

# TRUST TO GET POWER CONTROL

Big Combine would Control Supplies to Eastern and Western Cities

WASHINGTON, October 5.—The agencies which are pleading to control the water powers of the country are not confined to one city or section. The capitalists in the proposed gigantic combination must be sought in the East as well as in the West, in New York, Chicago, Seattle and other cities.

This is all the agricultural department people will say in the way of pointing at the principals of a monopoly which is being created by capitalists all the way from New York to Seattle.

The investigators here who are aware of the existence of the scheme to control the water are not yet willing to give the names. It is stated positively, however, that no one has been selected finally for the great combination of capital, although such names as those of Daniel Guggenheim, Thomas F. Ryan, Senator Newlands and others have been suggested and so far only reported.

It is stated that the influences which are behind this coal land deal in Alaska are to a considerable extent connected with the relate quest of a monopoly of the water power.

Chief Forester Pinchot would not today express himself on the matter which has become controversial.

So far officials are not disposed to make specific references to individuals concerned in the effort to corner the water power of the country. As pointed out at the agricultural department to-day, the combine is not yet a matter of record, and it is suspected that the intended members of the syndicate will now act warily in view of the agitation of the subject.

### Bijou Theater.

Owing to the fact that the special scenery not arriving in time, "The Bohemian" will not be put on tonight. In its place the English comedy-drama, "The Soldier's Sweetheart," will be substituted tonight and Wednesday evenings.

BILLY EMPEY VAN, Manager.

### DIED.

ROUSE—In Medford, October 3, Alvia A. Rouse, aged 47 years. Interment in I. O. O. F. cemetery.

RAWLINGS—In Medford, October 3, Mrs. Anna R. Rawlings, aged 73 years. Interment in Jacksonville cemetery.

WANTED—Table boarders wanted. 325 Riverside avenue, South. 172

# STEAMERS BRING UNDESIRABLES

John Mitchells' Proposition to Restrict Admission of Undesirable Aliens

NEW YORK, Oct. 5.—The American Federation of Labor, through Vice President John Mitchell, who is also chairman of the trade agreement department of the National Civic Federation, has issued a statement declaring that certain steamship lines are bringing undesirable immigrants to this country and suggesting that American wage earners advocate the incorporation of the following restrictions in the immigration laws:

First, that in addition to the restriction imposed by the laws at present in force the head tax of \$4, now collected, should be increased to \$10.

Second, that each immigrant, unless he be a political refugee, should bring with him not less than \$25 in addition to the amount required to pay the transportation to the point where he expects to find employment.

Third, that immigrants between the ages of 14 and 50 years should be able to read a section of the constitution of the United States, whether in our language, in their own language, or in the language of the country from which they came.

## PEST EXHIBIT AT DISTRICT FAIR

Professor O'Gara and Inspector Taylor Will Have Interesting Exhibit.

At the district fair in Ashland, which opens Wednesday, Professor P. J. O'Gara and County Fruit Inspector Taylor have prepared an exhibit which will be of interest to every fruit grower in southern Oregon, for there will be shown every pest and disease which has attacked the fruit trees of the valley. The insects and the like will be mounted, while diseased branches of fruit will be shown.

Professor O'Gara will be in attendance and will give short talks regarding the different phases of the various fruit troubles and their prevention. The exhibit should have much value of a neducational nature.

LOST—Plain gold ring, "Alicie" engraved on inside. Return to this office and receive reward. 175

WANTED—Experienced lady clerk. Hutchison & Lumsden. 170

## CURTIS WRITES OF FRUIT INDUSTRY

(Continued from page 1.) of 1374 feet. It is a well-built, well-kept place, with up-to-date shops, paved streets, concrete sidewalks, attractive homes, and numerous schools and churches. The town was laid out in 1872 by a man named Broback, who came up here from California, bought 160 acres of land, and when the railway came along he persuaded the company to build him a station and call it Medford. There was a mining camp, one of the oldest in Oregon, called Jacksonville, five miles westward, which at one time was famous. Several millions of dollars of gold have been taken out there, and it is producing a little every year still. Medford became the railway station for the miners, and at once got a good business.

Rogue River valley was one of the earliest of the mining districts on the Pacific coast after the mining excitement of 1849, and at one time it was thronged with miners. It is claimed that it has yielded \$25,000,000 of gold. There are various versions to account for the name. Some of the old settlers say that it is due to the performances of a Mexican desperado named Joaquin Murieta, who used to steal horses and cattle and hold up stages in early times; others declare that the eccentricities of the river are so roguish that it deserves the name.

The first people who followed Broback here raised stock and then plowed the land and sowed wheat. Several farmers set out fruit trees around their houses, which produced abundantly, but there was no market except in the mining camps, and the apples and pears were practically worthless except for home consumption until the railway came. Their reputation gradually extended to San Francisco, Portland and different mining camps, and shipments grew every year until 1885, when J. H. Steward of Quincy, Ill., came out here and became the pioneer of the Rogue River fruit trade in a commercial way. He had been brought up among orchards, and not only had considerable experience, but a genius for fruit growing. He was president of the Illinois state board of horticulture for several years. He was also a member of the Illinois state senate.

Mr. Steward came out here accidentally, and in looking over the ground immediately recognized the superior quality of the fruit, and saw the possibilities. He bought a quarter section of land, set out 140 acres of pear and apple trees, and recommended everybody to go into the business. The development was slow for the first ten years, only a few carloads being shipped to San Francisco, Portland and other markets on the Pacific coast, but occasionally a box of apples or pears was sent to Australia or China, and a few found their way across the mountains to Chicago, New York and Boston.

The business did not assume anything like its present importance until five or six years ago, but now

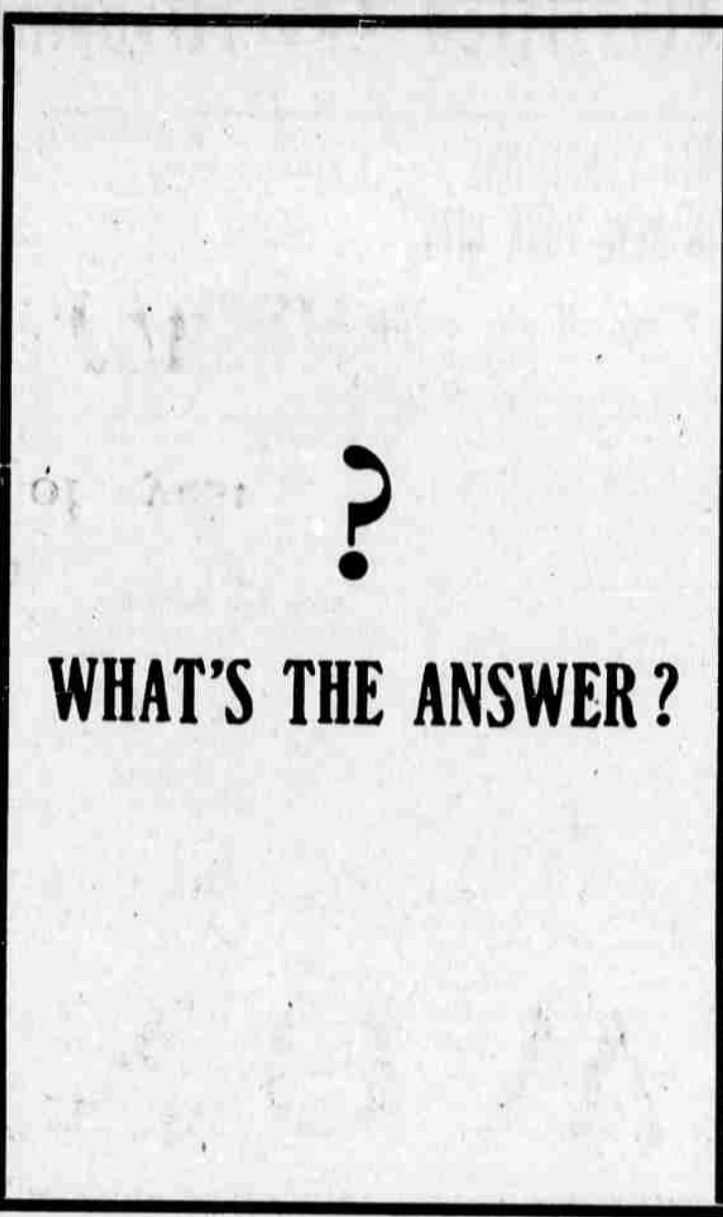
there are 45,000 acres in apples and pears, averaging 70 pear trees and 50 apple trees to the acre, in the immediate vicinity of Medford. There are at least 100,000 unoccupied acres suitable for fruit growing in the Rogue River valley, and they are being taken up at the rate of 12,000 acres a year. The planting of apples and pears is about even; and the two fruits pay equally well. Apples are a more certain crop; the pear trees yield larger quantities, and the fruit sells for high prices.

There are many large orchards, much larger than are found in any other section of the state, but most of the farmers limit themselves to 40 acres, which is "a one-man orchard," as the saying goes. That is, one man can cultivate 40 acres of fruit without assistance except in picking time; but if he attempts more than that he is compelled to hire help, and then his troubles begin. Labor is very scarce, uncertain and unreliable; wages are very high, and if the owner's house is small, it is usually inconvenient to furnish bed and board for a hired man. The advice of experienced fruit growers is either to keep within 40 acres or else go into the business on a large scale, sufficient to justify the employment of a gang of men and the maintenance of a large plant.

The largest orchard in the Rogue River valley, and I am told that it is the largest in the northwest, belongs to the Western Oregon Orchards company, with offices at 59 Dearborn street, Chicago, and it is situated four miles from Medford. The company owns 1700 acres and has 1120 acres planted in apple and pear trees, which are cultivated according to the highest scientific methods. This is a stock company and I understand it has orchards elsewhere. Walter Burrell, a merchant of Portland, has 500 acres of trees; the "401 Orchard company" of San Francisco has 450 acres; F. H. Hopkins of Portland has 260 acres; the Bear Creek Orchard company, belonging to Colorado and local people, has 200 acres; the Sun Crest Orchard owned by Dr. F. C. Page, has 140 acres in Newtown and Spitzenberg and Jonathan apples and 60 acres in pears.

The Snowy Butte orchard has 300 acres; William Hart Hamilton has recently purchased 1100 acres and is planting 500 acres to pears this season. The Del Rio company has 730 acres lying along the track of the Southern Pacific railway, and is planting 600 acres to pears.

Two years ago Mrs. Potter Palmer of Chicago purchased 100 acres of 3-year-old pear trees, paying \$270 an acre. Honore Palmer, who came here to visit his friend, F. H. Hopkins, one of the most successful husbandmen in the neighborhood, caught the pear fever, and persuaded his mother to come out. She proved an easy victim to the fascinations of the country, and has since bought 1400 acres of new land, for which she paid \$35,000 and has already cleared 400 acres, which will be planted to trees during the coming winter.



Several other Chicago people have orchards. Mrs. Streater, the widow of Dr. Streater, has 60 acres; Boudinot Connor has 200 acres, A. Conro Fiero has 60 acres, and Mr. Vilas, a nephew of the late senator from Wisconsin, has 50 acres. There are also a large number of Minneapolis and St. Paul people. New land costs from \$150 to \$250 an acre. It costs an average of \$25 an acre to put the soil in order and set out the trees, and an average of \$10 an acre for five years to carry it to the bearing stage. Then the cost of producing the crop depends upon the ability to obtain pickers when the fruit is ripe. Pickers are scarce, and they demand \$1.75 a day, boarding themselves, or \$1.25 a day when they are boarded. John D. Lowell, one of the most experienced apple and pear growers, tells me that the cost of production will average 60 cents a box; the freight on apples to New York city is 50 cents a box, or \$1 a hundred pounds, on pears it is \$1.40 per hundred, with corresponding rates to Pittsburg, Chicago, St. Louis and Missouri river points. Pears run from 110 to 155 to the box, about 500 boxes to the car. Apples run from 120 to 130 to the box, and will bring an average of \$2.25 a box through the season here on the carse. The Newtown pippins are nearly all shipped to England and sold at auction upon arrival there. The Spitzbergs are nearly all sold in New York. The ground is prepared by plowing and cultivating, and nursery stock is set out during the winter season and cultivated regularly and closely. Corn, watermelons and strawberries may be planted between the rows, which will pay expenses until the trees begin to bear the fifth year. Each year the trees must be pruned and shaped up, and after the fifth year, when they begin to bear, they are sprayed regularly to kill the San Jose scale and other parasites. Medford is not dependent upon one industry, however. Timber, cattle, sheep and mining contribute to its wealth and prosperity, and a railway is now being built to the headwaters of the Rogue river, where is one of the largest stands of timber in the country.

# DO YOU KNOW

That it wont be long until time for setting your trees? Better come in and let me make you

## PRICES ON THE BEST TREES

Before it is too late as they are being booked out fast at this time of year

# H. B. PATTERSON, The Quaker Nurseryman

Office in Hotel Nash Office