

ORCHARDS OF THIS COUNTY

Experimental Station Issues Report on Orchard Survey.

The long-expected orchard survey of Jackson county by the experimental station of the Oregon Agricultural college has just made its appearance here. It is a pamphlet of 56 pages and is profusely illustrated by cuts of orchard scenes.

The field work of the survey was done by S. L. Bennett and C. C. Vincent of the Agricultural college, who made an orchard to orchard canvass of the county last summer during the months of July, August and September, and 473 orchards were visited.

This publication will prove of inestimable benefit to the valley, for it will make accessible statistics and facts that otherwise would be hard to secure. It will enable the grower to show official sanction for his statements when sounding the praises of this section.

Among the subjects discussed are Soils, cultivation, fertilizers, irrigation, drainage, planting, varieties, pruning, thinning, fungus diseases, insects, yields and marketing. The number and age of every variety in the county is given.

In discussing the growing of pears the pamphlet contains the following boost:

"Rogue River valley enjoys the distinction of being the greatest pear-producing district in the Pacific Northwest. Apples of as good quality as those of Jackson county may be produced elsewhere, but it is admitted that the flavor and keeping quality of the Rogue River pears have not been duplicated in any other fruit-producing country. There have been larger areas, respectively, of Comice, Bartlett and Bosc, than of any of the other varieties. It is due to the fact that there is such a large demand for Comice that there has been the strident in the planting of this variety. The Comice is undoubtedly a very favorable pear, but the cause of the demand for Comice being so much greater than that for other varieties, as the Bartlett, is that it is a comparatively new commercial variety, is a shy bearer, and the supply on the market has been limited. But it is a question whether or not they are on the whole as profitable as some of the other leading varieties. In fact, the relative planting shows that a plurality still favors the long-ripened Bartlett and it is safe to say that of the money-makers that variety stands at the head of the list. Although the d'Anjou is only fifth in total acreage, that variety is rapidly gaining favor, and from a close observation of various orchards we could well recommend it as a very desirable pear for future planting.

"The development of any district is, as a rule, due to the aggressiveness of a few. The fame which is won, and consequently the demand for their particular fruit, may be accelerated and practical culture growth with the market. The market is larger and better at present than ever before. Also the orchards which in the past have been neglected are now well cared for and prosperity reigns over a wider territory."

The authors of the report have the following to say about J. H. Stewart, who, with his brother, F. M. Stewart, planted the first orchard in the valley, shipped the first car of fruit out of the valley and sent the first fruit to London from this valley in 1893:

"At that time the so-called father of the fruit industry of Jackson county, Mr. J. H. Stewart, who came to Medford from an eastern fruit district, and understood the possibilities of that enterprise, foresaw a great future for the valley, and accordingly, in 1885, he planted quite a large acreage of apples and pears, the former being largely of the Ben Davis variety. He cared for the trees according to his own ideas, and that orchard stands today as an example credited to their untiring efforts. This has been the experience of Jackson county, and it is true that the one of having always been well cared for. His methods, especially those of pruning, were followed by all the men who set orchards during the few years immediately following, and soon extended to the various other portions of the state where commercial fruitgrowing was attracting attention, the railroad making such an advance possible. It was he who so strongly advocated the industry and who so freely explained the methods of carrying on the work. Thus it was this promoter who first gave the impetus resulting in the large planting in Jackson county."

Summarized, the report gives the following information:

"Area.—Commercial orcharding in Jackson county has had a wonderful

development in the past 15 years. From a humble beginning consisting of two or three orchards, it has grown until we now find 473 orchards, containing 9675.4 acres. The average size of a commercial orchard is 25.3 acres.

"Site and Aspect.—The elevation of the orchards varies from 1200 to 2600 feet, 1700 feet being about the average. In exposure all points of the compass are well represented. A large percentage of the orchards have, however, a northern exposure. Except with peach trees, the exposure has as yet played but an insignificant part in orcharding in Jackson county.

"Soils.—There is a great variation found in the soils of the county. Nearly all are deficient in humus and many lack nitrogen. At present, because of the immaturity of many of the orchards, it is impossible to state just which soils are more especially adapted to the various fruits, but from indications the granitic soils seem more adapted for peaches, the red hills for grapes and the tree fruits, such as the plum and cherry; the apples seem to do well on the sticky and loamy soils and probably in many of the first bench lands. Pears seem to do better on the stronger and heavier soils.

"Cultivation.—Practically 74 per cent of the orchards are given good cultivation, while 98 per cent receive some cultivation. Only 1 1/4 per cent of the orchards are totally neglected and these are largely home orchards. There are many types of soil, each of which offer special requirements of cultivation.

"Feeding the Soil.—At the present time only 5 per cent of the growers use commercial fertilizers, 5 per cent cover crops, and 70 per cent use stable compost in very limited quantities.

"Irrigation.—Only 10 per cent of the growers irrigate, but a much larger percentage can conveniently do so, and are planning to irrigate this season. Water is obtained from Fish Lake ditch, Rogue river and from private systems. The furrow system is preferred under normal conditions.

"Drainage.—Of the 473 orchards, 30 per cent are on rather level bottom land, 15 per cent of these are in need of artificial drainage. Many orchards having a good elevation and slope have sections that would be benefited by drainage.

"Setting Young Orchards.—Many of the old orchards were planted too closely, but this has been largely remedied in the younger orchards. The rectangular system is the common system used in setting out orchards.

"Varieties Grown.—In the older orchards many varieties were grown, but the younger orchards contain but few varieties. Of the 5972.97 acres planted to apples, 3112.46 acres are planted to Yellow Newtown, 2000.57 acres to Spitzenburg and 461 acres to Jonathan. Of the 2189.43 acres of pears, 571.45 acres are planted to Comice, 643.19 acres to Bartlett and 435.75 acres to Bosc.

"Age of Orchards.—Beginning with 1902 there has been a rapid increase in the number of trees planted, a very large percentage of the trees being under 5 years of age. The maximum yields were found in trees from 15 to 20 years of age. The older orchards, because of neglect, were on a decline.

"Pruning.—A large percentage of the growers give their trees skillful pruning; 6 per cent, however, of the orchards are in need of better pruning, these being principally the old and home orchards; 34 per cent of the growers head low, 47 per cent medium and 19 per cent high; 75 per cent of the growers favor the open tree, while 22 per cent favor the leader; 83 per cent prune in winter, 6 per cent in summer, and 11 per cent prune both winter and summer.

"Thinning.—In practically all the commercial orchards thinning is practiced. The amount of thinning done varies with seasons and variety.

"Fungus Diseases.—Anthracnose was found in 61 orchards, blight in 21, crown gall in 9, shothole fungus in 45, and apple scab in 11. These figures are for orchards in which the disease conditions were very noticeable. Traces of these were found in many orchards and especially in this true of anthracnose.

"Insects.—Borers were found in 31 orchards, aphids in 58. Codling moth, while in all orchards, were noticeably present in 141. San Jose scale was found in 98 orchards. In spraying, 80 per cent spray when petals fall, 21 per cent wait until the moths appear; 85 per cent make four applications and 12 per cent make but two. There is considerable difference of opinion as to the best date, and number of applications to make, in spraying for Codling moth.

"Past and Present Condition of Orchards.—The statistics gathered show that there has been a steady improvement in orchard management in Jackson county. Only a small per cent of the orchards are in poor condition.

"Yields.—The figures obtained for yields are somewhat unsatisfactory, (Continued on Page 4.)

BUMPER CROP IS THE OUTLOOK

Heavy Precipitation This Winter Promises Great Fruit Yield.

Rogue River valley orchardists these days are wearing the smile that won't come off, and with every rainy day the smile broadens and becomes more fixed.

This is because the rainfall which has already fallen is enough to insure a bumper fruit crop next year. Almost as much moisture, counting the snow, has fallen already as will during the whole of last season.

J. A. Perry, of the Fruitgrowers' union, in discussing the outlook for next year's yield, said: "Unless something unforeseen occurs we are bound to have a big crop next year. The rainfall has helped a lot. Last year we did not have moisture enough during the winter months to last during the dry spell. The prospects this year are that we will have plenty."

"Another thing that has helped has been the freezing weather. It is a good thing for the ground to freeze once in a while; it loosens it up and makes it more mellow."

Charles Meserve, editor of the Rogue River Valley Fruitgrower, also is an optimist. He thinks that with the rainfall which has fallen nothing can prevent a big yield except a frost.

"Another thing that will help is the fact that we had a light crop last year. A light crop always means a heavy yield for the following year, if nothing happens, such as a frost."

"Another thing that will count this time is the fact that our orchardists are spraying their trees more generally than ever before, and the loss in this direction will be less than ever. Mr. Meserve also emphasized the benefit of the frost as affecting the condition of the ground. Ranchers from all parts of the valley, when seen in town, are jubilant in discussing the coming season.

GRAZING FEES REDUCED. Number of Horses and Cattle on Forests Increased.

Grazing fees for the coming summer have been fixed for the Crater national forest. The fees for cattle and horses remain the same as last year.

For the grazing period from May 1 to October 15 the charge will be 30 cents per head on cattle and 40 cents per head on horses. For the shorter period from June 15 to October 15 the charge will be 25 cents per head on cattle and 35 cents per head on horses. There is also a yearling grazing period and the charges for that are 50 cents on cattle and 65 cents on horses.

A greater number of cattle and horses will be grazed on the forest this year than last. Last year the number was 6417 and this year 8250 will be allowed, making an increase of 1833.

As to sheep, the number permitted on the forest has been cut, and the grazing fee has been reduced. Last year the fee was ten cents per head for the grazing period from June 15 to October 15, while this year the charge will be eight cents per head, thus saving the sheepmen two cents per head. There is another grazing period from July 1 to October 15, for which the charge will be seven cents per head.

There will be allowed but 4999 head of sheep on the forest this year as compared with 7021 last year. This reduction is made for the future benefit of the range as it is an easy matter to overgraze with sheep.

Another matter of interest to local applicants for grazing permits is that a portion of the Umpqua forest which lies on the divide between the two forests has been transferred to the jurisdiction of the local forest officials. This step was taken for the convenience of the people using that range, as Medford is more easily accessible than Roseburg to them.

March 15 has been set by forest Supervisor Erickson as the last day for receiving applications for grazing permits, which will be issued on May 15.

WEATHER OBSERVERS. To Be Established at the Head of Every Mountain Stream.

A weather observer stationed at the head of every mountain stream, noting the rainfall, snowfall, temperature, direction and velocity of the wind will be the rule soon if plans made by the weather bureau at Washington, in conjunction with the forest service, are carried out.

Supervisors of national forests have been instructed to secure the names of people, living in such sections, who may wish to undertake the work of noting and recording

weather data. The weather bureau will provide the necessary apparatus with which to make observations, such as maximum thermometers rain and snow gauges and other instruments.

While observers will be voluntary, the weather bureau will pay a small compensation, ranging from one to ten dollars per month, according to the number of instruments under the care of the observer. Persons intrusted with the instruments will make monthly reports to the district forecaster at Portland.

The purpose of the government in this scheme is to get reliable information for future work. These observers, being stationed near the tops of mountains and at the headwaters of streams, will be able to secure facts which will be useful in a variety of ways, and the government from use of this data will be able to predict the amount of water the irrigationists, placer miner, water companies and others can expect during the summer.

The local forest officials hope to secure someone who will undertake the work of observation near the headwaters of the Little Butte, where Medford's water is to come from. The observers will also take notes on forest conditions.

Anyone wishing to undertake this work should get in communication with the supervisor of the Crater forest here.

BUILDING INSPECTED. Board and Architect Examine High School.

At a meeting of the school board to be held today the new high school building will be accepted. Yesterday the members of the board, with Charles H. Burggraf, of Albany, who designed the building, went over it and found that the contractors had complied with all the requirements. The report of the architect will show a few minor details were left unfinished, but in all essential matters the structure comes up to the specifications.

The Medford Brick company had the contract for the building. When the report is accepted, the contractors will be released and the building turned over to the school board. After it has been prepared for school purposes it will be put in use at once, as the additional room is badly needed, for Medford's school population has grown faster than the funds at the disposal of the board.

Some time in April, during the spring vacation, the dedicatory ceremonies will be held and the building formally thrown open to the school children of the city. It had been intended to dedicate the new building the first of the year but it was found that it would not be completed and that plan was abandoned.

Mr. Burggraf, the architect employed by the board, makes a specialty of designing public buildings and every town of consequence in Western Oregon has one or more buildings designed by him. This is not his first work in Medford. He also designed the North School. He has buildings to his credit in Ashland, Grants Pass, Eugene, Albany, Salem and other towns.

That Medford's new building is considered a beauty is shown by the fact that the architect uses a cut of it on his envelopes.

NEW SCHOOL DISTRICT. West Side of Valley Working for Home School.

Residents of the west side of the valley are working for a new school district and schoolhouse. L. Nienemeyer has offered to give a ten-acre tract on which to build the schoolhouse if the county authorities will authorize the creation of a new district.

There are 40 or 50 children of school age in that neighborhood that would be served by such a move. At present they are compelled to drive to Central Point or Jacksonville, which is a very disagreeable task during the wet weather, the roads being in such condition that travel is slow and tedious.

CONFIRMATION. The following real estate transfers have been recorded in the office of the recorder at Jacksonville:

John F. Mundy et ux to Sunnyside Coal & Coke Co., land in township 37 south, range 1 west; \$10.
Patrick F. Murphy to Sunnyside Coal & Coke Co., land in township 37 south, range 1 west; \$10.
Howard S. Dudley to Sunnyside Coal & Coke Co., 200 acres in township 37 south, range 1 west; \$10.
Pacific Coal Co. to Medford Coal & Mining Co., power of attorney.

TO COMBAT THE VISIT OF FROSTS

Agricultural College to Con- duct Tests in Valley This Spring.

Tests will be conducted by members of the faculty of the Agricultural college of Corvallis in the Rogue River valley during the coming spring and fall in an effort to find the most suitable and effective methods of preventing damage to orchards from frost.

Sudden and unsuspected frosts during the growing season in the spring are the bane of every fruit-growing community. Just what is the best and most effective method of fighting the frost evil is a matter on which there is a wide divergence of opinion among horticulturists. And a series of tests to devise the best means of preventing this large annual loss will arouse the interest of the fruit growers, even though the loss from frost in this valley is rare and of small account.

The faculty at the experimental station desire to put men in five or six of the representative orchards of the valley in order that the tests may have as wide a scope as possible. They will work in co-operation with the orchardists, who will furnish the apparatus and fuel necessary for the tests.

The experiments will be in charge of C. L. Lewis, professor of horticulture at the experimental station. The tests will not be confined to this valley, but will extend to all the great fruit growing sections, such as Hood River valley, the Grande Ronde valley and the Willamette valley. Experienced men, members of the faculty of the agricultural college, will be placed in the field to conduct the tests.

The various methods of resisting frost will be thoroughly tested and the best method for the valley determined. Some of the more common methods are burning of crude petroleum, wood, straw, sawdust and the making of steam which acts as a fog in preventing frost.

A clever mechanism, consisting of a thermometer which looks like a clock and is encased in a wooden box, will be used to arouse the men making the tests when a frost threatens. This thermometer has a device by which the mercury, whenever it touches a given point in the downward scale, sets a bell to ringing in the bedroom of the man who is watching the orchard. This is accomplished by means of an electric battery and the mechanism is so constructed that the orchardist can set the indicator at whatever point he wishes, so that he will have plenty of time in which to get his fires started.

The men who will conduct the tests will be placed in the field during April and the early part of May when the danger from frost is the greatest. The experiments will be renewed again in September when the first fall frosts occur. This will be more especially for the benefit of gardeners and truck farmers.

It will be impossible for the agricultural college to successfully conduct the tests unless the growers co-operate. Charles Meserve, editor of the Rogue River Valley Fruitgrower, is the local representative of the college here in this matter and orchardists who wish to co-operate in this work, which is for the benefit of the whole valley, should see him so that he can prepare a list of orchardists who are willing to help.

ANTI-TRUST BILL. Measure in House of Interest to Fruitgrowers.

Fruitgrowers and hopgrowers, as well as union laborers generally, are interested in the anti-trust bill introduced in the House by Representative Purdin and known as House Bill 37.

While the bill is evidently aimed at large combinations, such as cracker trusts, manufacturing enterprises of various kinds, and railroad agreements, yet it is general in its application and affects combinations of skill and acts as well as capital. Fruitgrowers in various parts of the state have formed "pools" for the purpose of securing a better price, and the hopgrowers have done the same thing, with the expressed purpose of causing a scarcity that would raise prices. Apparently these acts would be prohibited by Purdin's bill should become a law, "pools" being expressly forbidden. The first section of the Purdin bill, defining the combinations prohibited is as follows:

Section 1. A trust is a combination of capital, skill, or acts by two or more persons, firms, partnerships, or corporations, or associations of persons, or of any two or more of them

for either, any or all of the following purposes:

1. To create or carry out restrictions in trade or commerce.
2. To limit or reduce the production, or increase or reduce the price of merchandise or of any commodity.
3. To prevent competition in manufacturing, making, transportation, sale or purchase of merchandise, produce or any commodity.
4. To fix at any standard or figure, whereby its price to the public or consumer shall be in any manner controlled or established, any article or commodity of merchandise, produce or commerce intended for sale, barter, use or consumption in this state.
5. To make or enter into or execute any contracts, obligations or agreements of any kind or description, by which they shall bind or have bound themselves not to sell, dispose of or transport any article or any commodity or any article of trade, use, merchandise or consumption below a certain standard figure, or fixed value, or by which they agree in any manner to keep the price of such article, commodity or transportation at a fixed or graduated figure, or by which they shall in any manner establish or settle the price of any article, commodity or transportation between themselves and others, so as to directly or indirectly preclude a free and unrestricted competition among themselves, or any purchasers or consumers in the sale or transportation of any such article or commodity, or by which they shall agree to pool, combine or directly or indirectly unite any interests that they may have connected with the sale or transportation of any such article or commodity, that its price might in any manner be affected. Every such trust as is defined herein is hereby declared to be unlawful, against public policy and void.

NEW REALTY COMPANY. Well-known Citizens Engage in Real Estate Business.

The Medford Realty company is one of the newest organizations in the city. The company comprises the citizens of the city: B. H. Harris, president; J. P. Molony, vice-president; W. P. Goulder, secretary and treasurer.

These gentlemen are all too well and favorably known in Medford to need an introduction by The Morning Mail, still we are going to say that they are all straight-up, honest men and there is no good reason why they should not do a good share of the real estate business of this part of the valley. Mr. Harris has long been engaged in the timber land business in the valley and if he will throw into the company some of the enthusiasm which has so long characterized him as the banner booster of timber and his branching out into other fields of realty dealings will be good for Medford and the valley. Mr. Molony made many friends in Medford while engaged in the shoe trade here. Mr. Goulder is pastor of the M. E. church, south, but hopes to find time from his clerical duties to properly look after his end of the real estate work. They will have office rooms in the Jackson County bank building.

TEAM HAS CLOSE CALL. Carried Down Stream While Work- ing in Bear Creek.

What came near being a serious accident occurred yesterday on Bear creek, where the work of putting in the cribs to turn the water is in progress. F. A. Piel was hauling sacks of gravel to dump into the cribs and, in attempting to cross near where the temporary work was put in, his horses got into the rapidly flowing stream between the ends of the dam and were swept off their feet and down the stream until the wagon struck some false work and careened almost on its side, one horse at the time being up to its withers in the water.

Mr. Piel got on the edge of the wagon box that was out of the water and steadied himself by a wire that was stretched across and under which the team had passed. After Piel the movements of the team and after several anxious moments for the strong current caused the horse works to give way when the team got a good footing and was able to draw the wagon to dry land. The water in the channel at this point was about five feet in depth and only the giving way of the timbers prevented a horse and perhaps its driver, from being drowned.

Grocers Move.
Miller & Ewbank will commence to move their stock of goods into the Deuel & Kentner block this evening. In their new quarters this energetic and progressive firm of grocers will have better facilities to serve their customers. The work of moving will be completed by Wednesday and Thursday they will commence their removal sale.

FIGURES TELL OF PROSPERITY

Carload Shipments From the East Increased 60 per cent Last Year

Emphasizing Medford's prosperity and showing the rapid growth and development of the Rogue River valley better and more convincingly than any other thing is the fact that freight business in the form of carload shipments from the east to Medford for the present year exceed similar shipments for last year by 60 per cent.

This figure is no wild guess. C. A. Malboeuf, district freight agent of the Southern Pacific railroad, who was here yesterday and has a better opportunity to know than anyone else, is authority for the figures above quoted.

This great increase means that there has been a large increase of people who have come here to reside permanently, for a large part of this business consists in carload shipments of household effects.

Quoting Mr. Malboeuf: "I believe that Medford people themselves scarcely realize how rapidly the town and the valley is filling up. To the average man these figures do not mean very much, but to a railroad man they show more conclusively than anything else the rapid growth and development of a community."

1000 Cars of Fruit Next Year.
"As a matter of fact the freight business, both to and from Medford, is in a healthy condition of growth. With the excellent prospects of a good fruit year next year there ought to be at least 1000 cars of fruit shipped out of here. I would hate to make any predictions as to the number of carloads of fruit that will be shipped out of here in a few years with the rapid increase in acreage being put out to trees. I am afraid I would be too conservative."

Mr. Malboeuf disclaimed any credit as a booster in giving these figures, for he said, the figures themselves did the boasting. However, he showed himself a booster in every sense of the word when he continued:

"I have always predicted that Western Oregon would soon be one of the greatest fruit districts in the world. And the Rogue River valley, with its rich soils and perfect climatic conditions, will surely contribute its full quota to that end. You have everything that is necessary except the people and they are coming in as fast as you can accommodate them and take care of them."

"While many parts of the country felt the effects of the panic more or less severely, this section went ahead and scored an increase of sixty per cent in its freight business from the east. Nothing could indicate more clearly that the panic passed by Medford when it swept over the country."

TAX MUDDLE CLEARED. Measure to Offset Recent Decision of Court.

SALEM, Jan. 26.—Serious trouble has been caused by the decision of the Supreme Court that the fixed rates of state tax is unconstitutional. A measure will be introduced in the house tomorrow providing that within seven days after the bill is signed, a temporary board of equalization, constituted of the Governor, Secretary of State and the State Treasurer, shall ascertain the exact cash value of the assessable property in the several counties of the state. To gain this data the board has the power to make necessary subpoenas. After securing this information the board shall determine the amount of revenue necessary for the state and pro rate it among the counties as equitably as possible.

This does not interfere with the present county rolls, which are being extended.

This emergency measure will be followed later in the session by a bill providing for a permanent board of equalization and the adoption of a system for state taxation hereafter.

An emergency bill was drafted at the suggestion of Justice Bean, whose decision overthrew the fixed rate which had been in effect for seven years.

Hat Pin Bill Passed.
The bill to abolish the whipping post was defeated in the house this afternoon and a bill forbidding the wearing of hats in excess of ten inches in length was passed.

A bill has been introduced in the Senate abolishing the loan sharks.

If, as reported, the cost of living has increased 50 per cent in ten years, a dead man ought to be in a position to save a lot of money.