

# ARIZONA AGRICULTURIST

Entered as second-class matter December 5, 1925, at the post office at Tucson, Arizona, under Act of March 3, 1879.

VOLUME V

JANUARY, 1928

NUMBER 4

## HUSBANDRY---THE ANCIENT AND HONORABLE SCIENCE

By Col. Dale Bumstead

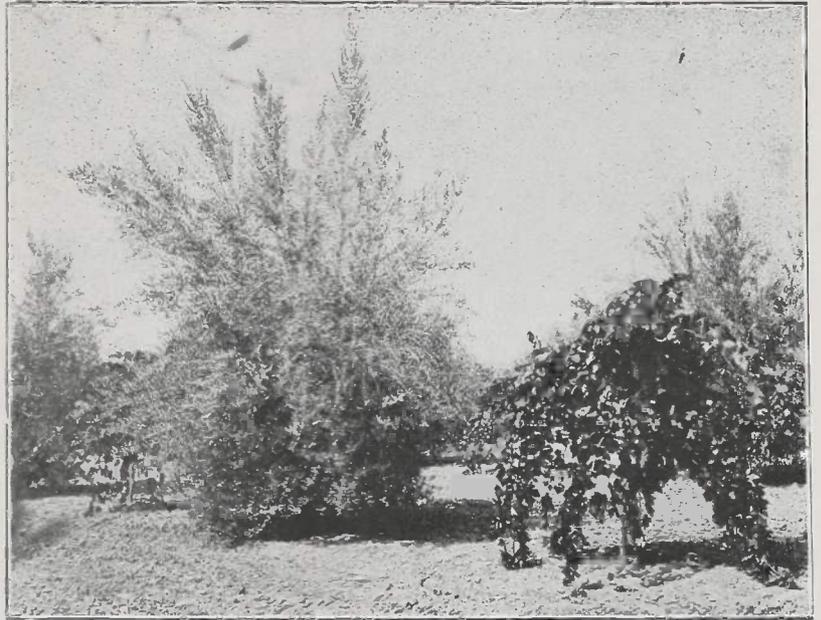
Points for the Modern Farmer Found in the Writings of the Ancient Greeks  
And Romans; "The Profit of the Earth Is for All"

**I**N THIS material age the struggle for profit too often overshadows the desire for service and the joy in accomplishment. In the hurry and hustle we are prone to forget the glorious romance which lies back of us and fail altogether to visualize the radiant future which so surely lies ahead.

A Roman writer of the time of Tiberius said, "The Art of Husbandry is so necessary for the support of human life, and the comfortable subsistence and happiness of mankind have so great a dependence upon it, that the wisest men in all ages have ascribed its origin to God, as the Inventor and Ordainer of it; and the wisest and most civilized nations, who have best understood their true interest, have always endeavored to promote and improve it, and have never failed to acknowledge, and honor, as public benefactors, all such as contributed anything toward the same. \* \* \* In proportion as either private families, or nations of men, fixed themselves in settled habitations, and applied themselves to this necessary art, they accordingly prospered, and increased in number and power \* \* \*"

Greece counted husbandry "a most honorable employment, even not below Royal Majesty," and her great poet Homer "who knew the dignity, decency, importance, and value of things more than any man, in his beautiful description of Achilles' shield \* \* \* represents the King standing in a furrow \* \* \* overseeing the reapers \* \* \* and greatly rejoicing in the fruits of his labors.

Rome for some time neglected this science—and little progress was made until they extended their dominion and came in contact with more highly civilized peoples when they came to a full realization of the importance of the industry, caused translations to be made of the 28 books on husbandry by Mago, a Carthaginian general, and these were followed shortly by a great many books on the subject in both Greek and Latin, and Rome's greatest generals, senators,



Grapes and Olives—The Most Highly Prized Fruits of the Old World

and philosophers became in very many instances farmers—and very good farmers, as the ancient writings bear witness to this day.

What is perhaps more surprising is the fact that, altogether aside from the great joy of looking back into the past, we can learn much to our advantage with reference to the actual details of farming from technical writings of nearly or quite two thousand years ago.

Take for example the matter of "bud selection" which is just now attracting so much attention to our very great advantage. We confess we thought the idea new—why it was old when Christ was born! Our horticultural leaders of today are but preaching doctrines well known to Virgil and practiced by the best horticulturists when Rome was at her prime.

It is doubtless true that some of our modern leaders have made important original discoveries, while others have performed even greater service by drawing attention forcefully to important fundamental facts long known by a limited few only;

but many of us could profit—for example—by reading the works of L. Junius Moderatus Columella, written at about the time Christ was born, and translated into English about 1745 A. D.

A trusting friend loaned me his copy of this translation—an honor I greatly appreciate—and I intend sharing with you some of the gems this work contains.

If Columella should come back and lecture on horticulture today our leaders in agriculture would attend and profit from his wisdom. True, some of his lectures would be just a bit obsolete—for example the ninth chapter of his first book: "Of What Size and Plight of Body, the slaves must be, which are to be assigned to every particular work." But there is a lecture in the same book entitled "Of such things as are principally to be considered, in viewing and examining land before it be bought." How much happier many would be today had they studied this lecture and acted upon his advice!

Then in the second book is a lecture  
(Continued on Page 11)

**HUSBANDRY--THE ANCIENT AND HONORABLE SCIENCE**

(Continued from Page 3)

ture, "That the earth neither grows old, nor wears out, if it be dunged." Get that idea across and you will make this nation so productive we can feed the whole world!

Here is another lecture that goes home: "That a vineyard newly planted will speedily decay and perish if it is not supported by great and assiduous culture."

And to come to the argument in favor of plant and bud selection. In order that the quantity and quality may be improved whole chapters have been written. "If any man therefore would, for several vintages, observe and mark such vines, as I told you I had in my possession a little while ago, that from them he might chuse the most fertile cuttings, he might raise vineyards equally generous and abundant in fruit; for there is no manner of doubt, but it was the will and pleasure of Nature itself, that the offspring should be like the mother. Hence it is, that the shepherd also in the Bucolics says (5): 'I've known the puppy, and the wanton kid, Each like its dam grown up.'

"And hence it is that they, who are fond of contending for the mastery in the sacred games, keep, with great diligence and care, the breed of the swiftest horses, and conceive hopes of future victories from the offspring, which has been propogated by a generous stud. Let us also, for like reason \* \* \* found all our hopes of future vintages in chusing \* \* \* of the most fruitful vine."

The author points out the rapidity with which a very superior plant can be multiplied.

"But when once the fruitfulness of the vine has been sufficiently proved, it is very quickly raised to a very great number by engraftments. Of this thing, you, Publius, Silvinus, can give evidence for us, seeing you will very well remember that I completely finished the planting of two jugera (one jugerum equals 27849.30 English sq. ft.) of vineyard in less than two years time, by making engraftments from one early ripe vine, belonging to you in your Ceretanian Estate. What number of vines therefore do you think might be planted within the like space of time from the cuttings and shoots of two jugera, when these two jugera themselves are the offspring of one vine?"

"\* \* \* Wherefore, I judge it absolutely necessary, that, in chusing

of plants, we take care to gather \* \* \* those fruit bearing shoots, which by bearing plenty of fruit already, promise fecundity for the time to come—nor let us content ourselves with single clusters, but let us approve those most which, we see, have the most numerous offspring. Shall we not commend that shepherd, who propagates an offspring from that mother which brought forth twins? And a goat herd who preserves and sets apart for breeding the young of those cattle, which are commended for bringing three at a birth? for it is certainly true, that the offspring will almost constantly answer to the fecundity of the parents. And let us follow this same method in vines."

But enough of the ancients—Shamel, Pomeroy, and others have been selecting citrus buds and breeding them—generation after generation—with an improvement each time, until the product of a single tree is worth more than the product of many ordinary trees. All manner of improvement has resulted from careful plant selection and breeding and if you want some of the "Profit of the Earth" you will do well to plant and breed only the very best. And, if I may presume to preach a little, do not undertake more than you can do well. There is profit in exceptionally good oranges, grape fruit, hogs, cabbages, dates, flowers, or cattle! Do well whatever you do and you will get your share of the "Profit of the Earth" that is for all.

**ORVILLE KNOX ATTENDS ALPHA ZETA CONCLAVE**

Alpha Zeta held its 30th anniversary conclave in New Orleans at the St. Charles hotel December 29, 30, and 31. Delegates from every chapter, the members of the high council, and alumni, including the founders of the fraternity, were present at the conclave. It was a get together

of students, agriculturally inclined, to better the fraternity which was founded for the advancement of scientific agriculture. The Arizona chapter, the youngest of the 36 chapters sent Orville Knox as delegate to the convention. Orville Knox reports it was the biggest conclave held in the history of the fraternity. Every minute of the three day schedule was filled with business or entertainment, and everyone enjoyed the conclave and their stay in New Orleans to the limit.



Royal  
Corona  
L. C. Smith  
Typewriters

TYPEWRITERS

**Vern Priser**

Typewriter Exchange

All Makes Sold, Rented and Repaired

Also Adding Machines and Cash Registers

39 South Stone

Phone 24

**SUCCESS**

today demands modern equipment. Results are obtained



BETTER

QUICKER

CHEAPER



DEALER



**Arizona Tractor & Equipment Co.**

Phoenix

Arizona

CAMERAS

FILMS

CANDIES

**T. ED. LITT**

Stone and Congress

Three Phones—58 - 59 - 1227