

## POINTS ON IRRIGATION.

F. S. FOGG.

Grain, grass, vegetables and trees may each call for the application of water in separate ways. Different soils call for different application, different quantities at an application, and different spaces of time between applications. If a soil is loose, a larger quantity may be used if at a time and less length of time. If the soil is compact, or the lands fall off rapidly, far better results may be obtained by using just water enough to keep the entire length of furrow absorbing water, and continue the stream twenty-four or forty-eight hours. In irrigating vegetables, less time will suffice, than if the water is to be forced down to tree roots. At the same time allowance must be made for exhaustion by evaporation sooner, even under good cultivation than when forced deeply into the soil. By actual test I have proved that trees made far better growth, even in loose soil, where water was run twenty-four hours slowly, after the soil is first wet, than where it was abundantly applied for a few hours.

In sinking a hole where water had run for twenty-four hours a week previous, I found the soil quite wet to a depth of four feet, I know not how much farther down it was moist. I think it was Professor Blount who stated that plants feed only on soluble soil, showing the necessity of abundant moisture at the feeding sections of the roots. I believe that cultivation is a twin sister to irrigation. Neither can do all the work properly, but unitedly it may be accomplished. When to cultivate, how deep and how often are questions well worth considering. I would guard against too much surface irrigation on clay or heavy soil where alfalfa or anything equally tender is seeded, that cannot be properly cultivated.

Just how much they will stand, or need, requires exercise of judgment. A heavy rain prevents grain from springing up; a flooded surface would naturally act worse on small seeds. There are specific times to irrigate individual plants and fruits to greatly increase their production. The practical fruit grower can go so far as to state when and how much water to use to mature different fruits to the best advantage. The growing of alfalfa seems simple, yet no two fields produce the same amount. The soil differs, but no more than the minds of the owners. It is no trick to grow two to three tons an acre on light soil by

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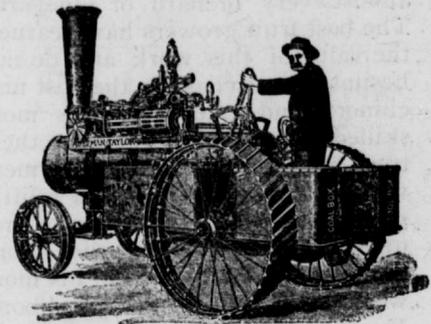
using sufficient water after cutting. Heavier soil will make a good yield on less water than light, but it is safe after a field is well rooted to use all the water possible and the profits will be greatly increased thereby.

The best way to treat weeds is to put a cover on the land to prevent them from getting a foothold, and nothing is better for this than good sod. Few weeds can grow in a good grass sod. Land thus sodded and fairly treated during the rest of its rotation, will not be much troubled with weeds. This is the cheapest way to exterminate them.

Prevent the waste of nitrogen by keeping the land covered in winter. Especially should this be done if manure has been applied. Sow some grain for the purpose; rye will answer, and it will be of service both as a fodder crop and for further enrichment of the land.

Nature abhors a bare spot. She makes an effort to cover every portion of the earth with some sort of vegetation, and is wholly indifferent whether it is corn or weeds. Man must regulate that.

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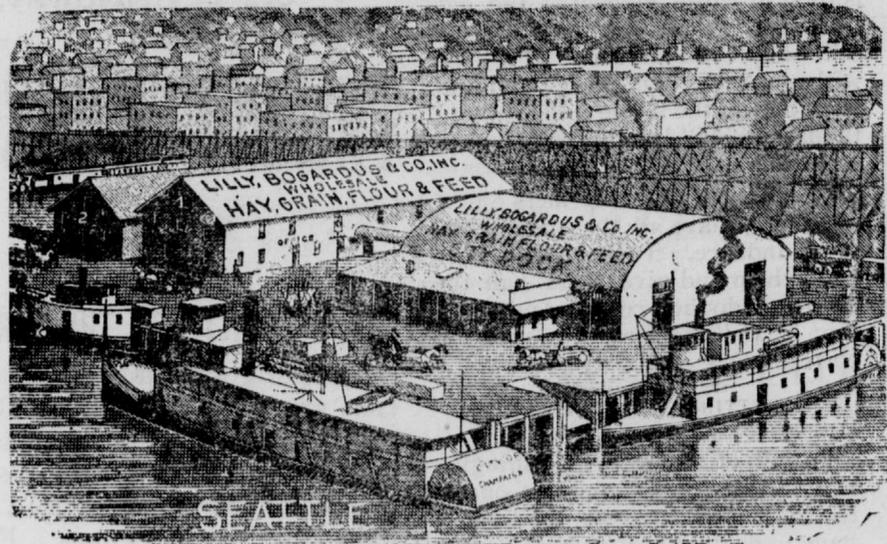
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