

REPORT OF THE COUNTY AGRICULTURIST FOR 1915

(With this issue The Bulletin begins the publication of the report on work in Crook county submitted by County Agriculturist Lovett to the state leader in county work at the beginning of the year. The report has a great value to the public, not only in familiarizing them with the work of the agriculturist but in giving them details of practical value in the matter of crops, planting, pest eradication, etc. The report will be continued from week to week until completed.)

(By A. E. LOVETT.)

The County Agriculturist arrived in Crook county in April, 1914. He found the country new to farming, the farmers new to the county and the people generally unacquainted with the work which he was supposed to do. The major portion of the time the first year was spent in a reconnaissance of the county as a farming section. A study of the varying conditions and of the various crops and methods, together with a comparison of same conditions, crops and methods on the eastern Oregon experiment station was made. On personal visits to farms, suggestions were made to individual farmers and received from them regarding improvements of interest to them. Some work along the lines of community organizations and crop demonstrations were undertaken during the year of 1914.

On January 1, 1915, an outline for one permanent project and four seasonal projects were prepared by the Agriculturist and approved by the state leader. These projects were as follows: permanent project, "Improvement of farm business;" seasonal project, No. 1, "organization of rural communities;" No. 2, "crop variety;" No. 3, "animal feeding;" No. 4, "crop rotation." Each project as planned was started early in the season but very few farmers could be interested in project No. 4, and only one demonstration under project No. 3 could be started and this was abandoned very early in the season, because of shortage of feed on demonstrator's farm, and decision to sell stock. Since January 1, 1915, the Agriculturist has traveled 9732 miles, made 675 farm visits, held or addressed 93 meetings with a total attendance of 4475, 556 farmers have called at our office for advice or information, we have written 1457 letters and 57 articles for local newspapers and published monthly a farmers' exchange list which is mailed to 550 farmers asking for it.

A detailed report of most important work done under the above plans or projects follows:

Organization of Rural Communities.

In our outline of work for 1915 prepared on January 1st, the organization of rural communities was named project No. 1 because we considered it the work of greatest importance for the agriculture of Crook county. When we arrived in the county in April, 1914, it had not a single active farmers organization within its present borders. One active farmers grange was included within the boundary of the county that year, but in November, 1914, the county of Jefferson was cut off of what was then Crook county, and this grange was in that section. The Farmers Union had been organized at Redmond previously, had built a warehouse at a large expense and carried on business for nearly one year. In February, 1914, this warehouse was burned and a majority of the shareholders lost a good deal of money, in consequence of which farmers organizations were looked upon with suspicion by a large number of farmers. A grange had been organized at Grange hall near Bend, but because of lack of interest, had ceased active work. A reconnaissance of agricultural conditions in the county indicated that one of the most pressing needs of the farm was that of organization.

Newspaper articles, circular letters and personal conversations were used to stimulate interest in rural community organizations and in June, 1914, the first "improvement club" was organized at Pringle Flats, near Rivers post office, 60 miles from the

railroad. During the growing season of that year farmers could not be interested in community organization and other work by the Agriculturist was necessary.

In October active work toward organization was again started. By January 1st there were three active community clubs and before the crop season of 1915 there were thirteen of these clubs organized. During the spring and summer of this year three became inactive but two have re-organized and only one remains which cannot be revived. Some of the things already accomplished by community clubs in Crook county are: Improvement of roads, united effort in fight against farm pests, clubbing orders for best farm seeds, active interest in the work of the County Agriculturist and the producing of more active, sociable, interested and beautiful farming community. Two clubs have built halls for their meetings.

The seriousness of the Jack rabbit as a farm pest has assisted greatly during the fall and winter of 1915 in the organization of rural communities. The appropriation of money by the County Commissioners for assisting in the eradication of this pest has also assisted greatly, it being necessary for a community to organize and support an active "club" before it can receive the benefits of the county appropriation. Four newspaper articles for local papers and 26 farmers meetings held have resulted in the organization of 12 communities and 12 older communities already organized are taking active part in the fight against the Jack rabbit. The total membership of community clubs in Crook county is 498 at present. Practically all of the communities in the county which have not already organized are interested in an organization of their community and the majority of them will organize within the next 20 days.

The primary object of the community organizations, lately organized is the eradication of the Jack rabbit but at all meetings where we have been present, we have emphasized the need and value of organized work by a community in all phases of farm operation and business, and in nearly all cases we are confident that the organizations will not become inactive after the season for fighting the rabbit is passed. In our opinion the organization of the rural communities should be the first step in organization for the farmer. There is little expense attached to these community clubs and the farmer learns the requirements and the value of an organized effort. We have started plans for organization of a "county agricultural council" through these rural community clubs. We have found that we can do much more effective work and a larger amount of work in our county through rural community clubs than would be in any way possible by working with individuals.

Beside the rural community clubs, we have assisted in the organization of the Deschutes Valley Potato Growers' Association whose object is the development and improvement of the potato in this section and the grading and marketing of the potatoes grown. This organization was affected November 29 and, although they have not yet marketed any potatoes through this association because the supply of potatoes this season is small and the price is not satisfactory, they have received a large number of requests for large shipments of potatoes and will be able to sell all of the first-class and fancy potatoes which they have to spare at increased price because of this organization. Also the farmers grange at Grange Hall has been revived during the past three months and is now an active organization.

The rural community club organization is made as simple as possible and without membership dues. No cash is required of members excepting when it is desired to club orders for poisons, farm seeds or other purposes in which case each man wishing to purchase, places the cash for the amount he desires. No constitution or by laws are presented either at the first or any succeeding

meetings. The farmers formulate their own rules and regulations and whenever difficulties arise, the Agriculturist assists when a request for his services is made. A standard constitution and by laws for these organizations will be prepared and presented to each club this winter for their correction and adoption. Having worked for a considerable time upon their own initiative, these organizations will recognize the need of assistance and of the standardization of their plans and work.

Conclusions.

The rural community organization is necessary for the most successful development of the farming community and of the individual farmer.

The rural community organization is of great value, if not absolutely necessary, for most successful work by the County Agriculturist.

A rural community organization is a safe course for starting the larger county organizations or the farmers buying and selling organizations.

The primary work in organizing a community by the Agriculturist consists in: first, bringing the necessity for such an organization to the attention of the community; second, by showing to that community how such an organization may be obtained; third, by encouraging and influencing the community to organize for some definite, primary purpose; fourth, by assisting the organization by advice and attendance at their meetings; fifth, by making such an organization independent of its own efforts.

Practically all demonstration work and other projects for season of 1916 will be undertaken only through these organizations. A study and use of business methods in marketing will also be undertaken this season. Next week "Grain Demonstrations in Crook County."

(Continued next week.)

The American Bakery announces that it has begun to make ice cream and from now on will have it for sale at all times to hotels, restaurants and private families. adv

For sign painting see Edwards.—Adv.

Spring will soon be here, Mr. Farmer, and you should be thinking of the seed you will sow. See The Bend Flour Mill Company's list of suitable seed for spring sowing.—Adv.

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—Adv.



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CLUB GIVES SUCCESSFUL SUPPER AND ENTERTAINMENT

Plainview Body, Organized to Exterminate Rabbits, Holds Social to Defray Expenses—Many Present.

The work of rabbit extermination in the Plainview neighborhood has been carried on during the past winter by an organization called the Rabbit Club of Plainview. Under the leadership of President Powers it has accomplished a great deal toward the eradication of the pest.

Recently, to raise money with which to defray the expenses of the work, the club gave a program and supper which was well attended by residents of the Cloverdale and Sisters country. The various numbers on the program were well received by the audience and many encores were enjoyed.

The program was as follows: violin solo, Grover Pulliam; recitation, Emmet Knickerbocker; recitation, Claudia McKinney; recitation, Ruby Gist; Solo, Hubert Scoggin; recitation, Grace Gillett; recitation, Violet Van Tassel; solo Nellie Cyrus; recitation, Isabelle McKinney; Solo, James Pulliam; Instrumental music, G. Pulliam, Mrs. McKinney; dialogue, Train to Mori, Miss Burgess, Ralph Gillett, Glen Van Tassel; recitation, Hubert Scoggin; solo, Constance Knickerbocker; recitation, Maude Muller, Mrs. Pulliam; recitation, Maude Muller up to date, Ralph Gillett; Instrumental music, G. Pulliam, Mrs. McKinney; dialogue, Getting Ready, Mr. and Mrs. Gillett, Mr. and Mrs. Melton, Miss Burgess; recitation, Elpha Gibson; Song, 'Yankee Doodle' by the bunch; Dutch dance, Lucile Parson, Grace Riggs, Christie Sturdivan, Mary Gibson; solo, Mrs. Melton; Instrumental music, G. Pulliam, Mrs. McKinney; dialogue, Count de Runt, H. Gillett and H. Scoggin; solo, Howard Gillett.

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