

OREGON SHEEP ON DECREASE

SMALL BANDS FOUND PROFITABLE

Alex. Mackintosh Advocates Beginning Business on a Small Scale—An Investment of \$500 Will Bring \$600 in One Year.

The introduction of small bands of sheep on Central Ore. irrigated and dry land farms to meet the falling off in the number of sheep for this section is a plan advocated by Alex. Mackintosh, a prominent Crook county sheep man. Mr. Mackintosh has been making a study of the sheep situation in the northwest and has been impressed by the decrease during the last few years in the number of sheep in this section.

"The settlement of the public lands in the last few years, and particularly the lands used for sheep grazing, has made a big reduction in the number of sheep raised, says Mr. Mackintosh. Idaho's shortage, reported on reliable information, is estimated to be about 250,000; Wyoming's is greater than Idaho's; and in Montana the number is said to have been reduced by 50 per cent. based on the banner number. In Oregon it has been estimated that there has been a reduction of at least 30 per cent.

"There is reason to believe that settlement will continue to be more pronounced each year with which will come reduction in the number of sheep. One result is the rise in the price of mutton. The mutton supply of the near future will have to come from the farm. The irrigated lands around Bend are favorable to raise the best of mutton lambs owing to the soft green food for the mother and lambs. This food comes at the time when it is most needed for fattening.

"An investment of \$500 in 100 head of good sound mouth ewes brings good returns if bought in October. The following June \$150 worth of wool can be sold, and in September 100 lambs can be sold at \$4.50, making a return of \$600 on an investment of \$520 of which \$20 goes for a ram. Generally the percentage of twin lambs runs between 10 and 20 over the 100 ewes, which will more than make up the loss by dogs or other causes.

"A good sound ewe is good for three or four years. The fourth year the ewe can be fattened and sold for 75 per cent of her original cost. An important point is not to overstock the pasture.

"Begin with a few head of sheep," says Mr. Mackintosh, "because one year's experience will teach one how a larger number may be kept more successfully."

According to an estimate made by Mr. Mackintosh there are about 100,000 sheep in Crook county where a few years ago when lands were abundantly available for grazing purposes Crook county had about 200,000 sheep on the ranges. This reduction has come in the last ten years.

Several movements in this part of the state are now on hand looking forward to the introduction of small bands of sheep on small farms, for the purpose of experimenting what returns may be gained with small bands.

MEETINGS WELL ATTENDED

Dr. Macpherson Advises to Organize in Every Community for Success.

All the farmers' meetings held in Crook county September 15 to 18th, for the purpose of hearing Dr. Hector Macpherson, in charge of the Bureau of Markets at the Oregon Agricultural College and representative of the Office of Markets, U. S. Department of Agriculture, were very well attended, and all who heard him were both pleased and benefitted. Dr. Macpherson was one of the men on the committee appointed by Congress in 1913 to visit European countries and study farm conditions, farmers' organizations, credits, etc. In the meetings with farmers here, he told briefly of methods and results obtained in different European countries. Also reviewed farmers' organizations, methods and successes in the United States, and suggested plans for use of the farmers in this section, not only for obtaining better markets but also for destruction of pests, improvement of social conditions, and study of methods and needs on our farms.

In Dr. Macpherson's opinion, the primary essentials for the success of farmers' organizations are getting together in school houses or community halls, becoming better acquainted and as an organized body in each community, working for better farming, better business, and better living. A brief survey of local co-operative organizations was made, and the reasons for their failure shown. The whole question was summarized by Dr. Macpherson in this statement: "All farmers' organizations will fail until the farmers learn to stick together. An average of 45 persons attended the seven meetings held in Crook county.

Many Complaints Heard. This summer many persons complaining of headaches, lame backs, rheumatism, biliousness and of being "always tired." Aches, pains and ills caused by kidneys not doing their work yield quickly to Foley Kidney Pills. They help elimination, give sound sleep and make you feel better. Patterson Drug Co.—Adv.

THE DESCHUTES RANGER FOR SEPTEMBER

Discussing the end of the forest fire season in the November number of the Deschutes Ranger, just issued from the local forest office, Supervisor Merritt pays tribute to his force. "A more willing and capable body of forest fire fighters is probably not found anywhere," he says, attributing to their watchfulness and care the fact that there has been no larger loss on the Deschutes forest this year. A word of appreciation is also given for the wives of the rangers.

The frontispiece is a photograph of a German forest nursery in the Black Forest taken by Mr. Merritt.

Extracts from the Ranger follow: Ranger Vincent is erecting a barn at the Tumalo Ranger Station. He expects to complete the work by the middle of September.

The Crane Prairie wagon bridge crosses the Deschutes river at Crane Prairie Ranger Station has been finished by Ranger B. F. Smith and Guard Jim Childers.

The work of papering the Crescent and Davis lake ranger station houses has been undertaken at odd times and is now practically completed.

The 2 1/2 of section 17, Township 24 South, Range 14 East, was withdrawn on August 28 as the Cabin Lake Ranger Station. It is proposed to develop this area as headquarters for the Fort Rock Ranger headquarters. A well will be drilled on it this fall and if water is secured, a house, barn, fence and other necessary structures will be erected. At present there is no headquarters station for the Fort Rock district, Ranger Harriman living on his own place outside of the Forest.

A temporary special use permit was granted the Suttle Lake Irrigation District of Grandview, Oregon, authorizing them to proceed with construction work on the dam at the Suttle Lake reservoir and on the conduit from there toward the lower desert. A final permit will not be issued until the District submits detailed maps and field notes of surveys that have not been entirely completed.

Guard Zumwalt has been planting a number of fish in a few of the mountain lakes west of the Metolius river valley.

The Crane Prairie Live Stock Association is building some drift fences at Crane Prairie. Ranger Oney is working with them.

Work on the Davis Lake-Wickiup telephone line will be started very soon after the middle of September. Two parties will be organized, one under Ranger Ed Mann to build the portion between the Wickiup station and Davis Lake and the other under Ranger Oney to construct the portion between the head of Fall River and the Wickiup station.

Deputy Supervisor Harpham is at present assisting in the construction of a stone cabin on Walker mountain.

Ranger Vincent spent part of the first week in September going over the Tumalo and Sparks lake ranges.

Mr. Sprout completed field work on the High Desert land classification project on September 4, and on September 6 moved his party to the Fremont Forest to do the necessary field work on the Chewaucan project. The party had several days strenuous fire fighting experience at the South Ice Cave fire.

Ranger Binkley was at the Tumalo Ranger Station on August 23 to 27 to take the place of Guard Oney who was away looking after fires in the Sparks Lake and Sisters mountains region.

District Engineer Lundgren was on the Deschutes on August 21 visiting the Pringle Falls power plant with Supervisor Merritt. This plant, which is entirely on private land, is now being developed. A dam has been completed and the first partial dam constructed. Mr. Lundgren has been making a general trip over Oregon visiting all power projects in the state in order to familiarize himself

thoroughly with the situation.

A lightning storm late in August set 13 fires in the region between Hammer Butte, Diamond Peak and Cow Horn mountain. All of these, however, were checked without serious damage although one of them covered an area of about forty acres.

Forest Guard Christensen has dug a well at the Odell Ranger Station.

The only really serious fire of the season so far as the Deschutes Forest is concerned, occurred late in August in the region southeast of the South Ice Cave and northeast of Fort Rock. The fire is thought to have been started about 10 o'clock on August 29 by some travelers who carelessly threw away a match or cigarette. It was first noted by two rangers living a short distance south of the fire who happened to have their horses saddled up for a trip at the time. They went at once to the fire and arrived probably within half an hour after it had started but it was driven by a hard wind and spread so rapidly that they were not able to check it. Ranger Harriman arrived on the scene very soon afterwards but the fire was burning so fiercely that little could be accomplished until night when a team and plow and a back fringe crew started to work. During the afternoon, however, the fire had burned a distance of several miles so that it was not entirely surrounded during the first night. During the next day, which was also windy and warm, the fire spread greatly. Additional help was secured but it was not entirely controlled until the third night. After that it had to be patrolled for more than a week, during which time it broke out several times.

Although the burned over area has not been accurately mapped, the fire is thought to have covered between eight and ten thousand acres. The timber was a pure stand of yellow pine except for an area of something like half a section of lodgepole pine. The heat was so intense that all of the large yellow pine trees were apparently killed by the fire over considerable areas, especially where reproduction was so dense that crown fires developed. An unusually large number of mature trees were burned down, making the loss on that account alone very great.

While this fire was burning another fire started in Section 31, Township 23 South, Range 16 East, and burned east very rapidly. It was checked immediately, however, by State Fire Warden Derrick and Ranger Harriman and placed under control the first day but not until after it had burned a narrow strip along the entire south boundary of the forest in Township 23 South, Range 16 East. The timber in the portion to be cut here, however, and the fire was kept from spreading north so that very little damage was done.

An unusually warm spell of weather through August so increased the normal fire danger that little else was done by the entire force than fire patrol and suppression. Everyone was kept on the alert in order to attack fires as soon as they started and with the exception of the South Ice Cave fire which spread in spite of efforts to check it, all blazes were extinguished before doing serious damage. Now a general rain has fallen, the acute fire danger is past and all of us are able to breathe a sigh of relief.

The Supervisor wishes to express his personal appreciation of the loyalty and efficiency shown by the entire force. During the summer he has had occasion to work with many of the men on actual fire suppression and without exception they have been willing and energetic. No one has complained because of hardships but whenever necessary has worked day and night cheerfully. A more willing and capable body of forest fire fighters is probably not found anywhere than those on the Deschutes. This is really the key to the whole

situation; for when all is said and done, any fire plan is worth no more than the men who carry it out. If they are prompt and efficient the plan is successful. On the contrary, if they are careless and indifferent it is sure to fail. It has only been because of the constant watchfulness and care on the part of every man that we have gone through one of the very driest seasons for a number of years without a greater loss.

In this connection a word of appreciation is not amiss concerning the rangers' wives who have helped their husbands and the Forest Service so loyally by keeping in touch with the field conditions, by answering so many telephone calls and by doing the many other little things that make it easier for the men on the job.

The photo on the front page is of a German Forest Nursery in the Black Forest. In many places in Germany where forest management is very intensive the timber is clean cut and the foresters instead of depending on natural reproduction replant the entire area with seedling trees. Often there are definite compartments containing trees of various ages that have been cut and replanted at different times during the past. The stands obtained in this way are much denser and more uniform than the ordinary ones following the natural reproduction and the yield is correspondingly greater.

Newspaper Man Recommends It. R. R. Wentworth, of the St. James (Mo.) News, writes: "A severe cold settled in my lungs. I feared pneumonia. Foley's Honey and Tar straightened me up immediately. I recommend this genuine cough and lung medicine." Right now thousands of hay fever and asthma sufferers are thankful for this wonderful healing and soothing remedy. Patterson Drug Co.—Adv.

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Did the Old Man Good. Geo. W. Clough, of Prentiss, Miss., is seventy-seven years old and had trouble with his kidneys for many years. He writes that Foley Kidney Pills did him much good. He used many remedies, but this is the only one that ever helped him. No man, young or old, can afford to neglect symptoms of kidney trouble. Patterson Drug Co.—Adv.

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