

Editorial Page of Home and Farm Magazine Section

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.

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TO READERS.

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

Discussions on questions and problems that bear directly on the agricultural, livestock 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 Oregon-Washington-Idaho Farmer proclaims neutrality on these matters.

Comparatively brief contributions are preferred to long ones. Send us also photographs of your livestock 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.

PROFIT AND LOSS.

WHEN estimating at the close of the season your profit or loss in the business of farming, don't be bound too closely by the actual financial showing. There is something in this world but wealth as figured in dollars and cents and it is quite important that it not be overlooked. It may be observed, tritely enough, to be sure, that riches do not mean happiness.

If, when you go over your accounts, you find that you have received good prices for your wheat or corn, that your stock has multiplied rapidly and that the beef, mutton and pork represented in your holdings are commanding a high market, you probably decide it a most prosperous year. But wait. Suppose your son has tired of country life and has been enticed by visions of life in bright cities. Suppose you have worked too hard in the field and that your health has been impaired. Suppose that your wife is not happy with her surroundings and friends. Suppose that your daughter is discontented. In what really counts in this life, where do you stand?

Let's change the scene. Your crops have been but average. Many cattle have died on your hands. The market is dull and the automobile you had planned to purchase this Spring seems far away, farther away than ever. Yet, you are in robust health. The outdoor life has proven a tonic that leaves your spirits high. Your son does not grumble at his share of the chores, and even is much interested in the welfare of a bright-eyed lassie on a neighboring farm. Your daughter willingly postpones her hopes of college and decides to do much instructive reading, that she had always wanted to do, during the coming year. Your wife sings as she goes about her homely duties. Man, is there a profit or loss on your books?

If you are content, not weakly content with that which it is in your power to make better, but content with life as you have made it, you are near that happiness which philosophers have said is the sole aim of human existence.

AMERICA'S RESPONSIBILITY.

IF EVER America puts its hand to the plow in its effort to feed the world, it has assumed that responsibility now. Not since the harrowing days following our own great civil strife of the '60s have the tillable acres of this country faced such a possible drain upon their bountifulness.

Without even dimly prophesying the duration of the war now raging, we are already assured of the fact that this country will

be the storehouse of the world. Every farmer, every tenant and every share-worker will have his part to play in meeting this great responsibility. No matter how remote his residence, he will hear Europe's call for beef, bacon, beans and bread, and on the amount he has to sell will depend not only his satisfaction of having served his fellow-men, but the additional consolation of having served himself; for big crops, much stock, many hogs, will mean big profits.

It is thus that the American farmer begins his Spring work with two strings to his bow. With one hand he is rescuing the perishing and with the other he is reaching out for tangible encouragement toward a bank account and a better home. Now is his golden opportunity. There are two lines along which he should plan his work, but only one line along which he should work his plan. First, he should utilize every available part of his land and then he must strive to raise the average yield of his ranch. There will be no danger of over-production for the crops sown this year. The man who has a big yield will find a big market. To get this yield means better farming.

CURING A COLD.

DR. HARVEY W. WILEY, former chief of the Bureau of Chemistry, is reported as having said that the best way to cure a cold was "to take a bottle of cough medicine, set it on a table in the patient's room, open all the windows, and throw the bottle through one of them." In other words, instead of taking patent cough and cold remedies, breathe plenty of fresh air.

And without a doubt there is much wisdom in this advice. As soon as cold weather sets in people shut their doors and windows tight and live cooped up in stuffy rooms. The consequences are that the entire winter is one long siege of colds and other catarrhal affections. Less medicine and more fresh air and outdoor exercise would prevent a great deal of the suffering and inconvenience from these bad-air maladies.

MILITARISM IN SCHOOLS.

STATE MASTER REAM, of the Nebraska Grange, introduced in the meeting of the National Grange a resolution protesting against the War Department installing in the schools of the country a military system. It appears from the tenor of the resolution that the department has secured the organization of rifle clubs in 42 universities and in 84 private and preparatory schools of the country and is pressing the work. All the high schools in New York are utilized as rifle clubs and more than 700 boys between 10 and 18 years qualify annually as junior marksmen under a course approved by the department.

The objections to the action do not appear to be well founded.

The trend of sentiment in America has always been against the maintenance of a large standing army. So long as that sentiment is existant the first line of defense following the Navy will be the militia. Will it not be better, in the event of trouble, to have such militia, or volunteers, composed of men skilled in use of weapons, rather than raw recruits who would not know the difference between the bayonet and a cleaning rod?

In common with millions of men and women, this paper believes the war is folly, and hopes the day will soon come when it will be no longer the means of adjustment of questions affecting the welfare of the people of the earth. But so long as war exists it

would be folly also to take a step that would leave us entirely helpless simply because we advocate a policy of peace. Until other lands agree with ours for general disarmament, simultaneous in character, it is the duty of this country to be prepared for possible contingencies.

SOMETHING NEW IN TAXATION.

TAXES are taxes the world over, of course, but once in awhile something startlingly different appears even in this line. This time it is an account sent by United States Consul Andrew J. McConnico from Trinidad, in the British West Indies, of a tax imposed there to "meet the expenses incident to the importation of coolie laborers from India and to maintain the system under governmental supervision."

The tax is imposed on the produce of the colony, and for this year it includes the following items: On sugar, 36 cents per 100 pounds; molasses, 24 cents per 100 gallons; rum and bitters, 68 cents per 100 gallons; coffee, 8 cents per 100 pounds, and coconuts, 8 cents per 1000.

How would our American workmen like it if the goods they produced were taxed to raise a fund to bring cheaper labor to this country? A great system is it not? Of course conditions in Trinidad and in this country are vastly different, and no doubt plenty of fault could be found with any attempt to draw a parallel. But the fact of the Trinidad system is interesting to every student of taxation and industrial problems.

INTEGRITY.

THIS was the right kind of a description we heard the other day given by one breeder to another concerning a third breeder:

"No matter what you buy of him, you will get the truth of the matter. He will not disappoint you. He is one among many whom I would rather trust to pick out a young bull for me than trust myself."

What a splendid ambition for any man to build up a trust and confidence in his honor and integrity like that. Before it the few dollars to be gained by deception pales into insignificance.

A high-brow professor says the United States will be compelled to fight the winner of the present war. But then there are so many things said by a professor that never happen.

The colored troops from India and Africa are fighting nobly for the allies. And the battlefields of our own civil war are proof that the black soldiers can be depended on.

Hats off to Holland! She doesn't want anybody to assist her caring for the stranded Belgians who are in that country. That is the Dutch of it.

In some colleges they are now reducing the time of the courses to equal that required to make a good football player of a student.

When the European capitals have no victories to report, they even up by counting over again the number of prisoners they have.

The pursuit of pleasure is by no means the same as the pursuit of happiness.

You can listen to any kind of political talk you want to hear.