

SOUTHERN OREGON APPLE ORCHARDS ARE BETTER THAN GOLD MINES

Industry is Long Established and Profits Are Made Certain by Fine Soil and Climate Mild as That of Sunny France

By L. B. Cameron.

IT WOULD appear that the Great Giver gave his angels special charge concerning the Rogue River Valley, for here in a dozen distinct lines of horticulture as great success attends the efforts of the grower as distinguishes other districts in one or two lines. Further, this district is so regular in its crop production that in three separate years within the last decade nature has showed up smiling with a bumper crop of apples and pears here when all the rest of the world was short. This accounts for the wonderful yields from all the bearing orchards of the southern tier of Oregon counties in 1907. Not only this, but it is the good fortune of this section to mature its fruit crop just a trifle in advance of the rest of the state, and this gives the growers of the Rogue River Valley the first call on cars. Its fruit crop was all marketed and shipped and most of it was transformed into cash before the wall went up from the other fruit sections when the money stringency caused the slump in prices last November.

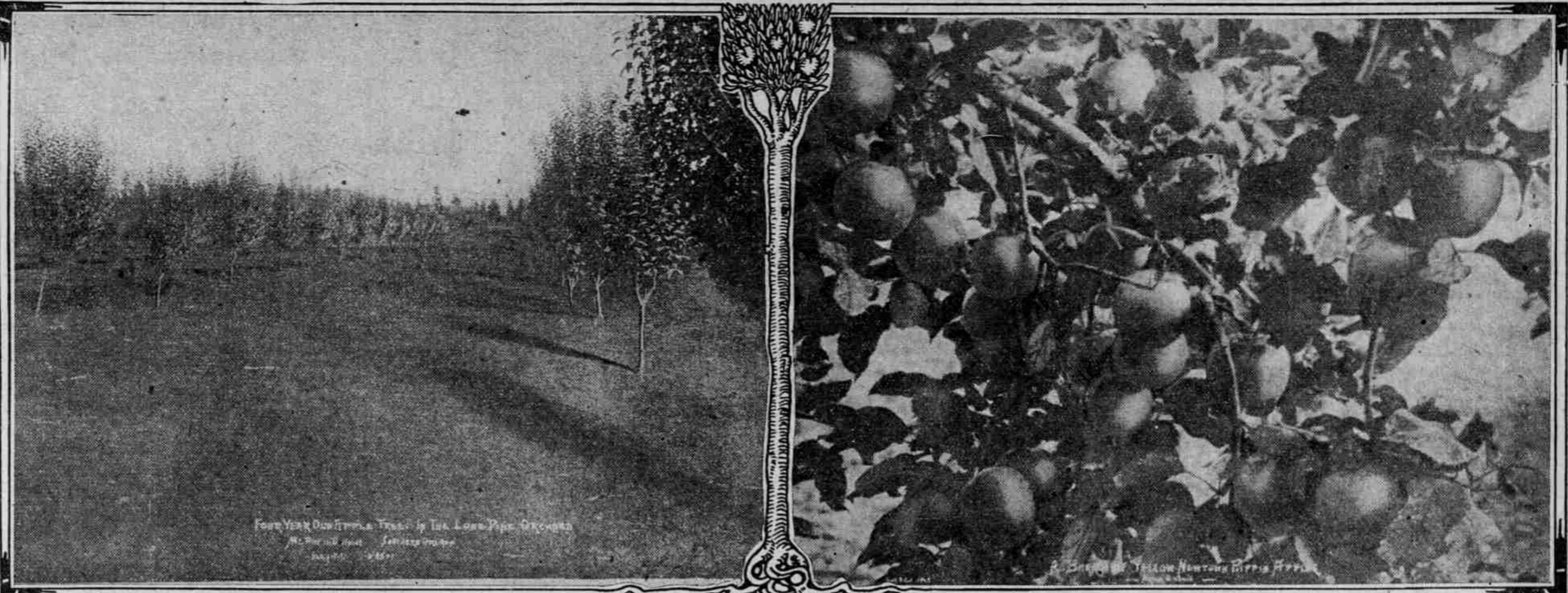
The crop is always garnered in ideal harvest weather, with never a gale to cause loss by windfalls, and at a time, too, when men glory in orchard work, which is one reason why the growers of this valley have never had labor troubles. Many a young apple orchard of this valley bore its first crop last season, and there was a distinct increase in the tonnage of fruit shipped from all the stations. Within five years from date there will be at least 3000 cars of apples and pears shipped from Rogue River Valley each year.

Time was, and not so long ago, when a yield of \$1000 an acre was considered the limit for apple production. Yet in 1907 there were many orchards in the Rogue River Valley which produced in excess of that figure, a few ranging even as high as \$1500 an acre. In one case, one and one-half acres yielded fully \$2500 worth of Spitz and Yellow Newtowns. The wonderful crop is shown by one orchard of low-grade Ben Davis apples, which always sell for about half the price of Spitzenbergs, yet in this orchard of 22 acres the owner gathered more than \$10,000 worth of fruit.

Few realize the amount of capital invested in the apple industry in the southern part of this state. Portland capital is grouped in a large number of orchards planted just south of the city of Medford. The largest one has 500 acres already set in trees, the next 225 acres, of which 70 acres is in bearing, the bearing portion producing fruit which nets the owner, after all the expenses of carrying the entire ranch are paid, a profit of approximately \$6000 a year. In the same neighborhood a small orchard of 125 acres, which in 1906 produced pears and apples to a value of \$8000 last year yielded from the same trees no less than \$1000 an acre.

The growers of the Rogue River Valley are not addicted to "holing their heads off" whenever a record is broken or an unparalleled shipment is made. There are those among them who gravely assert that Mount Hood would have jumped from its base, and Portland would in future have ranked merely as a suburb if such records as have distinguished the Rogue River Valley the present season had been made in well-known spots elsewhere. Yet, it was the Rogue River Valley which put the Pajaro Valley out of business in the London, England, Newtown apple markets, and the number of cars of Rogue River Valley Newtowns annually shipped to London greatly exceeds all the cars of Newtowns shipped from all the other districts of the Northwest Coast. A single firm bought in this valley last season over 40 cars of Newtowns from a pool of growers at a price of \$2.60 per box, based on a three-fourths fourth grading. Wouldn't this have justified a pardonable amount of shouting?

The sum and substance of the matter is that the growers of this valley are doing in a strictly commercial way,



THE ADAPTABILITY OF THE GREAT ADOBE BELT OF THE ROGUE RIVER VALLEY TO THE YELLOW NEWTOWN APPLE IS ILLUSTRATED BY THE SIX-YEAR OLD TREES HERE SHOWN.



THESE FOUR-YEAR OLD SPITZ AND NEWTOWN TREES MADE A NEW GROWTH AVERAGING IN EXCESS OF SIX FEET THROUGHOUT, AND WILL BEAR A SMALL CROP OF FANCY APPLES IN 1908.

TWO ACRES OF ORCHARD WHERE THIS SPRAY GREW IN 1907 YIELDED IN EXCESS OF \$2500 WORTH OF FRUIT. NO BETTER NEWTOWNS THAN THESE WENT INTO THE LONDON MARKETS.



THE NEWTOWN PIPPIN, REGARDED AS A SHY BEARER IN OTHER DISTRICTS, IN THE ROGUE RIVER VALLEY IS AS PROLIFIC AS THE BEN DAVIS

APPLES IN THE GRAND RONDE

By A. W. Nelson.

MODERN methods, careful attention to filling orders, climatic conditions and a splendid soil all join in making Grand Ronde Valley apples a source of enormous profit to the orchardists. While

old and neglected orchards dot the valley today, there are scores of large orchards which today stand like hazel bushes that but a few years hence will bring thousands of dollars to their owners. If a grower has less land than he can readily

control and cultivate, he invests some of his profits to increase the size of his orchard. The past season has been remarkably successful. E. Z. Carbine, aside from the crop grown by himself, has purchased and practically completed shipment of 20,000 boxes of luscious apples that compete with the best Hood Rivers in the Eastern markets, and at a cost of \$1.40 a box. These 20,000 boxes represent 110 carloads valued at \$280,000.

Knowing for a certainty that Grand Ronde apples are as much in demand wherever they are known as any grown in Oregon, the apple-growers of this section are exerting every effort to bring the fame of the Union County apple up to that of the best in the country. They advertise freely and they sell what they advertise. Each apple, regardless of how large the shipment may be, is separately examined and packed. This, more than any other one thing, aside from the naturally high quality of the fruit, is respon-

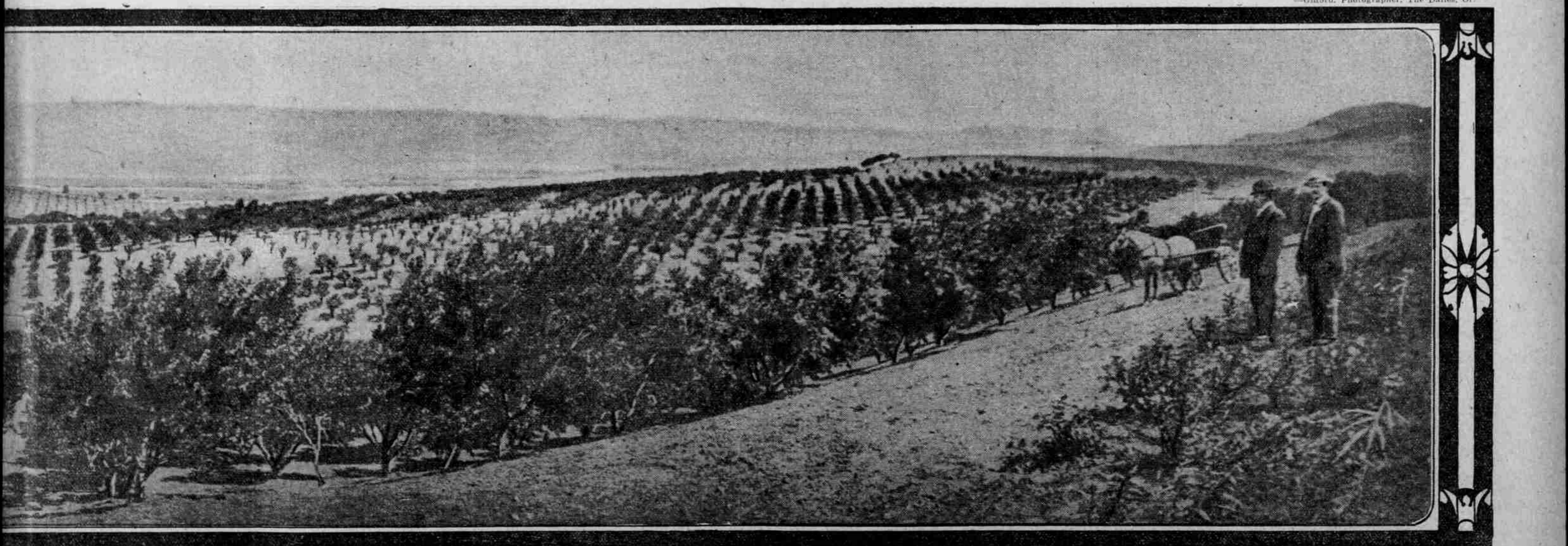
sible for the rapidly increasing renown of the fruit grown in the Grand Ronde Valley. Another thing which tends to make apple culture popular in the fertile valley is the amount of annual rainfall. In a few instances sub-irrigation is resorted to, but generally, practically always, the 19, 20, 30 or even 40-acre apple orchards see no other irrigation than that Nature provides.

Ben Davis, Spitzenberg and especially the Gano varieties thrive greatly in the Grand Ronde. While there are a few Fall varieties, the principal shipping fruit is the Winter apples, and orders leave this valley from early in the Fall until late in the Winter. The money stringency has had but little effect on apple shipments, and but for a continued car shortage the principal buyer of the valley, Mr. Carbine, would have had his entire stock started eastward before this date. Apple cider is becoming a valuable product in Union County. The principal

apple-growers of the valley own their own presses and such fruit as is not fit for shipment is run through the cider presses. Then there is also an apple dryer, erected, equipped and operated last season, that consumed much of the apples of low grade. Considerable vinegar is manufactured in connection with these two industries.

There are few localities in Eastern Oregon that are not suitable for apples, but the Grand Ronde Valley is now the only one where apples are grown on a large scale. Umatilla County has its wheat farms and Baker County its mining, stock ranches and farms, but to Union County Eastern Oregon must look for its apples. Every year the industry enlarges itself until now the county depends on apples largely to enrich the small rancher. Every year new orchards are coming into bearing, and this growth will continue until the entire valley will become virtually one gigantic apple grove.

AND MOUNT HOOD IN THE DISTANCE. THIS PHOTOGRAPH WAS TAKEN AT ONE EXPOSURE WITH REVOLVING LENS



—Gifford, Photographer, The Dalles, Or.