

FUTURE MOISTURE IS CROP FACTOR

PERIOD WILL LARGELY DETERMINE OUTCOME OF WINTER WHEAT HARVEST

(By Our Helena Correspondent)

HELENA—Moisture conditions during the next 60 days says the state-federal crop reporting service, will determine largely the outcome of the winter grain crops.

Most reporters advise the service that it is still too early to determine the condition of winter grains. At 71 percent of normal, the April 1 condition of winter wheat would be nine points below that of last April and 76 points below the 10-year average. Winter rye is estimated at 72 percent of normal compared with 80 percent a year ago and the 10-year average of 82.9.

Considerable soil blowing during February and alternate freezing and thawing during March indicated to the reporting service an abandonment of 19 percent of the planted area of winter wheat. An accurate estimate of damage sustained will not be obtainable until the crop begins growing.

Moisture above normal during March over the greater part of the state improved conditions for plowing and seeding, supplying necessary surface moisture for starting grass and hay crops and germinating seedlings. The service finds that, while pastures at present are furnishing less than the normal amount of old feed, moisture conditions are favorable for good growth of grass with the first warm weather.

Farm wages are reported at \$24.40 a month with board as compared with \$37.85 a year ago.

A 25 percent dividend, amounting to nearly \$25,000, was paid to creditors of the Joliet State bank of Joliet, in Carbon county recently, George M. Robertson, state examiner and superintendent of banks said. The bank closed Dec. 1, 1931.

A divorce granted Edgar Cooper is sustained by the Montana supreme court in an opinion by Justice A. H. Angstrom, on finding that his wife, Helen, who sued for divorce and \$50,000 alimony, did not bring the action in good faith.

She alleged cruelty but Cooper answered with a cross complaint, alleging that since their marriage she had spent almost all her time in Portland, Tacoma, Seattle and Chicago and finally had taken her household goods away from their home in Montana.

The court also affirmed the trial court in a decision for James Nelson, administrator, defendant in an action brought by C. H. Kester, administrator of the estates of C. B. Rinio and Hans

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Northwest Verse Will Be Published

Early in the spring of 1932, The Caxton Printers, Ltd., of Caldwell, Idaho, will publish Northwest Verse, a collection of about three hundred poems recently written by more than a hundred poets of the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana. It will be the first book of its kind in this region. It will doubtless be the standard collection for some years to come. In it will appear a selection from the best verse available to the editor.

The editor is H. G. Merriam, chairman of the department of English at the state university of Montana for the last ten years. For ten years he has edited The Frontier, a magazine which since 1927 has been a definite regional magazine for national reading.

Nearly two hundred writers were asked by the editor to submit to him the six or seven of their poems which they considered best. Other writers voluntarily submitted their verse. The editor checked this author selection with his own selection. The result is, in a sense, a doubly selected collection of verse. Many of the authors are young and have not yet established their reputations. More of them have published widely in national magazines, some general and some poetry magazines. A few have published volumes of poetry. All of them have written good verse, or they would not be given a place in this anthology.

The authors names are: Hazel Hall, Eleanor Allen, Sallie Elliot Allen, Lucille Perry Ames, Louise Anderson, Audrey Bunch Arnold, Grace Davidson, Baldwin, Florence Ashley Beeler, Hilda Knowles Blair, Jason Bolles, Verne Bright, Donald Burnie, Mary Brennan Clapp, Grace Stone Coates, Howard McKinley Corning, Violet Crain, D'Arcy Dahlberg, Mary Carolyn Davies, H. L. Davis, Leland Davis, Mary J. Elmen-dorf, Esten Everett Ericson, Alice Hendon Ernst, Anthony Euwer, Wright Field, Vardis Fisher, John C. Frohlich-er, Ethel Romig Fuller, Sylvia Gardner, C. Frank Goodpasture, Margaret Graefe, Edith M. Graham, Irene Welch Grissom, Grace E. Hall, Eleanor Hammond, Eleanor Hansen, Gwendolyn Haste, Ada Hastings Hedges, Charles Hilton, Steve Hogan, Frances Holmstrom, Mabel McKinlay Hopkins, Babette Hughes, Glenn Hughes, Frances B. Huston, Dorothy Marie Johnson, Pamela Pearl Jones, Walter Evans Kidd, Stoddard King, Ben Hur Lampman, Meddie Maze Lebold, Borghild Lee, Marion Lemoine Leeper, Lillian T. Leonard, Elliot C. Lincoln, Frank Bird Linderman, Queenie B. Lister, Elsie McDowell, Anabel MacKinnon, Sallie Sinclair Maclay, Norman Macleod, Helen Maring, James Marshall, Courtland W. Matthews, Dorothy Mueller, Alicia K. O'Donnell, Charles Oluf Olsen, Homer Parsons, Mary Brinker Post, L. Laurence Pratt, Joan Dareth Prosper, Idella Purnell, Lucy M. C. Robinson, Lew Saret, John Scheffer, Serena Scheffer, Esther Shephard, Kathryn Shephard, George Sherman, Eleanor Sickels, Margaret Skavian, Bess Foster Smith, Donald Stevens, Irene Stewart, John B. Stone, Lloyd Thompson, Iris Lora Thorpe, Nita Muriel Thurston, Paul F. Tracy, Alice Weister, Albert Richard Wetjen, Irene H. Wilson, C. E. S. Wood, Audrey Wurdeman.

The volume is dedicated to the memory of that subtle, genuine poet, the late Hazel Hall, Portland, Oregon.

This collection should be in public, school, and personal libraries. It is in a sense a handbook of Northwest writers of verse. It will be issued in a limited de luxe edition at \$8.00 (bound in full library morocco) and in a popular cloth bound edition at \$3.00.

This collection is a milestone in the development of Northwest literature.

Kristofferson, to recover \$2,182.44 balance due on a sale.

The amount represented the value of an ice machine and the court, in an opinion by Justice A. J. Galen, upheld the trial jury in its finding that the parties to the sale, now dead, had modified the conditions by oral agreement.

Following the withdrawal by the defendant in an action brought by A. B. DeKay, Helena contractor, to quiet his title to city property formerly owned by the Conrad corporation and later sold by Lewis and Clark county for taxes, Mr. DeKay was given a decree of ownership free of all liens and claims except those of the city of Helena for taxes and special improvement district assessments for the year 1932.

The property involved in the action consists of an entire block in the west side residence district and the 22-room manison built about 1875 by the late Samuel Word, pioneer attorney. Later the property was bought by W. G. Conrad for his family residence. It was allowed to revert to the county for unpaid taxes and was sold to Mr. DeKay, the highest bidder. Mr. DeKay plans to raze the old residence and erect a group of cottages.

FOREST GRAZING AREAS TO HAVE THEIR LIMITS

Ranges in national forests of this region will be fully stocked this summer, says Glenn A. Smith, assistant regional forester. It will be necessary to reject applications for grazing of 75,000 sheep and 10,000 cattle, due to the maximum limit of the range having been reached.

Indications are excellent for a grass crop. Moisture has started the grass growing. Demand for summer range in the forests has been strong from Montana, Washington, Idaho, and Oregon stockmen.

It is estimated the region ranges this summer will accommodate 750,000 sheep and 170,000 cattle, which is more than last year.

Oldest Druggist Will be Honored

Dr. Emil Starz of Helena, who has been granted an honorary degree of doctor of science by the state board of education, is the oldest living pharmacist registered in Montana. When the law was passed requiring that pharmacists be registered, Dr. Starz was the fourth to be issued a certificate. He has gained wide recognition in the pharmaceutical profession and was formerly chemist for the state livestock commission, from which position he resigned in 1930. The degree will be conferred on him at the State university in June.

Dr. Starz will be 67 years old Sept. 18. He was born in Stuttgart, kingdom of Wurttemberg, Germany, in 1865, where he spent his early life. He entered the Real Gymnasium, a Latin school, from which he was graduated in 1880.

Dr. Starz was apprenticed to a master apothecary in Reutlingen. While completing this work, he also attended night classes, where chemistry and physics were taught. He passed the examination for an apothecary before the commissioners of pharmacy in 1883. He was then obliged to enlarge his theoretical and practical knowledge by working for the next three years in pharmacies and laboratories.

He passed the final examination in pharmacy at the Royal Polytechnic institute (now the Technical university of Stuttgart) with the highest honors. He then served one year military duty as army apothecary in the military hospital of the 13th army corps in Stuttgart and in 1889 was given an honorable discharge into the reserve corps.

In 1891 he came to Helena, where he opened a pharmacy in connection with the chemical laboratory on Rodney street. The Starz-Parchen pharmacy was founded in 1910. Three years later Dr. Starz bought a half interest from Henry Parchen and from then on conducted the pharmacy under his own name and as sole proprietor. He sold the store in 1919 but the name has never changed.

He then accepted the position as chemist for the livestock sanitary board. He resigned in 1930, closing a career of 50 years, most of which was devoted to pharmacy.

When Dr. Starz joined the state pharmaceutical association in 1891, Montana had no statutes governing the profession. In 1895 a pharmacy law was passed by the legislature and Governor Rickards appointed the first Montana board of pharmacy, composed of Dr. Starz, D. M. Newbro of Butte and a Billings druggist.

Dr. Starz has taken an active part in civic affairs. He was a member of the house of representatives from Lewis and Clark county in 1904, a member of the park commissioners in 1910 and a member of the school board in 1911.

As chemist for the livestock sanitary board he devoted some time to the isolation of an active principle, if present, in the loco plant. The result, however, was negative, like those of previous investigators.

He prepared a crude oil emulsion used in dipping cattle for scab, lice and ticks and this has been used extensively in the livestock industry.

Dr. Starz is a member of the Masonic lodge, both Scottish and York rites, and is a Shriner. He is a member of the American Pharmaceutical association, American Chemical society, Montana branch of the American Chemical society and the Montana Pharmaceutical association.

FISK EXPEDITION TO NORTHWEST

CAPTAIN JOHN L. FISK WAS IN COMMAND OF EXPLORATION GROUP FROM EAST

THE DISCOVERY of gold in the Rockies was published throughout the Union. The road to the gold fields was long and roundabout. It was the Oregon Trail, along the Platte river and across to the southern bend of the Snake river. Then it led north to the mining camps. Many emigrants were planning to come to these new discoveries, but there was a belief which found its way into congress, that a shorter road could be found across Dakota and through the Sioux country. In 1882, the government set aside \$5,000 for an expedition from St. Paul to Fort Benton, then along the Mullan road to the west. The command of this expedition was entrusted to Captain James L. Fisk of the United States army. He organized a force of about 50 men. One of his assistants was Nathaniel P. Langford, later one of the two historians of the Vigilantes, and for many years superintendent of the Minnesota historical library. The protection promised by this force attracted many emigrants, and soon more than 100 men and some 20 women and children arranged to go along. The party planned to make directly for Fort Union, but there was no trail and the only previous expedition was that of General Isaac I. Stevens, nine years before. There was fear, too, of the Sioux, who were known to be hostile. In spite of these dangers, Captain Fisk and his party set out in June, 1882. On the way to Fort Union a young couple fell in love and were married. A child was born somewhere in what is now Dakota, but his name has not come down to us. Great herds of buffalo were seen, and on one day they estimated the sur-

FIRST SCHOOLS WERE MISSIONS

The first immigration to Montana was mostly of men. Many of them were bachelors and the married men left their families back east. Only a few white children were in the territory and they brought up the question of education. The men with no families resented the idea of paying taxes to educate other people's children, and for a time this sentiment dominated the mining camps. It appeared that if the few children in the country were to be educated it must be by private means.

The Catholic missions early started schools to train the Indian children. Father De Smet himself taught the Indian children at St. Mary's. At St. Ignace, too, educating the Indian children was a part of the missionary's work. At the suggestion of Fathers De Smet, Giora, Grassi, and doubtless others, plans were laid for a sisters' school among the Indians at St. Ignace. In 1864 four Sisters of Providence from Montreal arrived at the mission and began their work at once. They started with instruction in cleaning, mending, making of clothes, and various sorts of handicraft and then later began work in the elementary common school subjects. Other branches of instruction were music and gardening.

The school had to be supported by begging and the miners of Bannack, Virginia City and Helena responded generously to appeals for aid. Later the government made an allowance for educating the Indian children and thus assured the school of a better condition.

The first school for white children of which there is any record was at Fort Owen in the Bitter Root. Major Owen employed John Robinson as schoolmaster in the fall of 1861. He was to teach the children of the men employed at and around the fort, most of whom were halfbreeds. In February, 1862, Robinson was dismissed for some misconduct. The following winter Owen employed a Mr. Parker as schoolmaster and he made a successful teacher.

In the summer of 1863 Mrs. Henry Zoller taught a subscription school for two months at Bannack. In the fall Miss Lucia Darling, niece of Sidney Edgerton, arrived and she saw an opportunity to do something worthwhile by teaching the children of the settlement. She started a school in her own house in October and about 20 pupils enrolled. In the summer of 1864 Mrs. Thomas Watson taught a short term. William Mitchell conducted a school during the following winter.

In the summer of 1863 Miss Kate

rounding herds to number one million. There was plenty of meat for all and the party proceeded as if on a picnic. There were 50 wagons in the caravan, and they had to pick a road across the plains.

Fisk's party arrived at Fort Union Aug. 11, and remained there several days. This was still the finest post in the northwest. It was built of logs and was about 300 feet square and 16 feet high. Its trade, however, was in decline, owing partly to the Indian hostility and more to the fact that many better and cheaper substitutes for the general use of furs had been found. Furs were cheap, too. The price of a fine buffalo robe was three cups of brown sugar.

From Fort Union the party proceeded up the Missouri to the mouth of the Milk river to a point above the present town of Havre, then across to Fort Benton, where they arrived Sept. 5. Fort Benton was nearly as large as Fort Union, but was built of sundried adobe bricks instead of logs. It was enjoying a prosperous trade with Indians and gold-seekers and there was much excitement there. Here the expedition was formally disbanded but the emigrants and their guard continued west along the Mullan road. They heard stories of gold discoveries in the Prickly Pear and most of them stopped there to prospect. Captain Fisk continued on across the mountains with part of the emigrants and on Sept. 27 was at Gold creek, where he entertained Granville Stuart with a "splendid dinner," with plenty of "liquid refreshments." Here they heard of the newly discovered Grasshopper diggings and most of those remaining with Fisk rushed to the Bannack mines. Fisk remained only a short time in this country, and then went on west to the coast, where he took a steamer to New York.

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Dunlap taught a subscription school at Nevada, in Alder gulch. A Mr. Roach and a Mr. Davis each taught a subscription school the following winter.

At Virginia City Prof. Thomas J. Dimsdale taught a private school during the winter of 1863-64. He had been a student at Oxford university and was a man of fine training and culture. His rate was \$2 a week for each pupil and this was considered a modest rate in those days.

Gov. Sidney Edgerton gave public school education a prominent part in his first message to the territorial legislature, which met in 1864. "It will devolve upon you to devise some system of education to meet the immediate wants of the people. The government in the organic act has set aside two sections of land in each township, the proceeds from the sale of which are to be used for a public school fund. However, these lands are not yet available and it may be years before any considerable advantage can be realized from them. There are hundreds of children in the territory, and these should not grow up in ignorance."

In response to Governor Edgerton's urging the first legislature made some provision for a public school system for Montana. It promised that the principal of all moneys from the sale of lands granted by congress for school purposes should be an irreducible fund, the interest from which should be used for the support of schools and for no other purpose whatever.

It furthermore directed county commissioners to levy a tax of 1 mill on the dollar for school purposes. All moneys for fines, liquor licenses and licenses for keeping billiard halls and bowling alleys should also be used for

school purposes. Every county was to have a superintendent of schools who should superintend school districts, hold teachers' examinations, apportion the school funds, and supervise the schools. The legislature also provided for a territorial superintendent of public instruction, to be elected by the legislature, and to hold office for one year. Thomas J. Dimsdale was the first territorial superintendent of schools and he served until his death in 1866. He was succeeded by Peter Roman, who soon resigned.

The first public school in Montana apparently was started at Nevada in the summer of 1865. The teacher was Michael Roach. Mrs. Sarah Raymond Herndon was principal of the first public school at Virginia City. This school began in March, 1866, and closed in August. By 1868 a number of public schools were in operation. There were 10 in Madison county, three in Lewis and Clark county, while Gallatin and Deer Lodge counties reported "several." The superintendent of Meagher county, however, had not been able to organize a single school. The early progress of public schools was slow. There was little taxable property and many objections were voiced against school taxes. It was not until the land grants began to bring in money from sale and leasing that education in Montana began to grow rapidly.

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