

Increase Force on Railroad Army of Railroad Builders Placed to Work on Oregon & Eastern by July First, Perhaps Before

That between 2000 and 3000 men will be set on the construction of the Oregon Eastern railroad in the Malheur canyon, west of this city, within the next month is the reliable information coming from the Enterprise just as this issue went to press today. There is every reason to believe that the directors of the Harriman system will not even wait until July 1st when the general contract is to be given out, but that road orders will be given out sooner for this section for the completion of the new trans-Oregon line in time for the 1815 San Francisco exposition, says the Enterprise.

At present railroad building west of this city is moving slowly but surely, the small forces at the different camps have made great headway. Practically all of the first 15 miles of road from this city on west is completed, and the enormous cut near the mouth of the canyon will be completed within 10 days. When it is known that this bit of excavation is 75 feet deep and some 1500 feet in length, it may be readily seen that the forces of the Harriman construction company have had no time since the operations started a few months ago.

At the big 2600-foot tunnel at mile post 39 the operations are well under way and the big air shafts have already penetrated 60 feet into the eastern end. The excavation work has been a difficult undertaking as the rocky soil has had to be torn down to a depth of about 200 feet in order to properly construct the tunnel.

Considerable work has already been done on the approach on the other side of the mountain. The Banks Brothers who have the contract for the construction of the tunnel at mile post 59 and also some roadbed grading, are progressing rapidly and have already 40 feet of tunnel work completed.

The high water stage of the Malheur river in the narrow gorge has made the hauling of supplies most difficult to the Malheur canyon camps and it is learned that six or seven horses have already been lost in fording the deep and treacherous stream.

At present the river is just about two feet higher than it has been for several months and the late rains as well as the large amount of snow in the mountains is causing still more anxiety to railroad men and freighters.

In order to eliminate some of these risks and losses, between a half mile and a mile of wagon road is being built along the solid rocky cliff near the Wasatch camp at mile post 37. This will do away with two of the worst fords that have to be made by large freighting outfits to the big tunnel construction camps. It is said that the water is over the horses' backs and that several fine animals have been lost there, the swiftness of the stream rolling them over until they drown.

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SEEDING BIG ACREAGE ON ORIGINAL LAKE BED

Dr. Denman Experimenting on Large Scale With Different Grain Crops — Expects to Seed 300 Acres

Prof. H. D. Scudder and party paid a visit to some lake bottom land at the foot of Saddle Butte Tuesday morning where Dr. Denman is seeding between 200 and 300 acres of land. The soil is light but very mellow. He found it so loose that plowing was not necessary and is merely disking it in followed by a harrow.

It is an experiment that will be watched with interest, as it is on rather a large scale and on a class of land that has not been farmed to any extent in this section. Dr. Denman will devote most of it to barley but will also try some oats and wheat. It was necessary to dike to prevent the lake water from submerging the land which was formerly lake bed.

It is a peculiar soil more or less alkaline with the water very close to the surface. The soil will be analyzed, samples having been taken down to some depth. Prof. Scudder would not venture an opinion on the possible yield until he could have the soil tested at Corvallis.

Should a good crop be produced on this soil it will open up a large area that has been considered almost worthless. Another beneficial feature will be the hastening of a reservoir system to keep such land from overflowing and thus do a two fold duty—conserve the flood water for use on the dry land at a season when needed and reclaim the swamp now being submerged by the floods.

It is hoped Dr. Denman may be successful in his undertaking.

SUNSET NOTES.

On Saturday afternoon April 27th Prof. Breithaupt of the experiment station, delivered a lecture on dry farming at the school house. The meeting was well attended and much interest was shown. Such talks as the Professor gave us, cannot help but be of great benefit to our farmers. It is hoped that he may find time to visit Sunset often and discuss crops and soil with us.

Sunset Grangers are anxious to establish a sub-station to the experimental farm. We have a great amount of people filled with ambition, we have worlds of good land, and such a move would be of more value to this part of the valley than any one other thing. No doubt a sub-station could be almost self sustaining.

Ben Roder has been suggested a good man to take charge of Sunset's experiment station.

Mrs. Chas. Beery, has moved back to the Sunset farm from Burns. Mrs. Beery says she likes Burns, "But Oh you Ranch."

Mr. and Mrs. Warren Beery, are among our new comers. They are accompanied by a Mr. Anderson all from Seattle. They are looking for locations and it is hoped they will find good places close to Sunset.

E. E. Larson, is operating his new brush grubber on Mr. Nash's place. It is doing a first class job. When Mr. Larsen gets through Mr. Nash will have 90 acres ready for the plow. Kes Henney is helping Mr. Larsen.

Chas. Reed and Bert Porter are plowing on the Davey desert claims. They have a contract to plow 80 acres for Mr. Davey.

Geo. Hodder and son Walter have gone to Silver creek with their well drill. We are told they have several wells to drill in that part of the country.

H. D. Black was in Burns Monday to get title to 160 acres of Sunset land.

E. C. Eggleston has one half acre orchard just beginning to bloom. He is making preparations to smudge on frosty mornings and it is safe to say that Sunset will have fruit to exhibit at the county fair next fall.

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Spreading Dry Farm Gospel

Prof. H. D. Scudder Tours County Giving Practical Talks on Dry Farming and Meets People

Prof. H. D. Scudder, Agronomist of the Oregon Agricultural College at Corvallis and the man behind the gun at Harney County Station, has been doing some fine work toward the development of this section during this week. He has visited various localities, talked with the farmers and to farmers in a convincing way. He has put new life into the farm work of the county and encouraged the tiller of the soil by giving him simple and practical advice—telling him his mistakes and showing him the way to success.

Prof. Scudder has made the farmer realize the great advantage of the demonstration farm and also the advantage of owning a home in the big Harney Country—the finest alfalfa, field pea and grain country in the northwest. He has given them practical methods to follow and convinced them of its soundness by illustration and argument. He has made the farmer know now that the dry farm experiment station belongs entirely to the people of this country and is here to help both the dry farm and irrigated farm.

Prof. Scudder was accompanied on a trip to the Waverly, Harriman and Lawen neighborhoods by a delegation of Burns men, who, while not all actively engaged in farm work, were nevertheless interested and ready to profit from his talk and also to help the farmer make good. It proved a trip worth while and gave the town man a better impression of the country, an opportunity to see what is being accomplished by the new settler and bring about a closer relationship between the people.

The party were in two autos leaving about 11 o'clock Monday morning. Prof. Scudder, Supt. Breithaupt of the Experiment Station, Wm. Hanley, J. M. Dalton, J. J. Donegan, C. H. Leonard, Julian Byrd and the two drivers composed the party. A short stop was made at the station on the way out and luncheon was secured at Lawen. In the afternoon the party went around Windy Point, stopping at several places and having a personal visit with many of the farmers and inviting them to come out to the meeting arranged for at Harriman on Monday evening; at Lawen Tuesday afternoon. A short stop was made at Waverly, then the party went on south and east.

Some fine land was seen all thru that section, particularly that adjoining the foot hills. J. C. Duncan is farming 60 acres of fine land which is being put in the very best condition. T. R. Hill has 140 acres seeded to rye and wheat. Mr. Hill is one of the energetic men of that territory who is going to make a success. H. L. Van Dorn has 137 acres of rye seeded. These are dry farms that have every indication of being successfully cultivated. At all the places visited Prof. Scudder and Supt. Breithaupt conferred with the farmers, discussed the soil and gave advice.

A public meeting of farmers was held at Harriman that proved a very interesting and profitable one. Dr. Denman presided and the school house was well filled with earnest farmers and their families who are making every effort to make homes in that section. They came from long distances and were well

paid, for Prof. Scudder gave them a fine encouraging talk on agriculture. He told them of the simple method of conserving the moisture in the soil, the way to prepare for seeding, what to plant and when to do it. He made clear the folly of attempting to raise a crop on new ground where there had not been sufficient moisture stored and his reasoning in this respect was readily understood and appreciated.

Prof. Scudder told his hearers of the disappointment to him of the necessity of allowing the experiment farm to lie idle this season, but it was necessary to store up moisture to raise a crop, therefore they must wait.

Preparations of the soil to receive moisture was a matter he took up in detail. The dry farmer needs a reservoir just the same as the irrigator, the soil being the reservoir of the former it must be carefully looked after. He discussed the character of the soil in various parts of that territory, explained the lack of humus in same and the method of supplying the necessary plant food to make it productive.

Prof. Scudder recommends alfalfa as the crop for the dry farmer in this section. Suggests growing it in rows in order to allow cultivation and grow it for seed. The station is prepared to furnish a limited amount of seed to the different localities for experimental purposes and this will prove a great benefit. They have a northern grown seed that will stand the climate and which he is positive will grow. Alfalfa not only places the land in the best possible condition but growing for seed is very profitable. He explained that it was not necessary to have a railroad to make such a crop profitable.

The field pea is another crop he recommends as it matures in from 60 to 70 days and brings big returns for seed. This he also recommends to grow in rows. It is an excellent forage for cows and nothing is better for pigs. This crop will bring at least \$24 an acre when harvested, but when used for hog pasture, allowing the pigs to gather the crop, it is worth perhaps more.

Prof. Scudder states that the college is paying 35 cents per pound for alfalfa seed of the right kind to seed in this territory which is acclimated to frost and drought. It is hard to get and he will take all that is raised in Harney Valley. Grown in rows as he suggests in order to cultivate it requires but 4 pounds to seed an acre and when thinly seeded it makes better seed.

June 1 is none too late to seed here as the soil is then warm and plants will respond rapidly where the moisture is conserved. His solution of the rabbit question is to clear off the sage brush and leave no hiding place for them. Each farmer can protect a small acreage by chicken netting at first to get a start in seed and experiment. Rape is another forage crop he recommends as it will mature in six weeks and costs but 15 cents an acre to seed in rows.

Prof. Scudder urges the farmers to summer fallow a small acreage this year and have it in shape to seed next season under the supervision of the experiment farm and thus start the

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NEW SETTLEMENTS SHOW SPIRIT OF PROGRESS

Neat Farm Homes, Modern Schools, Well Tilled Acres and General Appearance of Stability is Noticed

The Times-Herald man had the good fortune to visit the Harriman and Waverly section this week and met personally several of the farmers and homesteaders. The territory surrounding Harriman has some of the best dry farming soil to be found. The soil is deep and fertile, one that will hold moisture well and produce almost anything. The farm homes are neat and of a better class.

The new school building in the Harriman district is a credit to any country district. It is a modern building 24x40 feet and very conveniently arranged.

The party of Burns people with Prof. Scudder were entertained by Dr. and Mrs. Denman in a warm and hospitable manner which they fully appreciated. This spirit was shown throughout the trip. The farmers meeting them all with a hearty welcome. They showed by their work on the farms and the convenient homes that they were energetic and hopeful of success. The communities show a thrifty people who mean to make good with farm life of a character that means good citizenship.

A half interest in the Harriman townsite has recently been sold to a Salt Lake man. This is considered by some as significant, as they believe it is really railroad people who have purchased the interest and that the north line of railroad from the through line to Burns will start from there. Burns is not particular where it leaves the through line and if Harriman is the point we congratulate her on such connection with the northern part of this big valley.

NEW HOMESTEAD LAW.

The conference committee between senate and house on the Borah-Jones homestead bill having reached an agreement the amended bill will be reported to senate and house at an early day.

The latest requirements as to the area to be cultivated before patent is granted is a compliance in principle with Gifford Pinchot's suggestion. Shortly stated the main provisions of the new bill are—reduction to three years of the homesteading period—leave of absence not exceeding five months in each year when establishing residence—the three years to run from the time of actual residence, and a settler to be allowed a delay not exceeding 12 months from date of filing if climatic conditions, sickness, or other unavoidable causes demand it—cultivation of one sixteenth of the area of entry is required during the second year, and one eighth of the area the third year.

The cultivation requirement is to apply to 160 acre homesteads, to enlarged homesteads, and to homesteads on reclamation projects.

The subject has been so thoroughly thrashed out in committee, both in senate and house, that a speedy passage of the bill may be expected. The views of Secretary Fisher have been laid by him before the committee and every effort made to meet them. There is no probability of a presidential veto of the bill in its amended form.

In many changes made the new bill is an adoption of western views of which Senator Borah has been a persistent advocate. —Journal.

Visit Demonstration Farm

Tomorrow Afternoon and Hear Prof. Scudder Lecture, See Buildings And Modern Farm Methods

It has been arranged for Prof. H. D. Scudder of the Agricultural College to give a lecture at the demonstration farm tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock and every business man in Burns should make it a point to go out. No one can plead business engagements as an excuse and there are a number of autos that may be pressed into service for the occasion.

A representative of The Times-Herald visited the farm the other day and both Supt. Breithaupt and Prof. Scudder desired to show him through the buildings and over the farm but as the party was rushed for time to reach other points he did not avail himself of the opportunity, preferring to take the trip later for this purpose. However he made some observations that convince him the visit will be interesting aside from the lecture.

Two model houses have been erected, not particularly for the convenience of the occupants, but to show the farmer what such a home is and what he can build. The outbuildings, engine house, barn, machinery sheds, etc. are all well planned and are there for a purpose.

Prof. Scudder states that Harney county has the best equipped and arranged demonstration farm in the United States. There are no frills but everything is fixed for convenience and comfort.

The Times-Herald hopes all the farmers in the neighborhood may also be at the meeting tomorrow afternoon and bring their wives. They should visit the farm and no better time can be found than when men are there to explain in detail the plans.

There will be a big attendance at this meeting as it has been well advertised. People should come from Lawen, Valley View, Sunset, Harney and other localities sufficiently near to allow the return home after the meeting the same day.

BUTTERMAKING ON THE FARM.

A recent Popular Bulletin of the State Experiment Station at Pullman (No. 41) gives the following advice:

Butter made from a single herd of cows in a small dairy located on the farm should command the highest price of any butter on the market. Where one man has control of all the process through which the milk goes from the time it is milked until the time it is printed as butter, the product should be the best obtainable, if this one man understands the art of butter making.

The first essential in making good butter is good cream. To get this simply means to take ordinary precautions regarding clean cows and barn, clean attendants and clean utensils; and then cooling the cream at once after separating, either by running it over a cooler, or by setting in running cold water and stirring. Cream should not be stored with any substance having an aroma.

Sweet cream churns hard and gives a butter having a flat taste. To sour, or ripen the cream, heat it to about 70 degrees F. (use a thermometer) and let it stand until it has a mild but distinctly acid taste; or second, add some sour milk or buttermilk (starter) to start the ripening.

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