

FARM BUREAU DRAINAGE PROGRAM DRAWS CROWDS

Twenty-nine Persons Representing Number Contemplated Projects Attend Demonstrations Of Cheap Canal Construction Hear Speakers

The farm bureau drainage day held last Friday, starting from Vale drew a small, but interested attendance. There were twenty-nine persons in the bunch, most of whom were farmers from various sections of the county who were particularly interested because of contemplated drainage construction affecting their property. Leaving Vale at eleven o'clock, the machines were driven to the ten-acre experimental tract on the Glenn Burrell ranch where the first drainage canal to be constructed by sluicing was examined. Mr. Johnston who has had supervision over the work there for the Oregon Experiment Station, told about how the canal came to be constructed, the various methods tried out during its construction, and the cost of it. The cost on this first piece of work was only 22 cents per lineal foot of canal, while it was estimated that this could have been cut in half had the builders known how to go about it in the beginning as well as at the finish.

Following examination of the canal, the experimental plots were given attention. The ten acre tract is subdivided into a large number of plots, each of which is diked to hold water and arranged so that the water can be measured into the plot and none allowed to escape except through the soil. The plots are handled differently, except the irrigation is all alike. Some of them have been treated with manure, others with gypsum, and still others with the various chemical compounds and combinations, all with

the idea of trying to find something that will either hasten the removal of the alkali or change its composition in a way to make it less destructive to crop growth. Some of the plots are not given any treatment except the regular irrigation.

In explaining the objects and results of the experimental work, Mr. Johnston made use of some chemical analysis which had been secured in advance of the regular analysis which will be made of every plot in the field from time to time to keep account of the change in composition of the plate under their varying treatments. These preliminary tests, while not taken as final in any sense, showed that the virgin soil contained 78,860 pounds of alkali per acre in the surface three feet; that after having been drained, cultivated and given seventeen irrigations totaling about four acre feet, 14,000 pounds of this alkali remained. Over 80% of the alkali, if these figures are later substantiated by the more extensive analysis, has therefore been removed and the soil has been brought about to the point where crop growth may be expected. To begin with, no crop out of a large number tried out, grew. Very few seeds sprouted on the land, although all conditions were quite favorable except the alkalinity of the soil. The tract has now been seeded to rye and sweet clover with the object in view of getting humus into the soil to improve the physical structure.

The next step was on the Percy Purvius farm where lunch was taken. The party then proceeded to inspect the drainage construction work which Mr. Purvius is doing by means of the sluicing method. The first object of interest was a sort of drag, cylindrical in shape and fitted with teeth, which Purvius has invented for loosening the soil in the bottom of the canal so the water may carry it away. After explaining the construction of this drag, Purvius placed it in the canal and started the team, giving the visitors a demonstration in its operation. The implement proved entirely equal to the occasion, loosening large quantities of the soil which turned the water into a stream of mud moving toward the river.

The men then proceeded to make themselves comfortable in the shade of a large popular tree and a short program of speaking was pulled off. Director Jardine of the Oregon Experiment Station explained how alkali salts accumulate in the soil, how they concentrate in the surface when the water table is allowed to raise to far and about the methods of reclaiming alkali lands and the principles involved. He stressed the need for action while the good lands are still producing, rather than to allow them to decline for two or three years until they are totally unproductive and then be forced to spend money and wait several years before they can be brought back to their original productivity. He pointed out that the delay is far more expensive in crop losses than the improvement and that the improvement can be paid for best when the lands are producing a revenue. Mr. Ballard of the Oregon Extension Service spoke briefly of the progress being made by county agents and others of that service in bringing the agricultural knowledge worked out by experiment station men, practical farmers and others wherever new things are developed, rapidly to the attention of the farmers all over the state.

Mr. Purvius then announced that he had thought some of having his device patented, but had later decided not to do so but to make it public property. He therefore described and did make the public statement before those in attendance, that his device and the ideas connected with it, are public property for the use of any who may wish to make use of it contrary to anyone who might seek to obtain a patent. After a roundtable discussion and further questioning Mr. Johnston about drainage and alkali removal matters, the meeting adjourned with everybody voting the day well worth while.

MALHEUR COUNTY REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS RECORDED SEPT. 8 TO SEPT. 10

U. S. A. to Frank B. Glenn, S 1/2 SW 1/4 Sec. 20; W 1/2 NW 1/4 Sec. 29-18-37. Aug. 18, 1921.

U. S. A. to Owsley E. Carman, E 1/2 NW 1/4 Sec. 8-18-45. Aug. 15, 1921.

Domingo Yturri et ux to Wm. R. Helm, 50 by 100 ft. in NW corner of Lot 5, Block 7, Pioneer Add. to Jordan Valley. Aug. 12, 1921. \$500.

U. S. A. to Lincoln M. Erhardt, N 1/2 SW 1/4, SE 1/4 SW 1/4 Sec. 3; E 1/2 NW 1/4, SW 1/4 NW 1/4 Sec. 10; E 1/2 SE 1/4 Sec. 4-20-43. Sept. 10, 1920.

Lincoln M. Erhardt to Mary K. Erhardt, N 1/2 SW 1/4, SE 1/4 SW 1/4 Sec. 3; E 1/2 NW 1/4, SW 1/4 NW 1/4 Sec. 10; E 1/2 SE 1/4 Sec. 4-20-43. Sept. 6, 1921. \$1.00.

Sheriff H. Lee Noe to Malcolm Corrigan, Lots 1 and 2, Block 9, Maddens Add. to Westfall. Sept. 7, 1921. \$723.70.

Sheriff H. Lee Noe to Ida M. Cornforth, Lot 7, Sec. 6-19-45. Aug. 31, 1921. \$1,370.59.

Martha Knight et als to Martha M. Knight, Lots 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10, in Block 1, Ontario. Aug. 8, 1921. \$10.00.

B. F. King to J. D. King et ux, Metes & Bounds in Sections 21 and 22-15-45, Sept. 8, 1921. \$10.00.

U. S. A. to James Morfitt, S 1/2 NE 1/4, SE 1/4 NW 1/4, and Lot 5, Sec. 6-14-41. May 25, 1921.

State of Oregon to Irwin S. Moudy, W 1/2 Sec. 36-15-40. Sept. 3, 1921. \$1,100.00.

Frank I. Olsen et ux to Ray Saunders, N 1/2 NS 1/4 Sec. 5-16-45. July 30, 1920. \$50.00.

J. H. Chadsey to A. L. Longstreth and D. W. Cozens, Gold Bar quartz mining claim, Sept. 8, 1921. \$1.00.

MARRIAGE LICENSES ISSUED DURING WEEK
Stanley A. Stevens and Mabel C. McAllister, Sept. 7, 1921.

COMPLAINTS FILED IN CIRCUIT COURT DURING WEEK

Home Lumber & Coal Co. vs Lute Fellows, Sept. 6, 1921. Recovery on Note. \$59.10.

Home Lumber & Coal Co. vs L. C. Powell and Lute Fellows, Sept. 6, 1921. Recovery on Note. \$202.70.

Francis P. Ryan vs. Elsie A. Fairchild, Sept. 7, 1921. To Quiet Title.

George Robinson et al vs. W. G. Cathey and Randall Sage, Sept. 8, 1921. Recovery on Note. \$288.90.

Wallace Burns vs. Eva Burns, Sept. 9, 1921. Divorce.

Home Packing Co. vs Carl Feghtly, Sept. 19, 1921. Recovery of Money on account. \$232.21.

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FARM REMINDERS

Probably the chief reason for unsatisfactory results in hill selection of seed potatoes is that the selection is started at digging time instead of at blossom time. Leaf mosaic, curly dwarf, and spindle sprout, are easily detected when vines are green but not after they have withered. Evidence of these diseases is not found on the tubers. If plenty of healthy, vigorous plants are staked at blossom time a good supply of disease free seed can be selected at digging time.—O. A. C. Exp. Sta.

Seed certification of grain has been practically completed in all

grain growing counties of eastern and western Oregon. County agents of these counties have lists of owners of such seed available for the information of anyone desiring to obtain pure seed of good varieties adapted to the locality where grown.—Ext. Service.

A formula for permanent agriculture for the Willamette Valley, based on soil surveys which have been completed in all but Marion, Linn, and Lane counties, is being developed by the soils department. A large fund of information has been obtained from these surveys for use in advising land owners as

to the most profitable methods of handling and maintaining their holdings, with particular reference to soil fertility, drainage, effect of rotation of crops, and plant food elements of the soil.—O. A. C. Exp. Station.

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