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Imbler Notes

Imbler, Ore., Oct. 1.—(Special)—Mr. and Mrs. Charles Squires went to Eagle Valley Saturday after a load of fruit.

Dr. and Mrs. Gilmore were in La Grande Saturday on business.

Mr. and Mrs. R. M. McBride were in La Grande Saturday attending M. I. A. Convention.

Mrs. Dan Myers has been suffering from a boil on the side of her face.

Katie Parker was taken quite ill Friday. Dr. Whiting was called and she is improving nicely.

Mr. Rollins has got comfortably located in their new home on Depot street.

Miss Helen Peebler is visiting at the home of her uncle, F. H. Walker. Mr. and Mrs. John Swiebel of Summerville took in the moving picture show here Wednesday night.

Mr. and Mrs. John Coble have returned from Eagle Valley, where they have been visiting friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Faas Bingaman are in Salem taking in the State Fair.

Mr. and Mrs. John Wells and Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Welch have been taking in the State Fair at Salem.

Frank Conklin has returned from a two weeks' hike.

The Red Cross society was loyally entertained at Summerville Wednes-

day by the Summerville auxiliary. The hostesses, Mrs. Charles Myers, Mrs. Starr, Mrs. T. A. Chvat, Mrs. Bud Glenn and Mrs. Fred Hamilton served ice cream and cake during the afternoon. Something like \$8.00 being taken in. The cake which was made by Mrs. James McKinzey and sold at 10 cents per chance netted the society \$16.00 and \$17.55 being cleared on the picture show the same evening. We think that was a pretty good day's work.

Friday evening at 8 o'clock in the Amusement Hall gathered parents, friends, pupils, school teachers and school board for a reception for the teachers. A short program was well rendered in spite of the fact that it was gotten up in 24 hours. The teachers were introduced in their turn and each made a few remarks concerning their school work. Then Mrs. Hurley ask the school patrons and board their opinion on the subject of dismissing school for three weeks of apple harvest and it now lies with the school board to do as they think best. During apple harvest almost the entire high school stays out to work in the apple orchards, making the school work very hard for the pupil and also for the teacher when they return again. An invitation was given the teachers of the South schools, who are Mr. Christensen and Miss Edna Martin, also to Rev. and Mrs. Archer, our new minister, who

gave a short talk on education and religion. Then Mrs. Sherwood Williams asked each scholar to take their parents and introduce them to their teacher, in that way getting themselves close in touch with each other. Ice cream was served during the evening, making it one that was enjoyed by all. L. H. Keown returned to Imbler Sunday morning.

Sour Stomach.

Eat slowly, masticate your food thoroughly, abstain from meat for a few days and in most cases the sour stomach will disappear. If it does not, take one of Chamberlain's Tablets immediately after supper. Red meats are most likely to cause sour stomach and you may find it best to cut them out.—Adv.

CONSTRUCTION AND RESULTS OF TYPICAL DRAINAGE DISTRICT.

By J. P. Newell, Consulting Engineer and Member Oregon State Drainage Association.

The district known as Camas Prairie, Washington, is located in the northern part of Klickitat County at the foot of the southeast slope of Mt. Adams, with an elevation of about 1800 feet. The greater part of the district is very nearly level, Conboy Lake occupying a slight depression in the center, with an outlet by means of a creek which flows into the Klickitat River. The lake usually went dry in the fall but covered the greater part of the district during May and June. The rainfall of the district is very nearly the same as that of Hood River, an average of 28.3 inches for the past ten years. The drainage problem was not confined to the rainfall, but was rather a question of taking care of the snow water from Mt. Adams late in the spring. The inadequate drainage made it impossible for the farmers to plant the ordinary crops, consequently part of the district was left to grow up to wild grass, and after the water drained off, was used as pasture or cut over for hay.

In 1916, the land owners of the district incorporated as Drainage District No. 1 of Klickitat County, Washington, under the laws of the State of Washington, and employed our firm as their engineers, George F. Cotterill of Seattle being consulting engineer up to the letting of the contract for construction. The commissioners were H. Bertschi, G. W. Sherwood, and Claus Staack.

Analysis of the soil of the district made by Professor R. W. Thatcher, of the State College of Washington, from a large number of samples taken from all parts of the district, showed the soil to be quite uniform in chemical composition, having slightly above the average percentage of all the necessary mineral elements of plant foods, and he further stated that under proper moisture conditions there was no reason that could be determined by analysis, why this soil should not be productive agricultural soil; that it did not contain alkali; and that it should, when drained, be particularly adapted to the growth of oats, timothy and clover.

The total area of the incorporated district is 8860 acres, with an actual drained area of 6606 acres. There were 76 separate tracts in the district with an average holding of 116 2/3 acres. Before entering into the work of designing ditches, and for the purpose of assisting the jury to assess the benefits and damages, all the land of the district was divided into classes. One covered the land in the bed of the lake; another the adjacent marsh; a third all land below high water not included in the other classes; and the fourth all land above high water. A map of the entire district was prepared, showing the different classifications held by each owner.

At the time of the incorporation, the total assessed valuation of lands of the district for taxation, (based on about 40 per cent of actual value) was \$67,179. The total benefits to result from drainage, as determined by the jury, (based on the difference in the value of the land before and after drainage) was \$248,545. The total cost of improvement was \$94,000.

The principal tributaries of the lake were Chapman, Holmes, and Bird Creeks, which formerly spread out and were lost immediately on entering the flat ground. The general scheme of drainage provided for the construction of ditches whereby these streams are carried to a common point near the center of the district where they are combined into a single stream (canal). The required capacity at this point was estimated at 235 cubic feet per second, and the greatest possible permissible fall at one foot per mile. It was therefore necessary to make the canal 24 feet wide in order that it might have sufficient capacity without backing the water up in the lake to an excessive height. Farther down, the width is decreased to 12 feet, and the grade increased to 1.75 feet per mile. The capacity of the canal at its junction with Outlet Creek is 269 cubic feet per second.

Bonds were issued and the contract let for construction, in July 1911, contractor taking bonds in payment for the work. Owing to weather and financial conditions combined, work was stopped in January 1913, with the laterals finished, but the

main canal incomplete. The original contractor finally abandoned the work and his bondsmen completed it in February 1914.

The total cost of the work was \$94,000, or \$14.25 per acre of land drained. The cost of engineering, which is included in the above total, was \$4870, of which \$1500 was expended before the beginning of construction.

In response to recent inquiries, several letters have been received from farmers in this district, from which we submit extracts.

"I owned in the Camas Drainage District, 120 acres of land which grew only wild hay of poor quality. About all it did was to keep cattle alive in winter. We could not cut this hay until the latter part of July or first of August and on wet years not at all on the lower land. In winter months this land was covered with water from 1 to 4 feet deep.

"This land was drained in 1911 and 1912. I first plowed about 40 acres 3 and 4 inches deep and sowed it in oats and vetch. The vetch all froze and I had a poor crop, about 3-4 ton per acre. In the fall I plowed 8 to 10 inches deep and in the spring sowed wheat and got about 2 tons hay per acre. That fall I plowed again about 8 to 10 inches deep and sowed wheat and had a crop, the like of which never was seen by any one that saw it. It made about 140 tons of hay on 40 acres.

"I never cut any wheat for grain, but will say this, there was no grain in the hay whatsoever in the first year. The second year the oats filled some, but not the wheat. The third year oats would have threshed about 35 to 40 bushels and wheat about 20 to 25.

"My experience is that it is best to plow shallow at first and deep at the second plowing so as to cover the soil good and deep so it will rot. I used a 2-bottom gang 14 inches with 8 head of horses.

"T. WYERS, Jr."

Mr. Wyers adds feelingly, "it was h—l to tear up this sod." His meaning is not clear, owing to the abbreviation, but it seems to indicate unusual difficulty.

"Will say that land before being drained was only producing from 500 to 1000 pounds of poor wild hay per acre. Second and third year after drained some land on my place produced from 1 to 2 1/2 tons of choice timothy hay per acre which sold for \$17 per ton, making a difference of about the cost of drainage in one crop.

"We did not use drain tile nor do I know of anyone that did in that locality. G. W. SHERWOOD."

"The first year timothy grew rank but the heads did not fill. As the sod was torn apart grain hays did well but did not fill very well.

"The sod has been extremely slow to rot. Last year tracts that have been repeatedly plowed yielded 66 bushels oats to the acre. That is but just the beginning. I plowed one 40, and when the sod was very dry, burned it. It burned slowly like punk of a cigar and left a layer of ashes 3 inches deep. I plowed this under. It yielded 35 bushels wheat last year and I replowed it. I feel sure it will yield 100 bushels oats or 50 wheat next year if properly worked. Some timothy yielded 3 1/2 tons per acre last year but 2 tons was a good crop.

"The white land is slowly developing. It only needs humus and working. It is filling the grain more and more each plowing, the phosphorus that leached out during pre-drainage times being gradually released.

"A few years hence this land will all yield 100 bushels oats per acre, 2 1/2 tons timothy or 50 bushels wheat with no summer fallow needed.

"H. E. MITCHELL."

"Captain, U. S. Artillery."

"Before drainage, only water grass grew. Last season (being first fair trial since drainage began) the land produced as follows:

"Fall wheat and spring wheat about from 1 1/2 to 4 tons straw some being threshed produced about 35 bushels of grain.

"Oats about the same. "Timothy I think would average 2 tons, much of it perhaps 3 and some baled out 5 tons, owing to the manner it was sown. "There has been no tilling put in as yet and not even side ditches or small laterals, as there should be. "H. BERTSCHI."

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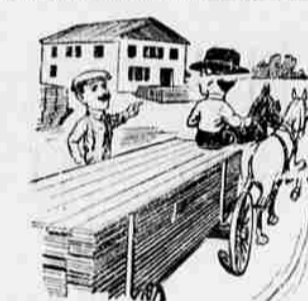
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