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MEDFORD PEARS SMASH RECORDS.

Again Medford pears are smashing all records, proving once more that the Rogue River valley is the premier pear district of the world.

Bartlett pears have netted growers in the Medford district as high as \$1500 an acre. D'Anjou and Comice will net more, while Aose, Howells and Winter Nelis profits are equally as large.

The Bartlett Season.

The Bartlett pear season for Medford opened August 24, when a car of fruit from the Burrell orchard sold for \$3.25 a box in Chicago, and closed September 29, when the last car from the same orchard sold for \$4.25 a box in New York city. Approximately 125 cars of Bartletts were shipped and an average price f. o. b. Medford of from \$2.25 to \$2.50 a box was received.

Wherever offered in competition with Bartletts from California, Washington, Idaho, Hood River or other sections, Medford Bartletts topped the market.

The reasons why such high prices are secured every year for Medford Bartletts is because they reach the eastern markets just as the season ends for California and other fruit and before the Atlantic coast product floods the market, and because of fancy quality and perfect pack. In size, flavor and keeping quality, the Rogue River pear has no equal. As Sgobel & Day, the New York commission men, say, "Medford Bartletts are perfectly beautiful and surpass all others."

D'Anjou Pears.

The Medford d'Anjou pear season opened October 1 in New York city, when a car from the George Marshall orchard sold at an average of \$5.45 a box or \$2700 gross for the car. This is a net price to the grower of \$4.12 a box. In this car, 46 boxes sold at \$6.75 a box, and 254 boxes at \$6.00 a box.

A second car of d'Anjous sold October 5 in New York for \$2900, an average of \$5.45 a box. These were from the Bear Creek orchard. All told a dozen cars of d'Anjous have been shipped. The d'Anjou is a magnificent pear and, like all other varieties, reaches perfection in the Rogue River valley. It can be grown in but few localities, but one car being shipped from Colorado this year, which averaged \$4.75 a box.

The Howell Pears.

Approximately ten cars of Howell pears have been shipped from the Rogue River valley this season. The

The Hillcrest orchard shipped two cars, which were sold in Chicago at \$3.40 a box. Returns are not all in on other shipments, but an average of from \$2 to \$2.25 has been netted by growers.

Returns on Aeuire Bose pears have not been received.

Winter Nelis Pears.

Picking of Winter Nelis pears is under way now. Probably 30 cars will be shipped from the valley. Except for those who have sold their entire crop in advance, it is impossible to quote figures.

Fred H. Hopkins has sold his entire output from 16 1-2 acres from the Snowy Butte orchard at Central Point, estimated at 7000 boxes, for \$3.12 f. o. b. New York, or \$2.14 net f. o. b. orchard. This is in round figures \$15,000. There have already been sold from this same tract \$2000 worth of Bartletts and fall butter pears. The 16 1-2 acres of pears will net Mr. Hopkins \$17,000, better than \$1000 an acre. The same block of pears netted him \$19,000 in 1907.

Comice Pears.

The Doy Du Comice pear, the rarest, choicest, finest pear in the world, and incidentally the highest priced, grows to perfection in the Rogue River valley. Close to a dozen cars have been shipped, but returns have not yet been received. California Comice have grossed \$3308 a car this season, and as Medford Comice always bring a higher figure, fancy prices are expected.

Senator Jonathan Bourne set the ball rolling last week, when he paid \$9 a box for 60 boxes of Comice from the Bear Creek orchard to be sent as presents to the diplomatic corps at Washington. Last year Medford Comice pears sold as high as \$10.08 a box in London and in 1907 as high as \$9.40 a box in New York, while a carload grossed \$4622.80 or \$8.10 a box, the green fruit record of the world.

Fruit buyers all admit that there is an increasing demand for fancy fruit at fancy prices, and the sections producing it are so limited in area that there is no danger of over-production. Despite the increased orchard area of the northwest, there is an annual decrease in the fruit output of the United States, and more orchards are yearly abandoned in the east and central west than are planted in the northwest. Pear districts are few and the demand great.



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Old Mail Box.

Among the treasures held by the Antiquarian society in Portsmouth, N. H., there is an old box the history of which is given on a label which it bears. The box is of tin, painted green, and shows signs of much usage, which is not surprising when one considers that it carried the United States mail between Portsmouth and Boston during the Revolution. It is about nine inches long, four and a half inches wide and a little more than that in height. It was carried on horseback by Captain John Noble, otherwise known as Deacon Noble, who was post rider until 1783. This box contained all the mail and made every week one round trip, occupying three days in the journey—from Portsmouth to Boston the first of the week and three days at the end of the week from Boston to Portsmouth. The distance between the two places is a little more than fifty miles.

He Knew No Fear.

Prince Metternich was driving in Vienna one day during the congress of 1815 when the horses bolted, the carriage was overturned and Metternich was thrown into the roadway. Finding he had no bones broken, he picked himself up and walked quietly away. The same evening he met the king of Naples, who had seen the accident. "How horribly frightened you must have been," said the king. "Not at all," answered Metternich. "It is no merit of mine, but I am constitutionally inaccessible to fear." "It is as I thought," replied the king. "You are a supernatural being."

PLANT BAROMETERS.

The Dandelion, Clover Leaves and the Scarlet Pimpernel.

The dandelion is a dandy barometer, one of the commonest and most reliable. It is when the blooms have seeded and are in the fluffy, feathery condition that the weather prophet faculties cope to the fore. In fine weather the ball extends to the full, but when rain approaches it shuts like an umbrella. If the weather is inclined to be showery it keeps shut all the time, only opening when the danger from the wet is past, says the Chicago Tribune.

The ordinary clover and all its varieties, including the trefoil and the shamrock, are also barometers. When rain is coming the leaves shut together like the shells of an oyster and do not open again until fine weather is assured. For a day or two before rain comes their stems swell to an appreciable extent and stiffen so that the leaves are borne more upright than usual. This stem swelling when rain is expected is a feature of many flowering grasses.

The fingers of which the leaves of the horse chestnut are made up keep flat and fanlike so long as fine weather is likely to continue. With the coming of rain, however, they droop as if to offer less resistance to the weather. The scarlet pimpernel is nicknamed the "poor man's weather glass" or wind cope and opens its flowers only to fine weather. As soon as rain is in the air it shuts up and remains closed until the shower or storm is over.

NOW IS THE TIME

SINCE THE FALL RAINS HAVE BEGUN, AS YOU CAN EASILY LOCATE THE LEAKS IN THE ROOF

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