

Corn Valuable Adjunct to Stock Raising and Dairying

Yield This Year Above a Million Bushels--Effect Shown in Rapid Increase in Livestock.

The pioneers who dared the dangers of the plains in the years long gone, most of them came from "corn countries," and having tried to grow that crop here with poor success came to the conclusion that "corn would not grow in Oregon." The idea once gaining credence is was like giving a dog a bad name, for it stuck. The trouble was not that the corn would not grow, but that owing to the early wet seasons, and their continuance, it failed to harden and to cure. For sixty years the idea that Oregon was not a corn state has prevailed, still prevails. However, stirred by the success Jim Hill had made with it in other places, some of the more progressive farmers began to take an interest in corn growing. They conceived the idea that in time it would be possible to evolve a corn that would mature even in the damp climate of Oregon. The result has been both encouraging and gratifying. While per-

fect success cannot yet be claimed it is evident great strides have been made, and that sometime the corn that will ripen in Oregon will be created. This to a certain extent has already been accomplished as the various corn shows have demonstrated. The area planted to corn has steadily increased and the yield has increased with it. Along with this it can be stated that the experiment of acclimatizing a corn has gone a long way, and that we now have a variety or varieties that will in most years mature properly. The corn show here a short time ago had some as perfect specimens as could be found in Illinois or Iowa. The ears were large, the rows even, the grains long and the cob covered clear over the end. This was shown in several varieties. It is encouraging that this is so for without corn the fattening of livestock,

especially hogs, cannot be carried on successfully.

Great Money Makers.

The present price of hog products, bacon lard and hams, is such that everything that tends to increase the yield of the state in this line is indeed a money producer. As an evidence of the effect of the increasing of the corn crop and with it the greater production of hogs, it might be mentioned that two years ago there was not a stock buyer in the country. Through the efforts of the Salem Commercial club Mr. George Eyre, who had had considerable experience as a stock buyer in the middle west, was induced to undertake the buying of livestock, and the encouraging of its growing by the farmers.

The first season he handled less than \$40,000 worth of livestock, but he talked hogs while buying them, urged hog growing, patted the farmers on the back and pointed out to them that the profit of farming was largely increased by sending their crops to market in a manufactured state instead of as raw material, and proving that a fat hog or steer was just as much of a manufactured product as though factory made.

In 1916, Mr. Eyre continued his buying and proselyting. More corn was planted, more hogs fattened, more steers turned into fat beef, and by the end of the season he found that his purchases for the year were more than double those of the year before. He liked the business, and this spring took the field

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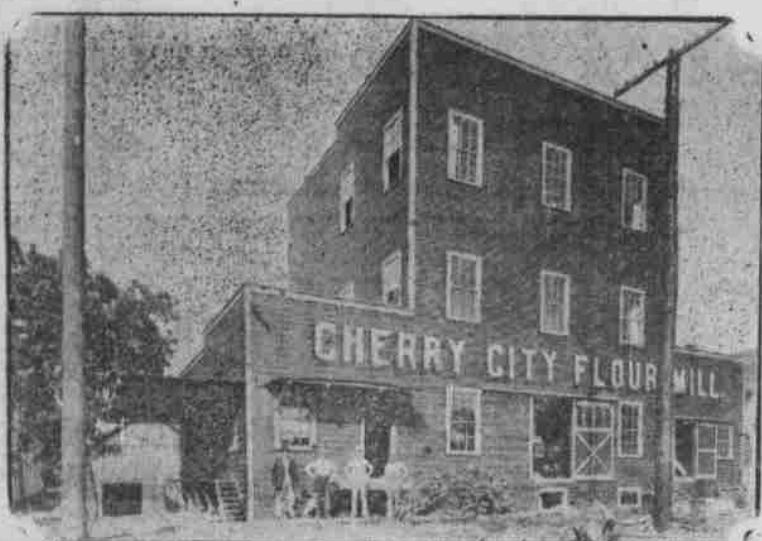
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again. In the meanwhile the boys and girls pig clubs had been organized thru his efforts and those of the United States National bank of Salem and in doing this all of them builded better than they knew. But of this subject more elsewhere.

During the year 1917 Mr. Eyre purchased livestock in the territory adjacent to Salem, valued at more than \$175,000. This was double the purchases of the year before and more than four times the total dealings for the year 1915.

Livestock Improved.

Another marked feature of the business is the greatly improved character of the stock. Marion county now boasts some of the very finest blooded hogs that can be found anywhere, and one Marion county firm is raising sires that bring prices practically unheard of elsewhere. This is what corn has done and is doing for the country and it has only begun. Another thing it helps is the dairy industry. It is a splendid material for the sho, and these are being multiplied all over the county. As a matter of fact they are, for a time at least, a necessary adjunct to the growing of corn for they will provide for the saving of such of the crop as falls to mature, and which without them might be lost. Unfortunately there are few if any reliable farm statistics for Oregon outside of a few crops and so just how much corn was grown in the state last year is hard to say, but that it was well above a million bushels is asserted by those best informed.

Will Increase Acreage.

These farmers who have grown corn and raised hogs are more than pleased with results and each and every one of them will extend the area of his corn field and increase the number of his hogs. Bacon and butter are in the same class so far as price goes and indeed for the finest bacon hogs and her famous product has to take second place for the bacon sells for the higher price. Another feature of the planting corn and selling hogs is the speedy returns. A pig purchased when the corn is planted will run on clover pasture and wait for the corn to grow. The pasture is about all he needs, or wants until he arrives at hoghood and by that time he has the frame and size and the corn puts the meat on it and the solidity to the meat and in a short time the product goes to the market worth from fifty to sixty dollars. Besides the money side of the business there is also a patriotic side to it, for it is the hog products the country wants for the boys over in the trenches, and bacon is as necessary as bullets in the winning of the war. Every farmer who raises a few acres of corn and grows the hogs to eat it and make bacon is sweating the halber just as certainly as though he was firing a gun at him. As has been stated the livestock purchased by Mr. Eyre during 1917 was valued at \$175,000, and this was double the value of the 1916 crop. It should be the aim of the farmers of the district to again double the output in 1918 and if possible make the figures travel up toward the half million mark.

As the Irishman remarked, the hog is

"the gentleman who pays the rent,"

Let him pay yours.

MARION COUNTY SCHOOLS

(Continued from page three.)

improvement of the teaching of these subjects. During the visits to the schools following these meetings, the superintendent or supervisor gives the teacher any help she may need in applying the suggestions to the work in her school. Definiteness of purpose in all supervision work is the ideal which radiates from the superintendent's office.

Reading Circle Plan.

In order to make the work of these local meetings more definite, to reach as many as possible of the teachers every day problems and to unify the professional feeling of the county's teaching force, a course in professional reading will be conducted through these meetings. Two or more of the reading circle books from the state list will be read throughout the county.

One of the most seriously considered problems of educators today is how to measure the results of teaching. Many moral schools and colleges now have one or more experts who devote their attention to scientific investigation along these lines. The result from these investigations has been a number of tests and measurements which have been standardized according to the average abilities of various grades of pupils. A great many city systems of schools have used one or more of these standard tests. Portland is perhaps the most notable example in the northwest. The convention of City Superintendents which met in Kansas City devoted practically the whole time to the discussion of tests and measurements.

Marion in Front Rank.

Here again Marion county is in the front rank of educational progress. On all the available tables of results from standard tests there does not appear any record of a county of schools, yet there are scores of city systems recorded. Marion county, however, has had a scientific and systematic measurement of ability in reading and arithmetic. The individual scores in these two subjects of four thousand pupils in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades of the county are on file in the superintendent's office. More detailed results of these tests will be announced later.

Superintendent Smith plans to arrange later in the year a Teacher's Visiting Day. This will give every rural teacher in the county an opportunity to observe the work of at least one of her fellow teachers who has similar problems to meet. This one day of visiting is expected to result in renewed interest and enthusiasm to repay many times the time spent in the visit.

The teachers of the county both by word and action have shown an admirable spirit of cooperation in the plans of the superintendent. The work of education, building for citizenship, lies, after all, in the hands of the teacher who directs the activities and habits of thinking of the boys and girls in her charge. The success of any school de-

Salem Public Library Makes Splendid Showing for Year

Besides Purely Literary Volumes, Has Added Many Books On Practical Everyday Matters.

The library extends with the New Year greeting, a renewed invitation to everyone to come and enjoy what it has to offer. Besides the books of more literary nature there are practical books for all tastes. For the business man, books on new methods and efficiency are being added slowly but constantly. Colly's "How to Deal With Human Nature in Business," and Brisco's "Economics of Business," are among the many. The engineer will find handbooks on whatever department interests him, beside the volumes of the International school of technology, which treat of almost every work in the world. The student may select at will, those that supplement his text.

For the teacher who will be proficient the library includes many and choice contributions from the best educators. He who is interested in the war, and this is everyone of us, will find a selection from which to choose: Empey's "Over the Top," Hay's "First Hundred Thousand," McClure's "Obstacles to Peace," and Aldrich's "On the Edge of the War Zone," are suggestive titles.

Practical Books.

It is, however, the housewife whose needs have been brought to the front under the Hoover regime. For her is first of all "Feeding of the Family," by Rose, which is generally conceded to be the most helpful, for it discusses in an intelligent way the food needs of the different members of the family in health and in sickness. Of this one book hundreds of them flock in on a Saturday morning to hear the stories which some of them are not able to read. The library puts an annual lecture course which begins this year with the "Library at Home," to be held in the main room from 2-5 on the afternoon of New Year's Day.

Music will be furnished by the Victrola loaned by the Imperial Furniture store.

The remaining numbers occur in the auditorium at 8 p. m. on the dates announced.

Library at Home.
January 1.—A trip through Rome, illustrated lecture by Prof. Fredrick Dunn.
January 2.—Concert of Russian Music, conducted by Dr. Frank Wilbur Chaso.
January 22.—"Russia As It Is," illustrated lecture by Rev. F. T. Porter.
February 13.—"Russia: Its Revolution and Evolution," lecture by Dr. John Hall.
February 27.—"Russian Experiences," an informal talk by Mrs. W. D. Carlisle.
March 13.—"The Literature of Russia," a lecture by Miss Cornelia Marvin.

many minds and hearts, books are doing for their readers everyday. They reveal the great thoughts of the greatest minds. They make the life of other times and other nations ours. They kindle the fires of sympathy and humanity. In a word they open the door of larger life to us.

It is this broader vision that the library offers to all who will enter. Whoever will may come to spend an evening with Robert Louis Stevenson, to follow with Napoleon his unrivalled conquests, to see with the mind's eye the development of the character of Abraham Lincoln, or to learn the wisdom of Socrates. We may well commune with past heroes, but we would know too the vital thoughts and deeds of those who have risen to help us meet today's emergencies and grasp today's opportunities.

Whomever one seeks for entertainment or profit he will surely find within the covers of one of the 13,000 books or on the pages of one of the 135 magazines. Seven thousand people are enrolled as patrons who have "opened the door" to enjoy the pleasures which the library offers freely to everyone of the 17,000 citizens of Salem. It is not the oldest and wisest alone who come. The little ones seek these treasures most eagerly, even before they can give the necessary passport, their signatures. They visit when they can read only the pictures that childish imaginations beauty. One hundred of them flock in on a Saturday morning to hear the stories which some of them are not able to read.

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