

Home and Farm Magazine Section Editorial Page

Timely, Pertinent Comment Upon Men and Affairs, Following the Trend of World News; Suggestions of Interest to Readers; Hints Along Lines of Progressive Farm Thought.

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.

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TO READERS.

Readers are requested to send letters and articles for publication to The Editor, Oregon-Washington-Idaho Farmer, 411 Panama Building, Portland, Oregon.

Discussions on questions and problems that bear directly on the agricultural, live stock and poultry interests of the Northwest, and on the uplift and comfort of the farm home always are welcomed. No letters treating of religion, politics or the European war are solicited, for the Farm Magazine proclaims neutrality on these three matters.

Comparatively brief contributions are preferred to long ones. Send us also photographs of your live stock and farm scenes that you think would be of general interest. We wish to make this magazine of value to you. Help us to do it.

POULTRY AND EGGS.

SHOULD the second largest industry in the United States be rated as a "side-line" by the majority of farmers of the Northwest? Should an industry that is valued in Oregon more than four millions greater than the fruit, vegetable, wool, hops and salmon industries combined be neglected by the rancher? If so, there is something radically wrong somewhere.

Too many farmers are accustomed to thinking that as long as they have room enough on the property upon which they are raising cattle, fruit or vegetables they "might as well" raise a few chickens. If seen in their comparative value to the state, chickens might be given first attention and the other possibilities of the farm might be devoted to the raising of the fruit, vegetables or cattle.

Poultry and eggs were worth \$41,750,000 to the State of Oregon last year. Fruit, wool, hops, salmon and vegetable industries combined were worth but \$37,200,220. The value of the great grain crops to this state is rated at but \$38,440,000. With the single exception of cattle, which is held at \$42,000,000, poultry and eggs in Oregon are worth more than any single livestock holding. This industry is valued at more than the dairy cows, horses and mules of the state combined, and nearly twice as much as all the hogs, sheep and goats in Oregon.

An industry such as this is worthy of the serious consideration of every farmer. Poultry and eggs should no longer be rated as a "side-line," for they represent one of the greatest industries in America. Visit the next poultry show, under the auspices of the Oregon Poultry and Pet Stock Association, to be held in Portland the week of December 6-13, and see for yourself this state's prosperity as rated in chickens, ducks and turkeys.

JUST A SUPPOSITION.

SUPPOSE we had built all the first-class battleships that the big navy champions have been clamoring for during the past fifteen years; would the wisdom of that course be vindicated by present-day naval developments?

If Germany shall make out a much stronger case for the submarine than she has thus far, we will not have long to wait for the proof that the dreadnoughts and

the super-dreadnoughts are just so much floating junk. And when we figure the millions it costs to build each unit, and the other millions it costs to keep them in active commission for the few years that elapse before they are ready for the scrap heap, it must appeal to everyone, who does not believe that a battleship is the noblest work of man, that we have spent a great deal of money uselessly and foolishly.

There are plenty of enthusiasts who would have had the Government build four battleships of the first-class type annually during the period mentioned. And it is safe to say that if we had done that there would have been strong advocacy of even a greater number. Now, the chances are, that the more we had built the more money we would have thrown away. And with a fleet of sixty battleships of the highest type, would we be any better off than we now are? Would they have been any greater assurance of peace to us, in this world turmoil?

It may be said that the potency of the submarine is over-rated; but it is just as fair, and a little more reasonable to say that we do not realize what a revolution in sea-fighting this arm of the naval service is destined to work.

From all recent developments there is genuine consideration of economy which should urge Congress to go slow in this business of battleship building. All opinion of enthusiastic naval men and others to the contrary, we have made no mistake so far in inclining toward that policy.

PREPARE FOR PROSPERITY.

THERE never was a time in the history of the United States when the American farmer has had the opportunity of a continued prosperity within his grasp as at the present. The nations at war in Europe have to be fed and they will continue to require more food than they can produce even if the war closes quickly.

The Kansas farmer is planting every available acre to wheat, it already being reported that the 1915 acreage will exceed all previous years by three million acres.

It is estimated that 80 per cent of the able bodied men of Europe are now at war, therefore, they will be unable to either plant or reap a harvest, and the present demand for American breadstuffs exceeds the supply. Never in the history of the Northwest was the available supply of wheat so small at this time of year.

There is every reason to believe that when the next harvest comes the American farmer's crop will find a ready market at even a better figure than today.

Not only will wheat be in demand, but every product of the American farm will find a ready market, for there is bound to be a steady demand for all kinds of food stuffs long after the war closes.

Farmers of the Pacific Northwest should heed this call of Europe for American food stuffs and be prepared to reap the benefits that war-stricken Europe offers.

HOW LONG CAN CALIFORNIA STAND IT?

OREGON and Washington having voted out the liquor traffic and California having voted to keep it, the saloons and breweries and whisky houses of Oregon and Washington are preparing to move into California.

"How long can California stand that handicap?" asks the Kansas City Star.

"States and cities of the Pacific Coast, like states and cities elsewhere, are in rivalry. They are competing for industries and for homes founded upon industry and thrift. It takes more than the money of tourists seeking a "good time" away from home to build states and cities.

"The restriction of the liquor traffic grows by what it feeds on. It is quite impossible that Oregon and Washington (each having its great and growing city) can shake off

the economic waste and the poverty, vice and crime attaching to the liquor traffic without profoundly influencing their neighboring states."

THE CATTLE EPIDEMIC.

THE FOOT and mouth disease has not yet appeared in the Pacific Northwest, and we hope it will not, but now is the time to guard against it. Everyone should heartily co-operate with the authorities in preventing the spread of this dread disease.

The disease is almost as ancient as the history of man, yet there has never been found a successful remedy. While not necessarily fatal, it almost invariably cripples the animal affected to such an extent that it has to be killed. It is virulently contagious, often affecting other animals. The only effective way to prevent its spread is to kill the animal and bury its carcass in quicklime.

It usually starts with a blister on the upper part of the hoof, which the animal licks, thereby affecting the mouth, often causing the tongue to drop off.

It may be carried to any distance by other animals, and some authorities say it is often transmitted from one herd to another upon the shoes of man.

The present epidemic is said to be the most severe that has ever appeared in America, therefore, it behooves everyone to co-operate in stamping out a disease that knows no remedy save the killing of the animal affected.

WHERE SLANG WOULDN'T WORK.

IT IS RELATED that a citizen of Topeka, Kansas, cabled his daughter at Carlsbad, at the beginning of the war to "beat it to London"; and the message failed of transmission because the censor refused to pass any messages that were not written in plain English.

"Go to London," would have been a dollar cheaper at the current rates, and it would have said all that the slang phrase "beat it" intended to say. That Topeka citizen paid for his lesson in the advantage of plain honest English diction as superior to the crop-haired variety that we get from the stage and the street.

It may be, doubtless it would prove to be, if we were to weigh the efficiency of the average slang phrase, as compared with the legitimate English it displaces, that the latter is briefer, more expressive and altogether preferable if we wish to be understood at once and without question.

The dairy cow is a machine and her efficiency is determined by the amount of profit she returns on each dollar's worth of feed consumed.

Do not put off the sowing of cover crops until after the fruit has been gathered.

Some do lots of work without planning; some do lots of planning and no work. A combination of plan and work gives best results.

The Duke of Manchester should be comparatively undisturbed on the firing line if that place is as inaccessible to creditors as to correspondents.

There was a time when women wore three petticoats. Doesn't this suggest a way out for the suffering cotton states?

At least one of the troubles a president of Mexico doesn't have to contend with is ennui.

Luckily General Sherman is not here to be sued for damages on account of the aspersion he is alleged to have cast upon a certain place.

Now a Texan insists that the cotton crop could be all used up if night shirts were introduced in South Carolina and socks in Arkansas.