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...S. C. Caldwell

## Problems That Confront The Irrigator.

### Alfalfa Growing.

From Farmers' Bulletin, No. 275, published by  
the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

#### IRRIGATING ALFALFA.

On account of the deleterious effect from standing water it is essential that alfalfa fields should be as nearly level as possible. In California, where the fields are slightly sloping, they are divided into suitable small areas called checks, which are separated by low dikes. The checks at different levels are irrigated separately, thus preventing the accumulation of water upon any given portion for too long a period. Where there is an abundance of water and it can be supplied at will during the growing season, it is customary to irrigate in the spring before sowing the seed; or, in case of an established alfalfa field, before growth starts and again after each cutting.

It is said, however, that greater yields are obtained if the flooding takes place before the hay is cut, and that in California an extra cutting can in this way be secured. The flooding must be long enough before cutting to allow the field to dry out sufficiently, or injury will be done by the trampling of the horses during mowing. It is thought that there is less injury from scabbing when the water is applied before cutting.

#### MINIMUM OF WATER.

Where the amount of water is limited a much less quantity than is ordinarily used will produce paying crops. The minimum amount of water to produce a crop of alfalfa and the time at which the water should be applied depend upon the soil and climatic conditions. Upon this point there is little available experimental data. The maximum crop will be produced by applying plenty of water throughout the growing season. However, it is also to be noted that a much less quantity of water when applied at intervals of three or four weeks produced a fair crop at the Utah experiment station. Fifteen and 17 inches of water applied in this way produced more than half as much as 61 inches applied at frequent intervals. Furthermore, three irrigations of 15 to 17 inches produced about the same results as the same amount applied at four irrigations. In applying irrigation water to fields it is necessary to saturate the soil to a reasonable depth. All the water that drains off beyond the amount required for use is lost to the crop. It is not necessary to apply water again until the crop has removed a large part of the available supply.

#### CUTTING FOR HAY.

Alfalfa should be cut just as it is

beginning to bloom. After the beginning of the flowering period the hay deteriorates rapidly in nutritive value. If the field is fairly uniform the proper stage for cutting is when about one tenth of the plants have reached the flowering period. The number of cuttings varies from two or three in the North or at high altitudes in the mountains, to as many as ten in irrigated districts along the southern border from California to Texas. The yield is from 1 to 2 tons per cutting, the first cut being usually the largest, but the yield per cutting, especially for cuttings after the first, is usually less when there are several cuttings. In the alfalfa regions of the country the aggregate yield of hay is, under favorable conditions, usually from 5 to 8 tons per acre. It is customary in many localities to pasture the fields more or less after the last cutting.

#### PASTURING ALFALFA.

In all the alfalfa districts the fields are used more or less extensively for pasturing various kinds of stock. In the arid regions it is quite a common practice to pasture the fields after the last cutting during a portion of the fall and winter. Alfalfa is undoubtedly a valuable pasture plant, but must be used with some caution to prevent loss from bloating in the case of cattle or sheep, and to prevent injury to the alfalfa field from trampling or overgrazing. Cattle and sheep will bloat as readily upon green alfalfa as upon clover.

Alfalfa is preeminently adapted to the production of hay, and except in the case of hogs its use as a pasture is secondary. Where it is intended to use alfalfa primarily as a pasture plant for cattle, sheep, or horses, better results may be obtained by combining the alfalfa with some grass, such as brome grass, in the Northwestern states, or orchard grass in the Northeastern states. The mixture is a more nearly balanced ration, gives a greater variety of feed, and is less likely to cause bloat.

#### DANGER OF OVERPASTURING.

On the other hand an alfalfa field must not be overpastured. As previously stated the plants lack creeping roots or stems by which to spread and can not fill in spots where the alfalfa has died. The close grazing, especially of sheep, and the trampling of large numbers of animals is certain to injure the stand of alfalfa. While the pasturing of alfalfa in the fall may do no harm, it must be remembered that in the warmer portions of the country this season is one of recuperation for the alfalfa plant. If not allowed to make some growth during this period it may not be in condition to start up well the following spring.

#### Moore-Morgan.

At Prineville, June 19, 1907, Miss Elva, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Morgan, one of Redmond's most popular young ladies, was united in marriage to Mr. John A. Moore, formerly of Hood River, Judge Bell officiating. The bride looked charming in white silk and real lace. She was attended by Miss Clara Ricker, who wore a dainty gown of white organdie trimmed in lace. The groom was attended by Mr. J. W. McClay.

The breakfast table was laid with four covers and was tastefully decorated, the color scheme being red, white, and green. From the center of the ceiling white satin ribbon was draped gracefully to the corners of the table, entwined with feathery green and California poppies and edged with red and green, with a basket of beautiful cut flowers suspended over the table by white satin ribbon. A delicious breakfast was served by Mrs. Elizabeth McQueen. The bride and groom were the recipients of some beautiful presents, among other things were hand-painted china and silverware. The writer joins with their many other friends in wishing them a long and happy married life.

M. E. Mc.

# A GRAND CELEBRATION

--AT--

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CHARLES D. ROWE, EDITOR

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FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 1907.

#### THE QUESTION OF A MARKET.

A subscriber to The Bulletin writes from Waukon, Wash., and says:

"I see in your paper that crops are looking well around Bend. But here is a question I would like you to answer: How can farmers sell their crops if they have no transportation facilities? Here in Washington we have raised wheat that we had to sell at 15 cents a bushel. A big crop, without being able to sell it, will break a farmer up in business pretty soon."

"I have 80 acres of land near Bend and would like to improve it right away, but what is the use raising a crop as long as there is no chance to sell it. One farmer can't sell his crop to another farmer."

The belief that there is no market for farm produce in the Bend country is an erroneous one. It is true that this section lacks railroad transportation and it may be difficult for the farmer who has always lived where the railroads carried his produce to market, to believe that a first-class market is here furnished for all the hay, grain, vegetables, butter and eggs that he can produce. But nevertheless, such is the fact. The prices paid for farm produce in the Bend country are at the very top notch and there is no glutting or overstocking the market. Each spring finds the supply so nearly exhausted that the man who is obliged to buy farm produce is forced to pay a price that seems prohibitive.

In order to prove the above statements and to convince the man who may be incredulous, The Bulletin will quote a few prices on farm produce. Last fall loose hay in the field was sold at about \$15 a ton. Today hay is being sold to Bend buyers at \$25 a ton. Alfalfa hay, baled, is selling as high as \$30. It was only a week or two ago that the Pilot Butte Development Co. paid \$19 a ton for clover hay and then hauled it 20 miles to Bend. Barley has sold as high as three cents a pound and will bring on an average 2½ cents through the entire year. Oats will command a somewhat higher price. Wheat will average two cents a pound, or \$1.20 a bushel, and a poor grade of wheat at that. Where can you get a better price?

Vegetables command a high price also. Last fall potatoes sold for two cents a pound, or \$1.20 a bushel. That was the lowest they have ever sold in Bend. They have been as high as 3½ and 4 cents. The average for onions is about three cents a pound. Cabbage has never sold for less than two cents, and E. A. Sather paid that price for cabbage in the field last fall. Carrots, rutabagas and turnips will average one cent a pound.

Butter costs on an average 75 cents for a 2-lb. roll. And a large part of the butter sold in Bend is shipped from Portland. Last win-

ter Bend housewives went begging for eggs and could not get them at 50 cents a dozen, and were glad to buy one or two at a time. Eggs will average 30 cents a dozen.

Pork and beef always bring a good price and it is practically impossible to get any pork in Bend. There is good money for those who will go into hog raising in the Bend country.

A Bend rancher is now selling strawberries for 40 cents a quart. Every season many families in this vicinity drive over the mountains into the Willamette valley, can fruit there and bring it back. The fruit supply is wholly inadequate for the demand.

Some will undoubtedly insist that such prices can not be maintained and that the market will become overstocked without transportation facilities. It is doubtless true that these prices will drop somewhat, but only a trifle. It is certain that farm produce will always command a most profitable price hereabouts. And the reasons therefor are easily seen.

New settlers are moving into the country constantly. They bring with them a team or two of horses, perhaps a cow or two, and some chickens. For the first six months or year they must buy all the feed for their stock, as well as supplies for the table. When it is considered that these settlers are moving in every month it is seen that they furnish no inconsiderable market for farm produce. But it is one of the smallest of the local demands for such produce.

The Deschutes Irrigation & Power Company has a vast system to complete within the next four years. They now have two camps established and are advertising for 100 more teams. These men and teams will be heavy consumers of the stuff the farmer raises.

There are sawmills scattered throughout the country with their horses and men; there are stage line animals that consume many tons of hay and grain in a year; there are big ranches of several thousand acres each that are now being put under cultivation and that need great supplies of hay and grain to feed their stock; and there are the hundred and one calls for farm produce from the town man with the driving horse, the livery stables, timber cruising and railroad surveying crews, etc., etc. There is no danger of overstocking the market.

Thus far we have treated the question from the standpoint of the present and the immediate future. What will be the nature of the market here in later years? When you ask that question you touch upon one of the features that will make this upper Deschutes valley one of the most prosperous spots in the entire country. Conservative men are confident that a railroad will be building into Bend within two years at the latest, possibly much sooner. Railroad construction crews, with their hundreds of horses and thousands of men, will consume all of the surplus produce

and more, too, than this country will be able to produce at that time. With the advent of the railroads sawmills will be established and logging camps will be numerous, which will employ many men and hundreds of horses, which will also be great consumers of the products of the farm. And the railroads will give us communication with the markets of the world.

The Bend country is now a prosperous place for the intelligent farmer and it will be more so in the years to come.

#### Regulation Is Coming.

Hood River News-Letter.

The express company is evidently acting upon the principle adopted by a certain eastern railroad magnate, who was asked what rate should be made between certain points on the line. "Oh," replied the big one, "charge all the business will stand." This season they have increased the express charges about 20 per cent and in some cases more even than that. The Good Lord knows they were exorbitant to a great degree before and this is in the nature of a direct steal. There is a good time coming and our fruit growers should earnestly watch and pray that it may come soon, when not a "hog with breeches" but a board of government officials will manipulate the rates of the railroads and express companies, and just such