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SATURDAY, JULY 24, 1920.

OREGON WEATHER

Weather for the Week

Pacific Coast States: Fair, although probably light local showers in extreme north portion Monday or Tuesday; normal temperatures.

Tonight and Sunday, fair.

1920, THE YEAR OF IRRIGATION PROMISE AND ACHIEVEMENT

The year 1920 has added 6,103 acres of cultivated land to the total of irrigated lands in Josephine county for last year, a greater increase for any one year than ever before in the history of the district.

This fact is significant. It means that the old-time growl that "We don't need any irrigation," has been replaced by an active policy of getting the greatest returns out of the land. There is no danger of contradiction to the statement that widespread irrigation in southern Oregon will increase production many times, and yet unrivalled opportunities for easy irrigation have lain undeveloped until recently. The past few years have seen Josephine county making great strides toward placing her acres under irrigation, but the past year has been the greatest of all.

In 1919 Waster Master Opdycke figured from his records that the total acreage irrigated in the county came to 29,911 acres, and this year his figures show a total in the same district of 36,014 acres, or a gain during the year of 6,103 acres.

Segregation of last year's figures show that of the 29,911 acres, the Rogue river watershed included 10,000 acres, the Applegate watershed, 15,700 acres and the Illinois watershed, 4,211 acres. This year's total of 36,014 acres has this subdivision: Rogue watershed, 13,892 acres, or a gain of 3,892 acres; Applegate system, 15,898 acres, or a gain of 198 acres, and the Illinois watershed, 6,224 acres or a gain of 2,013 acres.

A study of these figures reveals that the Rogue valley is undergoing the bulk of the development, with an increase equal to more than half the total. Two thousand acres of this fall under the project of the Grants Pass Irrigation district, now actually placed under irrigation, and 1,392 acres are under individual development.

The Illinois valley is second with an addition of 2,013 acres this year, 1,013 acres being individual developments under regular adjudications, and about 1000 more under unadjudicated streams.

The Applegate system shows less acreage added, largely because of the fact that the big company canals,



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as well as individual ditches, already cover the bulk of the territory in the Applegate valley which is amenable to irrigation.

The greatest field for added development lies in the valleys and watersheds of the Rogue river and the Illinois river, and from the indications of irrigation development, 1920, although the banner year in Josephine county's irrigation is but the first step toward a greater and vaster application of irrigation than southern Oregon has heretofore experienced.

SOIL MOISTURE AND CROP PRODUCTION

With the coming of irrigation in greater development than ever before in Josephine county, many water users have literally "run wild" with the water, and have practically drowned out their crops which went for so many years without water, or have irrigated at wrong times.

County Agent Roy E. Miller has observed this tendency and in relation to judicious use of water for irrigation says:

"The irrigation of crops is comparatively simple, but the results obtained therefrom vary greatly with the skill and judgment as to time of irrigation and amount of water used.

"For economic plant production, fertile soils, i. e., soils having a sufficient supply of plant food elements are desirable, but it is just as essential to have present in the soil a sufficient amount of moisture to dissolve these plant food elements and to transport them to the growing parts of the plant. Of all the factors effecting the productive capacity of the soil there is none more important than soil moisture.

"Most plants of economic importance to the farmer are very sensitive to water. Excessive irrigation results in smaller yields. Often yields may be increased with larger applications of water but the yield per unit of water is decreased. Variations in soil require variations in methods of irrigation and in amounts of water used, but in all cases the plant development is a foremost criterion.

"Many interesting experiments show that the yield depends not only upon the total quantity of water applied to the given crop, but also upon the number of irrigations and their time of application during the growing season.

"The soil originally was thought of as dirt. It is in reality a complex media teeming with life, myriads of minute plants and animals. These minute plants called bacteria are very essential to plant growth. They prepare the plant food materials so that they can be absorbed by the plant. The beneficial action of manure would not be possible if it were not for the presence of these bacteria which break down the complex

materials into simple products that can be absorbed by the plant.

"These desirable forms of bacteria, being small delicate plants, are not present or do not multiply without soil moisture and soil air. Over-irrigation results in water logged soils, drives out the air from the soil, preventing the development of these desirable bacteria. Irrigation and cultivation, therefore, go hand in hand and irrigation cannot take the place of cultivation."

At the Churches

Baptist Church

Bible school at 10, classes for all ages.

Morning service at 11, sermon by the pastor.

Union evening service, Rev. Henry G. Hanson, preaching.

Mid-week service Thursday evening at 8 o'clock.

C. M. Cline, preacher.

Bethany Presbyterian Church

Sunday school 10 a. m.

Morning worship 11 o'clock, "Thy Will Be Done," fourth sermon in a series on the Lord's Prayer.

Union services at 8 o'clock at the Baptist church. The pastor will preach on the theme, "The Fact and Meaning of the Incomplete."

Thursday, July 29, midweek service.

Tuesday, July 27, officers' meeting to lay plans for next year. All officers and heads of all departments are requested to be present.

Henry G. Hanson, minister.

Church of Christ

Bible school, 10 a. m.

Communion, 11 a. m., followed by sermon.

Christian Endeavor, 7 p. m.

Song service at 8, followed by sermon. Prof. Hoven, of Eugene Bible university will be with us again both morning and evening. Prof. Scholes will lead the singing. Come and help make our home church your church home.

Salvation Army

Sunday school 2 p. m.

Holiness service 3 p. m.

Young people's meeting 6:15 p. m.

Salvation service 8 p. m.

Special music, violin and organ.

Helping Hand meets at the hall Thursday 2 p. m., for work. Ladies are asked to join us in our work there.

Everybody cordially invited to all services.

Envoy and Mrs. Gray, in charge.

First Church of Christ Scientist

Christian Science services are held every Sunday in the W. O. W. hall.

at 11 a. m. Wednesday evening meeting at 8 o'clock. The subject Sunday is, "Life."

Reading room is open from 2 to 4 p. m. daily except Sundays and holidays. The public is cordially invited to attend the services and to visit the reading room.

BREEZY WALLACE REID AT OREGON THEATER

Wallace Reid, the well-known screen player, has the distinction of carrying to success a comedy in which another motion picture favorite starred when it was a stage play. "Hawthorne of the U. S. A." was a big success on the New York stage with Douglas Fairbanks in the stellar role. Now it is coming to the Oregon theater tomorrow as a photoplay with the breezy Wallace Reid as the young American who broke the bank at Monte Carlo, then blundered into a small revolution-torn kingdom of Europe, overthrew the conspirators, put the country on an American business-like basis, and ended up by marrying the princess who had inspired him to perform all these feats.

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