

MISCELLANEOUS.

HOEING YOUR OWN ROW.

A homely phrase, suggestive of patient work under broiling sun, a hand-to-hand conflict with the soil; the secondary meaning is that of persistent, energetic and steady performance of duty. It may not be pleasant; very probably there is something else going on which you would much more enjoy; perhaps you are tired, and this drudgery is obscure and you will get no thanks for it. Nevertheless you have it to do; it is your task; you must hoe your own row. Having begun, you must persevere until you have reached the appointed conclusion of your particular stint. Nobody else can do your share; you must do it yourself.

A sort of Spartan indifference to mere comfort and convenience, and a Puritan sense of responsibility, a very commonplace, but nevertheless very admirable virtue, are all, more or less implied in the everyday accomplishment of an everyday task in the careful hoeing of your row.

Perhaps you live with uncongenial people, who constantly rub your fur the wrong way. Perhaps you are handicapped in the work you have undertaken. Perhaps your environment has been an unhappy one, and certain parts of your nature have never been developed as they might have been in more favorable conditions. Never mind. Without asking special consideration, without fretting, without weakening in the face of difficulty of danger, you must just bear steadily forward, hoeing your row.

After a while you will arrive at a place where you will discover how disciplinary are the processes through which one passes in simply accomplishing a regular task in a regular and possibly a humdrum way. The pianist, for instance, in the finger practice which is repeated, and gone over hour after hour, week after week, gains a smoothness, precision and facility which could be acquired in no other way. A great deal of skill in many lines is simply the accumulation of years of all day labor, the faithful hoeing of the row leading to the most gratifying results.

One sometimes has disagreeable things to do, things which one would like to shirk, things which are among the penances and humiliations of life. If they are clearly in the ordering of duty, if they belong to the catalogue of must-be's then the only escape from an accusing conscience is in getting them done with at the earliest practical moment. They somehow come into the realm of that steady self-repressing, self-forgetting routine of actions which may be described as hoeing one's row. Blessed be drudgery, a wise man has pithily said, and blessed be whoever accepts drudgery in a cheerful and contented and even thankful spirit. For after the hoeing of the row there follows the green leaf, the bloom, the fruit, the fragrance, and the glad abounding joy of harvest. These follow. Before them came the hoeing of the row.

From the Coulee City News we learn of some big deals in cattle, at prices that have not been touched for many a long day. Hon. Dan Paul, one of the best known and biggest hearted cattle kings of the state, recently disposed of a herd at 4 cents per pound. The animals averaged him \$58.52 each. W. H. Fleet, another large dealer, and one of the best fellows who ever rode the range, has just cleaned up \$16,000 on a little soup bone deal. Many others in the same vicinity have made handsome sales within the past two weeks. One lot of steers was shipped to the Klondike that averaged 1,525 pounds, showing the animals to be in a fine condition.

In the wheat belts the merchants have good reason to feel as thankful as the farmers for the bountiful harvest which is bringing the shekels. Every day that passes now some merchant is pleased beyond measure at being asked to dig up some note that had been given in disastrous years, and which had been regarded as lost, and entered on the debt side of the house's ledger.

A gentleman said once to a reporter, "I never took a paper that did not pay me more than I did for it. One time an old friend of mine started a paper way down south and sent it to me and I subscribed, just to encourage him, and after a while it published a notice that an administrator had an order to sell a lot at public auction. So I inquired about the lot and told my friend to run it up to \$50. He bid me off the lot for \$37 and I sold it in a month for \$100; so I made \$63 clear by taking that paper. My father told me that when he was a young man he saw a notice in a paper that a school teacher was wanted way off in a distant county, and he

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went there and got the situation, and a little girl was sent to him and after awhile she grew up sweet and pretty and he married her. Now, if he hadn't taken that paper what do you reckon would have become of me? I would have been some other fellow, or maybe I wouldn't have been at all."—*Whatcom Blade.*

FARMER HILL ON WHEAT.

At the recent national Farmers' Congress held at St. Paul Aug. 31, Farmer J. J. Hill, president of the Great Northern railway delivered an address concerning wheat production. In part he said:

"Some years ago, at the time of the rapid increase of wheat production in India, I sent a man to that country and kept him there a whole year studying the conditions of wheat production. I wanted to know what would be the results of the increased production of that country on the markets of the world, and especially in its bearing on our own business. His report was that in the long run the improved methods of this country would enable us to compete successfully with the Indian farmers. Argentine is a large country and a great wheat growing country, but we may reasonably expect that with the greater intelligence of our farmers and our better methods, we can maintain our present superiority over that country and the whole world."

"Now a word on the subject of marketing wheat. After the farmer gets his crop harvested, he unfortunately, as I will show you, wants to rush it off to market. A year ago wheat was selling at from 52 to 55 cents a bushel. I told the farmers with whom I talked that I was going to hold my wheat for 70 cents. I sold it in November at from 75 to 83 cents a bushel. I think wheat is going to bring better prices this year than for two years past. But I do not believe the area of high prices will be of long duration. With increased production, dollar wheat will come occasionally, but it won't stay long. If the farmers would stack their wheat securely and then go ahead with their fall plowing, marketing at their leisure later in the season, I am sure they would get 8 or 10 cents a bushel more for their wheat than if they rush it to market all at once. You will notice that wheat is invariably higher in January and February, after the lakes are frozen, than in October or November. During the latter months there is rushed into the market about 20,000,000 bushels. This enormous quantity pouring into the market is bound to depress the price. If the farmers would build granaries and hold their wheat, a single crop would pay the cost of building them. Farmers need have no fear about holding their crops this year. So let them spend their time now in getting their land into shape for the next season's crop, instead of threshing their wheat right away and rushing it into market.

"A word as to the cost of transportation. The average cost per ton for each ten miles is 80 cents. In England it is \$2.34, in France \$2.10, in Austria the same, in Russia \$1.80, in Germany \$1.92. So with intelligent farming the farmers of the United States need have no fear that they cannot successfully compete in wheat raising with any nation on the globe."

Chas. Elwell, of Novelty, Wash., will make a creditable exhibit of his pure bred Short Horns and Poland China swine at the Oregon state fair. Mr. Elwell is one of the most enterprising breeders in the state and is doing a great deal to raise the standard of our livestock. He deserves encouragement and substantial patronage.

La Grande, Or., has secured a sugar beet factory. The price farmers are to get for their beets will be \$4 per ton for beets that show 12½ per cent. of sugar, and the additional price of 25 cents a ton for every 1 per cent. of sugar above 13 per cent. Contracts are now being made with the farmers of that neighborhood and 3,000 acres of ground have already been arranged for.