

## OF RAILROAD MEN IS SIGNIFICANT

### als of the Harriman System Make our of Harney Valley and Over urvey to Juntura. Note Develop- ment and Every Indication is That oad Will be Pushed on to Valley

Farrell, president of the & N.; J. P. O'Brien, general manager and general manager B. Miller, traffic manager of the same company, arrived in this city Tuesday evening accompanied by Col. Young, of the regular route, D. O'Reilly, capital agent, H. Hurlburt, formerly passenger agent of the & N.; P. A. O'Farrell, super writer of national news, Fred S. Stanley, cap-Portland, and Addison representing the Orellian Hanley and wife in the company returned.

Farrell and party had planned to visit this section early but he was called to work and was delayed until it was his first visit to the section and it has been of great benefit as he has seen what possibilities are for the line and what he has seen will urge a greater activity in the road into the section that promises so much for it.

Members of the party including Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Miller, Mr. Young, Mr. O'Reilly, Mr. Hurlburt, Mr. O'Farrell, Mr. Stanley, Mr. Addison, Mr. Hanley and wife remained in Burns and matters with the business. There was nothing to be done when the line would be pushed to this Valley but points to the work prosecuted with all possible haste. They made a short trip to the immediate vicinity of Juntura on Wednesday morning and returned by several auto loads of people. It was unfortunate that they did not see more of

## Test Your Soil Before Sowing

A great deal of the excellent advice given so abundantly to farmers in agricultural papers and college bulletins misses the mark, because it omits some essential point. It is useless to preach the same doctrines to the Willamette Valley farmer and his brother in Eastern Oregon, for they work under conditions radically different. Neither soil nor climate is the same for them. Much of the farmers' literature which circulates so widely is devoted to theoretical exhortation. "Plant loganberries, sow alfalfa, raise hogs" are the cries, but the enthusiastic exhorters neglect to tell how their precepts are to be applied in practice.

This is particularly the case with the many stimulating articles about alfalfa which we have been privileged to read. They tell the farmers that alfalfa is the best forage crop he can grow. It produces more abundantly and it is true for the land. All this is true, but it is pointless as long as the man who reads it does not know how to make alfalfa thrive on his farm.

Hundreds of progressive farmers have sowed alfalfa, carefully following all available directions and have not succeeded with it. It cometh up like a flower and grows a few inches and withereth away. What is the matter with it? The local Solomons all have their opinions. One says the subsoil is too firm. Another thinks it was planted in the wrong time of the moon. A third lays the blame on the lack of inoculation. No nothing is more certain than that the inoculation alone will make the alfalfa thrive. Nor is deep soil the only requisite. These points are valuable, but it has been ascertained by scientists that alfalfa will not grow well on a soil that lacks lime.

When a man makes up his mind to sow this most valuable crop his first step should be a test of his soil for lime. Unless that element is abundant he must supply it. If he fails to do so his seed will be wasted and his hopes disappointed. From this time forward every article urging farmers to grow alfalfa ought to begin with the precept, "test your soil for lime."—Ex.

## SENSIBLE SUGGESTION ON RABBIT QUESTION

### Writer Offers Practical Substitute for Proposed Bounty Scheme. A Plan That Should Have Consideration, as it Would Give Relief and Add to Development. Asks for Opinions

In answer to Fred Denstedt (and with all respect due him, whom I consider a staunch friend to myself as well as all the people of Harney Valley—I am sure he is an earnest, unselfish worker in this cause which is of vital interest to all) I would like to be allowed to discuss in a friendly way this rabbit question which at the present time is subduing our ambition and blighting our hopes as well as our crops.

For three successive years we have diligently pursued one scheme—that of driving the rabbits in the winter time—which you will admit has proved a total failure.

I feel positive that the bounty proposition will be more disastrous than this first scheme, as that army of men who will be killing their time in the sagebrush living from a "22-rifle" and the county, had better be clearing land and producing something to add to the resources of the county; thus increasing the valuation of their land and assisting in taxation which now is the burden of the many borne on the shoulders of the few.

Scalp bounty will aggravate rather than eliminate this condition.

They would, no doubt, at a frightful expense to the county, be able to keep down the main army of rabbits in the more unsheltered and thickly settled parts of the Valley. But how about the homes which are trying to thrive at the foothills and the fertile little nooks and valleys which are in cultivation all the way to Catlow Valley?

Must half the homes in Harney county be taxed to destroy someone's else rabbits and then finally have to fence for their own protection? All the vigilance

men, are like so many motionless wagons, for it is our money and our business that keeps them active and makes them a necessity to a community. So long as the farmer and the rabbits are allowed to squabble over crops there won't be much left for the business man.

I feel that Harney county, with the sentiment of the business men back of it, should assist us not in killing rabbits, but in fencing against them.

We have already spent too much money and fooled away too much time with these little pests which Brigham Young first introduced from Australia. Guess if he thought they'd increase fast enough to feed Mormons he did not miss it far. Society long ago put up the bars against Brigham's religious belief, and Harney Valley will now have to fence against Brigham's rabbits.

Wire could be ordered in carload lots direct from the factory at a great reduction, no doubt, and sold to the farmers at actual cost. Those so situated could build jointly around a section and hardly feel the cost. Arrangements should be made to assist those without sufficient funds.

Three successive years without success has sent some of our grittiest, most determined men to the wall. The man who has staked his money and worked the hardest has suffered the most.

It has been prophesied that as soon as the land is brought under cultivation the rabbit will be a thing of the past. So much the better. We can then take this wire, which should be of the substantial kind, for hog pastures, sheep-pens, calf pens; we can protect the colts, restrict the turkeys and chickens and keep the neighbor's boys from coming to see our girls—if the fence is high enough.

Now, I am going to ask that each voter, man or woman, who approves of the bounty scheme drop a post card to Fred Denstedt, Burns, Oregon, with the words: "I endorse the bounty scheme," and your name and address. Those who prefer to solicit the aid of the county in fencing will please mail a card to my address. I will then represent this plan provided it receive a majority vote of the people by the post card method, which appeals to me as about the only way to ascertain the wishes of the people in a manner to present to the county court.

Yours sincerely and in the spirit of desperation,  
Mrs. Wm. E. Gray,  
Harriman, Oregon.

## GREATER ACTIVITY IN EXPERIMENTAL WORK

### With Additional Assistance Experiment Station Benefits Will be Extended to Greater Area. Some Valuable Seed Being Propagated for Future. Notes on Present Crop Conditions

L. R. BREITHAUPT

The Agricultural College authorities have appointed J. C. Leedy who was instructor in Agriculture at the Harney County High School at Burns last year, as assistant superintendent of the Experiment Station. With Mr. Leedy's assistance, it is proposed by those in charge of the Experiment Station work to do a great deal more work among the farmers all over the county than has been possible heretofore.

In addition to the Sub-Station and the large number of co-operators that are already at work, there will be organized small Agricultural clubs in each of the various communities over the county for the purpose of holding meetings at regular intervals that the people may better cooperate with the Experiment Station in its efforts to solve the problems that face the men on the soil.

At these meetings it is proposed to have lectures on fitting subjects at each meeting by one or more of the Experiment Station staff or other agricultural men. These talks will be supplemented with bulletins and literature or the information where to obtain literature of interest. Questions will be asked freely. General discussion will bring out the solution to many vexatious problems.

Between meetings, the farm of every man who desires it will be visited and the individual problems of each particular farm taken up that an effort may be made to guide each man in the selection of such things as are particularly adapted to his land and such information given as will help him in their production.

The Experiment Station is now growing quantities of the best seed that can be had for the conditions to be met in this county. It would be the worst kind of folly to use this for horse feed

or sell it for ordinary prices. Rather than this why not help every man in the county to get a start of these things right away. It is proposed to place limited quantities of this seed on every man's farm who wants to cooperate in this way, this seed to be planted under instructions and the results reports upon. In one year the farmers may have a good start of the important crops and know the proper method for growing them. Why not have a little demonstration farm on every farmer's place that will point out to him the things that he most wants to know.

On a recent trip around Harney Valley for the purpose of starting the work as outlined in the foregoing, the Sub-Stations and co-operators along the way were visited and the growth of the various crops noted. While there was some pretty good samples of grain to be found, among the planting made from the Sixty Day oats, Kubanka wheat, Swan-neck barley and the Emmer, the things that were most evident successes were the alfalfa, field peas and flax.

This has been a very backward year for the setting of alfalfa seed pods on account of the cold weather, but nevertheless samples were to be seen all along the way from seed sent out last year, where seed was being set in quantity. From the examination of a great many plantings it seems very certain that the most seed will be produced when the plants are not too thick. The rows should be wide enough to make cultivation with a horse drawn cultivator easy and the plants not closer than two feet in the row. This makes it necessary to thin the plants in the row. This should not be postponed long because the plants soon become so strongly rooted that it is very

(Continued on page two)

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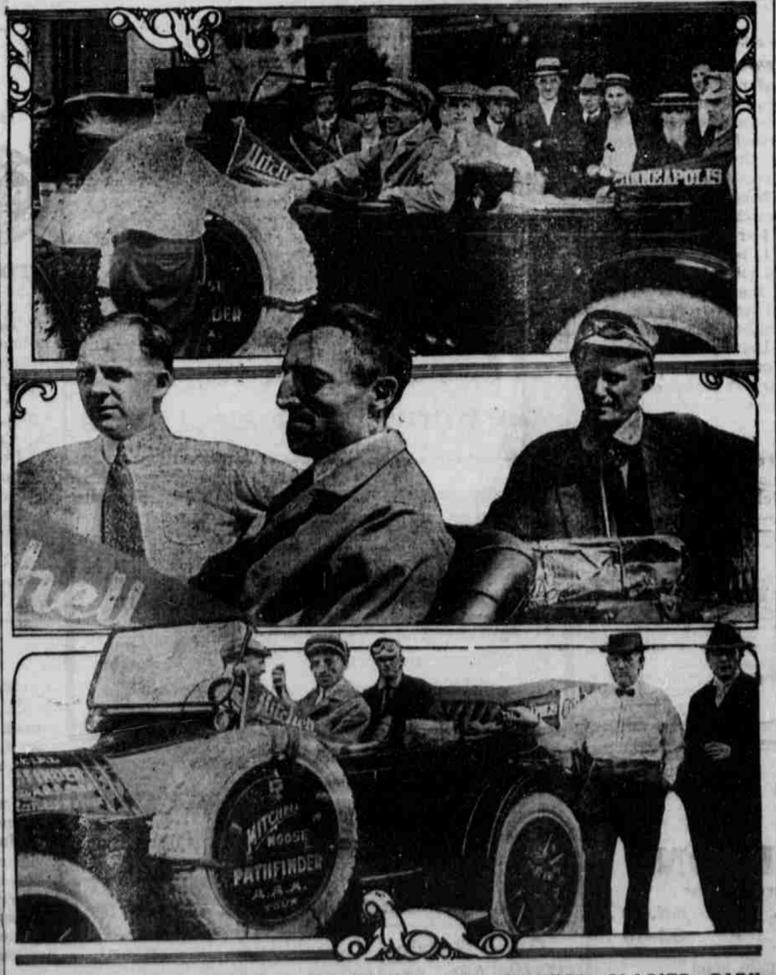
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