

Small Fruits Offer Excellent Possibilities

PRUNES, CHERRIES AND BERRIES DO WELL IN UNION COUNTY; FURTHER DEVELOPMENT IS URGED BY WELL-KNOWN GROWER

(By Karl J. Stackland.)
After thirty years of experience in growing and marketing a varied line of fruit commercially in Union county, we have arrived at a point where we know what we can grow to advantage, both as to the kinds that do the best here and also as to which are the most profitable.

For a number of years we have known conclusively that cherries, prunes and berries stand far ahead of anything else for profit and desirability and for commercial importance and rank in the order named.

The bulk of these fruits grown in this county up to date, has been at Cove and Union, but enough of same has been grown in nearly all parts of the Grande Ronde valley and surrounding foothills and slopes to fully demonstrate their adaptability to many localities, among which are Cove, Union, La Grande, Island City, Pumpkin Ridge and numerous other localities of smaller extent.

One of our strongest points for profit and success with the kinds of fruit here considered is our ripening and market season for each. Our season for cherries is generally the last fifteen or twenty days of July and early August, the time when all other cherry growing localities in the Pacific Northwest are through with their crops, which leaves us free from competition in this line.

The Cherry.

Cove, as the leading locality in cherry growing, has steadily forged ahead and by pioneer effort and advertising has developed a highly satisfactory market for all the cherries we now produce and for many times more. Up to date our total acreage and output has been very small, as we have only about 150 acres in bearing trees and the annual crops on these have been ranging from 100 to 350 tons in the past 17 or 18 years, and the prices from \$30 to \$240 per ton, making an average of approximately \$120 per acre for this period, according to the acreage in bearing, at the time, and \$120.00 as the average price; at the same time, certain orchards, on account of good location and care, have nearly doubled this average.

There are now planted an additional 200 acres on which are trees from one to ten years old, and from present indications there will be a considerable addition in the near future.

Cannery prices in the last few years have doubled that of ten to twenty years ago, and the growers can get reliable contracts for up to fifteen years at very attractive minimum prices, and at the same time the market for the black varieties, Bing and Lamberts, are improving and the increased output will gain for us more and more attention and competition among the buyers and distributors.

The cherry can be grown to advantage in many places in the county particularly in the foot-hill belt, at Cove, Union, Pumpkin Ridge and near La Grande, with many other favorable locations where there is good air and frost drainage.

Prune a Staple Crop.
Of these we have had nearly the same acreage since 1892, bearing since about 1900, almost equally at Cove and Union, with one or two small orchards elsewhere in the county, the total being approximately 140 acres, with numerous young orchards coming into bearing every year.

The Italian prune, being a very hardy fruit, and, with us a sure and heavy cropper, has caused our output for over twenty years to range from fifty to over eighty carloads a year with only two real poor crops in all that time. Many of these small prune orchards that have had good care have averaged 8 to 10 tons of prunes per acre annually for the past twenty years.

The prune is so easy to grow and handle that anyone can do so. Spraying was never needed until last year and after a good cleanup may not be necessary again for many years. Pruning is simple and light and ordinarily about 25 per cent of all the fruit that matures is merchantable.

Prices have had a steady upward tendency and for the last ten years have averaged near \$40 per ton in bulk, delivered at a packing house, so that, with a growing and harvesting expense of only ten to twelve dollars per ton, the returns have been highly remunerative, and therefore additional planting has been going on for many years, so the total acreage now amounts to about 400 acres. But we ought to have at least five times as many for we have many thousands of acres of land suitable for this fruit, as any of our land under irrigation or moist enough to grow apples successfully, will grow prunes, such as part of our land in Cove, around Union, May Park, Fruitdale, Island City and many other places in the county are well adapted for the same.

Shipping Season Favorable.
Our prune season is also very favorable for shipping the fruit fresh. The prunes from the Willamette valley and western Washington are out and cannot be shipped fresh, as they have not sufficient keeping quality. The bulk, however, and Walla Walla districts ship from a few to fifteen hundred carloads a year in August and early September. Yakima, Wenatchee and other localities in eastern Washington, and Mosier and Hood River, Oregon, clean up in early September or before the 20th, as a rule, usually shipping about 1000 cars. Southern Idaho, with 1500 to 2500 carloads, usually starts in about September 15th and cleans up by the end of the month, running light the last half of the season, whereas our season starts from Sept. 20th to Oct. 1st, and we alone have the entire markets of the United States for the main part of our season, and also after most of the peaches, plums, etc., grown on the east are off the markets.

Increased Acreage Needed.
Our present output is only a drop in the bucket, as New York, for alone would take all we now have to offer. However, I feel certain that

If all the apple orchards at Cove, Union, Fruitdale and May Park had been Italian prunes, with some cherries, that our county now would hold the top reputation for money in fruit and orchard values over any locality in the Pacific northwest.

We should have hundreds of new prune orchards of five, ten, or twenty acres, planted with Italian, Improved Italian, Leightons, Hungarians, Silvers and Grand Dukes. There is good money in them and it is shameful to neglect the opportunity longer.

Berries Pay.
We have also ideal conditions for many kinds of berries, and while we now have altogether some fifty acres of strawberries, red and black raspberries, blackberries, and loganberries, mostly in Cove, and the remainder near La Grande, it is, in ordinary years, just about enough to supply all local markets during our season, but we could grow them in large quantities and handle them the same as we do our cherries, as we surely can do so as successfully as Hood River and Payallup, where berries have been their test money crop one year with another, and should we only co-ordinate a heavy planting of all the best commercial berries, we could secure a cannery here, which, when accomplished, in itself, would put a rock bottom under a greatly enlarged fruit industry, that in a few years could easily equal or even surpass the income of all the grain farms in the county, with many times the profit.

Our little fifty acres in berries are now bringing in about \$20,000 per year and if we were to plant enough for carlot shipments of the different kinds it would quickly become one of our principal items of income.

Good Market.

During our season for berries we would have unlimited markets for hundreds of carloads, as it would be with these, as with the cherries, there would be little or no competition in each kind of berries during our season.

There are hundreds of acres of excellent strawberry land available, and thousands of acres suitable for the harder berries, such as logans, red and black raspberries, blackberries, currants, and gooseberries, and there is a market waiting for everything, if we would only make a concerted step, up to carlot production or else for canneries.

If the many localities within our county pointed out as suitable for the production of cherries, prunes and berries, the condition for success is far above nearly every other location in Washington, Idaho or Oregon, where they are now famous for such production and the value thereof.

According to statistics for many years and close investigation, we average far better crops and secure equal or better prices for any and all of these three lines of fruit, than elsewhere.

The pioneer days are over, the older growers have paid for the experience in time and money, they have also paid for all kinds of costly experience, in both growing and marketing. Until less than a decade ago they had demonstrated and established "what was what" and began to reap the regular and satisfactory rewards for their pioneer work and trouble.

Anyone now contemplating the matter may start right in on a demonstrated field, and without cost to him, profit from all the past experience, and would be blind indeed, to his own best interests, if favorably situated for growing any of the fruits herein treated and then fail to avail himself of the opportunity.

We have it in our own natural conditions and ability, to become as famous and important in the fruit industry as Hood River in a few years, if we will only take advantage of a mere half of our opportunities. Our cherries, prunes and berries have proven it and the possibilities favor a ten-fold increase, which is bound to come in the near future.

Apple Orchards Pay Dividends

Fruit Industry Can Be Made Our Greatest Asset

(By H. H. Wetherston, Member State Horticultural Board.)

When we think of Florida our first thoughts are about the great quantities of fine citrus fruits grown there. If you ask the average citizen what is grown in Florida he would say, "oranges and lemons." The citrus industry has given more real advertising for that state than all other industries in the state.

California's first came into prominence during the gold rush of '49 and after that rush was over little was heard of the state for a good many years.

If you were to ask the average citizen what California produces he would tell you oranges, lemons, English walnuts, nuts and nutmegs, as you cannot go into any well equipped grocery store west of the Mississippi river without seeing some of California's fresh fruits and stock and a large part of the "animal fruit" that may be carried.

Apples Advertise Oregon.
If you were to go east of the Rocky mountains any place between New York and New England you would find the average citizen what is the greatest crop raised in Oregon, he would tell you apples. Our great wheat crop, livestock crop, as well as our great output of timber goes all the way to almost entirely unadvertised and the masses that use the same know nothing

of its origin and production. Oregon was the pioneer in the box apple business many years ago and through the fact that every box carries some kind of advertising to show that the fruit was raised in Oregon, our state is known in every household as the state that produces the finest apples on coast.

We believe the statement that Oregon receives her greatest advertising through her annual fruit crop can go unchallenged.

Fruit Land Available.
Comparing the acreage of apples now actually growing in Oregon, also the acreage of cherries and prunes as well as other small fruits, with the acreage of good fruit lands still lying idle, the producing areas are so small that comparison can hardly be made, the former being so small and the latter so large.

We have in Eastern Oregon some of the finest wheat farms in the world. We have fine alfalfa lands, in fact lands adaptable to nearly every phase of agriculture. Those as a matter of fact must be kept from growing what will grow best, but we have many thousands of acres of fine fruit lands in Union, Baker, Walla Walla, and Umatilla counties, that are not really high class grain lands, yet no finer lands for fruit can be found. If the slope timber and stony lands of Union county alone could be utilized for growing the various fruits particularly adaptable to the individual tract, our annual output of fruit would exceed the amount produced in the entire state which is greater than \$20,000,000.00. This at first thought seems much exaggerated but when you stop to think that a well kept cherry orchard will produce an average of five hundred dollars per acre, after the trees are eight years old, and often as high as \$1500 per acre and that prune and apple crops will do quite as well, even taking 500 dollars per acre as a maximum and multiply the vast acreage of above lands which is still classed as strip lands along the foot-hills of the county and you will find the statement above made not exaggerated.

Walla Walla county has a large acreage of fruit lands or lands well adapted to the growing of a great many kinds of fruit, but little attention has been given to such growing, in fact that county buys and ships into the county more than forty thousand dollars worth of apples annually. The amount of berries, cherries and other small fruits will equal the above amounts.

A few orchards have been set in that county and have proved a great success, and it is quite certain that the day is near at hand when some enterprising businessmen will get busy producing fruits in that county.

Baker county has the soils and the climate to grow almost any fruit that are grown in Oregon, yet that county buys annually from outside points, cherries, berries, prunes, apricots and apples to the amount of \$75,000.00 annually.

Revenue from Fruit.
Ten acres of good fruit lands have been known to produce in one year as much gross revenue as 100 acres of Eastern Oregon pine that has been for all we know 200 years in the making. One acre of fruit orchard in cherries, prunes or apples produces annually, after ten years of age, about 15 times as much gross revenue as an acre of wheat or other agricultural products.

For every acre of fruit lands several times the number of persons are employed as against an acre of agricultural crops.

Agricultural development must go on and will keep step with the times. The livestock industry must not be neglected; the timber industry will not cease until our mountain sides are denuded, but the average young man nor the average middle aged or old man, will have the slightest chance of engaging in either, in competition that is now built up, and it is quite certain with not as much a chance of winning in the outcome as would be if the small investments were placed in growing fruits.

Fruit Safe Investment.
It is rather staggering to note the fact that so many of our own citizens will place their small means in a business of some kind that is already overdone or will buy shares in some manufacturing industry, of which they know nothing, or will buy old stocks, which are known to be one of the grossest swindles as a class in the United States, when as a matter of fact they could use their same money to a safe advantage in developing one of our greatest industries, that of growing fruit.

Admittedly, the fruit business, like all other kinds, has some drawbacks and now and then a bad year, but no business is immune from this condition.

If the various towns of Eastern Oregon were to purchase undeveloped lands in their locality to the extent of 200 acres, advertise these lands to be given away, to persons who would agree to develop some little fruit, the chances are very good that every acre of the land would be quickly taken.

The development alone of this land would bring to the locality about \$20.00 per acre, scattered over a period of 10 years, after which time this same acreage, if developed to fruit growing, would yield a gross revenue of not less than \$250.00 annually.

Oregon's Need.
What we need in Oregon is more constructive working power. We have the natural conditions, climate, soil and so on, much good land lying idle, and too many farmers trying to produce something when they are not made to produce. It would be very difficult to find any phase in the United States as well advertised as Oregon, where the lands are so cheap as the undeveloped lands in Eastern Oregon.

Some People Think We Are Not In The Real Estate Business BUT

Here are Some of Our Recent Sales

SEE OUR SPECIAL OFFER BELOW

Earl Short property, Lots 15-16-17, Block 124, Chaplin's Addition—six-room modern house, sold to

JOHN STITZINGER

Charles Albert Small property, Lot 3, Block 67, Chaplin's Addition—five-room, modern house, sold to

PETER L. HEDGREN

Frank Hamlin, Lots 7-8, Block 18, Predmore's Addition—four-room house, good garage, sold to

W. A. McMASTER

La Grande Investment Co. Lot 8, Block 77, Chaplin's Addition—6 rooms, a choice new residence, sold to

L. M. JENSEN

Mrs. Ernestine Paden, Lots 1-2-7-8, Block 13, Chaplin's Addition—five-room house, sold to

F. O. ADAMS

C. A. Chesser, West half Lot 20, all of Lots 21-22-23-24, Block 138, Chaplin's Addition—four-room modern house, sold to

TED HANSEN

Art Jones, Lot 14, Block 7, Grandy's Addition—five-room modern house, sold to

C. C. CRONN

Joe Oliver, Part Lots 5-6, Block 8, Romig's Addition—ten-room modern house, sold to

EMMA STRINGHAM

E. L. Larm, Lots 1-2-3, Block 6, Romig's Addition—six rooms, modern, furnished, brick cellar, double garage, sold to

A. E. HUG

Delbert Strong, Lot 10, Block 1, Pleasant Home Addition—five rooms, a fine home, sold to

RICHARD FOLSOM

Fred B. Haisten, Lot 1, Block 56, Chaplin's Addition—eight-room modern home, sold to

EMMA STRINGHAM

Helen Geddes, Lots 19-20, Block 148, Chaplin's Addition—five-room home, sold to

W. G. HANNA

W. E. Perkins, Lot 4, Block 12, Grandy's Second Addition—five-room modern home, sold to

NELS NELSON

Pearl Donhouser, Lots 10-11, Block 22, Predmore's Addition—four-room house, sold to

O. S. HOBSON

William Smeal, Lot 7, Block 88, Chaplin's Addition—new five-room modern home, sold to

FLOYD W. KENDALL

F. W. Pattison, 604 Adams avenue—seven-room modern home, sold to

SHERWOOD WILLIAMS

W. J. Littlejohn, Part Lot 149, Chaplin's Addition—six rooms, sold to

WILLIAM SMEAL

Mrs. Wm. Sprouls, Lots 9-10, Block 23, Williamson's Addition—five rooms, sold to

N. M. KURTH

ALSO the following lots, on which houses are already constructed, or in the course of construction.

Anna White property—a splendid lot on Spring street, sold to

L. F. DUNN

Anna McKenna—choice lot corner M and First, sold to

O. L. LARSON

Anna McKenna—choice lot on M Avenue, sold to

JOHN A. ADSKIM

Harry Lavey—fine residence lot on Second street, sold to

EARL M. WARNER

F. A. Gilman—Lot on N avenue, sold to

R. M. SCOTT

Delbert Irwin—W 1/2 Lot 7, Block 1, Pleasant Home Addition, sold to

CHAS. WATKINS

Mrs. L. A. Rose—part Lot 150, Chaplin's Sup. Addition, sold to

GEO. PERRY

Carlos Shaffer property—a close-in business property on Jefferson avenue, sold to

BENJ. P. COURTNEY

HERE IS ONE OF OUR MANY BARGAINS

Lots 14-15, Block 111, Chaplin's Addition, No. 1130 Jefferson avenue. Owned by Ida A. Osborn. House has six good rooms, bath, cellar, garage, barn, chicken yard. Fine lot of shade trees. Street paved. The owner has made an extremely low price on this property. Call and we will give full particulars.

WE CAN INSURE YOUR

Furniture in Transit; House from Burglary; Business from Fraud and Forgery Losses; Baggage While Traveling; Crops from Hail and Fire; Entertainments from Rain; Income Against Disability

La Grande Investment Co.

Office of Sherwood Williams

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