

The Observer.

MORO, OREGON.

FRIDAY May 15, 1914

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C. L. IRELAND Manager.

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A Blue Mark here will answer an inquiry, when entered upon our calendar, giving the date of the paper as the date at which your current subscription expires.

Polk, Yamhill and Washington counties have united to put crude oil on the main roads in the county to get rid of the dust.

Farmers do not appreciate selling products on a falling market to pay increasing taxes to shorten the workday of public employees to eight hours.

State Labor Commissioner Hoff has not carried out his threat to have the state officials placed under arrest for not introducing the eight hour law in state institutions.

Norway has 144 tree planting societies. The first was founded in 1900, and since then 26 million trees have been planted, more than two million having been set out last year.

Railroads in Oregon are doing an immense amount of good for the state at large in their efforts to introduce improved methods of farming. The O-W-R & N Co. the last few years has spent large sums in fostering corn growing and hog raising and this year the Oregon Trunk and North Bank roads have joined the movement in an effort to foster alfalfa growing and the dairying industry. Both roads are unusually free in giving away seed to any one that will use it under their direction and make reports as to progress.

Ten miles from North Yakima, at a depth of 320 feet, an artesian flow of warm water has been struck that gushes twenty feet into the air from a four inch pipe.

Food prices in the United States reached the highest level in 24 years November 15, 1913. Since that date there has been a slight decline in prices, though the average still is well above that of a year ago.

New Jersey is said to have the greatest proportion of railroad mileage of any state in the country or one mile of railroad to every three square miles of territory. This makes an unusual risk of fires set by railroads.

Jas. S. Stewart, editor of the Fossil Journal and candidate for the republican nomination for state representative from this district, was a visitor in the county last week, traveling by team with a friend from his home county. Thursday evening at Moro he spoke to an attentive audience in the court house as to his policies if elected; the main one being a reduction of taxation and change of tax laws coupled with consolidation and elimination of some state commissions and boards. Mr. Stewart said he was the only candidate from any party from his county for this office and thought that his county should have at least one representative of the two to be nominated when Sherman county has the state senator for the same district.

Parker lucky curve fountain pens at Moro Pharmacy.

OUR EXPERIMENT FARM.

Comparative Statistics and Data Relative to Progress in Farm Methods.

Has many of the readers of the Observer had it brought to their attention that it takes five hundred and twenty four pounds of moisture, rain, snow, or hail, we call it, to grow one pound of plant matter; further, that to grow one pound of wheat it needs one thousand eight hundred pounds of moisture to turn the trick.

There is no guess work about this as the United States government has it all figured out by scientific men; part of this figuring is going on now by Superintendent Stephens at the Experiment Farm adjoining Moro and his figures and conclusions are compared with some twenty different other stations and government farms throughout the United States.

To grow a crop of field peas it needs one and a half as much moisture to mature the crop as it does wheat, but to offset that feature the field pea is an earlier maturing crop and thereby escapes the hot winds through which the wheat must live and which takes quite a bit of the moisture needed and used in growing a wheat crop. The same can be said of oats and barley that has been mentioned about field peas, both are an earlier maturing cereal crop than wheat; on the other hand to mature a crop of corn it only needs three hundred and sixty nine pounds of moisture, but the growing period is longer. Compared with wheat the moisture requirement is seventy five per cent less and the bulk of feed and fodder is considerably more, making it the cheapest and best crop to be raised on a farm.

The weeds are always a nuisance on cultivated land; also they are an expense that some have never considered, much to a farmers detriment and loss to pocket book. Some say that certain weeds are not a direct loss to the succeeding crop if allowed to mature on the land, but few know that it takes two hundred and seventy five pounds of moisture to grow each tumble weed seen in the summer time on many Sherman county farms and that it needs but thirty three pounds less moisture, to be accurate three hundred and thirty six, to grow the common Russian thistle in place of a crop of corn; that ratio of moisture holding good for each plant that matures: while at the same time it needs but three quarters as much moisture to grow a crop of potatoes as it does wheat and the ground is in better fallow condition to be followed by a wheat crop.

The average rain fall in Sherman county for the last past ten years was 11.05; inches; for the calendar year 1913 it was above the average being 12.19 inches of which 4.16 inches was during the growing season; the last touch of frost last year was April 27th and the earliest was October 15th, neither being known as a killing frost; the least rainfall in this period was 7.68 inches in 1908 and the highest was 13.43 inches in 1907; the most rainfall in May of any of these years was 2.27 inches in 1913; the best April showers 2.06 inches in 1914. Last year with the large May rainfall every crop in the county did well, some exceptionally well, except corn and potatoes. The highest temperature during 1913 was 101 degrees on July 20th and the lowest was five above zero on January 4th.

We hear considerable about the hard winds of Sherman county and no doubt many will be surprised to read that during the calendar year of 1913 the highest wind velocity for an average of twenty four hours was only 17 miles per hour on May 3d; the lowest velocity of the wind was reached December 27th with an average of 0.5 for the twenty four hour period; the average velocity of the wind during the year was reached at 2.4 miles per hour.

These figures were all taken from records that are in charge of Superintendent Stephens at the United States and State Experiment Farm and were secured by the Observer when visiting the farm last Friday in company with Editor Stewart of the Fossil Journal.

There is another interesting experiment being conducted on the

farm which is used for comparison purposes as a check on the rainfall records; this is the record of evaporation by sun and wind from a tank of water that is carefully measured each day; in 1911 the evaporation was 49.01 per cent of the water placed in the tank, in 1912 40.70 per cent, and in 1913 41.75 per cent. The value of this work is more as an extra comparison with other experiment farm stations in the United States and other countries; it is a check measurement as to the humidity of the atmosphere as, for instance should another station not receive as much results from a rainfall of say a half more than Sherman county it could be explained if the evaporation was more, as measured by this tank system; therefore no country can be accurately estimated as a profitable place for farming until both rainfall and evaporation are considered together.

An experiment, followed through several years, is the relative value of different varieties of wheat; so far in a three year test it has been demonstrated that turkey red wheat is worth five bushels per acre more to the farmer than is forty fold; again it follows the average belief that bluestem is the best spring wheat, but Mr. Stephens has about made up his mind, from experiments concluded, that he has found a better spring wheat than bluestem in a new variety called Marquis that will average six to eight bushels more to the acre under the same condition of growth; last year his Marquis wheat went 23 bushels against 19½ for the best bluestem. This is a wheat of Canadian origin, very red, quick growing, and therefore short season; there are other spring wheat varieties at the farm that beat the bluestem record but not as well as does the Marquis. After a number of experiments Superintendent Stephens has come to the conclusion that any grain treated for smut before seeding loses a certain per cent of its vitality and lessens its chance of growing to maturity by slow growth or not coming through the ground; upon recommendation this was taken up for special study by the agricultural department this year and they now advise all who treat their grain to thoroughly wash it after treating; at the farm near Moro it has been conclusively proven that grain not treated will average a stand three times better than treated grains. Also that shallow seeding, fall or spring, will guarantee a better stand and a quicker matured crop. Smut is a condition

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hard to eliminate but too much seed treatment will weaken the seed; it is as much to be looked for in the ground as in the seed; the smut pores will winter over as well as any weed seed and do more damage.

After a rain storm quite a number talk about how many inches of rain fell; but while we have a comparison of measurement as to volume, very few make an application of the value of an inch of rain to a growing crop in a practical manner. There is 29,827 gallons of water in one inch of rainfall and inch deep over the surface of an acre of land; or putting it another way there is 238,616 pounds of water on the same area of land for each inch of rainfall. As it has been conclusively proven that for each pound of wheat brought to maturity there was used 1800 pounds of water, one inch of rainfall will mature 128 pounds of wheat if it all be conserved by proper summer fallow methods and none be lost. With an average rainfall in this county of 11.05 inches, each

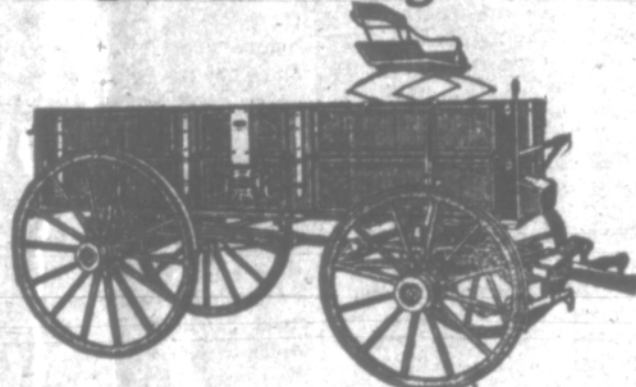
year should yield close to twenty two bushels of wheat per acre; because of the loss through evaporation and poor tillage methods is the reason it is not done.

C. C. Clark of Arlington, was a visitor in the county last week in the interests of his candidacy for the republican nomination as state representative for this district. Mr. Clark is a gentleman of fifty five years, began life as an orphan boy and now has quite a farming interest near his home town; he is also interested with his sons in a meat market and general store at that place; he was county commissioner of Gilliam county during the time the county high school and court house buildings were being erected at Condon, when the expenditures caused by that work totaled more than \$150,000 a year and was done at less expense to the county than similar work could have been secured by a corporation or individual.

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