

St. Helens Mist

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County Official Paper

A news item from the Oregon Agricultural College in this issue mentions the necessity for united action among the fruit growers of the state and the various counties and urges the establishment of fruit canneries in different localities. That suggestion is in keeping with the efforts of some of the fruit growers in this county, especially around the Warren and Scappoose neighborhoods, to build and operate a cannery where the fruit products of the various orchards and gardens can be disposed of, thereby insuring a market for these products. In this county right now there is most urgent need for such an establishment. There is no market for the fruits that are produced now on the small acreage of orchards and gardens, that is, no market where a fair price can be obtained. There are thousands of acres of the most productive land in the world that could and would be put into fruits and berries if there was a market where a price could be obtained that would pay returns on the money invested and the labor in producing them.

A short time ago there was a movement started to organize a company at Warren whose objects were to build and operate a fruit cannery. Money was subscribed, officers elected and organization perfected. The farmers and fruit growers were the stockholders and everything seemed to be in readiness for the commencement of operations, but for some reason the project fell through and the organization was dissolved. Then a movement was started to build one at St. Helens, but this also has fallen by the wayside. It seems the reason for the failure of the Warren project was the fear of the farmers that after the products were preserved and canned, no market could be found, for the jobbers who deal in that class of goods would not agree to handle them and the farmers came to the conclusion that it would be a losing proposition. The jobbers all have their special brands of goods from the east and California places and if an establishment started doing business here the prices would be placed so low that our products would not bring enough money to pay the expenses. We understand such representations were made to them and it evidently had the desired effect. Then the farmers wanted the business men of this city to establish a plant, which was considered, but after looking the matter over carefully it was decided that it would not pay and was dropped. What are the reasons for this fear of failure to pay? Just this: that the fruit growers, farmers and everyone else are after the very highest price that can be obtained for their products. If a cannery was in operation at St. Helens some of the produce men from the city would invade the neighborhood and offer a higher price for the goods than a local organization could afford to pay and the result would be that farmers would, of course, sell for the higher price and the plant here would be operated, if at all, at a loss. This has been the experience of several industries which have started in the smaller places and would do doubt be the out-

come here, unless there was co-operation, and the only way to have complete co-operation between the fruit grower and the cannery is for the fruit grower to own the cannery, or at least to be the principal owners. Then if a city produce man should come down and offer a little more money for the products, the farmer and fruitgrower would look to his interest in the cannery and the result would be that the produce man would get nothing. That a market could be found for the products of a cannery here, there can be no doubt. If the jobbers of the city would not handle it, salesmen could be sent out from the local cannery to compete with the jobbers and it is pretty safe to predict that the home grown products would meet with a ready sale, especially if the quality was equal or better, which it certainly would be. But in order to accomplish this there must be co-operation and in order to have complete co-operation there must be a financial interest of all concerned. It is a feasible proposition too. Let a company be organized and the farmers take the majority of the stock, the business men will readily take the balance and an organization will be formed that can and will defy the trust proclivities of the produce men and jobbers. After a year or two of successful operation, or even is no great returns are received for a year or two, a market will have been established where the products of the county can be sold at a profit to the producer. Then it will come to pass that many hundreds of acres will be cleared and planted to fruit and berries and a business will be established that will be independent of the jobbers and result in great development of the county to the financial betterment of all concerned.

In Columbia County there will be two localities that will celebrate the Fourth of July, Clatskanie and Yankton. All other communities have passed it up. Clatskanie is preparing for the greatest celebration in its history and no doubt many people from all over the country will attend. At Yankton the Redmen have taken charge and are making extensive preparations. There will be an old-fashioned picnic dinner, with patriotic exercises and sports and great quantities of fire crackers. These two places, Clatskanie and Yankton, should be the meeting place for almost the entire population of the county on that day. The people from these other towns and localities where there will be no exercises should journey to one or the other of these celebrations and join in the occasion. Everything possible is being done to take care of the visitors and entertain them so that a day spent at either place will be worth while.

ADVERTISED LETTERS

Letters unclaimed in the St. Helens, Post office for the week ending June 21, 1913.
Chas. Cordes 1 letter
G. H. Extrom "
Geo. Lawrence "
Ed Olsen "
Father Urbin "
Letters unclaimed by July 5, will be sent to the Dead-Letter office.
M. C. Gray, P. M.

Houlton Free Methodist Church

There will be quarterly meeting services at the Free Methodist church at Houlton commencing on Saturday evening and continuing over the Sabbath. Rev. W. N. Coffee, District Elder, will have charge. All are invited.
J. N. Wood, Pastor.
Sabbath School at 10 a. m.
Preaching at 11 a. m. and 8 p. m.
Prayer meeting on Thursday evening at 8 p. m.
J. N. Wood, Pastor.

LODGES

HOULTON CIRCLE NO. 478, Women of Woodcraft, meets the second and fourth Tuesday afternoon of each month at Houlton, Ore. Mrs. Elsa Wikstrom, Guardian Neighbor Scappoose, Ore.; Minnie A. Morley, Clerk.

Columbia Encampment No. 77, I. O. O. F. meets in the I. O. O. F. Hall, on the second and fourth Thursday of each month, sojourning Patriarchs most cordially invited to meet with us.
G. C. Robey, Chief Patriarch.
C. W. Blakeley, Scribe.

COLUMBIA HOMESTEAD No. 2456 Brotherhood of American Yeomen, meets the second and fourth Wednesday night of each month at Yankton, Ore. Visiting members welcome.
E. S. HINSON, Honorable Foreman
C. R. LAKE, Correspondent.

MIZPAH CHAPTER, NO. 30, O. E. S. Meets in Masonic Hall the second and fourth Saturdays of each month.
MARY GEORGE, W. M.
LUCY GRAY, Secretary

St. Helens Lodge No. 117, I. O. O. F. meets in the I. O. O. F. building, on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month, visiting members are always given a hearty welcome.
Chas. Beiler, N. G.
J. W. Allen, Sec.

Avon Lodge No. 62, Knights of Pythias meets every Tuesday Evening in the Hall, St. Helens. Visiting Knights always welcome.
M. E. Miller, C. C.
Harold Ross, K. of R & S

ST. HELENS LODGE NO. 4, A. F. & A. M. Meets 1st and 3rd Saturday in each month. Visiting brothers cordially welcomed. U. W. Clark, Master; E. E. Quick, Secretary.

United Artisans, Assembly No. 80, meets first and third Saturdays of each month at K. of P. Hall, St. Helens. Officers: M. A. John Pringle; Sup't, Mrs. Lizzie Robinson; Sec, Mrs. Mahel Bill; Treas., R. H. Robinson. All visiting Artisans are cordially invited.

—CHURCHES—

Houlton, first and third Sundays. Preaching by the pastor, Rev. W. T. Fairchild at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Sunday school at 10 a. m. H. O. Oliver, Supt.

Yankton, second and fourth Sundays. Preaching at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Union Sunday school at 11 a. m.

Warren—Preaching at 3 p. m. on first and third Sundays of each month.

Other points, week nights.
W. T. Fairchild, Pastor.

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Columbia County Bank

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