

DRAWS MOISTURE FROM THE SOIL

Weather in Wallowa County During Week not Favorable to Farmers.

By G. C. Meek
(Observer Correspondent)

WALLOWA, Ore. (Special)—Weather conditions in this county have not been as favorable for crops during the past week. A strong northwest wind has been blowing the greater part of the time for the past week or ten days and much moisture has been drawn from the soil. While the soil has recently been well soaked by heavy rains in this section, blowing vegetation and drying winds have made things quite dry in a short time. Some of the wheat crops have been showing signs of burning to some extent on the thin land and should dry conditions continue for any length of time it is highly probable that the yield possibilities of all crops on dry land will be lowered to a considerable extent. Spring sown grain in the farming areas are reaching a stage where a good supply of moisture has a great bearing on the prospects for good yields. The weather has been most too cool for good growth of grain crops during the greater part of the past three weeks and as a result much of the spring grain is still quite small yet. Some frost has occurred in many parts of the county on a number of nights during the past week. Gardens have been nipped quite severely by a number of farms in the low parts of the county. The freezing reported to have been quite severe at some places on Diamond Prairie and farmers in the upper part of the community report the thickness of a window pane during the latter part of the week. Some fears were felt that some damage may have been done to the winter wheat crops in some of the low spots where the frosts occurred to have been the heaviest. Much of the early sowings of wheat is heading out and is considered to be in the greatest danger of being damaged by freezing. In the opinion of a number of farmers it would be impossible to say whether any damage has occurred for several days yet. Some of the fruit was killed in various places a few weeks ago by hard frost. However, according to reports from some of the farmers who have small orchards on their farms, present indications are that there will be a fair crop of the more hardy varieties of fruit in the community this year. Potatoes and other late garden truck which has been planted during the past three weeks are beginning to grow up fairly well. Cut worms have done some damage in some of the gardens during the past two weeks while the weather has been chilly and backward.

The past two weeks has seen a considerable movement of sheep through this section on their way to summer ranges in the mountains and timbered areas. Several large sheep owners from various sections of the state who own large tracts of range lands in the north woods area have been busy getting their sheep to these ranges recently. The sheep which are wintered in some of the distant parts of the county are shipped here by railroad and driven to the ranges, while the bands which are wintered in the Snake river and other closer places are driven through. Eugene Johnson, of Snake river, arrived here recently and has been helping in getting a number of bands on their way to range in the mountains. A number of small flock owners of the community have placed several small bunches together and moved them to summer range during the past week or two. Gustav C. Cassin and L. W. Minor moved a band of between five and six hundred ewes and lambs to Appleberry mountain the latter part of last week, where they have a permit on forest land. George Cassin is herding the sheep there according to a number of sheep owners of this community much of the season's wool clip has been sold. Many who own flocks of large wool sheep received around 100 per pound for their clip, while the clip sold at 47 and 48 cents. No large amount of lamb contracting has been done here as yet. Some offers have been made recently to contract lambs at 7 1/2 cents per pound. However, no reports are heard of where owners have decided to sell at this figure.

The ground squirrel situation appears to be less troublesome than was the case a few weeks ago. Much poisoning has been done at many of the farms in both the valley and hill sections during recent weeks, and good success has been attained in getting large numbers of these squirrels. Some poisoning has been done around the edges of some of the fall wheat fields in the dry farming sections where the squirrels have been exceptionally plentiful. Thousands of them have moved into the grain fields from adjoining range lands. The fall grain has reached a stage where it has become tough and they are not doing much damage.

Considerable cutting of hay of various kinds has been going on in this community during the past week or two. A few small plots of alfalfa have been put into hay racks and stack, while the larger part of the first crop of alfalfa is hardly ready for cutting. Some of the farmers in the middle valley and Lostine communities say that their hay will be ready for cutting around the 25th of this month. L. W. Minor has been busy the past week cutting a large acreage of June grass on his farm in the hills east of town. He reports the grass exceptionally heavy on much of the land and that he has in the neighborhood of 125 tons in the stack

at this time. He commenced stacking the first of the week. Winter wheat will not be ready for hay in this community for three or four weeks yet.

Giles Plass finished plowing and working summer fallow at the O'Brien place on Dry creek the last of the week. He has moved his teams and machinery to his home in the Leap community where he has more summer fallow to work.

Sam and G. C. Meek and Earl Burchfield were visiting at Mrs. Bertha Taylor's at La Grande Sunday.

Elmer Osborn, who is farming a large tract of land for J. H. Haun in the Leap section, finished plowing his summer fallow during the past week. He reports that he has plowed around 400 acres this spring and has the greater part of it worked down in good shape at this time.

H. H. Whipple and family, who have been living at the H. C. Hearing farm in the valley north of Lostine, have moved to the former Fred Hanes farm in the Leap section where they expect to live this summer.

Duane Lathrop, of Parsnip creek, commenced work on the Leap market road the last of the week. Good progress is being made with grading operations on the Leap road and a few weeks more will see the grading of the entire stretch completed.

Mr. Marshall, of Maxville, was a La Grande business visitor the last of the week.

Sam Meek was cutting some hay for Giles Plass the latter part of the week.

Mrs. Eva Parker, of La Grande, in staying at the home of her nephews, Sam and G. C. Meek, keeping house for them for awhile. Oscar Maxwell moved a part of his horses to his ranch in the valley the first of the week for use in working his summer fallow there. He is about through plowing at the U. G. Couch farm in the Leap section.

Sport Slants

by ALAN J. GOULD

Among a flock of other boys from the Old South who have made good, mention should be made of William Harold Terry, first baseman extraordinary, native of Atlanta, Georgia, and resident of Memphis, Tennessee.

Sometimes one hears it said that John McGraw, the David Harum of major league baseball dealing, outsmarts himself. The boys point to McGraw's who have made good. But grey-haired John made no mistake when he traded George Kelly to Cincinnati three years ago and named Bill Terry as the No. 1 first baseman of the Giants.

If there is a better first baseman now in either league now than Bill Terry, it is difficult to locate him. Only Jimmy Foxx of the world's Champion A's seems a rival and Jimmy, though a lusty stealer, does not compare with Terry defensively.

Terry is 32 now, no longer a kid, but he has improved at a rapid pace. He hit .326 in 1927 and again in 1928, slugged for .372 last year and has been traveling at a 400 clip most of this season.

For a slant on the kind of a fellow Terry is, read this extraordinary dispatch from the ballpark wire:

"At Terry's own request the error charged to Lindstrom in the first half of the first inning was transferred to Bill's own account. Terry came to the press box and said it was unfair to give Lindstrom the error. 'Freddie's throw on Flagstead's grounder was good but I juggled it and deserved the error,' said Terry."

There should be a special niche in the record books for this, something like this: "Most times player claimed error charged to teammate—1, Bill Terry, Giants, June 11, 1929."

TO RETAIN ALCOCK

CHICAGO June 18 (AP)—Mayor William Hale Thompson announced today that John H. Alcock, the "Iron man" of the force, would remain at the helm of the police department indefinitely.

Judge J. B. Robinson of Marysville, Kas., was called out of bed four times during May to perform marriages.

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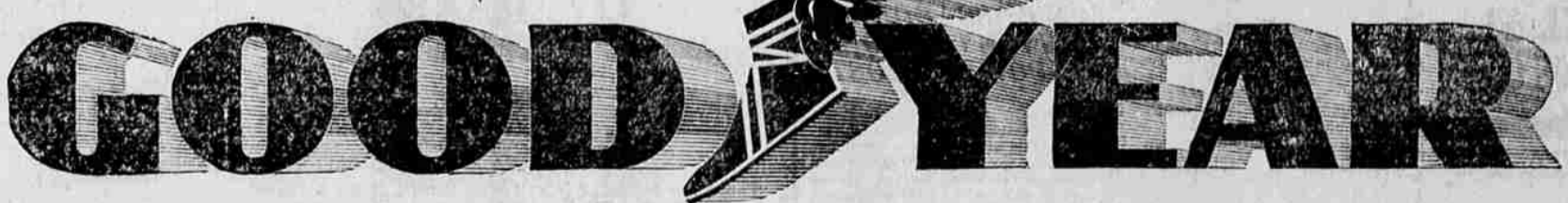
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