

APPLE PRODUCTION ANNUALLY FIGURED AT MILLION DOLLARS

H. H. Weatherston, of Elgin, member of the State Horticultural commission and owner of the largest apple orchard in the state of Oregon, has given the facts in this article on the horticultural situation, especially as it deals with apples in Union county.

In Union county, we have in apple bearing orchards 1800 acres, with approximately 10,000 bearing trees. There are 25 acres in grapes, with approximately 2,100 bearing trees. Of cherries, there are 150 acres, with approximately 11,000 bearing trees. These figures show a falling off in orchard acreage of approximately 500 acres during the last eight years in apples alone. There has been an increase in grapes of practically 20 acres and a decrease in bearing cherry trees of practically 40 acres.

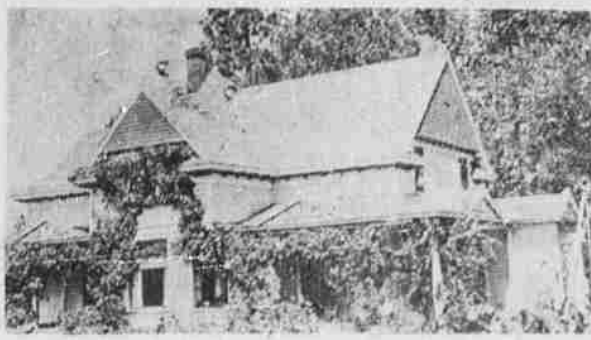
These figures are due to the fact of crop failures, bad prices at times and winter frosts, all of which have discouraged growers, and as a result, they have pulled down their trees, or have abandoned their orchards and engaged the land in other purposes. The same conditions are found in some other sections of the northwest, and they are no worse here than in other counties. The possible exception may be with the cherry trees, which are more susceptible to winter killing than in some of the counties farther west. However, with proper care in putting the

tree to dormancy, there is no more danger here, in fact there should be less, as the trees here are much harder. The approximate yield in Union county is 275 car loads of apples. These would carry a total value of close to \$1,000,000.

Many orchards have been set regardless of ascertaining the adaptability of the soil conditions, and consequently, many failures have followed due to the owners not taking the necessary precautions to have the soil analyzed for adaptability found there. Fruit can be raised in Union county at practically one-half the expense required in the northwest districts. This is due to the fact that country soils with clay subsoil hold the maximum moisture of over 28 pounds to the square foot, when well mulched. So far as moisture is concerned, it cuts little figure in the ultimate product at harvest time.

We do not raise in this valley the finest looking apples, with the exception of the winter banana, but all the apples grown in Union county have a very superior keeping quality and flavor, equal to any in the world, and while that does not suffice to bring the highest price, yet when graded properly and carefully, and the trade is once established, it is rarely lost for the season that dealers quickly understand where the profit is made on our apples. They do not decay as in

BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY HOME



Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Bertsch, living up on the Mill Creek road several miles above Cove, have a beautiful country home as to attract the admiration of all visitors and passersby. A large lawn has large beds of flowers in attractive combinations and about the house there are blooming shrubs and shrubs with pretty foliage, while vines trailing over the house make the background effective.

the case with highly irrigated, cold storage apples. Even at the slightly smaller price at which we are compelled to sell at the present time, it leaves the growers greater profits than in higher class sections where apples will not keep any great length of time without cold storage. Cold storage apples, while they have a place in the markets, it is readily understood by buyers and users of the same, are highly perishable and quickly go to decay if not consumed within a few days after taken from

storage. Moreover, the greatest profits are not in producing the highest class of apples. The profits come, rather in this section, from producing the medium apple, the apple that is within the reach of the common people. They make up the bulk of the consumers and to supply the demands of that class is far more profitable than to produce a fruit so superior in every regard that its sale is confined to the narrow market.

To those, who will be patient and content in growing orchards, there is not another crop in Oregon soils that makes as great a return as apples. Over a period of time, as soon as the apple, cherry and prune. The markets covering the last 25 years have fluctuated greatly at times, but the average profit-taking in three years out of five, has produced a medium to large profit on the acres engaged. In fact, a cherry orchard in heavy bearing will produce often in one year what is equal to 20 years if the land is engaged in the raising of grain crops.

Facts are, that lands exactly themselves into which will and will not produce profits, due to the fact that drainage and underlying situation is the keynote to the whole situation. The most valuable apple and cherry lands are the medium sloped or even steep lands on the base of the mountain lands with soft subsoils. These are the best fruit lands and as a rule are practically worthless for growing of grain and hay crops.

That Union county could become one of the richest counties by adding a general setting of cherry, prune and apple trees on its hillside farms is unquestioned. In fact, we could become as great as Union county so far as average would go, in growing of fruits, as have the districts of Washington and Yakima in the state of Washington, which are today the greatest apple growing districts in the United States. The keynote to the situation is a thorough study of land in the first place; second, bearing the adaptability of the variety to be supplied third, being very careful to study the methods of producing the fruit, and last a careful marketing of the fruit after it has been produced.

The problem presented in the case of production in the sections north and west of us, is that of irrigating and the lighting of pests. These conditions are getting more complex as the years go by. The orchards of the northwest, especially west of the mountains, require the commencing of spraying at the beginning of spring, and then a continuation of that same practice practically every ten days until the end of September. This is very expensive. Add to this the cost of irrigating the water and the cost of spreading the same. These two items are almost entirely additional to the expense entailed in this industry, due to the fact that you spray annually in Union county upon to control the pests, and as a rule, our winter snows give sufficient moisture in the mountains plus what rain falls in the summer time, so that irrigation is not necessary.

The remarkable thing about what an orchard means is its security in the fact that the grower does not depend on having a crop from the soil each year which goes largely, as individual workers of the county. In this matter for the orchardist, it can be said that the acres of good orchard will create a demand for labor for the season of a single year of approximately \$2000 to \$3000. In the winter the two check books made in this county, to make the bases for shipping of apples and cherries and prunes, which add another \$2000 to \$2500.

We, of course, fail to grasp the things in some cases which would infinitely living, in our county some returns that are of one thing. This is due to the fact that we are too apt to look to the immediate returns and when we are told that it requires from eight to ten years for an orchard to become profitable, as it does with cherries, we are prone to throw up our hands and reject it. As a matter of fact the situation is not as different from any other business concern, from milk, livestock or any other commercial enterprise which requires right at first years to build up a business which would make a return of dividends much greater than in the case of an orchard.

From past records it is evident that it is time we are taking a little greater interest in establishing and sustaining the orchards of the United States, which to the fact that over a period of 50 years, about every 25 years there have been losses, as to much, in the matter of setting orchards in the country and take the place of orchards which have yielded their usefulness. This period passed some four years ago and as we can see above, there are only one or two localities in northwestern United States that are at present setting out new orchards of any consequence. The bearing life of

an orchard depreciates after it has reached its maximum, at the rate of 10 per cent per annum or greater, if slightly neglected and owing to the fact that scarcely any orchards in the west have not reached their maximum bearing, and even passed that period, it is easy to see that if conditions do not change and greater selling companies, it will only be a question of time until other countries will be shipping their fruits to the United States and we will be paying our dollars for that which should be produced here. That fact has been born out in the decreasing advance of most cherries grown in the United States, and now we find ourselves short in this fruit, with the greatest demand and the highest prices in the history of the country. Importers are commencing to bring in sweet cherries, which we might be producing, and we are still in the face of the fact that this fruit is selling the growers \$1.50 to \$2.00 per ton, while 15 years ago, cherry growers figured they were getting high prices when they received \$50 a ton for their cherries. This is the outlook money and probably the fruit that should be looked along first.

There in Union county we have nearly five and ten acre tracts of land that will raise this fruit to perfection and any one investing in a two acre tract of this fruit this year or next, will, in the next ten years walk up to the fact that ten acres of healthy, growing cherry trees, carefully tended, will be worth in the open market \$10,000 or more. Cherries from this locality, at smaller prices than growers have been getting during the last five years, have produced as high as \$1,000 to \$1,400 per acre, which is probably one of the best profit-taking businesses that can be engaged in. The average price for a period of five years of a carefully kept orchard has developed the fact that three years out of five were profit-taking of considerable dimensions. Of the two years of loss, one was a loss of price by frost and the other, a bad price year making the return only equal to the cost of care. But in the period of five years the same orchard returned to the grower a net income of 15 per cent on the investment of about \$400 per acre.

The development of these orchards could be carried on by many business men up to a period of good bearing at a negligible cost. At that time the orchard could be located in groups and managed profitably if only small. It is a safe bet to say that within five years, such small tracts located close to our towns would be sought for by small home owners and good prices could be realized as soon as the orchard is able to produce a living for those taking care of it.

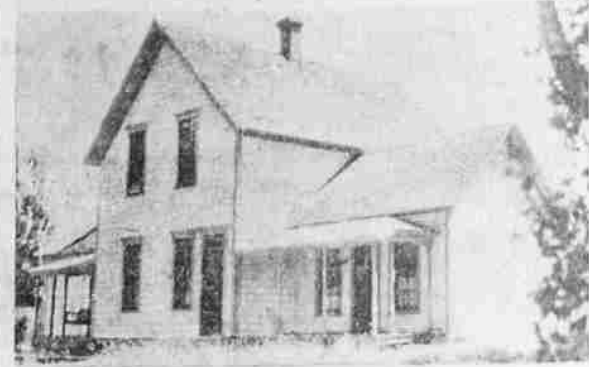
There are certain fruits that are better adapted to Union county soils. Of the cherries, there are three varieties—Hanza, Lambert and Royal Annas. The last named is the greatest producer of the three and while it may only bring a medium price in comparison, it is quite a sure bearer and finds a ready market. With an orchard may be said that as far as experience has taught us, probably the best settings are Rome Beauty, Winter Idamus, Delmonico and Newton Pippins. On soils of a heavy and moist character, the Jonathan proves profitable as do a few other varieties. Unless you could be prepared in an extremely dry year to irrigate in some extent, it is not good judgment to set varieties as Newton Pippins and Delmonico on sandy soil. However, when there is a soft clay and underlying the top soils they are very profitable.

It is a well known fact that the credit of the apple growers of the Pacific Northwest is a well established and has been for the past four or five years. This, however, is not due to the fact of our soil fertility in the matter of production, but many other conditions, where practical business methods have not been employed as there has been a lack of proper financial backing.

There will be a generation come this section in time, which will be practical in the growing of fruits, and their management, together with their ability to do things will become the general order in the financial condition of the apple growers. It is hardly to be expected that this class of fruit growers will develop from the truly American, but of today, much to our regret, but from a generation of people who apply themselves strictly to their work and are very careful of their quality of enterprise, while the development is going on. While there is some resentment at the thought of foreign born, children being sent to the orchards, settling in the various localities of the Pacific Northwest, yet it seems to me that unless there is a very quick change in the condition of affairs that we of the Pacific Northwest may expect the major part of the future development in the fruit industry to be done by this class of people. With this in mind we are all of us, I think, ready to say that we should have only Americans to come and help share our prosperity, it would be well to keep it solid and to have those who have learned the lesson of the fruit growers who have been in the industry for as long as thirty years, as we are that stable and experienced.

One soil, which is adapted to grain growing in Union county is well and definitely suited, and is being used and farmed by modern methods. Today it is, economically, making all the returns that are possible. Yet we should bear in mind that this class of agriculture has developed in people in Union county to practically the limit and so, may not expect any greater profitable life from this source. There is, it is to be seen, a glimmer that to utilize, practically worthless, land small tracts of lands within the confines of Union county, by using on the hillside or located in the valley and with the price of grain crops on the rise, would be logical. These could be used to bring a greater population to Union county that could build up within a period of ten years a production in fruit growing that would

RUCKMAN'S PIONEER HOUSE



The country home of Mr. and Mrs. Don Ruckman, of Alsea. The wings of this house formed the original homestead of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Ruckman, pioneers now living at Imbler, when they came via the covered wagon to this valley over 50 years ago. The house has been added to during intervening years and is at present a commodious, well preserved and modern country home.

strated. Besides just one citation of the work done through this avenue, is due to H. H. Weatherston, of Elgin, who, looking forward to entry at the State Fair at Salem the last of next month. Although still early in his term, Weatherston has made a record for himself at local fairs in taking various prizes and ribbons and he stands well to win at the State Fair, those who know conditions believe.

Figures say that about 12,000 head of hogs were kept on our farms last year with a value of something over \$100,000.

With the approach of harvest time for the potato crop, the address given by Prof. G. R. Hyslop, professor of Farm Crops, during his visit to the valley some weeks ago is recalled. Prof. Hyslop, quite emphatically recommended the planting of a campaign to control the Colorado potato beetle which was now in rather low numbers, but will increase in numbers as that soon they will become quite a serious pest. Because potato growers are so widely scattered here, Mr. Hyslop was of the opinion that a campaign of two years would be sufficient to exterminate this particular beetle in this locality.

PRODUCTION OF SWINE GAINING

Biggest Crop of Hogs Produced in Years in Prospect at Present

This year will see in Union county the biggest crop of hogs that has been produced for several years. The reason has been advanced that the present higher prices prevail for during the last 15 months have encouraged farmers to go more heavily into hog raising. Farmers are not only increasing the numbers but they are also increasing the quality and it is predicted that if present price conditions continue, the next few years will see a great advancement in the hog raising end of the farm's activities. One factor in the growth of this line of activities is the club work which is being carried on so satisfactorily. The boys and girls, through the work done in the club organizations, have done much to create interest in the raising of

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Riley-Henry Building
New Foley Bldg. Addition
Colonial Theatre (remodeling)

Residences:
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A. T. Hill
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