

The Observer.

Moro City Official Paper.
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MORO, OREGON.

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Fresh confirmation of damage to the Argentine wheat crop by locusts created considerable excitement in the Chicago wheat pit on the 12th, and resulted in sharp advances.

The house in which Walt Whitman was born, May 31, 1819, is to be sold at auction. It is a substantial, two-story and attic wooden structure, nearly smothered by weeds and with many of the windows broken.

As no other topic presentable is half so interesting to readers of the Old Reliable at present, as all matters connected with the Government Experiment Farm at Moro, we today devote considerable space to the full and complete address of Superintendent Umbarger delivered at Wasco last week.

J. M. Paterson, secretary of The Dalles B. M. Association informs J. O. Thompson that "one lot potatoes sent from Sherman county to the Dry Farming Congress at Billings, was entered for a prize against the world and won a blue ribbon." The exhibit loaned to Billings from Sherman county, assisted DesChutes valley to take the Hill silver cup, besides four or five other prizes.

If the industrial martyrs don't want to eat the bread of idleness that is offered in the Spokane city jail they can have plenty of wholesome food by going to work. They are in jail of their own conspiracy, and those who are fed on bread and water have shown a preference for that fare. They have not earned even that. Others have to work for their bread and water.

Mississippi is a prohibition state, but several kinds of wine were served at the \$25 presidential banquet at Jackson. Since President Taft never touches wine, or other intoxicants at public banquets, it looks as though the Mississippi gentlemen who dined with him that evening seized this opportunity to consume a lot of high toned booze under cover of the presidential presence. Of this incident we shall hear more anon from the prohibitionists of the country.

The economy practiced upon the Great Northern railroad is well known among railroad men, one of the staunchest believers in the old saying that "Economy is the road to wealth" being James J. Hill. The story is told that upon one occasion when Mr Hill was looking over a piece of track he found a new railroad spike. Taking it to the boss in charge of that stretch of road, he handed it to him and said: "You must be more careful. Nothing must be wasted. Pick up all your spikes as you go along." "Why, Mr Hill," replied the boss promptly, "I've been payin' a man a salary for three years to hunt for that spike."

Capt. Stanley of this city is in receipt of a letter from Col. J. C. Jamison, an old time comrade of the Walker-Nicaragua war, in which he says his book on that subject will probably be on the subject will probably be on the market this month. It will be a very valuable work, particularly to all who remember the incidents of that interesting period, when President Buchanan crawled and let the army be destroyed that the South might get in and whip the mud sills of democracy up North. We lost a brother-in-law, Alba James Cornwall, in Walker's expedition. Capt. Stanley has a chapter in Col. Jamison's book.

THE DRY FARMING SUB-STATION.

Statements of Fact Concerning The Inland Empire Plant.

By H. J. C. UMBARGER, Supt., Moro Sub-Station.

An Address before the Sherman County Development League

The Eastern Oregon Dry Farming sub-Station, located at Moro, was established, as you know, for the purpose of studying the dry farming problems in Eastern Oregon. It is a cooperative institution between the State Agricultural College of Oregon, at Corvallis, and the United States Department of Agriculture. Each contributes \$2,500 per annum for its maintenance. Sherman county furnishes 240 acres of land, as well as permanent improvements and teams.

This station is one of about 20 which the Department of Agriculture has established in cooperation with the respective states in which they are located. They extend over a wide area, most of them being in what is known as the Great Plains Area, the latter reaching from Mexico on the south to Canada on the north, the 100th meridian on the east and the Rocky Mountains on the west. Several stations, however, are farther west, where there are large areas devoted to dry farming, as in some of the interior valleys of California and Utah, and the intermountain districts of Montana. The wide territory covered, however, does not present as widely different problems as would at first be supposed. The work on the station farthest south quite closely resembles that in the same area farther north.

In general, in dry farming areas we find a strong tendency to follow a single crop system of farming; a perfectly natural circumstance, for under conditions that present greater risk, the tendency is to risk less. Experimentation is expensive, and unless compelled to adopt new methods on account of the rapidly depleting soil, the farmer grows only those crops known to yield a profit. The rapid settlement in the past decade of the semiarid region has turned attention so largely to dry farming that we have been constantly called on for information concerning methods in sections where these conditions prevail. Stations have followed closely the development of these areas, and at practically every one of the 20 thus far established, we have had to confront the single cropping system.

Frequently persons confuse experiment stations with demonstration farms. There is much difference between the two. The demonstration farm takes one or more systems that have been tried and proved to be the best for a certain section, and by actual practice illustrates to the community their advantages. The experiment station begins without any knowledge of the best systems, and by making extensive trials of all known systems, finally solves the problem after many years' work on the subject. Their results are then given to the community. It is true that in time an experiment station may become a demonstration farm, after it can give out definite information concerning methods which will be practical and profitable. You can therefore see the injustice of a criticism frequently made when a station is being established, viz: "How can an absolute stranger come here and teach us how to farm, after our years of experience." We are not present, in establishing this experiment station at Moro, making any attempt to teach farming. What we want to do is to develop newer and more profitable systems than those now in use, and when we prove they are valuable, then it will be time enough for us to tell you about them.

In the selection of a station site, a great number of factors are to be considered. It should be in a place easy of access; in view of trains, or along some main road of travel, for the value of a station is enhanced by the number of people it reaches; and the soil conditions must be representative, neither the best, nor yet the poorest, for results obtained on either of these would not serve as a basis of comparison.

At the present station site, we have about 240 acres of land of all gradations from very poor, or scrub land to very good land. We are thus able to try our various experiments under as wide an area of varying conditions as is possible on a single tract of this size.

The object of the station might, generally be classed under two

main divisions: 1st, To assist the farmer in getting more profit out of present crops. 2d, Encourage more diversified farming.

To accomplish the first object we expect first to introduce new varieties of grain to determine if they are better than those now grown here, and second, maintain a higher standard of seed. As many of you doubtless know, wheats and other grains tend to gradually deteriorate. It is claimed by some very good authorities that any seed wheat will run out in from 10 to 15 years, depending on the locality. At any rate, a constant source of clean, well selected seed is of incalculable value to a community. Even though we failed to introduce better varieties, if by continuous selection, we can so improve the seed that your yields will be increased one or two bushels per acre, we have added no small item to your county income.

One feature to be kept in mind in seed selection is securing strains peculiar to our own locality. Take, for instance, corn: at present on no very stable basis here as a profitable crop. Yet there have been many trials made, with a fair degree of success, viewed from the farmers' standpoint. To us it looks very encouraging. Suppose Illinois or Iowa had to depend every year on southern seed corn; do you think their crops would be as successful as they are? It is undoubtedly true that southern corn would do better in those states than in our section, but their profitable yields come from seed adapted to states where it is grown. The first essential to success in any crop is to have good seed, and such is not the case when the seed is not acclimated. So far we have been unable to find a strain of seed corn developed in this country. If you wish to start a crop of corn next spring you will probably find it necessary to obtain seed from outside sources, doubtless grown under conditions entirely different from those obtaining here. As a result, you may have a corn that will fail to mature in this section because of its somewhat cooler climate or higher altitude. To produce a strain suitable to a locality it is necessary to begin with a number of varieties having some features which recommend them for growth here. The first year will probably weed out a large number that are entirely unsuitable and yet some that were only partially successful may in time be bred up to a very good strain for this locality. Corn has shown itself very susceptible to selection, and its slow but sure progress in following winter wheat over territories formerly considered impossible for its cultivation, renders it impossible to say where it may be found growing in the next 10 or 30 years.

Another parallel case is alfalfa, culture of which was extremely doubtful years ago in places where it is now one of the standard crops. A recent feature regarding alfalfa culture is its row method for seed growing. This allows tillage of the soil and in very dry areas has produced yields of seed nearly equal to any obtained where sown broadcast, even in the more favorable alfalfa locations.

In the improvement of methods of tillage and sowing, particularly those related to better moisture conservation, we must necessarily follow at first the old practices established by long experience, and cannot say at present that we shall introduce any better methods than you have. We know you have tried many systems and naturally have selected the most satisfactory. If we were to come in with absolutely no experience in this community and tell you we know positively that you are not following proper methods, it would certainly be presumption on our part. What we do know, however, is that some of your systems vary greatly from those your experience has proved profitable under conditions identical with those obtaining here, and while we cannot say with certainty that these practices would be better for your conditions than those you are using, yet we propose to try them, and see if they are, and if not, why not? For instance, we know that all of you advocate spring plowing. We know, too, that 95 percent of the dry farming done in the United States is by the fall plowing method, because it practically always gives better results. Why this is the case you can readily understand from the following explanation:

You are aware that usually after harvest you can dig down on your own soil to a depth of 6 to 8 inches and find a very hard subsoil or hardpan. We shall now imagine fall rains, such as we have had during the past two weeks. They penetrate to the hardpan, whose compact nature checks downward

progress, leaving the surface soil saturated. The moisture from this surface soil soon evaporates, when a succession of warm, sunny days, such as you frequently have, prevails. Now we shall imagine, in contrast to this, a field fall plowed to a depth of 7 or 8 inches. Proper plowing breaks the hardpan; the fall rains penetrate at once to the depth of the plowing, and a light harrowing on top forms a mulch which separates this moisture from the hot rays of the sun. At the same time the downward progress of the soil moisture is unimpeded, and instead of 5 or 6 inches of what might be termed water reservoir, you have 8 or 10. It is quite clear that more moisture can be stored in the soil by the latter method. If your soil will not respond to this method, it is our business to find out why it does not; perhaps lacks humus. Instead of loosening the soil and forming an ideal soil moisture reservoir, your fall plowing puddles, i. e. compacts very closely, impeding the downward motion of the moisture more than on your unplowed ground. In this case, a rotation of crops, consisting of the plowing under of some green crop for mature will work wonderful results in a few years. This is only an instance of some of the methods we propose to try, and our simply trying these is not a declaration that we know them to be a success. We expect to try many which may be absolute failures, but we consider it better to have hundreds of failures and discover one single method better than those now practiced here than to take no risks and learn nothing new.

Our second object, as above stated, is to assist the farmer to more diversified farming. Our first step in this connection will be the introduction of forage and seed crops to replace as far as possible the summer fallow. All new farming communities first experience the one-crop system and it is only after a series of failures, caused by soil depletion, that they are compelled to turn to diversified farming. Here diversified farming has not yet received the attention usually accorded it in communities farmed as long as this one has been. The explanation is apparent; the wonderful native fertility of soil. This cannot last always. No matter how large a bank account may be a constant withdrawal will some day exhaust it, unless it is replenished. Just so, while continued summer fallow stays the end, it cannot prevent it, for summer fallow adds no fertility to the soil.

The first thing necessary to diversified farming is in introduction of profitable crops. These must begin with the introduction of forage and seed crops to replace as far as possible the summer fallow and wheat. This naturally brings more live stock on the farm, which necessitates a rotation of crops, the latter increasing the fertility of the soil and consequently the production per acre. To perfect this system will require some years of experimentation, for we must proceed without any experience to guide us. We must first find as many different crops as will grow in this locality, select those suitable for stock production on the farm or which can be sold to advantage on your regular market. These must then be fitted into the rotation scheme and the whole brought together on a practical and profitable basis.

You will thus understand that an experiment station is an institution where each and every farmer may go, and advance any theory he has, and is himself unable to try on account of lack of funds or time. Just as far as possible each theory will receive attention with those already under trial. Experiment station results are always comparative. It is obviously impossible for us to establish any system and state what it will do under existing conditions. Our only method to determine results is by comparing them with other methods. For instance, we shall follow some methods exactly as you do. These will serve as a check on our other systems, and our figures will always be based on a comparison of the results of new systems against those actually used by you at the present time. We are often accused of being theoretical, but as a matter of fact, I have heard more theories regarding farming, advanced from farmers here, than I have ever before dreamed, and some of them sound pretty good, too. For instance, not much over a week ago, without any encouragement on my part, a farmer advocated the fall plowing theory exactly as advanced above. He explained that in times past when you did more fall plowing than at present, and it was then considerably successful,

REPORT OF SHERMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

For the Month Ending November 5th., 1909.

Teachers, patrons, pupils and all others interested in the general welfare of our schools should note carefully how your school compares each month with the others of the county.

Dist. No.	School	Teacher	Enrollment	Number absent	Whole No. times late	Number absent over 10 days	Per cent of attendance	No. visits by school board	No. visits by parents
1	Bigelow	Hattie Buttermore	18	20	25.6	0	85.5	91.6	0
2	Brook	Dena Larson	6	29	3	0	85.0	96.0	0
3	Rodriguez	Anna B Thompson	19	20	5.5	1	14	98.9	0
4	Locust Grove	Laura Mcintosh	8	20	5	0	16	100	0
5	China Hollow	Florence Heston	6	20	20	2	2	53.3	0
6	Wasco	J. M. Woods	140	20	73.6	6	86	97.3	2
7	Kent	L. W. Wimberly	45	20	25	12	4	90.3	1
8	Westport	Mary E Cook	8	20	3	13	2	98.0	0
9	Frederick	Isabelle McGregor	12	20	7	7	7	97.3	3
10	Shaner Bridge	B. F. Smith	9	20	4	3	5	97.8	2
11	De Moss	Emma Danvers	9	20	5	2	5	98.6	2
12	Erskville	Sara Higgins	8	20	5	2	5	98.6	2
13	Moro	Geo. N. Murdoch	113	20	115	20	60	94.1	0
14	Monkland	Mary Jackson	14	20	61	12	4	77.8	2
15	Upr. Hay Can.	B. A. Vase	7	15	1.5	3	4	90.0	0
16	Fairview	Emma Anderson	5	20	2	0	3	98.0	0
17	Boardman	Alice Bayley	17	20	2.5	0	10	96.3	0
18	Grass Valley	Louis Murdoch	110	20	75.8	14	67	98.2	0
19	Rutledge	Lena Gilman	14	10	8	0	11	97.1	1
20	German Settlement	C. P. Adams	24	20	14	8	11	97.1	1
21	Melham	Golda Wise	0	20	2	0	7	98.7	1
22	John Day	Lena Gilman	8	20	6	1	5	95.2	0
23	Blue school								
24	Wheeler		9	20	3	8	5	98.9	0
25	Klamath	Amy Cook	9	20	3	8	5	98.9	0
26	Roseburg	Atta O'dell	13	20	7	4	4	93.7	0
27	Bailey	Eva Smith	8	20	18	12	1	85.4	0
28	Thobe Point	Cora Daugherty	5	20	1	6	2	99.1	0
29	Early	Bertha Angell	5	20	1	6	2	99.1	0

He seemed to think the reason for not being practiced today was simply due to the exhaustion of the organic matter (humus) in the soil and believed more green crops should be plowed under. Now, I think this man had probably as much experience in this section as most of you have, for, if I remember correctly, he informed me he had come here some time in the latter part of the seventies.

A word or two in connection with our present work. So far we have progressed somewhat slowly. This, however is always the case in the establishment of a new station. In the spring we expect to start with a large number of newly introduced spring grains, as well as some tillage and rotation experiments. Our regular fall grain work will begin in the fall of 1910, and we expect to have the station in first-class running order beginning at that time. I would like to take this opportunity to say that we would be pleased to have any interested persons visit us at any time and give us their ideas concerning familiar problems. After the station has progressed far enough to begin to show results, which will begin with next year's crop, we want you to visit us as often as you can. Every farmer should make a point to visit the station at every opportunity. Familiarize yourself with the work and keep in touch with it. You are helping to pay for it and if you don't get your money's worth it won't be our fault, for we shall work hard to do our part and use every endeavor to facilitate your keeping in touch with us. The station will be a valuable investment for your county, not only assisting you to discover better methods of seeding and tillage and possibly better varieties of seed, but will also prove a good advertising medium. Most of our stations answer from 50 to 200 letters per month. These are all from strangers desiring information regarding your locality, and while we are not real estate boosters, we always like to tell them all the good we can about the community in which we are located. We deal strictly in facts, but are not averse to expressing our own opinion as to future possibilities.

WOMEN'S WOES.

Moro Women Are Finding Relief at Last.

It does seem that women have more than a fair share of the aches and pains that afflict humanity; they must "keep up," must attend to duties in spite of constantly aching backs, or headaches, dizzy spells, bearing-down pains; they must stoop over, when to stoop means torture. They must walk and bend and work with racking pains and many aches from kidney ills. Kidneys cause more suffering than any other organ of the body. Keep the kidneys well and health is easily maintained. Read of a remedy for kidney ills and is endorsed by people in this locality.

Mrs. John Mathews, 717 East First street, The Dalles, Ore., says: "A severe cold which settled on my kidneys weakened these organs, causing me much suffering. My back became so weak that I could not stand erect and I was also annoyed by irregular passages of the kidney secretions. When Doan's Kidney Pills were brought to my attention, I procured a box and they proved to be just the remedy I needed. I was quickly restored to perfect health and I have had no return of the trouble."

For sale by all dealers. Price 50 cents. Foster-McMillen Co., Buffalo, New York, sole agents for the United States.

Travelers—I am in a pretty bad fix myself. I'm engaged to a girl, but haven't got money enough to buy her an engagement ring.

Duchaway—Can't you manage to borrow it?

Travelers—That's just what I wanted to see you about.

Good Cough Medicina for Children and Grown Folks Too.

"We could hardly do without Chamberlain's Cough Remedy," says Mrs. Flora Despain of Boyd, Ky. "I found it to be so good for the croup and have used it for years. I can heartily recommend it for croup, colds and croup in children and grown folks too." The above shows the implicit confidence that many mothers place in Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, a confidence based on many years' experience in the use of it. No one need hesitate to use this remedy for it contains no chloroform, opium or other narcotics and may be given to a child as confidently as to an adult. For sale by Moro Pharmacy.

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MILL FEED AND FAMILY FLOUR
Try the Pure Bluestem Flour
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FULL LINE OF BUILDER SUPPLIES LUMBER.
GET OUR PRICES ON
Doors, Windows, Frames, Lime, Plaster, Cement, Lumber and Cedar Posts. Will quote for delivery on O. R. & N. or Columbia Southern main line.
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