

FARMER TELLS HIS EXPERIENCE

EXCELLENT ARTICLE BY J. B. FOX

One of the First Settlers in the Fremont Country Tells What to Do and What to Avoid to Make Success Tilling the Soil.

By J. B. FOX of Fremont, Ore. (Written especially for The Bulletin)

Coming from one of the most favored agricultural sections of the country, and after crossing the continental divide five times and searching for the promised land from the hills of Mexico to the plains of Canada, I rode through the northwestern part of Lake county, in Central Oregon, in June, 1908, and being so favorably impressed with the bunch grass covered hills and the broad level valleys, surrounded by the timber covered mountains, that I cast my lot on section 28, township 25 south, range 13 east, Willamette Meridian, on the 19th day of July, 1908, when we found the quarter section corner and commenced to clear away sagebrush to dig what was the deepest dug well in Lake county—126 feet—to the softest, cold water ever found in any well. The next day my son went to the Embury sawmill for lumber for the Fremont Cash Store; soon after other buildings were put up as the well went down, but at 40 feet we hit 30 feet of hard lava rock and after trying every known place in Central Oregon for powder and drills, I was compelled to hitch up and drive to The Dalles, where I bought black-smithing outfit, powder and the necessary things to complete the well. This was done after four months' perseverance, which brings us to the first winter—the hard one for the homesteader—and it was especially hard for us, for we had to haul our freight 165 miles from Shaniko and part of that through more than two feet of snow, with the thermometer 20 degrees below zero. Ever since this experience and delay in my own well, I have kept on hand at all time blasting materials and so forth that my neighbor who comes and settles after me might not have these unnecessary delays.

I am not writing this article because I have not made any mistakes, for I have made many, but write for the purpose of aiding others, that they may not make the same mistakes that I have made, and that we may now fully develop our broad valleys and the virgin soil to the end that we may get transportation and the comforts of life the sooner.

Clearing the Land.

In clearing the way as most all the new land has to be cleared of sagebrush, I have found burning the most economical, and even in the section of small rainfall there is but a few days in the year in which burning can be successfully done. Where some of the brush was too thin to burn as it stood green, I have been able to burn it clean in August by breaking it down the winter before with a three-inch angle iron bolted in front and on the bottom of a heavy pine log. The sooner the land is plowed after the burning the better, for the rabbit brush will soon grow and be harder to clear than the sagebrush was at first.

The amount of clearing necessary depends on the kind of plow used. If a single plow is used, it is necessary to have the land well cleaned before plowing; but if you use a disc gang plow much time and labor and expense can be saved.

Plowing.

Plowing is the most important part of farming. Finding my virgin soil so loose, I sowed my first crop of 20 acres on the burnt over ground to rye in March, 1909. After harrowing the seed in, I removed all the sagebrush stubs with the grub hoe, and that is all there was to it, for I had nothing to harvest. But my neighbor just across the road plowed about 12 acres and sowed rye at the same time and cut about 15 tons of hay.

Thus, seeing my mistake in trying to get a crop without plowing, I set a three-gang disc plow to work with six horses and plowed 40 acres nine inches deep in June, 1909. This was sowed to rye in April, 1910, and made half a ton of hay to the acre where winter seed was sown. Where the rye was spring seed the yield was a ton and a half to the acre. The hay was cut green and the stubble ventered and made fine pasture all fall and spring, and in May I rolled the land and in July cut 50 tons of rye hay. Ten acres of the 40 were the same land that was sowed in 1908 without plowing and the other ten acres sowed in 1908 was on higher ground and was not plowed until July, 1910, and sowed in March, 1911, broadcast. It was left to mature and threshed 11 1/2 bushels of rye to the acre, and there was enough of it wasted by bad handling and rain to have brought the yield up to 15 bushels to the acre, or it would have made two tons of hay to the acre. The better the plowing the better has been the crop, and the longer land lies

after plowing the better the results. The most economical way to plow is with the three-gang disc. The best time to plow is when the ground is wet; but we plow in Fremont from the time the frost goes out in the spring until it freezes again in the fall.

Last summer J. V. Glaze and myself put eight horses on a three-gang disc and plowed 100 acres of new land from 9 to 11 inches deep. I have plowed some with the single plow, but found it very slow and costly as compared to gang plowing; and then it cost more than twice as much to clean the land after it was plowed, as where we had plowed with the GANG.

John H. Harrison, Fort Rock's largest and best farmer, came over last summer to see us plow and said we had them all "skinned" when it came to plowing.

Harrowing Important.

Harrowing or making the seedbed is next in importance to good plowing—in fact, good harrowing is equal to half plowing. You go back East to the old farming countries and they only expect a bountiful harvest when they have done proper plowing, harrowing and seeding, nor should we expect any more here, and especially on our new grounds.

Packing.

All land should not be treated alike in packing as some soils need but little if any packing, such as heavy clay and adobe soils, while the sandy, ashy and loam soils should be well packed and sub-packed to produce the best results here in our loose new lands. O. F. Cady of Fremont is the only one so far to use one of Campbell's sub-surface packers, and we hope to have a report from him.

My first packing was done with a common log roller, just after sowing, and as the young grain came up it had no protection from frost and wind and I found it to be a detriment instead of a benefit. I do all of my packing now before I drill in the grain crop except what I do after the grain is 4 to 6 inches high, when it is better able to take care of itself from frosts and winds.

Seeding.

Sowing seed of any kind on land that has not been properly worked is a waste of time, seed and money. Late seeding is nearly as bad. The spring sowing should be done as soon as possible, and the fall sowing between the 15th of September and the 15th of October. The manner of seeding should never be broadcast or by hand, but always use a drill if you have to hire one; and always buy a double disc or nothing. The depth of planting should be about 3 inches and uniform. Twenty-five pounds of rye should be sown in the fall and 35 pounds in the spring.

To make a success of farming here one should have quite a bunch of stock and always sow a field of rye in June and keep it pastured down all fall and in the spring until June when the stock should be taken off and the rye allowed to head up and be cut for grain. Good crops can be raised by this plan where parties have failed for the last few years on account of frost and wind with their fall and spring sowings; by this method you get a year's pasture and a bumper crop. Extra fine seed rye can be bought in Fremont that is home grown.

Harvesting.

Whether hay or for grain, the self-binder is the most economical way to harvest your crop. When cut with a mower the hay will be unusable on account of the roots and trash raked up with the hay on the new ground. The bound hay or grain should be stacked up in rows of two and three sheaves leaning against each other. If you cannot buy a binder, hire your neighbor's to do your cutting.

Threshing.

Every settlement should have a thresher and the grain should be threshed out of the field as soon as possible and save the expense of stacking; and when the stacks get into a sweat it is impossible to thresh it clean. Where you wait for a machine to come from another valley after they have finished threshing, it is too late to get the seed for the fall sowing, and by waiting for outside machines to come in you are likely to have your grain and straw both injured by the rain. The straw should all be fed on the farm, for J. J. Hill said at Bend that a crop fed on the farm was worth one-half the market value of it to the land; and I have never seen land respond to manure and good cultivation more at any place than it does here. So in conclusion if you want to make the farm pay go at it right by getting good machinery and plow deep and summer fallow all you can each year; sow lots of turnips and rutabagas in June on your spring plowing, for these crops will put more nitrogen into the soil than anything else. The crops are also valuable stock feed that should be ground up in a root grinder.

I have sent samples of Fremont soil to Chemist Bradley at Corvallis and the reports show that our soils are rich in plant foods all except nitrogen. Turn under all stubble you can and prepare your ground well and sow the proper kind of seed at the proper time and don't expect something for nothing. Then you will have an abundant harvest, and if you have your share of the \$73,000,000 worth of livestock that was assessed in Oregon last year, you are all right. But if you haven't the stock, get them as quick as possible, for this is a natural stock country and one of the best I ever saw. Only by running stock and dairy business with our farming can we develop our farms to the highest standard and receive the most out of them.

MASONS IN CHARGE OF MR. SELLERS' FUNERAL

Body Taken to Portland and Wishes of Deceased Carried Out—Mrs. Sellers' Relatives With Her.

The funeral of W. B. Sellers was held last Wednesday afternoon at the church, in charge of the Masons. Rev. I. I. Gorby preached the sermon. The flower offerings were profuse and beautiful, among them being many lilies which were procured on the Tumaio. The lodge ordered a beautiful design of square and compass from Portland which was received Wednesday evening.

There was special music at the church, in which the following took part: The Misses Schultz, Miss Gertrude Markel, Mrs. C. D. Brown, Mrs. R. D. Ketchum, Miss Iva West, Miss Eva Graves, Dr. Retschum, O. A. Thorson, Prince Staats and C. H. Hunter.

The pallbearers were John Steidl, C. M. Redfield, F. O. Minor, Clyde McKay, J. N. Hunter and F. E. Smith.

The casket was taken from the residence to the church and from the church to the Masonic hall. The body lay in state there until train time Thursday morning, when the lodge, in a body, accompanied the casket to the depot. The master of the lodge, J. D. Davidson, Dr. Gorby and Morgan Adkins accompanied it to Portland. They were met at the station there by D. L. McKay and wife and an undertaker who conveyed the body to the crematorium.

Friday at 1:30 p. m. the formal Masonic funeral services were conducted under the auspices of Sellwood lodge of Portland, the members attending in a body. The service was given by Worshipful Master J. H. Butler, assisted by Dr. Gorby. Saturday morning the ashes were formally scattered with solemn ceremony in a beautiful rose garden on the grounds of the crematorium, according to the wish of the deceased.

Dr. Gorby and Mr. Davidson returned to Bend Saturday evening. Mr. Adkins going to his old home at Morton, Wash.

Last Wednesday evening Mrs. Williams and Miss Laura Williams, mother and sister of the Mrs. Sellers, arrived to be with and comfort her.

16-10, w 1/4 nw 1/4, 7-16-11; Wm. H. Lohuis, s 1/4 ne 1/4, nw 1/4 se 1/4, se 1/4 nw 1/4, 21-17-18; Wm. H. Birdsong, se 1/4 se 1/4, 26-14-16.

M. Crenshaw to Ivy M. Fry, its 9 and 10, blk 33, Redmond, \$1600.

State of Oregon to James T. Grommill, lot 4, sec. 2-18-12.

W. D. Newton to H. V. Abel, its 1 and 2, blk 36, Wiestoria.

Bend Securities Company to Drag-on March, it 12, blk 10, Riverside.

Alex. Brown to J. L. Crenshaw, its 9 and 10, blk 33, Redmond.

P. L. Smith to C. R. McLallin, it 16, blk 16, Redmond, \$750.

The Bend Co. to J. H. Rossmann, it 5, blk 19, Park add., Bend.

T. M. O'Donnell to W. L. O'Donnell, half interest in south half of it 10, blk 3, Bend.

S. M. Collins to Julian M. Collins, its 6 to 10, inc., blk 1, Collins add., Redmond, \$350.

S. R. Snider to C. A. Cline, its 18 and 19, blk 46, Redmond.

William Arnold to E. A. Knotts, easement of irrigation ditch across nw 1/4 nw 1/4, sec. 23-18-12.

Roy H. Wright to Willard M. Houston, it 3, blk 27, Bend.

Patents: Albert Dickson, n 1/4 sw 1/4, nw 1/4 se 1/4, sw 1/4 ne 1/4, sec. 17-19-13; George A. M. Lilly, se 1/4 sw 1/4, sw 1/4 ne 1/4, sec. 2, and ne 1/4 nw 1/4, nw 1/4 ne 1/4, sec. 11-15-12; Bolett Mikkelson, e 1/2 ne 1/4, ne 1/4 se 1/4, sec. 12, and se 1/4 se 1/4, sec. 1-22-9.

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Wm. E. Nelson to Eli M. Pray, it 10, blk 35, Wiestoria.

The Bend Co. to Willis B. Lesh, it 11, blk 15, Center add., Bend.

John S. Parmlinter to Gertrude Goodfellow, it 14, blk 18, Center add., Bend, \$175.

Bend Park Co. to A. A. Erickson, it 3, blk 105, 1st add, Bend Park, \$140.

A. A. Rundlett to Olive Reed et al, n 1/2 sw 1/4 27-14-13, \$10.

State to S. H. Snyder, ne 1/4 ne 1/4 28-17-12.

State to T. G. Becker, nw 1/4 se 1/4, ne 1/4 sw 1/4 its 3 and 4 of 19-16-12, \$1127.

Bend Park Co. to Mrs. Rosa Anderson, it 22, blk 114, 1st add, Bend Park, \$100.

Ada R. Johnston to B. Ferrell, it 2, blk 2, Bend.

B. Ferrell to Mrs. Rachael McCaffery, it 2, blk 2, Bend.

Patents—John E. Edwards, sw 1/4 sw 1/4, 12, se 1/4 se 1/4, 11, e 1/2 ne 1/4 14-16-10; J. L. Olson, e 1/2 ne 1/4 12-

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