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**County Official Paper**

One of the important bills to be passed by the legislature will be the one creating the offices of County Attorneys and Superior Judges. By this bill each county will have a resident attorney and a resident judge, who will have probate jurisdiction as well as general circuit court jurisdiction. The bill will provide still for the office of county judge, but his duties will be to look after the affairs of the county and act as chairman of the board of county commissioners. This bill has been practically agreed upon by the state commission appointed by the Governor and by nearly all of the attorneys in the legislature, as well as by a large number of other members. It seems assured, from reports, that the bill will pass in that form and become a law. Looking at it from the viewpoint of economy and justice, all will agree that this bill will be a success. When a county with the population of Columbia, for instance, has the business which necessarily follows such a population, the time of an attorney will all be taken up in looking after its affairs and prosecuting the offenders. The time of the court will also be fully occupied in keeping clear the litigation and probate matters. It will mean that men charged with crime will get a speedy trial, as is provided for in the constitution, and that litigants will be given a hearing whenever the issues are made up between them.

With the arrival of the Multnomah in St. Helens, the first product of the ship building industry on the Columbia river is a reality. This magnificent vessel has proved to be all that was ever expected of her. It has demonstrated that Oregon fir is first class material to be used in the construction of vessels. It has demonstrated that St. Helens built vessels are a success and it has added additional honor to the business judgment and acumen of the Charles R. McCormick Co. St. Helens is benefitted; the Columbia river is benefitted; the shipping business is boosted and Oregon is the gainer. An important industry is launched and has been proven a success. Nothing succeeds like success. Watch the Shipbuilding Industry Grow.

**EDITOR OF MIST:-**

During the last few months I have received many letters from different people throughout the country similar in contents to the following:

"Dear Sir: I intend planting an apple orchard this year and would like to get some information in regard to planting and caring for the young trees. Would you advise setting two year old trees, and where could I probably get the best trees? What varieties would you advise me to plant, and how far apart would you set the trees? I have selected a clover field for my orchard site, could I continue to grow clover in this field and spade around the trees, or would it be best to plow the clover under and grow a hoe crop? Yours very truly."

To endeavor to answer such questions as are embodied in the foregoing letter and to present briefly some of the fundamental principles of apple growing, as they apply in a general way to the industry in this county, is the purpose of this article.

Apples of the finest quality can be grown in every part of the county, providing varieties suitable to the locality are selected, and the proper care is given the orchard. It must be kept in mind that there is no other fruit grown that requires so full and complete knowledge of detail to bring it to the highest degree of perfection. General principles will apply everywhere, but there are local conditions and methods of practice that must be mastered, and can be acquired only by close observation and experience.

**LOCATION AND SOIL.**

The apple adapts itself to a wide range of soil conditions. The safest and best rule is to observe trees already growing in your locality.

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be well drained, naturally or artificially, and be of good depth and quality. Trees may grow nicely for a number of years in light, thin soil, but when the heavy strain of maturing crop after crop of apples comes there must be depth and substance or the results will be unsatisfactory. Do not be deceived in choice of soil, but investigate closely. Dig or bore holes to determine depth, and observe the vegetation to determine quality.

**PREPARATION OF SOIL.**

Thoroughness in every detail must be the watchword of the apple grower, and it cannot be too strongly impressed on the mind. If the land is newly cleared, cultivate it at least one season in potatoes or corn before planting the trees. Probably the best soil is that on which clover has been grown for a number of years. It is never advisable to plant trees in clover or any other sod, and depend upon a suitable moisture supply from merely spading around the trees. It is always best to plow the entire orchard deep and harrow until in fine condition. Then grow hoe crops such as potatoes or corn for the first few years. Where cows or poultry are kept, kale or other root crops may be grown among the trees, providing a sufficient amount of manure is added to the land each year. Small fruits may also be grown, providing they are kept well cultivated during the dry months.

**TIME TO PLANT.**

The apple tree can be safely planted at any time when the soil is dry enough, from November 1 to May 1 in the greater part of Oregon, but November is unquestionably the best month. The young tree is sufficiently ripened by that time to be removed, and if planted at that time will be well established in place and its roots will be calloused ready for growth in the early spring. February is the next best month for planting. The tree which is planted late in the spring is often dry and damaged by exposure, and it pushes forth its buds and new growth before the roots are established; the result being total loss of the tree, or at least a feeble growth and a weak tree.

**AGE OF TREE TO PLANT.**

By all means plant only yearling trees. You can head them down where you want to start the heads and by proper training secure a low-headed tree that you can cultivate close up to, and that will be practically self-supporting under a load of fruit.

Regarding the best place to secure trees the advice of all experienced fruit growers is: Buy direct from the nursery and not through an agent. Usually the nursery nearest your own district is preferable, as his trees will generally be grown on a soil type common to your district. I recall a number of instances where growers in the county have purchased trees of agents, paying as much as from \$10 to \$20 per tree, and found them to be of standard

varieties when any reliable nurseryman would have quoted the same trees for from \$10 to \$15 per hundred.

**VARIETIES TO PLANT**

Here again it is impossible to give definite advice. Plant what experience has proven best for your locality, and what other people are planting, that the market question may be more easily solved. We have planted in this county almost every variety known to the apple kingdom, and while these varieties have generally done well and produced good crops of fruit, we have no one variety in sufficient quantities to attract the buyer.

Some of the varieties that seem best adapted to the lower portion of the county, i. e., the Clatskanie and Nehalem Valley districts, are the King and Gravenstein, and in some instances the Northern Spy, Spitzenberg and Jonathan. Kings and Gravensteins grown in those localities have been pronounced by experts as far superior to those grown in other districts, both in flavor and keeping qualities. Therefore we should not overlook these varieties when planting an orchard in that district. Conditions in the Yankton, Warren and Scappoose districts appear specially favorable to the growing of such varieties as Northern Spy, Jonathan and possibly the Early Transparent. Other varieties also produce well in these localities, but it is possible that other sections can grow them better. Growers who intend planting for commercial purposes should limit their planting to two or three varieties.

**DISTANCE BETWEEN TREES.**

Apple trees are usually planted too close together. As a general rule they should not be closer than from 30 to 32 feet. Whether to use the square, diagonal or hexagonal system in planting is purely a matter of individual preference. If one wishes to fertilize heavily and prune severely, keeping his trees headed low and dwarfed as much as possible, the trees may be planted as close as 20 feet, but as a rule this is not advisable.

**SETTING THE TREE.**

Having dug a good hole 30 inches wide and 20 inches deep, and put some of the surface soil in the bottom, you are ready to plant the tree. Prune off all bruised, broken and dry roots and cut back all others to four or five inches in length, making a sloping cut on the bottom of the root with a sharp knife. Tramp the dirt very firmly with the feet, especially in the bottom of the hole next the roots. Set the tree two or three inches lower than it stood in the nursery row. This is very important. In dry land set it still deeper. If the tree roots are dry, or the day dry and windy prepare a mud bath in a bucket or tub and set the trees in it, and haul along on a sled as you plant. Great care should be taken to properly line out the rows in order that they may be straight. If necessary get a surveyor, but it can be done if land is not too rough and uneven

by setting plenty of stakes for sights and having a man stand at the end of the rows and sight while planting is being done. On hillsides use hand level and plumb-bob to make accurate measurements.  
J. W. Pomeroy.

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We have not been in business long enough to have any old out-of-date goods to dispose of as our goods are all new, so we are not advertising a cut price sale.

We however find upon looking over the lists of prices in the so called cut price sales in Portland and elsewhere that our regular prices compare very well with them and in some cases are even lower, as is shown by the two pieces in our window.

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