

OREGON CHERRY CROP YIELDS BIG REVENUE

By William E. Curtis, Special Correspondent for the Chicago Record Herald.

SALEM, Oregon, Sept. 24, 1909.—Portland is the Rose City, Salem the Cherry City. That title was bestowed upon the capital of Oregon by the Pacific Coast Nurserymen's Association which met here a few years ago and assisted to inaugurate the cherry festival, which has since become a regular and the most important event of the year. The gathering of the legislature and the inauguration of a governor are mere incidents in comparison.

The people of this part of the Willamette valley are just beginning to realize the value of their soil and climate, and although cherry trees have been growing ever since the pioneer Methodist missionaries set them out, it was only recently that commercial possibilities were made clear. Now hundreds of farmers are planting trees, and within a few years the Willamette valley will be producing more cherries than all of the rest of the United States combined. People here tell me that cherries are rapidly becoming obsolete in the east because the trees are worn out and are so frequently attacked by worms and other pests, from which the orchards of this valley are always free. And the size, flavor and texture of Oregon cherries are said to be superior to those grown elsewhere.

Very few of them are shipped out of this state, however. Occasional carload goes to Boston, New York, Chicago and other eastern cities, which will absorb as many as can be sent, but the risk is greater than with other fruit, because cherries cannot be picked and allowed to ripen on the journey like pears and apples. The chief market, therefore is the cannery, and hundreds of thousands of cases, which soon multiply into the millions, are put up every spring. There is no limit to the market for preserved and canned cherries, and a New York house recently started a new branch of the industry by calling for "pie cherries" to be slightly cooked here and shipped in barrels for immediate use. If this method proves to be practicable the possibilities are beyond computation, because there is nothing better than cherry pie, and every town and city in the country ought to absorb a vast quantity.

The Royal Ann is a favorite cherry—the best producer, the best seller and the best canner—to use local terms. During an automobile ride around the suburbs of Salem this afternoon we were shown orchards of that variety which seem to have performed miracles. One man whose name was given us picked 34,000 pounds of Royal Ann cherries from 525 trees in a five acre orchard and sold them at five cents a pound to a cannery. It cost him \$350 to raise and pick the crop, three-fourths of the money being paid to pickers. We were shown another orchard with 143 trees, which produced \$1400 worth, and another of only two acres which paid a net profit of \$700 annually.

But cherries are not the only fruit produced in this section. Plums, peaches, pears, apples, berries of all kinds grow equally well, and 15,000,000 pounds of prunes were packed and shipped last year from this county. Cherries have not yet reached their full development and the prune crop is still the largest source of revenue to the farmer's except hops.

Oregon is the greatest hop producer of all the states and more than 40 per cent of the entire crop of the country, or an average of about 20,000 bales, is grown in this section. California produces 95,000 bales; Washington and New York, each 40,000 bales. In western and middle Oregon the peculiar climate conditions required for hop culture are found to perfection—a warm moist atmosphere with alternate fog and sunshine and dry spell of weather, while the hops are maturing. The maximum yield is about 2000 pounds to the acres; the minimum about 1200 pounds. A bale of hops averages 180 pounds and the average price for a long term of years has been 12 cents a pound. Hops vary more than any other crop in price. They have been as low as seven and eight cents a pound and as high as \$1.10 a pound during the present

generation. They are selling for 22 cents now. It cost about seven cents a pound to raise hops in this in this valley more or less, according to the local conditions, so that a farmer can come out a little ahead if he sells for ten cents, and 12 cents is a good profit.

The crop is small this year because last season before the price was so low that many of the hop growers pulled up their vines and set out fruit trees in their hop fields. This season the total will probably not exceed 80,000 bales, less than has been produced in Oregon since 1901, when the total was 71,000 bales. In 1907 the maximum of 130,000 bales was sent to market, but it brought only \$1,924,000, while in 1905 a crop of 115,000 bales sold for \$3,531,000; in 1904, a crop of 88,000 bales sold for \$5,000,000, and 1903 a similar crop sold for \$4,000,000. Last year a crop of 118,000 bales brought only \$1,750,000. Hence the farmers got discouraged and went into fruit. At present prices, however the 80,000 bale crop will bring about as much as the 118,000 bales brought last year.

OVER 1000 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene, Oct. 4.—Registration in all departments of the University of Oregon reached 1000 students. In the colleges of liberal arts and engineering the enrollment now is nearly 600 students, and the total registration for the year in these two departments will reach 700, an increase over last year of 20 per cent. The freshman class, all of whom are high school graduates, numbers 250 students. Graduates from practically every four-year high school in Oregon have entered the university this fall, and there is also a very noticeable number of students entering who are graduates of high schools outside of Oregon.

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The Tower of London has the most perfect system of burglar alarms that has yet been devised.

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In particular the precautions in the apartment containing the crown jewels are of a most scientifically elaborate kind. One of the beefeaters on duty in the room has merely to press a button, whereupon the heavy door closes, the alarm bell below rings, the other gates slam to and lock, and every person within the tower is instantly cut off from the outer world.

"The man who can get away with any of the crown jewels deserves them," observed a Tower official. "From where I am standing I could close every important door and gate in the Tower in an hour a time as it takes to utter these words."

It was mainly to insure the safety of the crown jewels that the system was installed.

No order had been issued for the closing of the Tower on a recent Saturday when, greatly to their alarm, the visitors found doors locked, bolted and barred against them for about ten minutes, preventing any one leaving the Tower.

"The Tower simply closed—that is all," remarked an official. "Who caused it to do so we do not know. It might have been Scotland Yard, where the pressing of a button would imprison every soul within the Tower until the police gave the signal for their release, or it might have been the governor, anxious to learn whether we were all at our posts. At any rate, it was none of the minor officials."

"In fact, who closed the Tower and why is a secret known only to the highest authorities. There was no alarm, no attempt to seize the crown jewels."—London Mail.

The Town of Bushire. Residents of a miserable seaport on the Persian gulf called their town Bushire (Boosheer). It has narrow, dirty, ill paved streets. The city is visited by earthquakes and simooms and stints its children of wholesome air and fresh water. It appears, however, to have enjoyed high repute among the ancient Elamites, who have left buried about under moldering heaps bricks with cuneiform inscriptions. In summer the citizens of Bushire live in a heat that is almost unbearable.

"The Picnic Stretch." Though a brilliant conversationalist, George Meredith had, of course, his silent moods, and he happened to be in one of them at a certain picnic. Next to him sat a lady, herself a good talker, who had been looking forward to this meeting for days and, it may be guessed, preparing for it—in vain. The only sentence that passed his lips was when he reached slightly across her for the salt—"Excuse the picnic stretch."—Manchester Guardian.



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