

Farm Bureau Activities of The Big Umatilla Project

By Fred Bennion,
County Agriculture Agent

During the past year the Umatilla County Farm Bureau established an excellent record throughout the county. Although in its first year the work on the whole was very gratifying, much remains, however, to be done in the way of securing more active cooperation of the farmers in general and the development of more leaders among the organization. The west end of the county benefited materially through the Farm Bureau during the past year. Several important projects were completed and the cooperation given to other organizations was effective. With the county Farm Bureau's affiliation with the State and National Federation the organization takes on a new dignity and becomes more deserving of the support of every farmer who believes in cooperating with a big educational movement and supporting the most active and effective organization in America looking after the interests of the farmer.

Officers and Members

The Farm Bureau committee for Hermiston are J. F. McNaught, chairman; A. W. Agnew, secretary-treasurer; E. L. Jackson, E. P. Dodd, and G. A. Cressy. The members are Ray W. Sprague, A. Buhmann, C. E. Baker, A. D. Crosland, J. E. Hamer, John Leek, C. M. Jackson, J. W. Mossner, S. S. Palmer, Theo Parks, C. C. Mason, F. L. Kelley, Maurice D. Scroggs, J. D. Waghorn, Geo. Strohm, R. C. Rasmussen, and John W. Campbell. J. F. McNaught, Vice President of the County Farm Bureau and county project leader for rabbit and rodent extermination, deserves a great deal of credit for his splendid cooperative spirit in pioneering the organization and taking such a keen interest in the rabbit campaign.

The Columbia committee consists of Frank Waugaman, chairman, Henry Sommerer, F. P. Phipps and Henry Ott, who have performed their duties as committeemen very creditably for the first year of the organization. The Columbia members are Chas. Keller, H. E. Klock, King D. Bundy, E. E. Graham, M. A. Lenhart, J. H. Taber, P. E. Hall, Ray Fisher, H. J. Stillings, and J. H. Reid.

The Umatilla Farm Bureau members are as follows: W. A. Ford, A. E. McFarland, F. L. Jewett, T. C. Menard, R. P. Pike, Mrs. Frank James and Mrs. O. Stangeby.

Rabbit and Rodent Extermination

In a well organized campaign in which most of the farmers signed up for definite amounts of strychnine, 91 farmers in the west end of the county distributed 16,100 pounds of poisoned alfalfa. Where the poison was put out at the right time the results were excellent. Averaging in successes and failures it is estimated that over 200,000 rabbits were killed. J. F. McNaught received the strychnine from the Biological Survey and distributed it among committeemen. He then made collections and made payment to the county treasurer who had put up the money to get the strychnine on hand.

The best organized central mixing station was in Hermiston. J. D. Watson, H. K. Dean and Colonel J. F. McNaught handled the plant in a very systematic way.

While it is very noticeable that the rabbits are much less numerous than a year ago, there are considerable sized areas which were not covered in the campaign last year, or the poison was not put out at the right time, where the extermination work must be continued. Poisoning will be resorted to as well as organized gun drives which were very effective last year. In these drives the business men of Hermiston are to be commended for their spirit of cooperation.

Silage Crop Demonstrations

In response to a general campaign for silos, more silage and improvement of silage crops, five sunflower and corn demonstrations were carried out. The value of sunflowers as a supplement to corn in order to increase the tonage per acre and get a greater quantity of silage in the silo, sunflowers have found a permanent place on the project. P. P. Sullivan, Chas. Baker, J. H. Reid, Henry Sommerer and Bun Moore tried out sunflowers with corn.

Early in March a silo feeding tour was held in the west end of the county. Ten silos at Stanfield, Echo and Hermiston were visited. Professor E. L. Westover of O. A. C. and the County Agent discussed the merits of the silage at the different places. This coming winter a similar tour will be made among the silos at Hermiston and vicinity.

Boys and Girls Club Work

Four livestock clubs in the west end were organized in cooperation with the County Farm Bureau. The

Dairy Herd Record Keeping Club at Umatilla consisting of Leslie Thompson, Herbert Thompson, Milo McFarland, Eugene McFarland and Dan Dobler made an excellent record, winning second, third and fifth on their books at the State Fair; and winning first prize in the judging contest at the Dairy and Hog Show and 8th place among 16 teams from Washington-Oregon competing at the Pacific International. The judging team from Umatilla was composed of Herbert Thompson, Dan Dobler and Milo McFarland. Leslie Thompson went to the State Fair because he had made the best individual record on a club project in the contest.

The Hermiston Calf Club judging team, consisting of James Hall Dorothy Briggs and Earl Bessel represented Umatilla county at the State Fair, winning second place among a large number of contestants. Dorothy Briggs, who won second individual honors in the contest received almost as much state wide publicity as the entire project during the season.

The Columbia and Hermiston Pig Club also made very good records, and captured most of the awards at the Dairy and Hog Show. The boys and girls club exhibits at the Dairy and Hog Show were a distinctive feature this year and promises to become one of the major attractions of the show. Henry Sommerer boys and girls club leader at Columbia deserves considerable credit for his active support of club work. The success of the work depends on the possibility of securing more local club leaders.

Cow Testing Association

Frank Waugaman, Henry Sommerer, Henry Ott, F. P. Phipps and F. A. Baker have weighed their milk nearly every day during the past year and have kept a record of the same on milk sheets furnished by the Co. Agent's office. The Creamery has made tests once a month for these dairymen. The information on the milk sheets has been summarized and recorded in dairy herd record books at the county Farm Bureau office. These will be returned to the dairymen the first of January. While this kind of cow testing cannot be official at the same time it gives sufficient measure to the dairymen of the relative productivity of their cows.

Cooperation Worth While

The Farm Bureau cooperated with the horsemen in the west end of the county in pulling off a very successful Horsemen's Day. Through the organization Professor E. L. Potter of O. A. C. was secured without any expense. The affair was of great educational value and stimulated considerable interest in better horses. Such an event should be continued.

The movement on the part of the Farm Bureau to popularize the Experiment Station Field Day has proven very successful during the past two years. The valuable work of the station is receiving much more publicity and attention through the Farm Bureau than ever before. This past year Superintendent Dean had the organized and most successful station Field Day that has ever been pulled off in Oregon.

The Farm Bureau cooperated with the Dairy and Hog Show Association, the Dairymen's League, the Bull Association and with the Alfalfa Growers' Association.

Plans for 1921

The plans for 1921 call for a more definite program in the Hermiston district. Farm Bureau committeemen will be expected to function as a committee and a definite goal of accomplishment has been decided upon in a recent Farm Bureau meeting. The Farm Bureau will continue to cooperate with existing organizations in this district so that the local community program will be worth while.

Affiliates With State and National Federation

Recently the County Farm Bureau voted to join the Oregon State Federation and affiliate with the American Farm Bureau Federation. With this movement the organization assumes new importance. The strength of the American Farm Bureau Federation rests upon its great membership and the fact that it is built through the communities from the ground up. With a million and a half members in 1500 counties in 35 state federations the organization has tremendous influence. The plan on which the national organization is working is getting results. With a budget of \$750,000 for 1921 they are hiring the best experts on legislation, tariff, transportation and marketing that can be employed and with the various departments are protecting the interests of the farmer as they have never been protected before. The American Farm Bureau Federation has become to the farmer what the American Federation of

Labor is to the union laborer and the National Chamber of Commerce is to big industries. The organization deserves the support of every farmer.

THINGS THE BOYS LONG FOR

Youngsters Prefer Toys or Contrivances to Test Their Muscular Skill or Endurance.

WHAT shall be said of that blundering kindness of home folk that considers giving the boy only presents of such things as he actually needs? It is an outrage upon the spirit of Christmas to present him with new shoes, ties, handkerchiefs—something that he knows he will get anyway—when his sleeping and waking dreams for weeks before have been filled with visions of tops, balls, guns and magic lanterns, says Maud Souders in the Woman's Home Companion. The most beautiful knitted muffler woman's fingers ever constructed cannot compare with a jack-knife with four blades and a cork-screw attachment, when exhibited over the back fence to a neighbor boy on Christmas morning. Very soon after the days of kiltis a boy reaches the age when he yearns with his whole soul after any toy or contrivance that will test his muscular skill or endurance. At this age an appropriate present would be a rawhide or rope lariat, such as is used by the Buffalo Bill riders. A pair of hand or arm stiltis will be received with equal favor, and in the same category comes a new fishing rod, snow shoes, tennis racket, golf club, a good ball, lamp or cyclometer for his wheel, or even a live pet, a new dog, a pair of rabbits or guinea pigs—something that he can pet and train for his own.

Funny Christmas Habit.

There is not a drug store, cigar shop or barroom in the larger cities which has not been made the storage room for Christmas presents bought before the rush sets in. The strange part of it is that every man who utilizes the friendship of his favorite place round the corner thinks he is the only one who thought of the plan. Realizing that the stores will be crowded, many far-sighted heads of families bought their presents a week in advance, and then, fearing the nature of the mysterious package would be discovered at the office or at home, they hid upon the device of making a cache in some resort near home.



ANNUALLY Toys for little Willie, something for the cook; Make, with forty other things The empty pocketbook.

RECLAMATION SERVICE ACTIVITIES PAST YEAR

A summation of the work of the Reclamation Service to the beginning of the present fiscal year July 1, 1920, shows it has dug 12,663 miles of canals and ditches, and excavated 95 tunnels with an aggregate length of more than 27 miles. Dams of masonry, earth, crib, and rockfill have been erected with a total volume of 13,827,295 cubic yards. The excavations of rock and earth amount to 179,000,000 cubic yards. The government has used 3,015,000 barrels of cement. The available reservoir capacity is 9,441,910 acre-feet. The service has built 7,293 bridges with a total length of over 32 miles. Its culverts number 9,400 and are over 61 miles long. There are now in operation more than 512 miles of pipe line and 129 miles of flumes. The service has built 986 miles of roads, much of it in what was before inaccessible mountain regions, 83 miles of railroad, 3, 145 miles of telephone lines 650 miles of power transmission lines, and 1,450 buildings, such as offices, residences, power plants, pumping stations, barns store houses, etc. The power developed amounts to approximately 60,000 horsepower.

The net construction cost of the reclamation projects to the end of the fiscal year was a little less than \$125,000,000.

The projects now under way of completed embrace approximately 3,300,000 acres of irrigable land, and will ultimately provide about 60,000 farms of from 10 to 160 acres each. During the year 1919 water was available from government ditches for about 1,636,000 acres on 39,000 farms of which about 1,200,000 acres were irrigated; in addition water was supplied under contract for about 1,000,000 acres outside the government projects. The value of the crops grown in 1919 on lands served either in whole or in part from the works of the service amounted to \$150,000,000 about \$9,000,000 of which represent the value of crops grown on the 1,113,469 acres of cropped land on the projects proper, from which definite crop statistics are secured, or about \$80.00 per acre, and the balance an estimated amount from approximately 1,000,000 acres of land served with water under the Warren Act from the works of the service.

The crop year of 1920 just closed in quantity production far exceeded that of 1919 reported above. Owing however, to the slump in prices of all farm products and livestock the total values are likely to show a decline over those of 1919. In general the crops on all projects were excellent, the season having been a favorable one.

Reclamation Development of Great Umatilla Project

By H. M. Schilling

PROFITABLE DAIRY HERD FROM SMALL BEGINNING

To illustrate how a good herd of cattle may be developed from a small beginning, the United States Department of Agriculture makes public the following letter from a farmer near Nokesville, Va. This letter is typical of many contributed by practical farmers aiding in the "Better Sires—Better Stock" campaign.

"I am a farmer and a dairyman. I milk 15 cows and raise about 2 calves a year so as to be able to cull my herd 2 cows a year and replace them with young cows.

"I started with common grades of all kinds, but they were good ones. Then I began using my neighbor's pure-bred bull, and kept the best heifers. But this was slow progress, so I bought six grade Holstein heifers and also a pure-bred bull. Then I added two pure-bred cows.

"I now find a ready sale for stock I wish to sell, even for my grades. When one uses a good bull and good cows, well cared for, he does not have any scrub cows."

The letter points out clearly how it is possible for one to develop gradually into a breeder of pure-bred and high-grade stock.

CHRISTMAS BAG FOR GUESTS

Container for Presents Attached to Backs of Chairs With Bow of Red Satin Ribbon.

THE Christmas bag is an innovation planned by one housekeeper. The breakfast table is to be decorated with a mirror in the center, outlined as a star by holly sprigs, and with a slender cut glass vase in the center holding red chrysanthemums. Long-stemmed flowers also radiate from the central star with the blossoms toward the plates of those for whom the flowers are intended. Every napkin lies beneath a Christmas card with a sprig of holly tied upon it with red ribbon, and to the back of every chair is tied a bag with a big red satin bow. The bags are of all sizes, and each is full of individual gifts. One is an opera bag, another a shopping bag in brown leather and gold nailheads, another a bag for collars and cuffs, another a gay laundry bag, one is suggestive of the scraps grandmother will put into it, and the other of books that a small girl will carry to school. All are as dainty and fine as careful workmanship and good materials can make them, and there will be fun emptying the materials out of the various bags.

Differ on Christ's Birthday

THE early Christmas were divided as to the date on which the nativity of Christ should be celebrated. Some of these celebrated it on the first or sixth of January, other groups observed September 29 and still another March 29. As early as the fourth century, however, the period of the new year had been generally accepted as the time for celebrating Christ's birth. The Western branch of the church observed December 25 and the Eastern church January 6. Finally it was decided that all should celebrate December 25. Pope Julius I, who presided in the first half of the fourth century, is credited with having set the date.

Roses at Christmas.

The fact that we can get flowers out of doors at Christmas time is in itself a sufficient justification for growing the Christmas rose, but besides that it is worth growing for itself, says Country Life in America. Its large white flowers, fully two inches across, resembling those of a giant single rose, although as a matter of fact it belongs to the same family as the buttercup, never fail to excite enthusiasm in the season of snow and ice. The plant itself grows only six to eight inches high, and the large, greenish-white flowers are borne in clusters and nestle closely among the dark green leaves.

Novel Christmas Salad Bowl.

By the time that the salad course arrives at the Christmas dinner all that surround the festive board are apt to be warm. It will be refreshing to see the salad come to the table in a block of ice. Smooth the ice square with a hot flat iron and make a cavity in the center with the same utensil. Border with crisp lettuce and a ring of holly and fill with salad. Place the block on several thicknesses of cloth or a deep platter and put around it a wreath of holly.

In its broadest aspect, interest in reclamation development has been greatly increased during the year of 1920. Several causes may be assigned, among which are the activities of the various irrigation congress in the West, the general demand for increased production and opening of lands wherever practicable for soldier settlement.

Several years of drought have created a demand for increased storage and the gradual tightening of the money situation, the irrigation interests are looking to the Federal Government for aid; especially since the Reclamation fund has been augmented by proceeds from the coal, oil and gas leasing bills.

The Umatilla project, composed of the East Side and West Extension units, was operated with increased acreage. The grand total irrigated for the project increased from 10,500 acres in 1919 to 12,000 acres in 1920. The alfalfa yield of 8,500 tons was 1,700 tons in excess of 1919, but the decreased price per ton resulted in a total value of \$40,000 less than 1919. Coupled with an almost complete fruit failure, the total crop value fell from \$633,000 in 1919 to \$520,000 in 1920, and the average value decreased from \$75 per acre in 1919 to \$51 in 1920.

Outside of the operation and maintenance of the project system, the principal construction work consisted of the improvements to the "A" Canal, the main distributary from Cold Springs reservoir. It is to be noted that this work was practically done with local labor, the farmers taking unusual interest in it. When completed, it will result in a great saving of water to the East Side unit, besides alleviating the drainage situation.

General interest has grown in the McKay storage development. Studies of water supply and topographic surveys have been completed; the engineering and construction studies are in progress. It is expected that by spring the service will announce its policy and attitude toward this important piece of work.

The West Extension Irrigation District has taken a keen interest in their unit's operations. Some local drainage work done in the vicinity of Boardman, under the direction of the Board of Directors, has resulted in considerable benefit.

The Hermiston Irrigation District, cooperating with the Umatilla River Water Users' Association, was at all times alive to the people's interests in irrigation activities. Cordial relations marked the attitude of both the Water Users' Association toward the Reclamation Service and their support was much appreciated.

The project was inspected in July by members of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives headed by Hon. James W. Good, of Iowa, Chairman, and accompanied by Representative N. J. Sennott, Chairman of the House Committee on Public Lands, and representatives of the Reclamation Service. Numerous engineers from England, Sweden, Holland, Canada and Argentina also visited the project during the season.

The Umatilla project was therefore not neglected although only one of the numerous projects of the arid West visited. It is believed that the first-hand knowledge gained by the members of Congress of the needs of reclamation expansion can not fail to bear fruit beneficial to reclamation development.

The people of the West and especially those on the irrigated projects, therefore look with confidence to the future. While the price of agricultural products is possibly on the ebb, never-the-less an optimistic spirit should be maintained, and with a bright outlook for construction there will be afforded an opportunity for labor to supplement the farmer's income.

Our Commercialized Christmas.

Christmas is the decoration day of a commercial age. Then, as on no other day, we face us in our battles those who have fallen in our battles for wealth. For a man who has one of the thousands of children who have no share in that easy life we give our children, and must find a way to give joy in the charity dinner. Along with the barter to which we have subjected our giving within our circle of acquaintance, we play at extending the spirit of the day to those who are the pawns of our industrial game and Salvation army lass, standing a cold numb on the street corner, a begging fund for Christmas baskets. A left poor, reminds us of the wreckage we in the wake of our prosperity. We give a trifle to help the poor in the bitterness of the year with a couple of hours' good eating.

The Land of Christmas Trees

By Douglas Mallock

My papa works in a lumber camp
In the land of Christmas trees,
And he wrote to me,
"I wish you could see
Such Christmas trees as these!"
In the swamp so cold, in the swamp so damp,
There are cedars green and great,
There are pines so high,
That they touch the sky,
There are hemlocks slim and straight.

THEY smile to the moon, they sing to the star,
They nod to the passing breeze,
And every bough
Wears diamonds now,
In the land of Christmas trees."
O wonderful land in the north woods far,
O wonderful, beautiful land!
In my cot so white
I dream at night
Of the forest green and grand.

MY mama says that the snow that lies
In the land where the great trees grow
Is like the spread
On my little bed
Where at night to sleep I go,
That underneath with tight-shut eyes
The flowers are slumbering—
There snug and warm
From the winter storm
They wait for the call of spring.

SO when I kneel for the night's amen,
I think of the Christmas land—
I say a prayer
For my papa there
In the forest green and grand;
And another prayer I whisper then
While I kneel on bended knees—
That the Lord will keep
The flowers that sleep
In the land of Christmas trees.