

Editorial Page Home and Farm Magazine Section

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TO READERS

Readers are requested to send letters and articles for publication to The Editor, Home and Farm Magazine Section, 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. We proclaim 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.

LAND BANKS.

THE United States of America, with all her boasted civilization and financial superiority, cannot boast of land banks nor Governmental supervision of lands and land sales, as do a great many foreign countries. There is a widespread agitation throughout the entire country in favor of land banks and legislation that will permit the organization of such, no doubt, is an assured fact in the near future.

There is perhaps no one bit of legislation contemplated that carries with it as much importance to the future upbuilding of the land. Every commercial line has arrangements for proper financing and there is scarcely a business that does not need the assistance and financing of banks. The farmer is the most important factor in the ultimate growth of any country, yet we are stumbling blindly in the dark and the farmer is compelled to finance himself in whatever way he can.

Governor Glynn, of New York, has recommended to the legislature at the last two sessions that it pass a land bank law that would provide for the proper financing of legitimate farming. We hope the day is not far distant when Oregon, Washington and Idaho will have a land bank law on their statute books.

The editor of the Farm and Home Magazine would be glad to hear from every farmer in the Pacific Northwest who has any ideas along these lines.

A SIDELIGHT ON BREAD.

SOME interesting sidelights on that ever-present problem of the high cost of living are to be found in the items of war news which filter through the European news censor bureaus to this country. One which recently made its way here from Great Britain is especially illuminating.

Wheat in London is selling around a dollar and ninety cents a bushel, and yet bread there is still cheaper by the pound than it is in this country. In our large cities, such as Chicago and New York, the major portion of the bread sold is made and baked by special machinery, a more efficient and economic method than is used anywhere in Europe.

Many people here blame the

farmer for the high cost of bread. Others blame the grain dealers. And yet British bread, made from wheat grown by American farmers and sold by American grain dealers, sells for less in war harassed England than does American bread made from the same wheat and sold in peaceful America.

What is the cause for the high price of bread in this country? Figure it out for yourselves.

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW?

THE farmer, as a rule, knows how to farm; he also knows how many times it takes going over the ground to get it ready for the crop and at what cost; he knows that he wants clean and good seed; he knows what it costs him to put this produce on the market.

Yes, many farmers know all this. Those who show that they know it, also show evidences of prosperity. And the prosperous farmer in turn is the one who profits by what is done on experimental or demonstration farms; he also is the one who sends his sons or his daughters to agricultural colleges and schools.

It is not so much what any man knows that counts. He must also make his knowledge shine forth in his work so that those who run may read and profit. In farming there are some who keep records to ascertain how much it costs to produce a given commodity—but there are many who do not. Practically every man who tills the soil knows that for maximum returns he should have clean and good seed—but how many can say that their fields are clean?

Agricultural colleges, agricultural schools, experimental farms, demonstration farms and all such institutions will not appeal to the man who thinks he knows all there is to know in agriculture.

However, those who know most usually appreciate the fact that there still is much to learn. They, therefore, pay attention to what others are doing and take advantage of every possible source of information.

A LIFE PHILOSOPHY IN SEVEN WORDS.

SOME men who attain old age in good health and high spirits like to offer advice to the young. "Go thou and do likewise," they say in effect, "by doing as I have done." "As I have done" may mean total abstention from intoxicating beverages or a regular though moderate indulgence therein; giving the lifelong adamant stare to the soothing if seductive Goddess Nicotine, or flirting unashamed with the weed-born deity; sleeping eight hours a day, eating regularly, working steadily.

John Burroughs, best beloved of living American writers, had a birthday recently, his seventy-eighth. Burroughs lives up in the Rip Van Winkle country, but he has been awake all his seventy-eight years and has lived every day of his life with eyes wide open and face to the front. Though for many years past he has lived "much to himself," as the phrase goes, he has not lived altogether to himself. What he has lived in his ever-youthful heart and seen with his unaging eyes he has put in books which have carried his kindly life and high vision into the lives of others.

Somebody asked John Burroughs for a bit of birthday advice. There

must have been a merry twinkle in his eyes when he replied:

"Keep cheerful and mind your own business."

Those few simple words cover the life-philosophy of a man who has kept himself young almost four-score years. The philosophy of John Burroughs, of "Slabside," may not be Bergsonian, nor Nietzschean, nor even William Jamesian, but it is recommended to any man or woman who is seeking a saving creed of conduct, both as to spirit and to deed. Is anything more conducive to long life and happiness than just keeping cheerful and minding your own business?

VALUE OF OPTIMISM.

AN OPTIMIST has been described as a man who can make lemonade out of the "lemons" which are handed him. He is a man who remains cheerful, hopeful and courageous in the midst of many setbacks which fate may bring to him.

The spirit of optimism is a very valuable asset to anyone. The pessimist is discouraged when he encounters difficulties or setbacks; he quits and tries something else. The optimist looks back over the history of his previous actions in the hope of finding out wherein he was at fault, where he himself was to blame in such a way as to at least help bring these troubles on himself.

Thereby he strengthens himself for meeting similar difficulties in the future. His failures and difficulties are the very material out of which he builds up his future success. He snatches difficulty out of defeat. He is an asset to his community and to his country.

Right now is the time for the optimists among livestock breeders to make lemonade out of the lemons which have been handed them by the foot and mouth plague. The pessimist will quit raising livestock. But the optimist will go ahead with greater care and precaution than he ever used before. He will continue his breeding, but with greater care. The dropping out of the business of the pessimists, coupled with the increased demand for our livestock, will give him a greater market than he has ever had before for his animals; so that he should make greater money from his activities in future years than he has in the past.

Grit your teeth and become an optimist.

"LOST WITH ALL ON BOARD"

THE sinking of the Prins Maurits off the Virginia Coast, apparently with the loss of all on board—fifty human beings—and the sinking of the seagoing tug Luckenback, with fifteen victims, may well be held to indicate the limitations of the wireless in a blinding storm. The call for help comes all right; it is responded to without delay, but the finding of the imperiled vessel is most difficult, and it is precisely in such a storm that sinking is liable to be very quick, as in the case of these two vessels.

Of the Luckenback's crew two men were saved, washed ashore with the wreckage. They can tell something of the tug. The story of the liner Maurits may never be told. So far as known there are no survivors. The double tragedy, with sixty-five dead, would have impressed all our

minds more strongly a year ago. The habit of reading of a thousand killed here, or ten thousand killed there, in Europe's great war, tends to callous our sensibilities.

The ocean is yet untamed. Those who go down to the sea in ships are still taking chances. Science has done much to minimize risks. It will do more. Nevertheless, shipwrecks will claim their toll for myriad years to come. Man's ingenuity has always its limitations.

MANURE OUT OF PLACE.

A PERSON traveling in the Northwest, having the pleasure of visiting the barnyards of prominent farmers, will be surprised to find that the manure is kept where it should not be. The more necessity there is for its being out on the plowed land the more it seems the farmer insists on keeping it in the barnyard.

In the mountain country where, because of decayed timber and other growths, there is a large amount of organic matter in the soil, the necessity for manure on the land is not so imperative. But out in the short grass country, where the soil has not been made rich by thousands of years of fine growths of grass which has decayed and been incorporated in the soil, there is very urgent need of the manure being used. And from our observation the more urgent the need the more extensive the neglect.

Get all the manure out on the land you can this Spring before the land is plowed. Disc it in, then turn the soil over, put more manure on and disc that in. In the short grass country, in the sections where the soil is more or less gumbo in character, on any farm where the soil is close and compact, organic matter is needed above all things. And the farmer should get it into his soil as quickly as he can.

Don't let the manure pile up around the buildings. It is doing no good there, get it out on your land. Get it out now. It is of value to you, give it a chance to make money for you.

A FRAGMENTARY COST.

JULES MELAT, a multi-millionaire of Belgium, owned a magnificent factory for making cream separators within three miles of the fort of Liege and shared profits on a co-operative plan with 8000 employes. The place was as spick and span as a parlor, the windows always clean and bright, and everybody working happily.

One fatal day in August, when the Huns were at the gate, the crash came, the great factory was wiped off the map by the great Krupp guns and every last vestige of the man's fortune was destroyed in an hour. The most of his men were killed in battle, while the old man was turned upon the world an exiled pauper and this is only a fragment of the cost of war.

An Eastern syndicate is to publish a periodical page of Chauncey Depew's jokes. And we will have an abundance of chestnuts that the frost can never affect.

Electricity costs too much, says an expert. But so do other current expenses.

"Austria Failed in Her Assignment in the War."—Headline, Like some war correspondents,