

Professor O'Gara Demonstrates That Poor Farming is More to Blame Than Smelters for Ruined Farms

To the Editor:

It is possible that you, among my many Medford friends, would like to know what progress I have been making since leaving Rogue River valley. No doubt a good many people supposed that my work here would not be along scientific lines, but rather along the lines of the so-called "expert," who is nothing but a parasite and hunts every avenue of scientific research where he can absorb knowledge without working.

It is now about five months since we left the valley. During the interval I have been a very busy man. The field of agricultural research is an enormous one even in a district the size of the Salt Lake valley. A hasty glance over the situation after I arrived showed that very little agricultural investigation which would be of value to us had been done. In other words, the district had been left alone so far as agricultural investigations were concerned. To me, it was a virgin country with a large percentage of the farmers toiling away in blissful ignorance of the real condition of things.

My first work was to select a farm which could be used for demonstration purposes, as well as for experimental work. A farm which had been forced upon the smelters by the former owner by reason of heavy damage claims was selected. The former owner based his failure upon no fault of his own, but upon the smelters which he said had poisoned his soil and ruined it for agricultural purposes. This farm of about fifty acres was the most deplorable looking sight which could be called a farm that I had ever seen. It looked as though the owner had been out of sorts with himself and nature for several years. The lands and buildings could not have looked worse if hostile armies had used them as their battle ground. One reason why I selected this property was because I wanted the worst conditions possible in order to show that lack of method in farming was responsible for the crop failures and not the smelters. Owing to the dilapidated condition of the property, we could not begin our farm operations until well toward the middle of May. However, since that time we have been bringing order out of chaos. This you will be able to note by a few photographs which I am sending you under separate cover. The transformation of this ruin into a beautiful farm has been so remarkable that we have had literally hundreds of visitors with us in order to learn how it was done. We have had representatives of the various bureaus of the United States department of agriculture, soils, plant industry, entomology, mines, Dr. L. O. Howard of the bureau of entomology, after visiting the farm and laboratory, stated to a newspaper representative that the work being done by our department is the most remarkable of any done in the United States. That a big smelting and refining company should engage in agricultural investigations in so thorough a scientific way might be considered an epoch-making movement. Dr. Howard realized that our methods and equipment are such that we can do many things which the experiment station cannot undertake. We have men with us who have done things and are not afraid of hard work.

After getting farm operations started, my next work was to make plans for the laboratory and its equipment. As you will note in the photograph we have a fine almost fireproof building. All the walls, including the interior ones, are of tile,

which makes the building safe and at the same time very cool for summer work. Above the walls there is an air space surrounded by louvers, so that the rooms are never heated during the hottest days. There are eight large rooms for laboratories, library and herbarium and office purposes. In addition, there is a store-room for laboratory supplies. The laboratories are equipped with the finest apparatus that money can buy; all our instruments and appliances have been purchased in order that we may do precision work. In each laboratory there is electricity, gas and running water. In the rear of the laboratory stands our own gas plant, so that we do not depend upon city supply. The library is one of the most important parts of the equipment. In addition to the library I had, I have added a great many volumes. I now have a complete set of Saccardo's Sylloge Fungorum, including the year 1913. This set alone cost \$1000, and there are many institutions without it. Mine is the only set within this state.

In order that we may be able to make a survey of agricultural conditions, it is necessary to have proper transportation. The company, knowing our needs, placed at our disposal six machines with which to cover the agricultural districts about the smelters. One automobile is a traveling chemical laboratory, and is unique as well as useful. Our staff consists of thirteen men, which includes myself. In this staff we have representatives of the best universities in the United States and abroad. I have on my staff a plant pathologist and assistant, an economic entomologist, an agronomist and irrigation expert and assistant, a chief chemist, a chemist in charge of air analysis and fumigation experiment, a soil chemist and physicist, a veterinarian, parasitologist and bacteriologist, a dairy expert and animal husbandman, and a farm superintendent. You will see, then, that my staff and equipment are of a little higher order than was provided me in the Rogue River valley. There is absolutely no politics connected with my work, and when I say that I am chief in charge I mean to convey the impression that no one dictates to me. I am given the means with which to carry out my investigations, and all that is asked of me is to "deliver the goods."

We are doing two things. First, we are carefully investigating the agricultural conditions of the district; second, we are co-operating with the farmers and every other agency which will help the community. In our co-operation with the farmers we are instructing him in the matter of pest control, cultivation and irrigation of soils, feeds and feeding, breeds and breeding, with special reference to dairying. We are paying a great deal of attention to soil physics and chemistry, with special reference to irrigation practice and drainage. We are also doing much work on alkali investigations. The farmers of the community get all this help free of charge. If an animal is sick, our veterinarian prescribes without cost to the owners. Soil analyses or other chemical analyses are also made without charge. Any one of our experts may go at the beck and call of the farmer. The farmers have already learned that we are not their enemies, although paid by the smelter interests; but that we are their friends. Our demonstration farm is a place for them to visit in order to learn how to till the soil.

Since beginning our work here I have personally found present, but

not heretofore reported from this district, three diseases of the alfalfa—the bacterial blight, the crown gall and a stem and leaf spot fungus disease; a fungous disease called anthracnose of red clover, also a nematode or eel worm of red clover; two mites of the pear and apple; a mite new to science on the native maple; two leaf diseases of barley and a fungous disease of wheat. In addition, Professor Doan, our economic entomologist, has found present in the valley one unnamed species of wheat joint worm together with two other species. The three species of wheat worms have done an enormous amount of damage, especially in the dry farm districts, where most of the fields this year were almost a total failure.

These important discoveries explain the reason why farmers have not been getting maximum crops. They explain why the smelters have been forced to pay heavy claims for damages. Our potato investigations have shown a deplorable condition; in the early part of the season our examination of the seed tubers offered for sale all over the district averaged about 100 per cent diseased. It was impossible to find any lot of potatoes which did not have present in them such diseases as dry rot, rosette and scab, together with other more or less important diseases. Already our investigations have shown that such crops as alfalfa, potatoes, wheat and others, have not been damaged by smelter fumes, but rather by fungous and insect enemies. However, the farmer was largely ignorant of conditions and he blamed the smelter for his losses because to him it was the most plausible reason for failure. My discovery of the bacterial disease of alfalfa in the Salt Lake valley had a rather startling effect. I showed the farmers that the peculiar appearance of the alfalfa was not due to smelter fumes, which they supposed it to be, but due entirely to the presence of the small germ, which attacks the alfalfa stem in much the same way that the pear blight germ attacks pomaceous hosts. The germ also attacks the foliage of the alfalfa plant and the peculiar spotting caused by it was supposed by the farmer to be due to smelter fumes. I showed them that the alfalfa weevil so serious in the Salt Lake valley, but readily controlled, was in a large measure responsible for the entrance of the blight germ into the alfalfa plant. It was also shown that the spring frosts, especially during the early part of May, caused sufficient injury to the leaves and stems of the alfalfa plant to permit the germ which lives in the soil to enter.

It would take too long to tell about the very many interesting things we are finding, as well as other matters pertaining to our work. It is needless to say, however, that we have behind us the very best people in the community. We have nothing to hide or to cover up; everything is open and above board. We are doing for the people what has not been done for them by those who are expected to solve their problems. It is quite probable that the farmer has spurned the teachings of those sent to help him. Be that as it may, we found the farmer generally ignorant of actual conditions, but quite willing to learn.

With my kind personal regards to you and my many friends in the Rogue River valley, I am,
Sincerely yours,
P. J. O'GARA.
Salt Lake City, Utah, Aug. 14.

MAYOR PURDIN ASKED TO NAME ROAD DELEGATES

Mayor Purdin, of Medford, has been requested by the Hon. A. B. Fletcher, president of the Fourth American Road congress and state highway engineer of California, to name three delegates to attend the sessions of the congress at Atlanta, Georgia, during the week of November 9th.

Forty-seven great organizations are taking part in the congress under the leadership of the American Highway association and the American Automobile association. In his letter to the mayor, President Fletcher calls attention to the fact that practically every state highway commissioner will be present and take part in discussing the important problems of road construction and maintenance, and that some of the foremost men in public life will devote their attention to the great question of federal aid to road improvement, in an endeavor to work out a policy which may be submitted to the congress of the United States with the support of the organized road movement of America. An important move bearing upon state legislation will be made at the session to be held under the auspices of the American Bar association, at which a joint committee, appointed at the 1913 congress, will report progress in compilation and suggested revision of state road laws. The creation of commission participated in by each state to work out a revision of the road laws will be urged. The National Civil Service Reform League will hold an exceedingly important session on the merit system in road administration.

President Fletcher calls attention to the exhibits to be made by the United States government, the state, and more than a hundred of the leading manufacturers at the congress, which will illustrate every known method, material and equipment for road construction and maintenance. He urges that the city and county be officially represented, as the congress is in reality a training school where a very great amount of useful information can be obtained through attendance at lectures with leading specialists in road and street work, and the collecting of the many instructive bulletins which will be available for distribution.

BUNCOM BREVITIES

A. D. McKee, H. B. Stephenson and Joe Brimbal have gone to Smith river on a prospecting trip and expect to be absent three weeks.

Ed Pence and family have gone to their home at Central Point.

R. Phillips and E. Finley have gone to the lakes to gather beef and vaccinate calves.

Mrs. A. D. McKee went to Little Applegate after her daughter, Luella, and is visiting friends there.

Mrs. Minnie Edwards and her sister, Mammie Watkins, recently visited Medford on business.

FREE ADVICE TO SICK WOMEN

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Women suffering from any form of female ill are invited to communicate promptly with the woman's private correspondence department of the Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co., Lynn, Mass. Your letter will be opened, read and answered by a woman and held in strict confidence. A woman can freely talk of her private illness to a woman; thus has been established a confidential correspondence which has extended over many years and which has never been broken. Never have they published a testimonial or used a letter without the written consent of the writer, and never has the company allowed these confidential letters to get out of their possession, as the hundreds of thousands of them in their files will attest.

Out of the vast volume of experience which they have to draw from, it is more than possible that they possess the very knowledge needed in your case. Nothing is asked in return except your good will, and their advice has helped thousands. Surely any woman, rich or poor, should be glad to take advantage of this generous offer of assistance. Address Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co., (confidential) Lynn, Mass.

Every woman ought to have Lydia E. Pinkham's 80-page Text Book. It is not a book for general distribution, as it is too expensive. It is free and only obtainable by mail. Write for it today.

SISKIYOU ROAD BUILDERS CLASH ON EUROPEAN WAR

(From Ashland Record)
Mrs. J. H. Sweeney came down from Portland Thursday evening to join her husband, who has the contract for the Siskiyou Mountain end of Jackson county's \$500,000 highway. Mr. Sweeney came in from his camps on the Siskiyou to meet her, and after spending Friday at the Hotel Oregon they went up to the camps, where Mrs. Sweeney will "rough it" for a while.

Mr. Sweeney brought an interesting story down from the camps that has to do with the war in Europe. He has among the several hundred men now at work many foreigners. There are in the bunch Russians, Germans, Austrians, Poles, Servians—and in fact representatives of every nation that is at present engaged in the great European conflict.

The large majority of the men spend their Sundays and nights in camp—only a few seeking conviviality at Medford or Hill, California. They are intensely interested in the European conflict and discuss it heatedly from first hand knowledge of the conditions that have led up to it and an accurate familiarity with the geography and strength of the nations embroiled.

For the most part the discussions have so far been without belligerent demonstration, but on one or two occasions there have been loosened teeth and swollen noses. The most notable instance was that of a Russian and a German who broke out even in the scrimmage in which they indulged.

In one group of employees at one of the camps are fourteen Austrians and one Servian. They came to the camp together some time ago and have stuck together ever since. The Austrians show no animosity for the Servian despite the fact that their nation started the great war by attacking his nation—as a result of one of

his countrymen having assassinated their prince. Recently two of these Austrians went to Portland to shift for the old country to help fight their nation's battles, but were unable to get passage and returned to work. Mr. Sweeney reports that one of their worst troubles of late has been to get water on the mountain for drinking and cooking purposes and for the horses. They have tapped all the springs they could find, but the dry weather threatens to render the supply inadequate. He says the recent heated spell is as noticeable on the mountains as in Ashland and that it has been hard on the men and horses.

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All cut glass 25 per cent off. Big reduction in gold and gold filled jewelry; also Sterling silver toilet sets, vanities, mesh bags and coin purses.

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THE JEWELER

NEAR POST OFFICE



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Effective from August 1, 1914, to August 1, 1915, and guaranteed against any reduction during that time:

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HEALTH OF PARIS REPORTED EXCELLENT

PARIS, Aug. 20, 1:45 a. m.—The health of Paris is excellent, according to reports of the sanitary authorities. The population of both the city and its suburbs co-operate readily in the measures taken by the health officers so that there is no danger of epidemics. Advice as to revaccination is very generally followed.

The police now consider Paris the safest city in the world. Bronzed bluejackets have been brought from the naval ports to supplement the police. The patrols find little to do. Before mobilization the average daily arrests in the city was 700. This has now dropped to 150.

GROUNDING STEAMER IS SAFELY FLOATED

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Aug. 20.—The chamber of commerce here received word today that the steamer Colusa of the New York & Pacific Steamship company, Ltd., fleet, which went ashore eight miles north of Astoria, was floated last night, uninjured.

With Medford trade in Medford made

OBITUARY.

BALLET—At Ashland, August 15 Adam Ballet, aged 50 years. Deceased was well known in Southern Pacific railroad towns for the past thirty years. He was night foreman of the roundhouse at Weed, where he was employed at the time of his recent illness and was sent to the Ashland sanitarium.

The funeral took place Tuesday, conducted under the auspices of Mt. Shasta Lodge No. 312, Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers. Some thirty members of the order came from Dunsmuir, and Forrest Ballet, son of the deceased, came from Dillon, Mont. Beautiful floral displays were sent by railroad men whom he had worked with from Sacramento, Dunsmuir, Portland and Ashland. The interment was in Mountain View cemetery.

REED—At Ashland, August 18, Elizabeth F. Reed. Born in Philadelphia, June 30, 1849; died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. A. T. Warner, after an illness of two years.

The greater portion of her life was spent in Pennsylvania, South Bend and Evansville Ind., later coming to Denver, Colo., and then to Ashland about four years ago. She was the widow of Adrew J. Reed, after whose death she made her home with Mrs. Warner, the only child. The remains were sent east for interment.

ENGLISH GIRL GOES TO WAR AS AVIATOR

DIJON, France, Aug. 20, via Paris.—French gendarmes today stopped a young girl, who, disguised as a man, had left with a group of Pau aviators for the war. She was wearing a military aviator's uniform and had cut her hair short.

It was found that she was an English girl, aged 26. She will be sent back to her parents.

The finest equipment in Oregon for printing fruit labels. Medford Printing Co.

SHIVELY—At Ashland, August 11, Jacob Shively, aged 84. He was living with his daughter, Mrs. Fred Bartley, at Williams, Josephine county. Twenty years ago he came to Oregon and had resided at Ashland most of the time since. Deceased leaves four sons and four daughters; Mrs. Fred Bartley of Williams, Or.; Mrs. John Erway of Hastings, Mich.; Mrs. Mary J. Erway of Mt. Pleasant, Mich.; Mrs. C. E. Rinear of Moab, Ariz.; John G. Shively of Medford; Arthur J. Shively of Los Angeles; William B. Shively of Chandler, Ariz.; Henry D. Shively of Midleville, Mich.