

## STOCK-POISONING PLANTS IN THE GENERAL VICINITY OF HEPPNER

### Water Hemlock Poisoning:

Water hemlock is the most violently poisonous of all of our poisonous plants. All of the higher animals are poisoned by it. In fact many cases have been killed by eating small pieces of the rootstocks. Ewes are on record in which human beings killed by 2 ounces of fresh tubers and only 1/2 ounce of air-dried, old tubers (poisonous even after three years of exposure!). Where livestock have puddled the soil by trampling, the poisonous resin from the roots may be freed in sufficient quantity to cause poisoning if animals drink the puddled water containing the squeezed-out resin.

Water hemlock occurs in our area, it having been found e. g. on the Frank Wilkinson home ranch in a shaded glen along the bank of Willow creek, in the west end. For all those interested five live plants are on display in the new poisonous plant nursery at the Soil Conservation Service's CCC camp here in town.

Our water hemlock is about 1 1/2 to 2 feet tall, being a branching perennial with smooth, jointed hollow stems and small white flowers in an umbrella-like arrangement, producing flat, parsley-like seeds it resembles the common parsley, to which it is related, in many ways. The plant grows from a vigorous system of root-stocks. The leaflets are arranged along each side of the main leaf stem, the margins of each leaflet being irregularly saw-toothed. If you know of a plant that answers to this description you can almost be certain it is water hemlock if you give it two more tests: 1. Cut through the center of one of the large rootstocks as you would slice a pickle in two halves—and look for the central hollow space divided into distinct chambers by a series of cross partitions at right angles to the cut. 2. Break or cut a young rootstock and look for a whitish, aromatic substance with a penetratingly musty odor ooze out—if this broken portion is placed in water, look for a thin film of oil droplets form on the surface. If the chambers and oily substance are present the plant is water hemlock.

As it's name implies water hemlock is found in close proximity to streams, in low, wet meadows, and along irrigation ditches—in fact any soil in which moisture is plentiful the year around.

Other common names for water hemlock are cicuta, cowbane, parsnip, wild parsnip, poison parsnip, snakeroot, spotted hemlock, spotted parsley, beaver poison, musquash root, muskrat weed, death-of-man and children's bane. Water hemlock should not be confused with water parsley or water parsnip—the latter are entirely different plants. Poison hemlock is another plant which although poisonous, should not be confused with water hemlock.

The rootstocks of this plant are poisonous at all seasons of the year and may prove poisonous to stock if trampled enough to be exposed. The young shoots early in the spring (having been out this year since the latter part of February) are quite poisonous, this constituting the most dangerous period for stock. Sheep, cattle and horses are all susceptible. Young shoots in the fall may be equally poisonous to those in the spring. In general the parts above ground are not as poisonous as those underground.

The symptoms of poisoning are first nausea and involuntary muscular movements, nervous quivering of nose and lips, and slobbering and frothing at the mouth. This is followed by groaning, clamping of the jaws and gnashing of the teeth, and violent convulsions. The head is bent backward and the back arched, the pupils of the eye are dilated with either rapid kicking or rigid extension of the legs. Usually there is an excessive flow of urine and a noticeable diarrhea. Sheep perhaps more than cattle have a tendency to bloat. The pulse is weak and rapid, respiration labored and irregular. Affected animals seem to suffer acute abdominal pain and mental excitement; attempts to handle the animals only increase the violence of the spasms. The convulsions are intermittent and increase in violence in fatal cases until death finally ensues.

Sometimes death follows only 15 minutes after eating the toxic amount although more often it is 2 to 3 hours. In less severe cases animals may live a day or two, and, if the symptoms continue longer than that time, the animal may recover. A piece of the rootstock the size of a walnut is sufficient to kill a cow. Old tops do not seem to be poisonous.

Because this form of poisoning is so virulent and quick-acting, and convulsions so violent it is difficult if not impossible to administer treatment soon enough. If such should be possible a very few animals might be helped by the following: Hypodermic injections of morphine to help control convulsions, giving 1 1/2 grains to sheep and 3 to 10 grains to cattle and horses. A purgative may be added to carry off the effects of the poison. In the early stages a drench of melted lard, bacon grease or any fatty substance may be effective. A substitute for the latter might be a stomach wash of coffee or whiskey.

Prevention rather than cure is the only safe precaution. Because the plant grows in wet ground it may be grubbed easily, being sure that you grub away the thickened rootstocks for this is what the plants grow from; the other smaller, deeper roots may be left in the ground. This means grubbing down about 6 inches below the ground usually. The plants grubbed out, especially the rootstocks, should be piled in a hole, burned and buried. **One to three year old exposed rootstocks are more poisonous than fresh tubers.** Sometimes it is practical to grub out the plant every year anew. On the other hand it may be in a very few instances more practical to fence out the infested area; the plants seldom occur in more than scattered, small stands. Great care should be taken in identifying every locality and niche in which this highly poisonous plant exists.

## STATE CAPITAL NEWS

- Fall Prospects
- Fair Allotment
- Capitol, July 1

By A. L. LINDBECK

SALEM—Oregon Republicans, taking renewed hope from the wide split developed in the ranks of the Democratic party in the recent primary campaign, are counting strongly on a return to power with the fall elections. In this they are banking strongly on the permanence of the bitterness developed between the supporters of Governor Martin on the one hand and those of Henry L. Hess, the successful candidate for the Democratic nomination, on the other. Democrats who supported Governor Martin, they feel, will support Charles A. Sprague, the Republican candidate, this fall.

In their optimism, however, it is entirely probable that the Republicans are overlooking two very important factors both of which will play a very important part in shaping up the fall campaign. One of these is time, the great healer, which can be expected to do a great deal toward soothing savage Democratic breasts during the intervening six months before the next election. The other factor which must be taken into account in the forthcoming campaign is the national administration and its "New Deal" program. The forthcoming campaign is not going to be confined to the personalities of the two candidates for the governorship. The New Deal having given its official blessing to Hess prior to the primary election can be expected to put forth its best efforts to see him safely through this fall. And no one at all familiar with the political situation is discounting the popularity of the New Deal, here in Oregon as well as elsewhere throughout the nation, and the power it wields in political affairs once committed to the task of supporting some favored candidate.

Not only will the national administration be interested in the election of a Democratic governor in Oregon this fall. It will also be in-

tensely interested in the election of a United States senator and three Congressmen committed to the support of its program. In view of all the New Deal has at stake here in Oregon it may be assumed even at this early date that no stone will be left unturned to keep Oregon in the Democratic column if possible.

That the Democratic rift is serious can not be disputed. Just how bitter is the feeling between the two factions can best be gauged by the fact that so far Governor Martin has failed to send his congratulations to his successful rival, Henry Hess. Furthermore, he has declared that he never will. Sprague, the Republican nominee, on the other hand has received the congratulations, together with assurances of whole hearted support from all seven of his rivals.

Rumors that Martin might yet enter the fall campaign as an independent candidate for governor are not taken seriously here. A state law prohibits such a move and even though it might be possible to overcome this obstacle through court action friends of the governor are known to be strongly opposed to such a procedure. In the meantime the governor continues to "sit in his tent" intimating to newspapermen that he will have "something to say" about the political situation a little later.

One-fourth of all claims for unemployment compensation so far filed with the commission, have already been paid in full, it was announced this week. The 14,091 claims satisfied in full totalled \$1,292,896. The weekly checks received by these beneficiaries of the jobless insurance averaged \$11.98.

On-fifth of all deaths in the Pacific northwest between the ages of 20 and 50 years are caused by tuberculosis, according to Dr. Grover C. Bellinger, superintendent of the state tuberculosis hospital at Salem.

The annual maneuvers of the Oregon National Guard at Camp Clatsop, June 14 to 28, will bring about the largest concentration of troops in the history of this state. More than 3600 officers and men will assemble for the 15 days of intensive training, according to Major General George C. White.

Guard units from Portland, Astoria, Tillamook, St. Helens, Milwaukie, Newberg and Gresham will move to the camp by motor convoy, requiring 107 trucks, 24 station wagons and three ambulances. Five troop trains consisting of 23 tourist sleepers, 24 coaches and 18 baggage cars will be required to carry the more distant units.

Camp Clatsop, rated as the finest military training cantonment in the United States, has been greatly improved since the Oregon troops last assembled there in 1936, General White points out. New roads have been built, old roads improved, a new natatorium and recreation building has been completed, additional tent frames and floors installed, bath houses, mess halls and kitchens provided to accommodate the increased strength of the guard and extensive landscaping added materially to the attractiveness of the camp.

A camp supply team of ten men from the State Detachment will go to Camp Clatsop June 6 to prepare for the issuance of food and other supplies. They will be accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel Raymond F. Olson, quartermaster; Major Leo J. A. Pironi, Captain George Bates and Lieutenant W. H. Adams.

Legislative approval will have to be had before the Oregon World's Fair commission can transfer the \$20,000 appropriated for the New York fair to the San Francisco fair. When the Oregon commission decided to withdraw from the New York fair because it could not have the site first allotted to this state, it was announced that the two appropriations would be consolidated and spent on this state's display at San Francisco. Attorney General Van Winkle this week ruled that this could not be done by the commission since the funds were appropriated for specific purposes.

Oregon's new \$2,500,000 capitol building, now nearing completion, will be ready for occupancy by July 1 but formal dedication of the building will probably be postponed until next January when the legislature is in session, it was decided by the

capitol commission here this week. Carpets are now being laid in the legislative chambers and finishing touches are being rushed on the interior of the building. Rugs, drapes and furniture for the House and Senate and the executive suite will not be ready for several months. The contractor expects to be off the job by the middle of this month and the work of moving into the new building will get under way as soon thereafter as the janitors can make the building habitable.

Work on the new \$17,000 administration building at the state fair grounds is well under way and the first unit will be ready for occupancy before this year's fair opens on Labor Day. This unit, in addition to the administrative offices will also provide quarters for the press, telephone and telegraph offices, a first aid station and a radio broadcasting booth.

Veterans of the Spanish-American and World wars have a little less than a month left in which to take advantage of the loan provision of the Oregon soldiers' bonus law. Jerrold Owen, executive secretary to the World War Veterans State Aid commission, warns that the dead line for loan applications expires June 30.

### WILLOWS GRANGE NEWS

Among the members of Willows grange who attended the meeting of Lexington grange on Saturday night for initiation in the first and second degrees were Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Kincaid, Mrs. Ralph Ledbetter, Helen Lindsay, Harriet Heliker, Mrs. Ida Fletcher, Mrs. E. C. Heliker, Marion and Marcel Krebs. Harry Yarnell was a candidate from Willows grange and received the initiatory work with the class from Lexington grange.

The next meeting of Willows grange H. E. club will be at the home of Mrs. Peter Timm near Pendleton, Friday, June 3. This is an all-day pot-luck dinner meeting. All the members are urged to attend.

Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Wilson and children were expected home yesterday evening from Ritter where they spent a few days outing. Mr. Wilson, F. W. Turner and Harry Duncan went to Ritter the middle of last week and Mr. Wilson was joined there by his family Monday.

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