

Oregon Agricultural College Is the Farmer's Friend

Page of News Notes and Interesting Articles Written by College Experts.



VIEW OF OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AT CORVALLIS, OR. ITS SOLE AIM IS TO AID AGRICULTURISTS.

Rural Credit Facilities

Helped by New Measures

A MENDMENT of the Torrens land registration laws, establishment of mortgage credit institutions under Federal laws, and organization of farmers' co-operative banks under state laws, are three measures designed to secure better rural credit facilities receiving favorable consideration at the first meeting of the Rural Credits Commission recently appointed by Governor West. The session was held at Salem on November 24, and was organized by electing Dr. Hector Macpherson, director of the Bureau of Organization and Markets of the Agricultural College, chairman, and Mr. Dana H. Allen, member-elect of the state Legislature, secretary.

A general discussion of the entire subject of rural credits was taken up by the Commission, but only tentative conclusions were arrived at. Recommendations concerning the defects of the laws for the registration of land were unanimous, and Mr. Allen and Mr. Garland were appointed a subcommittee to investigate the defects and prepare an amendment that will make the laws effective.

That mortgage credit institutions could best be established and conducted under Federal law, was the sense of the Commission. The essentials of an act that would meet the needs of the Oregon farmer will be worked out and presented to the Legislature with the recommendation that they be embodied in a memorial, adopted by joint resolutions of the House and Senate, and sent to Congress with an earnest request that there be no further delay in enacting such legislation as will place the American farmer in a position to obtain credit on terms as favorable as those enjoyed for many generations by European farmers.

The purpose of the proposed legislation providing for the organization of farmers' co-operative banks is to promote thrift and to supply short-term credits. It was pointed out that a number of states already have similar laws, notably Massachusetts, Wisconsin, New York and Texas. A study of these laws will be the basis of further action at the next session of the Commission.

The membership of the Commission is as follows: Dr. Hector Macpherson, Corvallis; H. G. Starkweather, Milwaukie; S. M. Garland, Lebanon; Professor F. G. Young, Eugene; Dana H. Allen, Salem; Sidney B. Vincent, member of the corporation department, and S. G. Sargent, State Bank Superintendent. In early reports sent out during the absence of Dr. Macpherson it was incorrectly stated that he was head of the Commission and had called the session at Salem. Governor West named the Commission and called its first session, declining absolutely to interfere with or take part in either its organization or deliberations.

Oregon Honored.

Oregon has been signally honored in the appointment of one of its agricultural leaders to a highly important chairmanship in a great National body. Ralph D. Hetzel, extension director of the Agricultural College, has been made chairman of the extension section of the American Association of Colleges and Experiment Stations, the most powerful agricultural organization in the world. It is seldom that these responsible positions come to Western men, and Professor Hetzel's selection is all the more notable from the fact that he was not in attendance at the sessions making the appointment. It was doubtless made as a tribute to his unusually successful work in carrying the college to the people of Oregon, and will offer an enlarged opportunity for service, both to the state and to the nation at large.

Improved Methods Found

Useful in Dry Farming

"TO convince the average farmer that a more diversified and extensive sort of farming is possible and profitable even on dry farming lands requires but a careful trial of some of the new crops or varieties of seed or of the improved farming methods recommended. That diversified production on Eastern Oregon dry farms may be very successful has long been known, fully proved and earnestly advocated in every section or territory reached by the Oregon Experiment Station. It has been only recently, however, that through the medium of demonstration farms, co-operating farmers and demonstration trains, definite results have been reached. In every community now may be found a few farmers who are making splendid success with the crops and practices recommended."

The foregoing is a summary of Professor H. D. Scudder's conclusions reached after repeated trials originally on the Experiment Station grounds and later on various farms of the interior whose owners co-operated with the college in trying out results more widely. As a result of these trials outside of Experiment Station local work, unqualified indorsement is given to such crops for the dry farm as follows:

Field peas in rows either for seed or for hogging off; alfalfa in rows for seed production, for forage or for hogs or sheep; rape as forage for hogs or sheep; corn for hogging off; on irrigated lands corn for green feed or silage, or for hogging off; mangel-wurzels and rutabagas for winter succulents; and other crops which with alfalfa or clover will permit of intensive dairying and pork production, have frequently been proven profitable.

Since the success of these crops has been established in practically every section of Eastern Oregon, the single-cropping system with the annual selling of the raw product from the land may cease very largely. It is not expected that this change will be unduly radical, but in view of the additional profits obtained therefrom and the beneficial effects secured to the soil, it is believed that the practice is bound to increase rapidly with a great deal of benefit to the country and the individual farmer. This process will be hastened by a thorough knowledge of the crops and their methods of culture so that only those crops and methods will be used which bring success on first trial.

Banish Hog Cholera.

Efforts heretofore made to keep out hog cholera, the most disastrous enemy to profitable pork production, have not been entirely successful. Methods of introduction and spread are so subtle as frequently to be overlooked, and in one unguarded act the seeds of vast damages are sown. General knowledge that cholera is a germ disease and can be communicated only by contact with infected substances, would serve to put growers and dealers on their guard against further spread and eventually to wipe out the pest from the few footholds it has already obtained in Oregon. This knowledge, together with practical directions for combatting the disease, is receiving news and editorial consideration by many if not all of the Oregon periodicals, giving hopes of banishing cholera entirely from the state. Special directions for control of the disease may be had on application to Dr. Virgil W. Knowles, who, as a representative of the Agricultural College Extension service and Federal Department of Agriculture, is devoting his entire time to the problem of putting hog cholera out of the state and keeping it out.

Publicity Is Great Aid to

Oregon Agricultural School

THROUGH the loyalty of the Oregon press an intricate and serious problem has been successfully worked out at the Agricultural College. Farmers' Week has been held in the early Winter months until farmers have begun to look upon the plan as an established custom. This view was further strengthened this year by announcements in the college publications and in the state press that the week was as usual scheduled for the first week in December. The fact was known to probably 90 per cent of the farmers of the state, many of whom were planning to attend at that time. Suddenly unforeseen conditions developed, which required the postponement of the date to the first week in February. Who were the farmers to be notified? Individual notice to all of them, or any considerable part, was impossible; lack of notice, whereby long trips would be taken at great expense, would be unjustifiable. So an appeal was made to the press. The facts were placed before the newspaper men and by them published so generally that it is altogether unlikely that a single farmer will make the trip in December, while hundreds of them will make it in February. Oregon farmers owe much of their prosperity to the editors of their home papers, but it is seldom that the loyalty of the press to the agricultural interests of the state is brought into so strong relief.

Floral Table Decoration.

Simple and artistic must be floral table decorations, if the standard set by judges at the O. A. C. Horticultural Show is generally accepted. In the table decoration contest entered by each of the four classes in home economics, the winning table was a model of artistic simplicity, decorated only by—what do you think? Some of the many beautiful and expensive flowers, potted plants and vines assembled there, no doubt. But the supposition is wrong; simple nasturtiums—vines, leaves and flowers—trailed from a graceful reed basket, were the only decorations used by the juniors, who won the first prize. Oregon housewives, every one, should know this. The students had the run of hundreds of dollars' worth of flowers, shrubs and vines, yet chose the simple home flower and won with it. And the decision was awarded by Mrs. W. J. Kerr and C. I. Lewis, wives respectively of the president of the college and the head of the horticultural department, and Miss Hitchcock, a specialist in domestic arts. A general acceptance of this principle in table decorations would relieve perplexed housewives of at least one social care—and of one financial worry, as well.

Wheat and Moisture.

It requires about 40 tons of water to produce a bushel of wheat and the straw on which it grew, while there are about 113 tons of water in one acre-inch. This is pointed out by H. D. Scudder, agronomist of the Oregon Experiment Station, who calls attention to the obvious conclusion that one inch of rainfall over each acre planted to wheat would, if all utilized in crop production, produce three bushels per acre. Since the average annual precipitation over the bulk of Eastern Oregon dry farming land is about 10 inches, the annual wheat yield, with water as the limiting factor, should be 30 bushels. As a matter of fact, the annual yield of this section is but seven to eight bushels per acre. As farmers learn that fully three-fourths of the natural moisture is wasted in evaporation, they will more and more join in the movement in favor of farm practices that will save a larger per cent of water for crop production.

Oregon Farmers Will Try to

Market Eggs by Parcel Post

MARKETING eggs direct from producer to consumer by means of parcels post shipments will soon be undertaken by a number of Oregon poultrymen. Lists of city consumers who wish to receive eggs direct from producers have been sent by the Agricultural College poultry department to producers that wish to undertake to furnish the shipments. In like manner lists of producers have been sent to city consumers, and thus the sources of supply and demand have been brought together.

It has been shown by experimental shipments made by the department that this method can supply city consumers with eggs only a day or two old, at prices as low as those charged by retailers for eggs of poorer quality. Producers can furnish fresh eggs in lots of five dozen or more at a few cents above the wholesale price of the best eggs, giving due consideration to the cost of containers and postage.

Although either producer or consumer may own the containers and pay the postal charges, it is suggested that the city consumers may find it profitable to purchase a few containers and mail them out to producers from whom they expect to get their eggs. Lists of dealers handling suitable containers are included in the general information supplied by the poultry department.

It is further recommended that both parties furnish bank or other good reference as a guarantee of good faith, although it is thought that there is great security in dealing through parcels post since either party using dishonest methods might have to answer to Uncle Sam. If rightly followed it is believed that this method of marketing farm products is profitable to all concerned.

Big Dairy Conventions.

The Oregon State Dairymen's Association, the Oregon Jersey Breeders' Association and the Oregon Holstein-Friesian Association will hold conventions at the Agricultural College during Farmers' Week, February 1 to 7. There will also be a conference of milk producers and dealers, and it is expected that a state organization of Guernsey breeders and another of Ayrshire breeders will be effected at that time.

"This will undoubtedly be the biggest gathering of dairymen the state has ever known," says Professor Graves, head of the dairy department. The work of the week will be chuck full of information, valuable and interesting to every one interested in Oregon's \$25,000,000 dairy industry.

"Some of the best known dairymen of the state and of the United States are going to be on hand with a message for Oregon dairymen. Not a single dairymen can afford to miss it."

"Some of Oregon's record-breaker producers, cows that have actually produced on official test more than 700 pounds of butterfat, will probably be on exhibition during the entire time."

"Interesting programmes are being prepared for each of the conventions, the details of which will be announced later."

Play for Belgian Relief.

A game of football was played at Tacoma Thanksgiving day for the benefit of the Belgian relief fund. The contesting teams represented the Oregon Agricultural College and the University of Southern California. The game was played in the huge stadium seating 35,000 people, and was arranged by the Tacoma Commercial Club. Unconfirmed reports say that the big stadium was well filled, which indicates an addition of many thousands of dollars to the fund for relief of sufferers from the great war.