



WORLD'S FAIR FOR OREGON IN -1925-

The 1925 World's Electrical and Highway Exposition will be held in Oregon, on a site to be chosen, near Portland. It will cost \$6,000,000, to stage the big fair and \$3,000,000 of it is to be raised by taxation outside of Portland. This means \$1. per \$1000 assessed valuation for 3 years. The Fair will be worth a great many times that amount in many different ways. The educational advantages alone will be worth hundreds of dollars to you and your children; the land values of Oregon will be enhanced, ten million tourists will leave ten million dollars in the state—We'll all get part of it. Of all the visitors many will buy property and remain in Oregon, it will give work for two yrs. to several thousand Oregon laborers every state as well as foreign nation

will have exhibits as well as erect buildings and send money to Oregon it will be the one big opportunity for the eastern people to visit us, and the means of getting them to locate here, it double our population and more people means lower taxes. It will be the one big means of giving Oregon her neglected publicity. It will mean Prosperity, Marion County will share big and Aurora will be greatly benefited. Aurora, located on the Pacific Highway will be the half-way point for travel, and if Aurora don't reap a harvest it is our own fault. We will gain new comers and money here in spite of everything. Here's to the biggest most magnificent Worlds Exposition ever attempted; and we are to have it here at home.

MURDER AT MOLALLA

Molalla, Or., Dec. 12.—(Special.)—Everett E. Davis, a homesteader living seven miles south of Molalla and a lieutenant overseas during the war, was found to have been murdered with an ax when neighbors investigated today following his nonappearance around his farm for about two weeks.

Davis apparently had been killed while asleep. His head had been cut twice with the ax, which was found about 40 feet from the house, and his purse was lying open on the bed,

empty. There was no evidence of a struggle and nothing in the house had been disturbed.

Road Work Donations

In our article, last week, mentioning the subscriptions to the fund for the Meridian Road work, in Supervisor Forest E. Mills' district, we failed to state that \$27 of the fund, subscribed by four individuals, was not paid in. It should be deducted from the receipts published, as it was not received.

Hop Culture In Oregon

By Henry L. Bents of Aurora



Hop growing for commercial purposes began in the Valley almost a half century ago. During the latter part of 1876, a few farmers secured some sets from E. Meeker, of Puyallup, Washington, (who was at that time and for some years the most extensive grower of hops on this coast) and planted to hops some 30 or 40 acres all told.

If the writer remembers correctly the growers who pioneered the hop industry at that time were: J. S. Vaughan, C. H. Cone, F. W. Geer, Geer of Waldo Hills, R. Wells of Buena Vista, Oregon, and perhaps a few others.

Yards at that time were small a 10 acre field would have caused comment because of its size.

From the first planting of hops the trailing vines, loaded with fluffy clusters, were an assured success. From the small beginning as above outlined a gigantic industry was built up, until this valley produces upwards of 180,000 bales of hops, or about 3,600,000 pounds, yearly.

The immediate financial returns were on the average quite satisfactory. At that time and for some time after hops could be and were pro-

duced at a cost of 9 or 10 cents per pound and would net a handsome profit when sold at 15 to 20 cents per pound.

Years there were when short crops caused a keen demand high as \$1.00 per pound. Again other years because of large crops, the entire output would be sold at a serious loss. No farm industry in Oregon has passed thro so many crises as hop culture. No markets for any other crop have been so fluctuating.

Fortunes have been made in the growing of hops and large sums have been lost. The writer remembers the high price year of 1882—when growers were offered high as \$1.15 per pound for their product. Growers were then very liberal spenders. An acre of hops produced about \$1,500 at that price, so that the profit was immense, but as stated heretofore the acreage at that time was not large. The writer also remembers several very unprofitable years, when good hops sold as low as 6, 8 cents per pound. These low price years you could always spot a grower because of his gloom.

Several years ago another crisis arose. Prohibition was sweeping the country. The people had not the time to judge between the "American saloon" as then conducted, and the mild brew, healthy and innocent made from the fine Oregon hops and so the new "Prohibition" fell upon the just and the unjust.

In addition to prohibition in the United States, the war operations in Europe blocked the transportation of hops to foreign markets. During the Fall of 1918, hops could not be moved, but had to be stored, because only essentials were then handled by our transportation lines. Growers who harvested the 1918 hop crop certainly lacked good judgment. Such growers (and the writer was one) would not admit and even denied any connection with hop growing.

Men of keen judgment had us all

listed as "undesirables." When the war ended the hop industry of Oregon, amounted to only a fraction of what it had been, because of plowing up ect., the annual output of 1919 was only about 35,000 bales.

The future for the industry was indeed gloomy. It was generally believed that the end of hop growing had arrived. Even the most stout hearted prepared to plow up, and engage in some line of farming which at least promised a livelihood. Then to the surprise of everyone a vigorous demand arose for the Coast hops from across the Atlantic.

The hop yards (gardens) of Europe were curtailed and very largely destroyed by the world war. Peace coming very suddenly, found the hop fields of Europe unable to furnish sufficient of the "Golden Cluster" to begin to fill the demand, and when Europe found themselves deficient, they at once began placing orders for term contracts, and for spot goods with hop merchants of this coast. So that the hops harvested fall of 1918 actually sold high as 31 cents per pound and contracts were made covering a term of 3 to 5 years at from 20 cents, high as 40 cents per pound. The hop industry has thus been partially saved to this valley. It is the only farm industry which shows even a small profit this year.

However the cost at present of entering the hop industry is quite heavy. The future is very uncertain. Not many new acres will be planted. The largest acreage planted to hops at present is on the rich river bottom land near Independence. Quite a large acreage along the Willamette river near Newberg. Next in extent about Salem. A number of yards about Aurora and a few scattering yards in other parts of the valley.

The writer cannot but mention the fact that among some 12,000 bales of Oregon hops contracted for by one London hop firm, the choicest lot was one grown near Aurora, Oregon.

(D. A. Keil lot.)

We have turned over to England the handling of our hop crop. She is now profiting because of our prohibition tendencies. We have so called laws which prevent the manufacture and sale of a healthy, wholesome non intoxicating beverage, but apparently wink at the wholesale importation of strong intoxicating stuff from Canada, Mexico and from every other part of the globe. Our so-called laws prevent the poor from satisfying their desire for a mild beverage, but allow anyone with the price to get all the imported brands and moonshine he may want. Even colleges and high schools are not now immune, for anyone, young or old, having the price and willing to take a chance can now get it. Society usually finds it necessary to have a good supply on hand. Not the mild kind, but stuff with a "mules' kick."

Churches and fraternal societies may use wine—if they so choose—but the common sinner never. Why? but what is the use,—why?

England is now making every effort to build up her depleted yards so that she will supply all her requirements. To this end she is now guaranteeing her hop growers at least 42 cents per pound and has placed an embargo on foreign hops so that none can be imported until all hops grown by English growers are sold. Fine—for England.

The writer has been requested by The Aurora Observer to write a short article on "Hops." If this meets with your approval he is very thankful, if you are not satisfied with his version, then get in and give us the full benefit of your views.

HENRY L. BENTS.

A boy seventeen, was arrested in Woodburn for buying a ticket to Portland for a 13 year old girl. The girl went to her sister in Portland. Buy your own tickets and save trouble.

The First National Bank Of Aurora

*Extends its Holiday Greetings to the
Residents of this Entire Community,
and Wishes All a Growth in Health,
Happiness and Prosperity Throughout
the Year 1922 and All Succeeding Years*