

CROOK COUNTY JOURNAL

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DESTROY THE ROBBERS.

In no vocation is an individual subject to the mercy of the elements, pests, and so many varied robbers as is the farmer.

In Central Oregon, besides the elements, the farmer must consider the animal pests, rabbits, rats, and even the striped chipmunk and the blue "Juniper" bird will each pack off wheat at this time of the year and in some instances make a material reduction in the total yield of a field of wheat. These things are very hard to control, and about all that the farmer can do is to get his crop into the granary as quickly as possible.

The moisture control is another matter however, and one that has not been met by the greater number of our farmers. For this reason the crops are dependent upon spring rains that sometimes do not come. As a result many of the wheat crops hardly pay to harvest a great many seasons. But in every community there are a few men that understand and get a good crop every year. Consider Joe Wiegand, of Lamonta, George Rodman of Culver and others we could name.

To meet the moisture problem, the farmer summer fallows parts of his farm each year, with the plan to store up from one year to the following the supply of moisture that falls, and take the field into the second season with about double the amount of moisture that falls in one year. That is a good theory, but in most cases it fails, for the reason that just at this season of the year, a crop of weeds spring up on the ground, and take the moisture that you are trying to save. These weeds are robbers, and should be treated just as any other robber; put them out of business before they get the moisture, for this moisture is money to you.

You have been told that the summer fallow should be worked. This is a good theory also, but the theory of farming, and its practical parallel are quite two different things.

The sandy nature of Central Oregon soils will not permit their continuous harrowing. By these operations the surface of the soil will be left too loose and will blow, which

will destroy your crop the same as the weeds would do.

The practical solution of the problem is to pasture the summer fallow. Sheep are the best animals for this, and cattle, calves preferably, are second. Sheep will eat practically all weeds, and if they are put into the field early, and in sufficient numbers, they will do well on the tender young weeds, and keep the fields bare.

True, some moisture will probably escape through capillary attraction, but the sheep will return a small amount of the very best fertilizer to the soil, and instead of an expense of \$2 per acre for harrowing the summer fallow, it will pay you about that much in revenue.

The number of sheep that can be handled on any given piece of land depends entirely upon the particular piece of land, how weedy it has become and how much waste land there is within the inclosure, along ditches and in fence corners.

Prineville is the only town in Central Oregon that can boast of artesian water.



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Prineville has the best and fastest

ball team to be found between Port-

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BRIEF NEWS OF OREGON

The total cost of Pendleton's public swimming pool at Roundup park is \$10,699.93.

About 100 convicts were sent to Gaston, Washington county, to pull 100 acres of flax.

Baker is planning for the Baker county fair, which will be held September 8, 9, 10 and 11.

Several families were made destitute by the fire which destroyed a large part of the town of Seapooose.

William Keyes, a young, unmarried man, was killed instantly at one of the Kerry logging camps in the Nehalem valley.

A movement has been started at Heppner for the erection of a modern creamery and cold storage plant at a cost of \$9000.

The directors of the Cottage Grove cannery predict that the output this year will be four times as great as that of last year.

According to county records, \$177,839.55 has been spent on Clackamas county roads up to August 1 and most of it on repairing old roads.

The state land board has decided to advertise for sale 241 acres of tide land located in Tillamook bay in the vicinity of the Wilson and Kelchis rivers.

Permission has been granted by State Superintendent of Banks Sargent to the Estacada State bank to reduce its capital stock from \$25,000 to \$15,000.

The number of school children in Washington county increased 278 during the past year, according to the annual report of County Superintendent Barnes.

Although surveying will be done this autumn it is now deemed unlikely that work will begin on the actual construction of the Kendall railroad, east of Roseburg, until next spring.

Just able to reach home after being lost in the mountains of Grant county four days, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Word have returned to John Day, and are recovering from their experiences.

Charles A. Warner, a prominent resident of Scio, passed away in a Portland hospital, where he was taken some time ago for an operation for cancer. He was about 50 years of age.

Fire of unknown origin destroyed the Stover sawmill, 12 miles from Union, with a loss of \$3000, uninsured. The blaze was controlled with difficulty and threatened the dense forest for a time.

J. K. Starr, district attorney of Wheeler county, won his fight to retain his office in the recent recall election by a big majority, according to the official vote filed with Secretary of State Olcott.

The body of Lee Graham, a trainman who was killed near Huntington, was brought to La Grande for interment. Graham was knocked from a box car by a bridge while apparently looking for something under the car.

The state fish and game commission has just finished planting in Crater lake 5000 crawfish from Odell lake, with a view to propagating food for the trout. This step was found necessary because of the manner in which trout have been multiplying in Crater lake in recent years.

More than 15,000 letters have been sent by City Treasurer Adams of Portland to owners of property who are delinquent in the payment of street and sewer assessment, and unless the

interest, at least, is paid this month the property is to be sold at public sale in September.

Accused of threatening to kill J. L. Shad, an Elkton drugist, Misses Dolie Levins and Lillian Maltress and the former's father, James Levins, were held by the Elkton magistrate to appear before the grand jury during the next term of the circuit court. Bonds of \$1000 each were furnished.

The new lungmotor, purchased by public subscription, arrived at Seaside and is on exhibit. The two drownings that have taken place this season on the Clatsop beaches caused several of Seaside's prominent citizens to have circulated among the business men a petition, and in less than a couple of hours the \$150 necessary for the purchase of the lung motor was subscribed.

A gigantic demonstration of what a dollar will do in purchasing merchandise will be given in Portland next month. Plans have been formulated at the chamber of commerce, where a large number of retailers gathered at a luncheon and not only decided to make the demonstration, but appointed committees, fixed the date and started out to make "dollar day" a red-letter day in the shopping district.

Threshing of wheat, which has just started, proves that predictions of a bumper crop are true, is shown by reports from all part of Baker, Grant and Malheur counties. Not only is there a much larger acreage than the recorded amount last year, but the yield per acre is much better. In the Lower Powder section of Baker county the yield is averaging nearly 40 bushels to the acre. Medical Springs, near the Union county line, also reports a big yield.

Ninety Take Military Course.

Tacoma, Wash.—Ninety business and professional men, including one minister and a half dozen capitalists, reported for the camp of instruction for business men in command of Colonel R. H. Wilson, Fourteenth infantry, United States army, at Cosgrove, American Lake. They will spend three weeks receiving military instruction from regular army officers.

Atlanta is Boycotted.

Atlanta, Ga.—A Boston firm which for the past two years has furnished the city of Atlanta with parts of its municipal supplies, has refused to have further dealings with the authorities until action is taken in connection with the lynching of Leo M. Frank, according to W. E. Chambers, city purchasing agent.

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