

Agricultural Experimentation in Box Butte County

PROF. E. W. HUNT,
DIRECTOR

Dr. Wilcox Here

Dr. E. Mead Wilcox, accompanied by his assistant, Prof. Stone, arrived in town Sunday morning on No. 41, ready to begin the work of investigating plant diseases prevalent in this part of the state. The room, which has been assigned to Dr. Wilcox for a laboratory in the city hall, has been thoroughly cleaned and renovated, the necessary furniture installed, and as soon as his apparatus arrives will present the appearance of an active, efficient laboratory.

Early Sunday morning Mr. Newberry took them out north of town in his machine to investigate rumors of disease that had already appeared in some fields of growing potatoes. On one farm they found specimens of diseased plants and brought some of them back with them as material for laboratory investigation. Dr. Wilcox will undoubtedly be ready for active work at the laboratory by the time this paper is in the hands of its readers. He is a specialist in plant diseases and invites everyone to send him samples of diseased plants of whatever nature so that he may ascertain the cause of the disease and the probable remedy for it.

The potato disease, which was evident on one farm north of town, is peculiar in its appearance and nothing can be definitely said with reference to it until it has been thoroughly investigated and the cause of it definitely determined. It attacks the stem of the growing plant beneath the surface of the ground and has the appearance of a black rot of the stem. Sometimes it appears only on one side of the stem and at other times completely surrounds it. It cuts off the supply of sap for the plant and gives a pale yellowish color to the leaves, causing them in some instances to roll a little. These indications are undoubtedly caused by the fact that the disease cuts off the plant nutrition from the growing plant.

One peculiar fact with reference to it may have some significance. So far, none of the disease has been discovered on plants the seed of which has received the formaldehyde treatment before planting. Where the disease has appeared the seed had in no case been treated. Later investigation may show the disease in plants from treated seed.

Nothing can be said with reference to the cause or cure of this disease until after laboratory investigation has shown its precise nature and definitely proved the cause of it.

Professor Stone visited some of the farms in the vicinity where fruit is being raised and found some diseases of fruit trees which may readily and easily be prevented by spraying at the proper time.

Potato Spraying

The four row Aspinwall sprayer ordered by Mr. Newberry has arrived and will soon be in active operation on the experimental plot on the farm of Mr. Loran, northeast of town. It is expected that the work of the sprayer during the summer will demonstrate its value to all growers of potatoes. Spraying has never been tried in this vicinity for the purpose of holding in check potato diseases or preventing the attacks on potatoes by the numerous insects which prey upon them. Knowing what I do about the work of the sprayer and the benefits to be derived from it, if I had no more than ten acres I should have a sprayer and should feel satisfied that the benefits derived from it during the first season would more than pay for it.

It has been pretty thoroughly demonstrated that spraying with Bordeaux mixture will protect potatoes from both early and late blight. The late blight causes wet rot in the tubers and is very damaging both as to the amount and the quality of the crop. These blights develop most readily in a warm, wet season. In excessively dry seasons there is little or no blight. Of course in bad blight years spraying has been invaluable but it has only recently been proved that spraying is indispensable even in a dry season. The experiment station of New York located at Geneva is making a ten year test of the value of spraying. It began in 1902 and accordingly has been in operation seven years. The experiment station bulletin recently received shows that for the seven years already passed there has been an average gain of 110 bushels per acre where the potatoes were sprayed every two weeks as compared with unsprayed potatoes in the same field, and an average gain of 84 bushels per acre where the potatoes were sprayed only three times. The seasons of 1907 and 1908 have tested well the practicability of potato spraying as an annual operation. In 1907 dry weather began early in the summer and continued through the time when late blight is usually most destructive. In consequence, potato fields, with but few exceptions, suffered but little from this disease. In 1908 dry weather began earlier and continued later than in 1907, with the result that the germs of the late blight fungus had little chance to germinate. A careful search for the disease was made by the Station Botanist and his assistants in many parts of the state without the discovery of even a specimen of the fungus. Reports from growers and others prove that the disease was

present in a very few restricted areas; but, taking the state as a whole, it may be said that there was no late blight in New York in 1908.

Yet in spite of the fact that there was no blight, three sprayings in 1907 resulted in a gain of 44 bushels to the acre, and 5 sprayings gave a gain of 74½ bushels per acre, while in 1908 the corresponding gains were 29½ and 39 bushels respectively.

These facts should convince the most skeptical of the value and the necessity of spraying. It is expected that the use of the sprayer on the experimental plant during the coming season will make an equally startling demonstration of its value here. I am satisfied personally of its value and the necessity for it and if I were a potato grower here I should have "one without fail. But most of the potato growers will have to see an actual demonstration of its value before trying it. I do not know as they are to be blamed very much for that because there have been so many fakes that have been so well and shrewdly advertised as to appear to have merit and a good many farmers have been stung by them. Experience teaches them to be slow and to be absolutely convinced before investing.

Trouble With Small Grain

The other day in riding through the country I came across a fifty acre field of small grain that looked sickly. It seemed as though it needed immediate attention if any crop was to be produced. I got out and examined it. The lower leaves had turned yellow and were dead and the whole field looked as though it had been "fired," to use the expression of a neighbor. What was really the matter, was this: Owing to the recent rains a crust had formed over the surface, shutting off the supply of air to the roots. Air is as necessary to the roots of plants as it is to the tops and to shut off the supply of air has two results. It stops the underground breathing, producing a smothering effect, and it prevents the oxidation of the mineral salts in the soil, which converts them into plant food, thus cutting off the supply of food and starving the plant. The thing to do is to break the crust and let in the air and in growing grain there is no implement that will do this as satisfactorily and as well as the Hallock weeder. Mr. "Sheep" Johnson, living west of town, had a field in this condition. He tried the weeder on it and in a few days it had brightened up, quickened its growth, become vigorous and thrifty and looked as though nothing had ever been the matter with it. Those who have small grain in this condition can thus learn what to do with it to improve it.

Neighboring Notes

The animal that has killed so much live stock in the south part of Custer county the last few weeks, and which was supposed to be a mountain lion, was shot and killed by a farmer near Oconto last week, and turned out to be an immense gray wolf. Rewards aggregating \$171 in cash had been offered and so sure were the parties interested that this was the brute that had been doing the damage that the money was promptly turned over to the man who loaded the wolf with buck shot.

From Minutary Free Press:

W. E. Lotspeich of Bingham, Nebr., a station east of Alliance, was a visitor with his brother and family at this place over Sunday.

Mrs. Agnes Kennison of the Enterprise hotel, accompanied by Miss Anna McConkey and Martin Whitman, departed Tuesday for Alliance to attend the wedding of Miss Anna's sister. From Alliance Mrs. Kennison and Miss McConkey will go to points farther east and Mr. Whitman will continue on to Fillmore county, where he will visit his sister.

From Custer Co. Chief:

H. M. Sullivan spent several days at Alliance last week.

S. K. Warrick came down from Alliance on last Tuesday to look after banking matters here.

Chas. Triplett, who has been stationed at Broken Bow at various times during the past few years, is again in the city and is temporarily filling the vacancy caused by the promotion of Ed. Powell.

Wm. Graham came down from Alliance on last Tuesday and expects to spend a couple of months assisting in the Broken Bow State Bank while the various officers and employees in that institution take their annual vacation.

From Crawford Courier:

Jennie Stetson left Sunday for Alliance to attend the normal.

Edna Rincker left this morning for Alliance for a short visit with friends.

Virgil Caven returned on Saturday from St. Agnes' Academy at Alliance. Charles Russell of Gordon passed through Crawford Thursday going to Alliance.

From Box Butte Cor., Hay Springs Enterprise:

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. O'Mara and Johnny went to Alliance the 17th to attend the Stockmen's Association. They returned Saturday afternoon.

Miss Mona Loomis went to Alliance Saturday with her uncle C. H. Loomis and wife to attend the Stockmen's Association and visit friends. She expected to be gone about two weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Heaton went to Hay Springs Monday, the former to attend the meeting and banquet of the Masons. They returned Tuesday morning, Misses Gladys Bowman and Alice Staab accompanied them to make a visit on the ranch.

Cards are out announcing the marriage of Miss Bertha Burleigh of Hemingford and Mr. Ed. Zurcher of Lakeside. The bride was well and favorably known to the people of Hay Springs and vicinity, her father having been pastor of the M. E. church of that place a few years ago. The groom was raised in this neighborhood, but has spent the time of late years on his claim near Lakeside. He is a young man of sterling qualities and worth, and the many friends of these estimable young people wish them a long life of joy and prosperity.

From Raville Recorder:

J. W. Jackson went down to Alliance Monday on business, returning Wednesday.

County Clerk Van Vleck drove his family down to his claim Wednesday to remain for the summer.

Jim Wilson rode up from Alliance Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Wood and daughter, Wilma. Jim has taken the medical course at the State University and can now add M. D. to his name. Mr. and Mrs. Wood rode back to Alliance accompanied by Mary Wilson, who will visit with them.

C. Patterson and Fred Hoyt took the train for Alliance Sunday morning. They got as far as Hay Springs, and as Fred found there was little or no rain, he phoned down to Charlie Plantz to bring up the auto with his wife and Miss Stewart and he rode on to Alliance in the auto as he intended at first, but was deterred on account of the rain which fell in Rushville. They returned Tuesday afternoon.

From Gordon Journal:

Clate Jordan returned from Alliance last Saturday evening where he had been taking in the sights of Frontier Day at that place. He reports an excellent show and a fine time.

From Mitchell Index:

Mrs. D. W. Reiman came over from Alliance Saturday for a short visit with friends, returning Monday.

Miss Carol Stewart left yesterday morning for eastern Nebraska, where she will spend the summer with a sister of Mrs. Stewart's. Mrs. Stewart accompanied her as far as Alliance.

From Bayard Transcript:

F. E. Stearns and Fred Benton were among those from here who attended the Stock Association in Alliance last week.

From all reports the Stockmen's Association held in Alliance was a success in every particular. From reports the largest crowd was there that has ever congregated in western Nebraska, and as usual the good people of Alliance entertained the people royally.

From Gering Courier:

George Leavitt went to Alliance this morning on business, which will be combined with a visit over Sunday with his son, Fred. The latter is contemplating removal to Idaho.

From the Hyannis Tribune:

Misses Mary and Winnie Egan, who have been attending St. Agnes' academy at Alliance, returned home last Saturday for the summer vacation.

Thomas and Miss Mary Lynch, after attending the Stockmen's convention at Alliance last week, went to Hot Springs, S. D., for a few days' recreation.

Among those from Whitman and vicinity attending the Stockmen's convention at Alliance were Jay Taylor, Luther Phillips, B. Greathouse, Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Taylor, Homer Phipps, Mr. Darr and daughters.

Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Sears, after the Stockmen's convention at Alliance, enjoyed a trip to Scottsbluff in an automobile, guests of Col. and Mrs. Valentine. They reached home Monday evening on delayed train (as usual) No. 44, and report a most enjoyable visit at Scottsbluff.

The Tribune neglected to mention last week that Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Stansbie had returned from a visit of a week with relatives in Custer county. To even up we'll state that Tom was one of the jolliest of the hundreds of stockmen at the convention in Alliance last week.

The annual meeting of the Nebraska Stockmen's association, held at Alliance three days last week, was the most successful one ever held. The sessions were intensely interesting, well attended, and Alliance did herself proud in entertaining the unusually large number of visitors, among whom were nearly 200 Hyannis and Grant county residents. On such occasions as this hotel and lodging accommodations are scarce and the prices very much elevated, but 'twas not so at Alliance last week, the prices being very reasonable and an active committee succeeded in placing all visitors in good quarters and noting that they were well administered.

MARSLAND.

(Received June 24, too late for publication in last issue.)

Horse buyers are visiting all the ranches buying up all the horses they can find.

The camp meeting at Crawford is doing fine work. Some are attending that live sixty to eighty miles away.

Mr. Tolman has gone to Oregon to visit his daughter, Mrs. Charlie McGogy, and his sister and other friends. He expects to put in some months at the sea shore, then return by way of Denver.

Albert Hovarka has been on the sick list for a short time.

Bert Bouck is hauling more lumber from Miller's lumber yards. He is making some fine improvements.

Mrs. G. M. Burns has gone to the hospital for an operation. She has been in poor health for some time.

Mrs. Hughes has bought 160 acres of land, the Clark place, for which she paid \$1,500.

A. H. McLaughlin bought 80 acres of land which joins the Marble place.

S. M. Trussell bought 80 acres of land, the McLaughlin place, paying \$450 for the same.

Fred Ellsworth from Belmont has been down to the Gregory ranch breaking sod.

Those who attended the advent camp meetings at Crawford from Belmont were Mrs. Lee Gregory and daughters, Ellsworth and family, Deal and family.

Miss Gerie Tolman and Miss P. Jacobson have gone to Oregon and Washington to visit friends, see the country and have a good time.

Mr. and Mrs. Pierce and family from Belmont attended the camp meeting at Crawford.

Carroll Tolman and wife attended church at Belmont Sunday and took dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Deal, together with Mr. and Mrs. Pierce and others.

The elderly Mr. Gregory is again on the sick list. He may have to return to Hot Springs.

Mrs. S. M. Trussell is "mumping" it this week, her face being a sight to see. She is thankful that it is only once in a life time.

The dance at Marsland Friday night was fine. The crowd was small but all report a big time.

G. M. Burns has finished painting M. Trussell's house and the Sunny Side school house. He did a fine job.

Albert Hovarka has taken a job of cutting and putting up 200 tons of hay for Mrs. Hughes.

L. Snow has done a fine job painting his house, which is another improvement in our town. It seems that everyone is trying to beautify their place.

G. M. Burnes has gone to Hemingford. He has a job of six large buildings to paint at Hemingford and Alliance. He is the boss painter.

DOBBINS' BOND IS REDUCED

Alleged Maybray Conspirator May Be Released on Bail.

Council Bluffs, Ia. June 28.—Upon the application of John R. Dobbins the amount of the bonds in the two cases pending against him in relation with the Maybray cases, on a specific charge of a conspiracy to swindle T. W. Ballew of Princeton, Mo., out of \$30,000, was reduced from \$7,000 to \$6,000. Dobbins was arrested in New York and has been in jail here for several months. Recently he was visited by a stranger, who is understood to represent people ready to furnish the bond for Dobbins. Ballew has opposed any move calculated to aid in Dobbins' release on bail.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES

Sessions Concluded and New Officers Elected.

Dubuque, Ia., June 29.—The ninth annual convention of the young people's societies of the Lutheran League of Iowa concluded its sessions here. The following officers were elected: President, Hugo Weierrauch of Waverly; vice president, Clara Helbig of Dubuque; recording secretary, Ottilie Graf of Strawberry Point; corresponding secretary, Kate Deisinger of Owatonna, Minn.; treasurer, Gus Oelwein of Oelwein. Mason City or Oelwein will get the next meeting, the matter not having been decided.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE.
Alliance, Nebraska, June 12, 1909.
A sufficient contest affidavit having been filed in this office by Harry Derr, contestant, against homestead Entry No. 0012, made October 30th, 1888, for S. W. 1/4 section 8, N. 1/4 section 17, N. E. 1/4 of section 18, township 23 N. of range 32 W. of the 6th P. Meridian, by Elbert Stindt, Contestee, in which it is alleged that the said Elbert Stindt does not reside on the said land and has no buildings or improvements thereon and that he has abandoned the same for more than six months prior to the date of this contest, said parties are hereby notified to appear, respond, and offer evidence touching said allegation at 10 o'clock a. m. on July 23, 1909, before the Register and Receiver at the United States Land Office at Alliance, Nebraska.
The said contestant having, in a proper affidavit, filed June 7, 1909, set forth facts which show that after due diligence personal service of this notice cannot be made, it is hereby ordered and directed that such notice be given by due and proper publication.
Jp June 17-5w W. W. Wood, Register.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
State of Nebraska, ss.
Box Butte County, ss.
In re Matter of the Estate of Addie E. Thompson, Deceased.
L. A. Berry, County Judge of Box Butte county, Nebraska, hereby notify all persons having claims and demands against the estate of Addie E. Thompson that I have set and appointed the 27th day of December, 1909, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, at the County Court room in Alliance, for the examination of all claims against the estate of said decedent with a view to their allowance and payment. All persons interested as creditors of the said estate will present their claims to me at said time, or show cause for not so doing, and in case any claims are not so presented by said time they shall be forever barred.
This notice shall be served by publication thereof for three consecutive weeks in the Alliance Herald, a newspaper published in Alliance, prior to the day of hearing.
Given under my hand and the seal of said court this 22nd day of June, 1909.
L. A. BERRY,
County Judge.
[SEAL]
Jp June 24-3w

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