

# WILL GROW FLAX

## Willamette Valley to Raise it

### Experts Declare the Fiber of the Very Best

#### Mr. Bosse, Growing 20 Acres for the Government

Among the many products for which the soil and climate of the Willamette valley is so perfectly adapted, flax promises, in the near future, to be quite an important one. The agitation of flax culture kept up so persistently and so courageously by Mrs. Lord and the ladies associated with her, will yet bear good fruit, and thousands of acres of waving flax, with its bright blossoms, will add beauty to the fields and bring not only wealth to its growers, but give employment to hundreds of cheerful toilers at loom and spindle. It is not to the discredit of Mrs. Lord and her associates that they failed in their attempt at flax growing and manufacturing, but to their everlasting honor that they so bravely undertook it. They succeeded, at least, in showing that flax, and good flax, too, could be grown here, and in drawing the attention of practical flax-growers to the fact.

The department of agriculture has for some years taken a deep interest in flax culture, and has caused experiments to be made in almost every place where the industry was liable to prove successful.

In a report on "Flax Culture for Fiber in the United States," made in 1892 to the department of agriculture, Mr. Dodge states that, under the auspices of the department, "three varieties of flax were imported from Europe and distributed over a territory representing all possible flax-growing localities, and embracing the entire range of northern states, from Massachusetts to the Dakotas, including also Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Missouri and Oregon and California on the Pacific coast. The distribution was made to directors of agricultural experiment stations, to farmers known to be successful growers of flax for fiber, and to flax manufacturers especially interested in the establishment of the flax-fiber industry. The three varieties were as follows: Pure Riga or Russian, White Blossom Dutch and a variety called Belgian, the seed of which was produced from Riga seed grown one year in Belgian soil. This seed was distributed in two and four bushel lots, allowing the cultivation of half as many acres, and about 60 such lots were sent out in all. Up to the first of January 40 copies had been received from the following states: Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, California and Oregon."

So far as these experiments went, the two Pacific coast states came out ahead of all others, and the report says of Oregon:

"Oregon (Agricultural Experiment station).—A careful report was received from this state, with a lot of admirable samples, closely resembling the preceding. These were of good length, some of the straw quite coarse but well-grown and cured, and giving an abundance of clean, silky fibre of superior strength. Well prepared, it would make a superior fibre, fit for fine linen. This comes nearest the Courtrai straw in appearance of any examined from the United States; among the best and strongest received. The agriculturist reports as follows:

"From the results this year and last, I am of the opinion that flax can be profitably grown in this valley for the seed alone, and the indications are that the fibre production would be of no small moment. The natural fertility of the soil throughout a large portion of the valley would enable the farmer to grow the crop without the aid of commercial fertilizers."

The valley here spoken of in the report of the agriculturist of the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station is the Willamette valley, in which, at Corvallis, the station and agricultural college are located. And it is not contended that every portion of the Pacific Northwest is equally well adapted to flax culture. It is certain however, that the Willamette valley is peculiarly well adapted to such culture, and it is exceedingly probable, and indeed, almost certain, that the coast counties and the greater part of the "west of the mountains" district

will be found equally so, while some portions of the "east of the mountains" district may also be found where flax can be cultivated for fibre, it already being cultivated there for seed.

The next extract from Mr. Dodge's report speaks of the Oregon sample in terms of stronger praise than he anywhere speaks of any of the other samples; indeed, he goes out of his way, as it were, to add this further commendation. He says:

"Regarding the Pacific coast samples, I can only say, judging from the straw submitted, in comparison with the samples grown east of the Rocky Mountains, that they are remarkably fine; and if such flax straw can be produced economically, we need not be troubled concerning future supplies of fibre for the manufacture of fine linen, should there be a demand in this country for the higher grades."

The Oregon samples are of such superb color, the fibre would resemble the flax of Courtrai. There is a far less percentage of woody matter, or shive, which breaks out readily when drawn through the fingers, leaving a clean, soft ribbon, or flasse, that is soft, glossy and very strong. In my report on vegetable fibres, issued by this department over 12 years ago, Oregon was especially named as a most desirable state for the growing of fine flax. The result of last season's experiments proves that the matter is not over-estimated."

Something more than a year ago Mr. Eugene Bosse, a Belgian, and practical flax grower, came here to experiment in flax culture. Behind him is evidently plenty of capital, and he is making a thorough and exhaustive test of the matter. He is very conservative, and seems always reluctant to express an opinion upon the matter, to even talk flax. To a Journal reporter, however, he relaxed somewhat, and spoke not only of his last year's experience, but also of his intentions. He stated frankly that he did not consider last year's experiment an entire success. He said in substance:

"I was totally unacquainted with the country, its varied soils, or its climate. Owing to the earlier seasons here, than we have in the East, I did not make the best selection of land possible, and in some cases not even, perhaps, a good selection. The result was the crop was put in late, and the season was unpropitious, being cold and backward. I rented the land, and put in 223 acres. In spite of untoward circumstances, the growth was good and the fibre excellent. At one place, Mr. Lund, four miles east of Salem, the crop went 3 1/2 tons per acre, which is a large yield, the average being about two tons to the acre. The fibre of this crop was as good as that raised at Courtrai, Belgium, which is the best. I found the most serious trouble in getting labor to harvest it, and finally brought a lot of Japs from Portland. Still this help was not sufficient, and before I finished I had to resort to the mowing machine to save it, and even then some of it was unharvested. I would like very much," said he, "to have the farmers put in a crop, and would pay from \$12 to \$15 per ton for the flax and seed. However, they seem backward about trying it, so I have arranged for putting in 150 acres this spring."

"Understand that I think the flax situation here is in the experimental stage, but this year's crop will probably demonstrate the adaptability of this vicinity to flax culture, and will, I think, at least, attract the attention of the flax world. I have a contract with the agricultural department at Washington to grow 20 acres of flax this year, the seed to be furnished me. There are three lots of this seed, one coming from Belgium, one from Holland, and one from Russia. I am keeping the data, as to soil, time of sowing, weather conditions, cost, etc., and I think this will demonstrate the flax possibilities. It will be four months before I can make a complete statement, but I think I can then make a favorable one."

Concerning the idea of using Oregon flax for tow, Mr. Bosse laughed and said: "That kind of straw, the kind for tow, can be bought in the East for \$4 per ton. The Oregon flax is of too fine a quality to be even mentioned for tow."

He added that there were some projects in view that were liable to materialize, but that for the present he was not at liberty to detail them, but he added, "I am going to stay here," and he shook his fist to emphasize it, "until I demonstrate to the people of Oregon that flax can be grown here successfully."

**Killed at a Funeral.**  
Bakersfield, Cal., April 21.—A runaway of a double team crashed into a funeral procession on Nineteenth street. Two women are reported dead, and several injured. Al Hulce, accused of the murder Tibbet, has become a raving maniac in the county jail. He is a confirmed dope fiend, and deprivation of the drug is probably what is the matter with him. The feeling against him is very bitter.

# SALEM INDIAN SCHOOL

## Dedication is a Great Success

### A Splendid Program was Carried Out

#### Eloquent Address by Hon. Binger Hermann

The speaking took place on a platform consisting of the first floor of the new building. Mayor Bishop acted as master of ceremonies.

After the band concert by the Indian School band the program, as published, was carried out, accompanied by a gentle fall of mist.

On the north side were drawn up the 600 Indian boys and girls, who constitute the enrollment, which makes Salem Indian school the fourth largest in the nation.

This school is excelled in size only by three, Carlisle, Haskell and Phoenix, all older institutions. None excel the Salem school in good work as educational institutions.

**A Salem Institution.**  
The whole school, and the new buildings, situated almost in the suburbs of Greater Salem, are Salem institutions to the core. They are built by Salem contractors.

C. A. Gray is now erecting the third brick building, this one 176x60 feet, costing \$30,000, employing 30 Salem mechanics, built of Salem brick and Salem building material. It is to be finished September 15th.

After the dedicatory prayer by Rev. W. A. Daly, the Hon. Frank Davey delivered the address of welcome, and reviewed the practical value of this school as a center of industrial education.

**Eulogized Hermann.**  
Mr. Davey modestly disclaimed any intention of making the great speech of this occasion. Hon. Binger Hermann had always been a loyal supporter of this school, and of all the interests and industries of Oregon. He was a great friend of Western Oregon, an indefatigable worker, who would crown a great career of usefulness with still greater achievements for the people, whom he had served so long and well.

**Binger Hermann Speaks.**  
The great Hermann, who is before this congressional district was next to speak, and, while suffering from a cold, he spoke, with deep feeling and great sympathy for this enterprise. He paid a glowing tribute to Senator Mitchell, of Oregon, for his labors. A grateful acknowledgement of the distinguished senator was bestowed in naming this beautiful building for him. The school had not always been affluent. In its earlier years the children had gone out and picked hops to pay for 80 acres of land, to give the government as part of this plant.

It was due to the enterprise of the people of Salem that this grand site for a school was donated, and its foundations laid for a grand school. They had found this school a collection of frame shacks, and left them now an aggregation of brick buildings. The time would come when halls of marble would stand on these grounds. He reviewed the generous policy of humanity, Christianity and uplifting to civilization the humblest citizens.

He did not forget the little boys and girls before him, and paid a fine tribute of the future citizenship here produced. A fair chance and fair play in the race of life was what was aimed at here. He paid his respects to those who opposed Indian education in congress, when appropriations were up in a way they would not have enjoyed had they been present. It was the history of our country that those who climbed the highest

began the lowest. With this thought he made a splendid appeal to the boys and girls to make good use of their opportunities of success.

**Deposited in the Corner.**  
The following document, signed by Supt. Potter and Asst. Supt. Campbell, was put in the corner stone:

"To Those Who May Open This Stone, Greeting:

"On this 21st day of May, A. D., 1903, at 9 a. m., the 600 pupils and 50 employes, together with many friends from Salem and the surrounding country, assembled around this building to celebrate the laying of its corner stone. We have deposited in this stone, as you will see, our names, a short outline of the various departments, as well as other relics. We hope and pray that no calamity befall this beautiful structure, and that it may stand as a useful and lasting monument to this state and country. If storms or fire do not destroy this building, we prophesy it will last for at least 100 years. That you will, therefore, about this time open this stone and see its contents. At that date we predict there will be no Indian schools in this country, and no Indian schools, and that you, our unknown friends, and future generations will probably have built a large city at Chemawa, and may have used this very building for needs of your city."

"This building was built by the government of the United States for the large boys who are pupils at this school. Their names you will find deposited in this stone. The contractor who is constructing this building is Mr. Charles Gray, of Salem, Ore."

"We enclose a copy of the program for this day, by which you will see that the dedication address has been delivered by Honorable Binger Hermann, of Roseburg, Oregon, and the address of welcome by Hon. Frank Davey, of Salem, Oregon. While those of us who are here today celebrating the laying of this corner stone will all be sleeping under the sod, and forgotten by the world, we cannot refrain from writing you this letter, which we hope will be of as much interest to you as it is of pleasure to us, and, while we wish we could take a peep at you 100 years from today, and see the wonderful developments of science, and invention, which will no doubt be enjoyed by those who are fortunate to live at that time, yet we will have no doubt to be contented with our lot and thankful we are enjoying the enlightenment of civilization and advantages of this day and age. We have not the flying machine and many other new and wonderful which you are now enjoying, but we are proud to know that we have thousands of inventions and improvements which would astonish our forefathers 100 years ago."

"We have named this building Mitchell Hall because it was chiefly due to Senator John H. Mitchell's efforts in the congress of the United States that the \$25,000 required for its construction was granted. Therefore, in his honor do we name it Mitchell Hall."

Following is a list of articles placed in the stone:

- Program of today's exercises.
- A list of all the employees of the school.
- A list of all of the pupils of the school.
- A list giving the details of the boys and girls at the present time.
- A list giving classification of pupils of school.
- A copy of Daily Oregon Statesman.
- A copy of Daily Capital Journal.
- A copy of last Chemawa American.
- A copy of illustrated edition of the Chemawa American.

The rest of the program was carried out as published, and the whole occasion was successfully conducted without a hitch in the proceedings in the presence of a large audience.

**Turks Have a Scrap.**  
Salonica, Turkey, April 21.—News was received here today of a fight between the Turkish troops and Bulgarians at Radovitch, Macedonia. The Turks lost nine and the Bulgarians 30.

**Made in Massachusetts.**  
It is a recognized fact that the best shoes in the world are made in Massachusetts, and the Packard shoe, at \$2.50 for all styles and sizes, for men only, is the best of them all. Sold exclusively by Geo. W. Johnson, clothier, Salem, Oregon.

**King Edward Tired.**  
Rome, April 21.—News is received that King Edward is prostrated by fatigue. His physicians are alarmed, and are hurrying his departure from Malta. He has been ordered to take four days' absolute rest at Naples.

**Prayers for Her Soul.**  
Dresden, April 21.—The King of Saxony has ordered prayers for the peace of the soul of Louise. He has declared this is the utmost concession he will make. The Saxon populace continue to demand her full forgiveness.

# WOOL BUYERS' TALK

## Commission Men Are After Fleeces

### Farmers Better Pool Their Clip this Year

#### Or Sell to Responsible Local Dealers

Just at present there is a deep interest all over the Willamette valley over the results of the recent mohair pool through which the growers interested netted a profit. This was the outgrowth of a similar pool effected last year by the wool growers, as also by the wheat and oats pools of the past. In these instances the farmers showed good business sense, and made some good money, but now comes the other extreme on the proposition. Shrewd, and possibly unscrupulous outside buyers, are now trying to make out to the farmers that they should shun local buyers entirely, and are offering to "handle" their crops for them on consignment. Of course these operators try to make it clear that they can save the growers all middle men's profits, etc., and

try to work upon their vanity to the extent of diverting their crops to their own profit. This is probably the most unwise game for them, but the grower will fare better by sticking to the local buyer whom he knows, than his crop out of his possession an uncertainty.

One smooth buyer, or rather operator, for he can hardly be called a legitimate buyer, offers to advise farmers 12 cents for their wool, to take it to Portland on storage, to agree to sell it at not less than 15 cents, all for a commission of 10 cents per pound. This may be right, but there are several phases of the matter that ought to be looked to before consigning the wool. In the first place, this proposition will the farmer for the freight, and the commission of 15 per cent, is entirely too high, even if the phases of the transaction are right.

Farmers can probably get 15 per pound for their wool in Salem the present time, and pay no freight to Portland nor 15 per cent commission for effecting a sale. Buyers are anxious to get all they can.

Inquiry at the office of Wm. B. & Co. reveals the fact that good wool is being bought by them at 15 cents per pound, and the Salem mills also state that they are prepared to pay from 15 to 17 cents per pound. With these facts before Oregon farmers would hardly be led in letting their wool go to their possession to commission, especially where little is known of the responsibility of the parties.

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- 50 lb sack Worcester Fine Salt \$1.00
- 100 lb sack Cane Granulated Sugar \$5.25
- 100 lb sack Spreckles Granulated Sugar \$5.15
- 7 bars Golden Star or Lenox Soap 25c
- 1 lb can Schilling Baking Powder 40c
- 1 lb can Folger Baking Powder 40c
- 1 bottle Gilt Edge Shoe Dressing 20c
- 1 lb best uncolored Japan Tea 50c
- 1 lb best grade Mocha and Java Coffee 35c
- 5 gallon size Barrel Churn \$3.25
- 9 gallon size Barrel Churn \$3.50
- 15 gallon size Barrel Churn \$3.75
- 100 lb keg Wire Nails \$3.25 Base
- Royal Wringers, iron or wood frame, guaranteed for 5 years \$3.50
- Iron or Wood frame Wringers, guaranteed for 3 years \$3.00
- Iron or Wood frame Wringers guaranteed for 2 years \$2.25 and \$2.50
- Iron or Wood frame Wringers guaranteed for 1 year \$1.75
- Common Iron frame Wringers \$1.25
- 5 bars Fels Naphth Soap 25c
- 3 cans Fountain Corn 25c
- 3 Cans Fountain Tomatoes 25c
- 5 packages Arm & Hammer brand Soda 25c

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