

THE BEND BULLETIN

"For every man a square deal, no less and no more."

CHARLES D. ROWE, EDITOR

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 1909

We Are Six Years Old.

Last week THE BULLETIN celebrated its sixth birthday, and with this issue it begins the journey toward the seventh milestone. It feels like a healthy youngster, full of life and vigor. It is just young and hopeful enough to be thoroughly optimistic. It has no forebodings of dire happenings, neither does it fear any sleeping sickness. For six years it has succeeded in taking pretty good care of itself, and it believes it can do so for another year and for many years to come. In other words, THE BULLETIN is just vigorous enough to enjoy its work, and has a healthy desire to continue it indefinitely.

And we are pleased with the friendship that evidently is felt for THE BULLETIN by the community at large. Our readers seem to like the paper, judging from the numerous words of commendation we receive, and each week we are adding new names to THE BULLETIN family. Each week THE BULLETIN becomes a visitor to households where previously it has not been known.

For all these blessings we are duly thankful. While THE BULLETIN has prospered in a fair degree with this world's goods, yet we believe we have been giving the town and community a much better paper than is due them, measured by the support accorded us. In other words, there has not been a fair exchange. Now, we are not complaining; nor have we a long tale of woe to recite. We are simply stating a fact, which is that THE BULLETIN deserves better support than it has received. Do you appreciate a home newspaper? What would our town be without one? And if THE BULLETIN had not been circulating all over the continent of North America for the past six years, would Bend and the Bend country be nearly so well advertised as it is today? We are not complaining, not a bit of it; but think these things over, and hereafter when the newspaper man comes around and asks you for a little business, give it without a groch. For really now, doesn't THE BULLETIN give you and the town more than your money's worth?

Well, that's about all! We're six years old and we wanted to tell the people about it. Yes, we're six years old, full of fight, and looking for business and trouble. We will probably find the latter if we don't the former. But be that as it may, we expect to print a better paper during our seventh year than at any time heretofore. How about you? Do you believe in helping a good thing along?

We hope you do.

Leave the Canyon Open.

In a news article elsewhere in this issue, Chief Engineer Boschke, of the Harriman lines of the Northwest, states that the only practical route into Central Oregon from the north, now known to Harriman engineers, is the one up the Deschutes canyon. He remarks that extension of either the Corvallis & Eastern or the Shaniko line would be impractical on account of excessive grades. There is room for belief that Mr. Boschke's statements in regard to the impracticability of these other routes are not based wholly on fact; chiefly for the reason that statements heretofore ap-

pearing—and evidently coming from official sources—have stated that extension of either the C. & E. or the Shaniko line was practical and perhaps possible.

But taking it for granted that Mr. Boschke is correct in his statement, how important it then becomes that the Deschutes canyon should not be closed to a railroad. It is the natural, down-grade outlet to this vast Central Oregon country; and if there are no other routes that approach it in feasibility or practicability, a possible reclamation project—to be worked out in the dim future—should not be allowed to stand in the way of the building of a railroad into this section. There are many other power sites in Oregon than this one on the lower Deschutes. In fact, every Oregon stream of any size has an abundance of power. If the reclamation service desire power for pumping purposes, let them generate it where it will not hold up the development of an entire empire. The people of Oregon, and especially of this part of Oregon, should enter a vigorous protest against any coking up of the Deschutes canyon.

Chief Engineer N. W. Bethel, one of Hill's engineers, was in Bend last Saturday making a reconnaissance, which indicates that Hill still has his eyes on this section. In fact, it is known from a very reliable source that Hill will build into Central Oregon from the north, and he is in possession of a route by way of The Dalles-Dufur road even though the Deschutes canyon should be closed to the Oregon Trunk Line. With Hill and Harriman building from the north and with Harriman giving us a line to San Francisco via Klamath Falls and ultimately to the East over his Oregon Eastern, this section would be very well taken care of from the railroad standpoint.

But be that as it may, the fact still remains that the Deschutes canyon furnishes the best route into Central Oregon. With it closed, Harriman would have an excuse still longer to delay building and development of this section would again be postponed. There is an empire here capable of producing thousands of bushels of wheat each season; there are over 3,000,000 acres of yellow pine timber tributary to Bend alone waiting to be marketed; and tons of wool and thousands of head of livestock go to market each year from this section. The development of this vast empire awaits the coming of a railroad, and the logical route for said railroad is through the Deschutes canyon. Is it right then that the canyon should be plugged up by the reclamation service in order to generate power with which to pump water for the Umatilla project? Nature gave the Deschutes river and its canyon to Central Oregon. And Central Oregon people should protest vigorously against any action that would prevent building a railroad through it.

A Bend youngster was running the streets last Saturday barefooted and happy. With the sun shining so warmly that it is almost uncomfortably hot, with the grass sprouting and the lawns rapidly taking on their summer's green, and with the boys running barefooted, birds singing and farmers plowing, it is evident that spring is upon us with all its joys. With what commiseration do we read of the blizzards, snow storms and tornadoes with which the people of the Eastern states are afflicted. Poor people.

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The Proper Preparation of The Seed Bed.

From WALLACE'S FARMER, Des Moines, Iowa.

The crop to be grown this year on the farms of the United States will depend largely on the temperature, rainfall, available fertility of the land, and the physical condition maintained during the growing season. We have no control over the temperature nor over the rainfall, nor can we do much in any single season to increase the available fertility of the soil of the farm. We may help one field, perhaps two; but the increase of available fertility is a slow process, and necessarily so.

The immediate problem which the farmer has to consider is the cultivation of the soil in such a way that it can utilize the measure of heat which the season affords, and can utilize also the rainfall, and can make the possible available fertility the actual available fertility. In other words, the most important thing for the farmer to consider just now is how he shall prepare the seed bed so that the plants can use this available fertility, this moisture and this heat to the best advantage.

All growing plants require a well pulverized surface soil, of say two or three inches, resting upon a rather compact undersurface or the lower half of what the plow has turned over, and this resting on the subsoil or that part which the plow has not turned over, with nothing to interfere with the upward movement of the water from the subsoil to the lower part of the cultivated area.

The upper soil must be pulverized so that the young plant roots can push out and develop freely, thus developing a large root system. This can not be done if the surface is cloddy. The delicate plant root can not push its way through a clod; and the clods that remain are simply dead for this season. No matter how much fertility may be contained therein the plant can not use it.

The lower portion of the soil turned over with the plow must be compacted, in order that there may be a constant upward movement of the water to meet the requirements of the plant. If it is cloddy it permits too free movement of air, which dries out the soil. If between the turned furrow and the subsoil proper there is undecayed vegetable matter, whatever may happen in a season of abundant rainfall, there is always danger of the drying out of the soil and the shortening of the crop through lack of sufficient moisture.

Remember that plants take all their nutriment in liquid form; that the measure of the crop depends upon the amount of water that the lower furrow and the subsoil can deliver to the plant. It requires just so much water (differing, how-

ever, in different sections, depending on the aridity of the atmosphere and the force of the winds) to pass through the plant in order to produce a pound of dry matter of any kind of crop; and if this is deficient the crop must necessarily be deficient. Hence the preparation of the seed bed is one of the most important things that requires the farmer's attention during the spring of the year.

Having the ideal seed bed clearly fixed in the mind, the next important thing is to know how to prepare it. The methods used in preparing a field for corn must necessarily be different from those used in preparing one for small grain, although the object to be attained is the same in both cases. If the proposed corn field, for example, has been in sod, it must always be plowed. For various reasons fall plowing is preferable; but whether plowed in the fall or the spring, it must be worked down sufficiently to settle thoroughly the bottom of the furrow, restoring capillary connection with the subsoil, in which there is nearly always sufficient moisture, if the farmer knows how to use it.

If the field has been in corn or in stubble it must ordinarily be plowed, although there are some seasons and some conditions under which plowing is unnecessary.

In sowing spring grain such as oats, wheat, and barley, which are usually sown in corn stubble, it is not ordinarily necessary nor even best to plow the ground in the spring. Where there are open winters with heavy winter rains and the ground is not frozen up, plowing will usually be found to be necessary for spring grains, but not ordinarily where the land has been frozen up for a foot or two. These grains must be sown early in the spring, and there is not ordinarily time to plow and fit the land. The

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going out of the frost has done the work of the plow, and the one thing necessary to prepare a proper seed bed is first to dispose of the stalks, then drill in the spring grains as early as you can get the ground in proper physical condition. These grains germinate at a low temperature, and hence if sown early have the advantage of a longer growing season, which is too short for them in most of our territory at best.

In sowing grains that germinate at a high temperature, such, for example, as sorghum, cowpeas and like plants, the ground should be plowed and worked down as for corn. The rains during the spring have to a large extent undone the work which the frost has accomplished for the farmer; and hence it is necessary to plow the land in order to secure the proper physical condition.

Think over this matter. We assure you that the size of the crop this year will be measured by the ideal of a seed bed which the farmer has fixed in his mind and the success he has attained in approximating this ideal.

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