

Lettuce May Become as Important a Crop in County as Broccoli Say Observers

Although the attempt at commercial production of lettuce two years ago was flattering, and also since that time several individual experiments in growing the crop have proven remarkably gratifying, little has been accomplished toward making this industry one of the commercial assets of the Umpqua valley. During the past season more lettuce has been grown for the local market than ever before, but after all the demand locally has not been met by growers. The price has been excellent most of the season, the product supplied by local gardeners was the best, the yields have proven entirely satisfactory, and tests generally have shown that lettuce grown in the valley is equal to or better than the imported product.

In the opinion of a number of growers the time is ripe for getting down to business and making lettuce growing one of the stabilized industries of Douglas county.

It has been proven beyond a question of doubt by actual experiment that lettuce can be produced in this valley from seed planted in the fall, the crop coming on early in the spring, or just after the Imperial valley importations have passed the zenith, so that the price is assured. The Douglas county crop will also be on the market before the puyallup and Lewiston product is ready for shipment, so that there would be no clash of interests from those localities.

Lettuce for the spring crop should be from plantings made in September or October, sowing the seed in cold frames, or even in warm, sandy land. The plants will be strong and vigorous, and may be transplanted early in January. Or, if desired, the seed may be planted in hot beds, but should not be put in as early as where sown in cold frames. The transplantings in January will stand the winter perfectly, and although they will develop slowly, will make an excellent growth during the usually good weather in February. Lettuce sown early in this way will be ready for market by April 1. Transplantings in February will be a little later, and growers who have experimented with the crop find that the product is of excellent quality, although a little longer in the period of time required for maturing. The cool weather conditions hold up the quick development of the plants, but this has not appeared to injure the quality, as would have been the case under conditions of hot sunshine. Commercial shipping of lettuce can be made possible in this valley by April 15 onward, which is six

weeks earlier than Lewiston or Puyallup, and immediately following the Imperial valley crop.

In a letter addressed to the writer by Mr. H. H. S. Rowell, of Lewiston, Idaho, who is an extensive lettuce grower and shipper of that locality, as well as one of the men who introduced commercial growing of lettuce there, it is stated that the lettuce crop comes on for shipping in his section the "last half of June and the first part of July." No transplanting is done there, but the seed is sown in the fall or spring, ranging from the last of September to the middle of March. Fall sowings stand the Idaho winter very well, and thinning is done by hand in the spring.

In the Umpqua valley, however, experience has shown that transplanting is the best method, owing to the fact that the warm winters are conducive to an immense growth of grass and weeds, and this growth makes cultivation slow and is a general handicap. Therefore, the method here is to plow under all weeds and grass as a "cover crop," and transplant the lettuce then has a good start and cultivation is easy, while the plants grow quicker and head better.

The writer apprehends that lettuce growing on a commercial scale will prove remarkably remunerative to farmers who have the right kind of soil. River bottom land is adapted to this crop. Sticky soils are too hard to work and cultivation is practically impossible in spring.

Of course it will be necessary to look well to the marketing end of the game before a commercial crop is produced, but growers here have been assured by two different organizations that just as soon as they are ready to get into the business that these shippers will send experienced men to lend all assistance possible. These shippers have signified their willingness to send men here who know the business, and who will advise growers as to the handling of crops, packing and all details which will enable the producer to realize on his efforts in growing lettuce.

A representative of the Denny people, of Boise, was in Roseburg some months ago and stated to a group of men here at that time that if Douglas county lettuce growers could put their product on the market by the middle of May that top prices were assured them. He further stated that if this could be done and a crop be produced every other year, growers would get rich on lettuce alone. Experiments over a period of two years in this valley have proven that lettuce can be produced in commercial quantities and the

shipping period commenced by April 15 to 20—a month earlier than designated. At a recent meeting of raw products committees in connection with the Roseburg Chamber of Commerce, it was advised that no larger acreage of broccoli be planted in the Umpqua valley. The saturation point, it was alleged, has been reached. While some authorities might not agree with the gentlemen of the committee, it might be well for farmers to take heed to the counsel offered and turn their attention toward lettuce growing. While the present winter, it is hoped, will continue favorable to a maximum yield of the broccoli crop now in the "making," there is danger of a cold snap reducing prospects to the minimum, as was the case last year. Broccoli will not stand a temperature lower than about 12 to 15 degrees above zero, and our winters sometimes get that cold—a night or two is enough, and thousands of dollars go glimmering with cold snaps of that sort, and the broccoli grower is the loser.

Lettuce, however, stands all the cold that this climate has ever experienced, and the plants come along snuggly after a freeze that "cooks" broccoli. This fact has been demonstrated right here in Roseburg, and also at Lewiston. For this very good reason it would be a good business policy to diversify one's work, and by planting some of the land to lettuce that has heretofore been devoted to broccoli, the farmer has two chances of winning against only one when broccoli is grown exclusively. Lettuce is not half the risk; the crop comes on in about four months, is easily harvested, grows more crates to the acre than broccoli, and brings a good price. There is only one drawback to the growth of lettuce so far in this locality, and that is the slug pest.

At times these slimy fellows do a lot of damage to the growing plants. They not only destroy the plant, but often crawl inside the outer leaves and make the matured head unsalable. This pest, however, can be successfully combated so that losses therefrom will be small.

The variety of head lettuce found best adapted to the northwest is the sort known as the New York Head. This is the sort grown in western Washington, where practically two thousand car loads go out to eastern markets annually. The same variety is grown at Lewiston, and also in Imperial valley. It has proven immensely successful. A pound of seed will plant an acre and a half, it is said. Some seed men figure on a half pound to the acre, but allowances should be made for loss. The seed can be had for about \$3 to \$3.50 per pound, so it is not expensive. Indeed, the seed needed for planting an acre costs less than seed for an acre of wheat. Plants should be set out in rows a couple of feet apart and about 15 inches apart in the rows. This will give plenty of room for cultivation. Fertilizers

Educational System of the County Excellent

(By Edith Ackert)

County School Superintendent. The picture of Douglas county schools stands out in prominence. The number of schools having reached 142, but due to consolidation in many cases 120 are in active operation. For conducting the educational courses of over 4,500 pupils—266 teachers were needed in 1924-25. Douglas county census of children over four and under twenty years was 6834.

In many of the schools of the county there are several special courses such as commercial, given in Yoncalla, Riddle, Glendale, Reedport, Drain and Myrtle Creek; manual training is given in Reedport and Drain, and some form of industrial training at Myrtle Creek, Yoncalla, Reedport and Smith River.

Reedport is distinguished with having an "Opportunity Room." Gilde was the first union high school in operation. Camas valley is one of the oldest schools, and as such has a most entertaining history. Wilbur was the oldest high school in Douglas county and one of the oldest in southern Oregon, being established by "Father Wilbur" as a missionary effort. Mrs. Ella Hill Brown having been an attendant at the academy, and an officer of the Wilbur Academy Historical Association, is ready to give all queries a ready response.

NOTHING WRONG WITH THIS PEAR TREE



As is the case with other fruits, it has been fully demonstrated that Douglas County is especially adapted to the growing of pears. Large pear orchards are found scattered throughout the county. All varieties grow here equally well. The pear is one of the hardiest fruit trees, and its natural tendency is to blossom rather late in the season, therefore it is one of the most certain crops that can be planted. Trees in this county produce as high as twenty or more boxes each year. In 1924 the pears in this county brought as high as \$60 per ton run of orchard, while selected pears packed in boxes brought a higher price. A grower at Sutherlin received over \$7000 from 42 acres for his crop of Golden Bosc pears in 1924.

While Sutherlin, a new neighbor, some notable winners. Theron Black has established his name as a producer of prize winning Jers. The latest being Chester Stark Black, being the holder of a Carnegie Medal for life saving, probably set the mark for prize winning on Smith river. Myrtle Creek has trained 27 teachers in its teacher training courses. Reedport City has made the most startling growth. Gardner has had a most charming history in that it was a port for some years and a center of much wealth. Canyonville being No. 3, has been the home of noted pioneers, having a number of boys and girls achieve positions of note; this is also true of Oakland. The county superintendent's office is in possession of a bit of oak from a fallen tree near Elktion, under the shade of which the first court of Douglas county is said to have met.

Douglas county has been to the fore in the various drives and courses as directed by the state. Among these are boys' and girls' club projects, county field and athletic meets, dental essay and health poster contests, home credit by household tasks and extra credit with the Bible examination, health unit, rural supervision, state history through local history clubs.

Some of the present Douglas county teachers who have come from "back east" say that the educational course as outlined for Oregon is one of the best. So it is felt that Douglas county has done pretty well by her children in keeping close to the state course of study, particularly do we feel this to be true when in 1920 the county records show many schools of three months' duration, teacher's salary \$25.00 and \$30.00 per month, with the better salary of \$40.00 and \$50.00, the very best \$55.00. That condition may be sharply contrasted with the present minimum term law of 8 months and minimum salary of \$75.00 per month. The state has constantly raised the standard of certification and preparation so as to be consistent with the need of the school pupil and the responsibility which the state demands, in that Oregon state asks every Douglas county boy and girl to get at least a public school education consisting of eight years.

Probably worse than the small salaries obtained were the streams of mud called roads which had to be fought whether or not the grade schools or the good roads came first, at any rate they have served each other to the benefit of Douglas county citizenry.

Several marriages within the past two or three years have taken place in the community, and the majority of these young people have found something to do in the vicinity. They are commencing to build homes and carry on the work of those who have made South Deer Creek valley perhaps the most pleasant and congenial place to live in of any community in Southern Oregon.

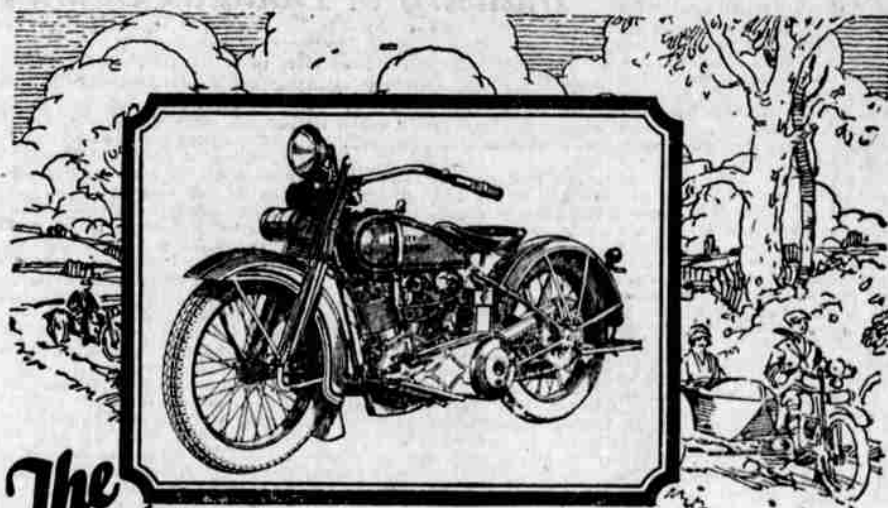
While the sons of many pioneers still own the farms homesteaded by their forebears, the majority of the residents are from eastern states, and many of them are former city dwellers who have retired to the country because they love the outdoor life and freedom from conventions which seem necessary to an urban existence.

Two telephone lines traverse the valley, owned by the residents and these lines have connection through the telephone central in Roseburg; mail is delivered to every farm each day, and many radios are in the community, giving the residents of the valley the last word in the events of the day.

Come out and live with us. Send a copy of the News-Review New Year edition to your eastern friends. Ten cents a copy—wrapped, ready to mail. The newcomer soon feels at home in Douglas county.

South Deer Creek District

IT'S HERE NOW COME AND SEE IT TODAY!



The 1926 Harley-Davidson

Big Twin

Come and see it! You enthusiasts who know the motorcycling joys that only a Harley-Davidson can give; and you who envy them!

Come and see it! For here's the latest and best model of all—the 1926 Big Twin, with 16 improvements, more comfort, economy and "class" than ever.

Come and see it! Let us show you the new wide fenders, balloon tires, switch panel, and all the other new features.

General Repairing Accessories

Easy Payments? Sure! You can Pay-As-You-Ride. Ask Us.

Motor-cycle Parts

Motorcycle Parcel Delivery Service
Inexpensive—Quick—Sure
Phone 614

Harley-Davidson
Sales Agency

304 W. Cass

Come In and See It

NEW YEARS GREETING
to
OUR FRIENDS AND PATRONS



The Gasoline That's Different
C. D. FIES, Distributor Roseburg, Oregon