

RANCH AND RANGE.

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AGRICULTURE IN OREGON.

Remarkable in Resources---Present Condition
and Future Development---Stock
to be Pre-eminent.

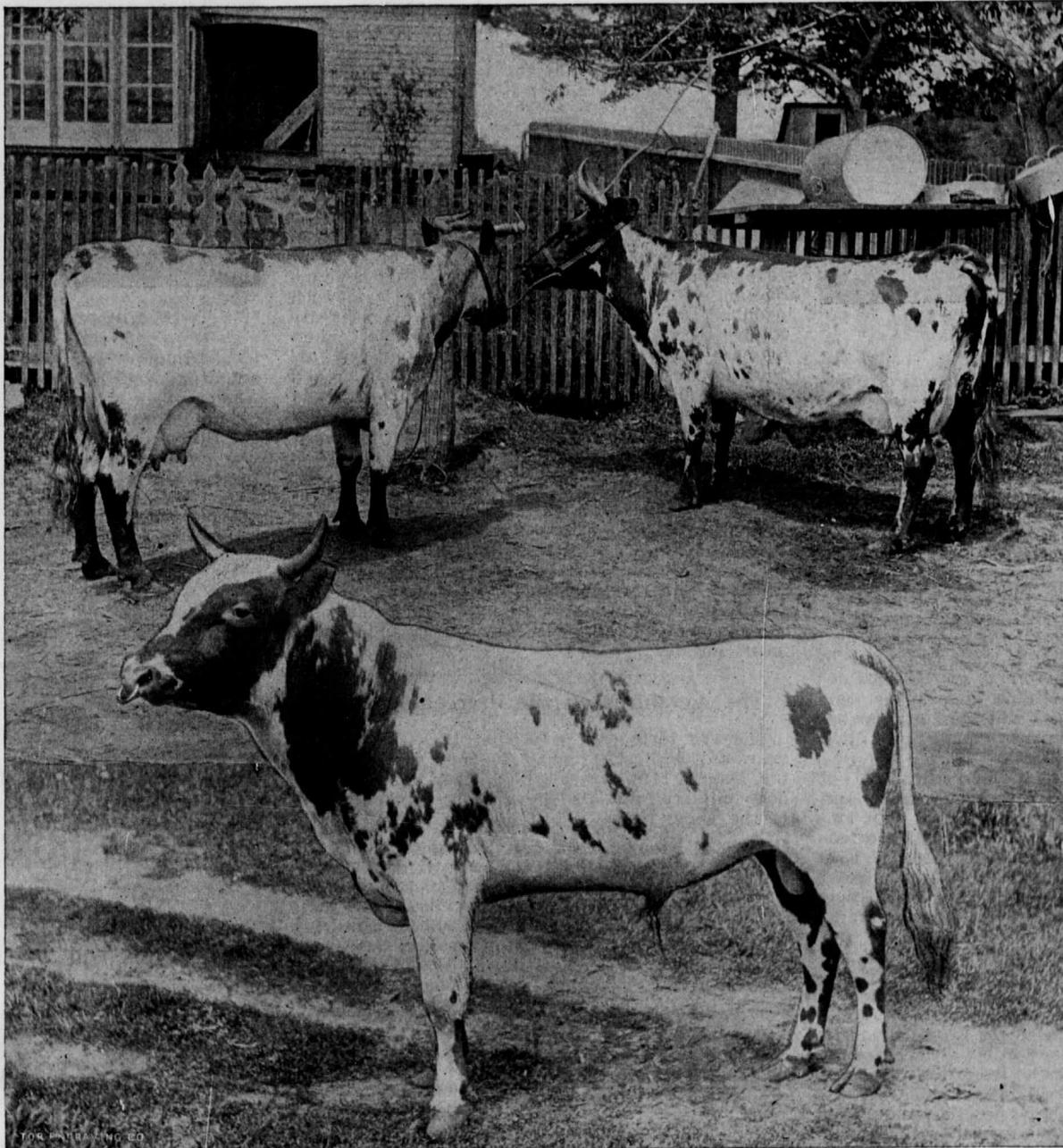
BY THOS. SHAW, PROFESSOR OF THE BUREAU OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINN.

The agriculture of Oregon is a great study, because of the diversity in the conditions that govern production. It opens up a field to the experimenter that is without limit. The ultimate fruits of invest-

by the sea would be to invite failure, and to apply the same system of management to the soils of the bench country as are applied to the Willamette valley would be even more disastrous. Pastures by the sea must be managed very differently from pastures in the dry regions east of the Cascades, and pastures on soils susceptible of irrigation must be managed very differently from either. So marked are the variations in natural conditions that a plant which proves a perfect success in one part of Oregon may be incapable of successful growth in another part of the same, and let it be noted here that this diversity in possible production should prove a source of great benefit to the country. Diversity in production should be no less helpful to the state than to the individual, and the fact is now pretty generally

fruit is not going to be the leading agricultural interest. Nor is wheat, commanding as is the position which it occupies today. The production of live stock will be the towering agricultural interest in the future that is near, though it may not hold that position at the present time.

I have not one particle of sympathy with bonanza farming, and I hope it will not be encouraged in Oregon. It may have made a few men rich, but usually it has proved harmful to the development of the country wherever it has been practiced. In live stock keeping on the ranges, it is usually attended with no little cruelty, because of the exposure to which the animals are subjected. In wheat farming it stands in the way of settlement and proper division of the soil, and it tends to rob the soil of



Ayrshires Owned by A. Terrill, Wooler, Ontario. For Description See Next Page.

igation in any one of half a dozen lines in Oregon would bring immortality to any one who has sufficient foresight and energy to gather them. The diversity in conditions is simply wonderful. There are half a dozen climates in Oregon, and each is possessed of distinctive peculiarities. The soils are as various as the climates. And these variations in climate and soil bring along with them variations in production equally marked. In agricultural production Oregon is self-contained, so far as any country can be within the limits of the temperate zone. This great diversity in conditions calls for an equal diversity in cultivation and crop management. To attempt to manage the soils of the Willamette valley in the same way as the tide lands are managed

recognized that diversity on the individual farm is the gateway to a sure and lasting prosperity.

Fruit production in Oregon has been a chief source of attraction to people from the east during recent years, and not without reason. The capacity of the orchards to produce reminds one of the golden age when trees hung thick with fruit without any care on the part of man. But to the writer it would not be the chief attraction, and for the reason that, while it is one thing to produce fruit, it is quite another thing to market it in season because of its perishable character. Far be it from me to say one word that will belittle fruit culture in Oregon. It will forever remain one of the greatest fruit-producing countries in the United States; but

its fertility; and in fruit culture it is closely allied to buried capital and disappointed hopes. Let fruit culture go on and ever grow greater, but let fruit culture be but one interest of the average ranch, even though it should be the leading one.

Wheat culture in Oregon is a great problem. It is a marvel how in some sections the soils produce this cereal from year to year. So marked has been this production that not a few are coming to the conclusion that the wheat yields will never be less than now. Depend upon it they will be less than now, unless some modification is made in the system of tillage. Even in the lava soils in contiguity to Walla Walla, disaster in some form will overtake the wheat crop unless some modification is made in