use on flexible terms. We have the greatest deposits of soda and potash in the world in Eastern Oregon. California's deposits have passed into private hands. Make this impossible in Oregon.

ROADS.

The Federal Government has constitutional powers to build post roads. Good roads are the very backbone of civilization and commerce. The same reasons that lead the general Government to develop Alaska apply to Oregon.

IMMIGRATION.

We have no moral right to invite immigration with no place for the immigrant to settle unless he is a capitalist. We should prepare land for homes by irrigation, drainage and fencing and should jar loose the lands held out of use at high speculative prices.

POPULATION.

We talk of the high cost of living, but the root of the matter is too many consumers in cities and not enough producers on the soil. County life must be made more agreeable by roads and improvements; and land must be opened to settlers.

PORTS, PORTLAND AND ASTORIA.

There are too few ports on the Oregon coast. Every one should be improved; not

only the great Columbia River ports, but Coos Bay, Yaquina and all others on our coast. A deep channel to the sea, and a freight rate based on actual cost of haul will give Portland and Astoria their natural advantage of the only water-grade on the Pacific Coast from the Inland Empire to the sea.

Trans-Pacific Steamers.

If the Columbia River ports get this natural advantage of a water-grade haul and maintain a deep channel and safe bar, ocean travel will have to meet the railroads at Portland and Astoria.

LABOR.

The producing of laborers is unlimited. Every baby is a competitor with every other baby to live. A nation is its people, not its few, and if the general Government can be called on to send its troops to strike regions, it has the right to prevent conditions that breed strikes. Women labor and child labor should be protected by Federal laws.

CAPITAL.

Capital is stored up labor and goes, or should go, hand in hand with labor. It should not be recklessly assailed by prejudice, but in the last analysis property can never be so valuable as human beings.

CORPORATIONS.

The greatest liberty should be allowed purely individual enterprises, but where the right to do business comes from the people, or the corporation serves the people (as public utilities and railways), or where the people's life is at stake in health, morals or food, the people have a right to regulate that business, but only fairly and upon a full hearing.

TRUSTS.

The evil of a trust is not its size. Its bigness may be good economy. Its evil is in the control of the markets, so that it dictates to both producer and consumer. The real remedy is denial of all monopolistic privileges and to let credits begin where the production begins—with the soil. Give the farmer a chance to finance himself cheaply. I believe the new currency system will help toward this.

COMMERCE.

Now that American coastwise ships pass through the canal on equal terms with other ships, open our ports to the competition of the world for our coastwise traffic. Let Portland and Seattle have the same chance at hiring bottoms that Vancouver and Victoria have.

THE CUSTOMS DISTRICT.

The north and south sides of the Columbia are in two different customs districts. It is absurd and costly and inconvenient to vessels. The Columbia River is in one port and should be in one district.

MINING.

Mining should receive the same encouragement that agriculture is receiving. Geological stations should be established in Eastern and Southern Oregon at least.

TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY.

Regardless of what the state puts up for the purpose, the general Government should complete the topographical surveys as speedily as possible. These maps are necessary for road building, canal construction and an infinite number of purposes.

SUFFRAGE.

I have always favored equal suffrage. I favor National equal suffrage. A woman has the right to say into what sort of a world her child shall be born.

PROHIBITION.

I favor the strictest regulation, backed up by educated public opinion. I do not favor prohibition. I believe it does not prohibit; it promotes hypocrisy and invades for a few the personal liberty of all. I think personal freedom the greatest force there is, constructive of character.

WILLIAM HANLEY.

(Paid Advertisement. By Hanley Campaign Committee, O. C. Leiter, Manager.)