

APPLES AND CHERRIES REACH PERFECTION

Thousands of Acres of Orchards that will Bring Wealth to Their Fortunate Owners—Fruit Lands Still Cheap Here

While all of the fruits of the temperate zone flourish in the Grand Ronde Valley, those of chief commercial value are the apple and the cherry.

Pears, peaches, plums, prunes, grapes, strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, etc., are grown to some extent and all do well, but the greatest returns are secured, and will continue to be secured from apples and cherries. Nowhere else do these fruits attain greater perfection, and a sufficient acreage is now in bearing to insure the attention of buyers and a

quantities are the Gano, Spitzenberger, Ben Davis, Bellflower, Willow Twig, etc. And among the older orchards are some 40 or 50 other varieties.

There are in round numbers 2,000 acres of apple orchards in the valley, of which about 800 acres are in bearing, and the bulk of the remainder two years old. Orchards average 75 trees to the acre, so that the valley has at least 150,000 apple trees in its commercial orchards.

At five years old apple trees here

carloads or about 27,000 boxes. The shipments this year will easily reach over 1300 carloads. Within a few years apples will leave here by the train load. There is no danger of the apple-producing business being overdone. About 95 per cent of the territory of the United States is non-competitive in apple-production, and the territory capable of producing apples of the highest grade, is less than one-tenth of one per cent. of the whole. The entire world is a market.

There are a great many small orchards of five and ten acres, and the following list comprises only a few of those interested in apple-growing, although it embraces the largest orchards. Among those in bearing are the orchards of

Name	Acres
W. H. Hunter	80
J. B. Stoddard	50
Ryneason Sisters	20
E. Z. Carbine	15
The Lambert Orchard	15
F. L. Coykendall	15
William Hal	15
Orchards 2-years-old include:	
J. A. Thronson	220
Renshaw & Wilson	100
L. Oldenberg	95
J. H. Rinheart	80
Oregon Red Apple Co.	60
E. W. Oliver	40
Dr. Moore	20

Besides a great many smaller ones.

CHERRIES.

Apples are profitable—there is no



PICKING STRAWBERRIES IN THE GRANDE RONDE VALLEY.

TIMBER INTERESTS

LARGE SAW MILLS HERE WITH HEAVY PAYROLLS.

In no industry does the future seem to hold more promise of continued prosperity than in lumbering. Prices have materially increased this year, and in the nature of things must steadily do so. It is at least generally realized that even the Pacific Coast forests will not last forever.

Still there is a vast amount of timber in Union county tributary to La Grande—sufficient to insure the operation of the mills, at the present rate of cutting, for more than 50 years. Adjacent counties also all heavily timbered, and there is consequently a big source of supply.

Next in importance to agriculture and stock-raising in this valley is lumbering. Saw mills are scattered throughout the timbered regions of the county. The two largest mills are those of the George Palmer Lumber company at La Grande, and the Grande Ronde Lumber company located three miles west of La Grande at Perry. The former is now in course of erection and when completed will have a daily capacity of 150,000 feet. Large timber holdings insure ample logs for the operation of this mill for a long period.

The Grand Ronde Lumber company's plant at Perry cuts between 15,000,000 and 20,000,000 feet of lumber annually. It also has large timber holdings which will be steadily added to.

The Central Railway of Oregon and the Willowa extension of the O. R. & N. both of which roads are now being built, tap heavily timbered country, and a large proportion of this timber will be manufactured by mills to be located in Union county. There are more than 40 mills already in operation.

GRANDE RONDE LUMBER CO

C. W. Nibley, Pres.; Geo. Stoddard, Vice-Pres. and Gen. Mgr.; F. S. Murphy, Secy.; Jos. Nibley, Treasurer.

This important industry gives steady employment in the camps and at the mill to about 200 men, and its annual cut is between 15,000,000 and 20,000,000 feet of rough and dressed pine lumber, which is marketed throughout the United States.

The extensive timber holdings of the company in Union and Willowa counties insure operation for many years to come.

The saw and planing mills are admirably located on the Grande Ronde river at Perry, a station on the O. R. & N. railroad. Every facility for the economical manufacture of lumber is enjoyed. The mill site, including the storage yards, lakes and ponds, covers 80 acres. A half-moon lake which ages ago was probably a part of the river bed, has been utilized in making a safe harbor for the logs which are floated down the river in the spring freshets. About 30 miles up the Grande Ronde river is a large "splash" dam, used for driving the logs in the spring. Two dams across the river at Perry make another large storage pond for logs, and control the water in the lake. Side tracks from the main line of the O. R. & N. railroad pass directly through the mill site, and unusually excellent facilities for loading lumber are thus afforded.

The output embraces all kinds of rough and dressed lumber, lath, pickets, etc. About two million feet are manufactured each year into boxes and crates for fruit and canned goods. The plant was built in 1889, and has

always been a profitable property. Its equipment has been kept right up-to-date, and is today thoroughly modern.

George Stoddard, vice-president and general manager, who resides in La Grande, is also interested in the Baker City saw mill of Stoddard Bros., which has about half the capacity of the mill here.

THE CLIMATE.

The climate is dry and healthful, here being sufficient rain to preserve the moisture of the soil and mature the crops. Snow seldom falls to the depth of one foot in the valleys, and never remains longer than from two to three weeks at a time.

The mean temperature for the winter months is about 20 degrees above freezing point, and for the summer months about 70 degrees above zero, the heat of the day being offset by cool nights that ensure refreshing and invigorating sleep.

The winter season usually begins about the first of January and lasts till the middle of February or first of March.

From March 1 to July 1 the dry weather is broken by frequent showers furnishing sufficient moisture to the ground and tempering the atmosphere so as to assure an abundant yield from the soil.

During the months of July, August and September, which are the harvesting months in this county, the weather is usually dry and adapted to the successful gathering of crops. Enough rain falls in autumn months to moisten the ground sufficiently to permit the farmer to prepare the same for his fall grain.

FRUIT IS FAVORED.

Oregon will always be noted for growing the largest and handsomest fruit of all varieties which thrive in this latitude, but there is a wide difference in the consistency and flavor of fruit from different sections of this state. In some years the western counties produce fruit of excellent flavor, firm and sweet as can be desired. But if the rainy season hangs on until July, as is often the case, the fruit, while large and handsome, is watery and sour, will not stand transportation, and the flavor is impaired. As you go east these conditions disappear, until in Union county you find the climatic conditions so fixed, year by year, as to guarantee the grower a good crop, while the flavor of the fruit is always fine and quite equal, if not superior to the richest flavored products of Ohio or the Empire state.

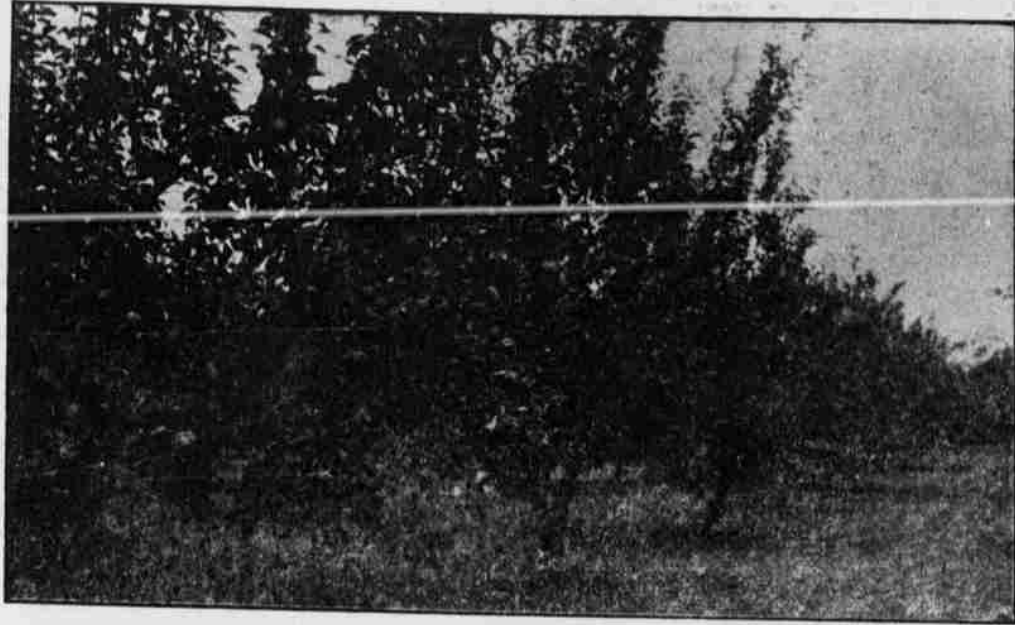
MONEY IN MILK.

The milk cow here attains perfection. The dairying business in the past few years has developed into a large and profitable one, the country being especially adapted to it by reason of the milk producing qualities of the grasses, the large quantity of hay and grain raised per acre, the healthfulness of the animals, the large water supply and the quick market for butter and cheese. It is said more profit can be realized per year from a milk cow in this country than in any other in the United States, one instance being given of a single cow for one year, yielding a net profit to the owner of \$175 besides the calf.

MR. HOMESEKER.

If you are looking for a home, if you wish a small fruit tract, if you wish a hay ranch or stock ranch, if you wish a new business location, if, in fact, you would like to locate in a land of plenty, where the Almighty has showered his richest blessings, where there are ideal home conditions, pure water, good churches and schools—if you wish to change your location with a certainty of bettering your condition and getting into a country that is on the verge of great development and advancement, come to the Grande Ronde Valley, Union county, Oregon.

The sugar beet industry is rapidly growing.



A LOCAL APPLE ORCHARD.

Hulse Photo.

consequent market. Since the earliest orchards, planted by the pioneers some 40 years ago, came into bearing there has never been recorded anything approaching a general failure of the fruit crop, and light-crop seasons have been few, indeed.

No great pests are to be contended with—the valley being singularly favored in this exemption—and a reasonable amount of spraying results invariably in the maturing of unblemished fruit.

The far-famed Hood River apples which readily sell for from \$2 to \$3 a box to shippers are in no way superior to the apples of the Grande Ronde Valley, and the day is fast approaching when equal prices will be paid here. Even now, second boxes of standard varieties bring orchardists as high as \$1.50—a box weighs about 45 pounds.

In size, color, firmness and keeping qualities, certain varieties of apples raised in this valley beat the world.

The commercial orchardist must look well to his varieties, for on that selection his financial success largely depends. The market is educated (or at least, thinks that it is) on what it wants, and will usually have nothing else. It demands certain varieties called "standards" and will pay for them what often seems like an unreasonable price, when other kinds fully equal in size and appearance go begging. But the market is the arbiter, and the wise grower feels the necessity of bowing to its will.

The pioneer orchardists made the natural mistake of planting too great a variety of trees—but this error is now being avoided. Practically all of the recent orchards have been set in equal parts to Jonathan, Yellow Newton, Pippin, York Imperial and Rome Beauty apples, all of which bring top prices in our lots. Among other varieties grown here in commercial

produce about five boxes to the tree, and from then on the yield steadily increases.

Age	Boxes Per Tree	Boxes Per Acre	Gross Per Acre
5	5	375	
10	15	1125	
20	30	2250	
30	50	3750	

Were these apples sold only for cider and vinegar making (for which purpose only the culs are commonly used) they would bring about \$5 a ton and be profitable, at that figure. The returns per acre would be:

Age of Trees	Boxes	Gross
5	375	\$ 46.87½
10	1125	140.62½
20	2250	281.25
30	3750	468.75

But there is a vast difference between \$5 a ton and from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per box of 45 pounds, prices eagerly paid for the best shipping varieties.

Apples in the Grande Ronde Valley are really a much better paying crop than oranges or lemons in the citrus belt of California, where orange groves are hed at from \$5,000 to \$7,000 an acre. Statistics will show that the apple grower here gets better returns per acre than does the orange grower, yet good orchard land can still be had at about \$100 an acre and the record price paid for a bearing orchard so far in this valley is only \$700 an acre.

Grand Ronde Valley apples are shipped all over the world. The demand is always strong, and the market stands ready to take all offered. Buyers come from a distance, and there are several extensive home shippers. To use an unexaggerated local expression, the apple-grower can find a buyer under the trees any time he is ready to sell his crop. Although it was not until 1900 that apple shipments began in any quantity, in 1905 there was shipped from La Grande 95

question about that—but the "big" money is in cherries. Nowhere else in the world is there a place so well adapted to cherry growing as right here in the Grande Ronde Valley.

The fruit is unusually large, highly colored, firm and stands shipment well. There are no blemishes on the trees, and no pests attack the fruit.



Hulse Photo. LUSCIOUS CHERRIES, CROP OF 1906.

Cherry trees over 30 years old are today in perfect condition in the old orchards near La Grande and at The Cove. The yield is tremendous and there are no bad years. Climate and soil unite in making sections of the Grande Ronde Valley the most desirable land for cherry orchards that money can buy.

There is practically no competition to be met in cherry-growing. The fruit here matures after the California product, and has a clear open market. The demand is certain always to exceed the supply.

Buyers offer to contract ahead for five years at 5 cents a pound and individual shippers this summer secured as high as 15 cents a pound.

The leading commercial varieties are the Bing, Lambert, Royal Ann and Yellow Spanish, although some of the pioneer orchards contain many other kinds—probably between fifteen and twenty.

Both the Bing and Lambert are dark red in color, large and of delicious flavor. The Royal Ann and Yellow Spanish are light colored, and specially desired by canneries.

In full bearing cherry trees produce easily 500 pounds of fruit, and about 100 trees are planted to the acre. The gross receipts will run several thousand dollars an acre. There are no very large cherry orchards—that of George Thomas company, 20 acres, are a great many one and two-acre and a few larger orchards. The Ore-



A CHERRY ORCHARD IN THE GRANDE RONDE VALLEY.

Hulse



A GRANDE RONDE VALLEY FARM