

Home and Farm Magazine Section Editorial Page

Suggestions From Our Associate Editors, Allowing for an Interchange of Views, Written by Men of Experience on Topics With Which They Are Fully Acquainted—Hints Along Lines of Progressive Farm Thought.

LOOK UP THE ABSTRACTS.

BECAUSE of their inability to present abstracts of titles to their lands, twenty-seven farmers in Gilliam county are in danger of losing loans made upon farms by the Oregon State Land Board from the state school fund.

The state authorities should be in no hurry.

The chances are the loans are upon good security.

The county assessor in Gilliam county can easily advise the State Land Board if the loans are safe.

Just now is a poor time to foreclose loans.

The main trouble nowadays in stimulating agriculture and encouraging the farmer is the high interest rate.

The funds available for loans to the farmer should be increased.

The interest rate and the expenses attached to making loans should be cut down.

Here is the proper procedure to be followed in making loans of state funds to farmers:

First, an appraisal of the farmer's land by the county assessor.

Second, passing on the farmer's title by the county attorney.

Third, passing on the loan by the State Board.

No expense for making such a loan should be borne by the farmer, except recording the mortgage.

Political pull and the system of maintaining state loan agents who receive fees should be eliminated.

The interest rate, now six per cent, or more, should be reduced to five.

The thing to do is to enlarge the loan fund to farmers.

At present the farmer pays from 9 to 12 per cent interest for his loans.

On his gilt-edged security he is entitled to money for less.

"GOOD FOR THE FARMERS."

THE Evening Telegram of Portland has an editorial under the above title. It is worth reprinting. The editor says:

"Just as a little aside utterance from the Treasury Department we have the assurance that the farmers of the country have sufficient money to move their crops. We assume that the Treasury Department knows what it is talking about, whereupon there is occasion to say: Good for the farmers.

"Also may we say that it is good for the rest of the country, and rather a jolt to the pessimists. If the farmers have money with which to move their crops that in itself is the best evidence that the farmers have been prosperous during the past year. And if the farmers have been prosperous there is little to fear so far as the rest of the country is concerned.

That there is depression in business it would be silly to deny, but concerning the cause of that depression there is good ground for a difference of opinion. Whether it has come about without the aid of groups of men powerful in industry and commerce, and how much of it is due to the pendency of the anti-trust legislation and the poor-mouth urgency of the railroads for an increase of rates are considerations to be pondered. Whatever one may conclude respecting these matters, it must be conceded that this prosperity of the farmers is fundamental and assuring."

The point is this:

How everyone watches to see if the farmer is prosperous.

If he is, the whole country puts on full steam.

The prosperity of the farmer means the prosperity of the country.

One of the hopeful signs in this country is the realization of this fact.

Rural telephones and rural free delivery have helped the farmer.

When he gets lower interest rates and a better marketing system, the

whole country will get the benefit. When this is realized, these reforms will come quickly.

SPORTSMEN'S AID SOUGHT AGAINST FOREST FIRES.

BECAUSE of the fact that many forest fires are set through the carelessness of hunters, campers and others who go into the woods for recreation, the forest service has taken up with manufacturers of firearms and ammunition the question of a cooperative arrangement through which purchasers and users of guns and cartridges shall be reminded of the fire danger.

It has been pointed out that in the lumber regions of the northwest for example, manufacturers and other business men have been having printed or stamped on their stationery and pay checks various crisp, catchy statements about the loss which the public suffers through the decreased demand for labor and decreased money in circulation if timber, which is the source of many of the northwest's industries, is burned up.

It has also pointed out that in the east particularly many forest fires are started by the carelessness of hunters, who drop burning matches, cigar or cigarette stumps, or pipe coals in the woods, or perhaps build a fire which is left burning when the hunter goes on. Forest fires of course greatly injure the interests of sportsmen by robbing the birds of their proper cover. They also impair the food supply of both birds and big game, through the destruction of the undergrowth which furnishes browse, berries and other food.

The eastern woods are exposed to danger from fires principally in the spring and fall, when most of the trees are bare and the leaves on the ground are dry. The spring fires, many of which are due to trout fishermen, may destroy the eggs of game birds and even the young birds themselves. Since trout fishermen are likely to hunt in the fall, the same individuals, if careless, may be a source of danger at both seasons.

It is suggested that the manufacturers of arms and ammunition ought to be sufficiently interested in the matter of perpetuation to be willing to help in the campaign against forest fires. This help may come through the printing of some brief fire warning on cartridge boxes or some slip to go with any hunting or camping supplies which are furnished. Several manufacturers have already expressed their interest in the matter and their willingness to help.

BUILD UP THE NORTHWEST.

CHARLES COOPEY is a careful observer. Here is an editorial by him in the Chamber of Commerce Bulletin, which is worth reading and heeding:

Do you want the Pacific Coast to build up?

California and Washington are developing factories along this line.

Do you want to find employment for the people we have here and that are coming?

California and Washington are preparing to find work for the people coming to them through the Canal.

If you do, then buy home-made goods. This will develop factories. These factories will also find employment for your boys and girls and enable them to get an honest living. Teach them legitimate trades and make honorable citizens of them, for if we are going to succeed in developing the Pacific Coast some of us must take up the occupation of "putting into the barrel." If we are all taking out we shall soon reach the bottom.

As an instance, the amount paid for labor in the making of men's special order clothing that the West buys from the East annually would find employment for many thou-

sands of people at a good living wage.

These few figures only have reference to one branch of our industry—men's special order clothes. Add to this the women's special order clothes, the ready-to-wear clothing for men, women and children, and the various articles we buy from the East, and the total should convince any person why money is at times scarce with us.

For the sake of our self-preservation, these conditions must be changed. We must make goods to supply our every-day needs and find work not only for ourselves but all people that come to live among us that are willing to work.

REMEMBER, if it is only a shoe lace you are buying, the making of the shoe lace finds work for someone. Do you want that someone to be living in Oregon or Washington or some far away city where wages are very low and you can buy them cheaper?

We must help change these conditions and give the coast merchant a chance to have his special orders made at home, thus finding work for our people and keeping vast sums of money at home that is now being sent East. The merchant claims he is not to blame for not buying his goods at home, for up until now there has been no place ready to supply him and we hope in the near future to see several factories making the different kinds of garments that are needed.

LANE AND THE WEST.

SECRETARY LANE, according to Collier's, is the ablest member of the Cabinet.

He has prepared the following programme of constructive legislation, which, if it passed Congress, would release the West from the strangle-hold of theoretical conservationists.

Here is his programme:

Alaskan coal-leasing bill, which is needed to make the government railway a success. Why build a railroad if Alaska coal is to be kept bottled up?

General leasing bill for coal, oil, and phosphates. This provides for the opening of rich, natural resources which now lie latent in the public domain.

Water power bill, which provides that the title to water powers shall be vested in the Nation, but at the same time allows leasing and developing of these water powers for definite terms of years. What use is this locked up water power to anyone?

Irrigated lands bill, which allows the settler on government irrigation projects to pay off his water right lien in twenty years instead of ten years.

Now there is no politics in these bills.

Secretary Lane is a Democrat. His bills are good.

They should command both Democratic, Republican and Progressive votes.

The congressmen from the West should line up back of these bills and pass them.

FARM ADVISORS COMING.

IT IS now practically certain that a county farm adviser and agriculturist will be employed for Idaho County, Idaho. Discussing the farm advisor movement in general and its relation to Idaho County in particular, R. B. Coglon, director of county agriculturists at the University of Idaho, says:

"The Federal Government recently appropriated to each state and territory the sum of \$10,000. To employ an agriculturist for a year, pay all expenses of travel over the county, and furnish the necessary equipment will require approximately \$3000. To assist as many as possible the present plan is to offer \$1000 to each county making an additional appropriation of \$2000, until the government fund is exhausted."

This movement is gaining force. Farmers and county officials should watch it.

We would be glad to have reports on it from counties where farm advisors have been hired.

THE REASON.

Lo, every man who marries
For love he does that same
And to the hearthstone carries
True love's immortal flame.
Some wed for love of woman
And some for love of self,
And some—'tis very human—
For simple love of self.

Some wed for love of beauty
And some for love of pride,
Some out of love of duty
Take unto them a bride,
And some whose feet are weary
And who would cease to roam,
Who find the long road dreary—
They wed for love of home.

One common love, though, leads us
Each one to take a wife
And to the altar speeds us,
Whatever doubts are rife.
With her the grave we'd walk to
And falter not nor balk—
To have some one to talk to
Who likes to hear us talk!
—Chicago News.

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Government Gets New Forest

ALITTLE more than 33,000 acres in the White mountains have just been approved for purchase by the government at a meeting of the national forest reservation commission.

These areas are in two separate tracts both in Grafton county, New Hampshire, the larger containing 31,100 acres on the watershed of the Pemigewasset river, a tributary to the Merrimac. The tract comes within a mile of North Woodstock on the Boston and Maine railroad, and several good roads lead through it. The land is between 700 and 4,300 feet in elevation, and in the lower valleys are a number of abandoned farms now grown up to trees. Most of the conifers have been cut to make paper pulp, but there are good stands of beech, birch, and maple of considerable value. With fire kept out there is said to be excellent promise of a new stand of spruce. The price agreed upon by the government is \$4.62 an acre including both land and timber.

The smaller purchase consists of several areas lying on the watersheds of Little River and Gale River, both tributaries of the Connecticut. These lands cover 2,000 acres and are contiguous to lands already approved for purchase; hence they go far toward giving the government a solid body of land in this locality. The price for the 2,000 acres, land and timber, is \$4.00 an acre. The tract is in the locality of the noted Franconia range and is readily accessible from two railroad stations, Bethlehem and Twin Mountain. The forest has been cut over and consists chiefly of the northern hardwoods, though some spruce remains from the original stand.

At the same time that these White mountain areas were approved, the commission also approved the purchase of the Pisgah forest in North Carolina, from the George W. Vanderbilt estate. These tracts bring the total eastern forest up to 1,077,000 acres.