

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

PRUNE GROWERS UNITE.

New Association Buys Packing Plant at Albany.

Salem—The Northwest association has been formed at this place for the purpose of packing prunes this season. It is a new factor in the Willamette valley prune market. It includes some of the largest growers of this section of the valley. Its members declare it will not join the packers' combine, which was formed here some time ago, and will be the only large packing firm outside the Packers' association. The new Growers' association has purchased the packing plant of Lestelle Bros., at Albany, and will operate it. The plant has a capacity of 150 cars for the season. The capital stock of the new concern is \$10,000.

Lestelle was formerly manager of the packing plant owned by Lestelle Bros., and it is apparently the purpose of the new association to make use of his knowledge of packing and marketing fruit. Mr. Lestelle says that prunes can be sold in the East at figures a full cent above the prices now offered by the packing houses which are members of the Packers' association.

The growers who have organized the new association will proceed at once to enlarge the membership. One of the plans of the new concern is to require all members to dry their prunes thoroughly, so that there will be no danger of the fruit spoiling, as was the case in some instances last year. In order that the growers shall have no incentive to underdry, each grower will be credited with the additional weight his fruit may gain during the processing, grading and packing, which increase is considerable in many instances.

New Law Congests Traffic.

Pendleton—As a result of the operation of the 16-hour law, O. R. & N. freight trains passing over the Rice mountains between Pendleton and La Grande are frequently "tied up" at a mountain station when the 16-hour day of the train crew ends. Under the law the train cannot be run into a terminal on "overtime" as formerly. This week two long freight trains were "tied up" at the end of their 16-hour day at Dunean and five engines were coupled together and taken to Kamela where coal and water for the engines and meals for the crews were to be had while waiting for the 16-hour period of rest between the 16-hour days to end.

Extension Nears Completion.

Wallowa—By September 5, if the present rate of progress is maintained by the O. R. & N. tracklaying crew, the whistle of the O. R. & N. construction locomotives will pierce the long-waiting silence of the Wallowa valley. The work of laying track on the Wallowa extension is now progressing toward this valley at the rate of two miles per day, and the tracklaying crew has crossed the Wallowa river near Grand Ronde and is now working directly toward this place. The main Wallowa river canyon, 16 miles in length, is all that intervenes between the end of the track and this place.

Good Yield of Watermelons.

Albany—A good yield of watermelons, both in quantity and quality, will greet Linn county growers this season. The melons, however, will be from 10 days to two weeks late, due to the late spring, which necessitated considerable replanting. Most of the Linn county melons are raised on the Santiam bottom land, in the vicinity of Lebanon. A large quantity are also raised in Benton county, just across the river from this city.

"Boosting" Booklets Out.

Albany—Fifteen thousand of Albany's new advertising booklets have been received and are ready for distribution at the rooms of the Albany Commercial club. The booklet contains 68 pages, and is illustrated with 61 photos. Bound with varicolored covers and printed and illustrated in splendid shape, it is one of the best booklets from all view points ever issued by any city in the state.

Famous Pear Orchard Sold.

Medford—A syndicate of Eastern men, headed by John D. Olwell, of this city, has purchased the famous pear orchard of C. H. Lewis, near this city, for \$160,000. The orchard has held the world's record for the highest price paid for a carload of Cornice pears for two years, one car bringing \$6,800. This is the largest deal in the history of the fruit lands of the Rogue river valley.

Farmers' Company Reorganized.

Albany—A reorganization of the Albany Farmers' company has been perfected and the whole concern merged into the Albany Mill & Elevator company. The warehouses heretofore managed and maintained at Tallman, Tangent and other outside points by the old company will be in direct control of the new company and carry on the business as of old.

Mill Nearing Completion.

Lakeview—Lakeview's new flouring mill will soon be ready for operation. When the need for a flour mill at home was suggested last winter, the merchants of Lakeview and farmers of Goose Lake valley subscribed the necessary funds to establish a mill. The building is now complete, the machinery on the ground and flour will be turned out this fall.

LAW BENEFITS STATE.

School Attendance in a Majority of Counties Shows Increase.

Salem—The operation of Oregon's new compulsory education law which has been under one year of practical demonstration has been very satisfactory according to the reports received by Superintendent of Public Instruction Ackerman. The statistics of the biennial report also bear out this statement. There are several counties where the per cent of attendance has fallen down but an especial effort will be made during the approaching school year to extend the operation of the law.

Under this law parents may be fined from \$5 to \$25 if they do not compel their children to go to school. The law provides that truancy officers be appointed for every district in the state to receive \$2 for each day's work.

The truancy officer may notify the parents first and then if not action is taken a complaint will be brought against them in court. The county superintendents must furnish each teacher with the census roll of their district. The teacher is compelled to report every four weeks those who are not attending school. If the superintendents or teachers violate any of these provisions they are subject to a fine of from \$5 to \$20.

Families From the East.

Portland—One thousand Central Illinois farmers are packing up their household goods and preparing to move to Oregon before next spring. They have made their arrangements to come out by special trains to Southern Oregon and will settle on the military road grant in Lake and Harney counties. This is probably the largest emigration from one point to a Western state since the days of the old Oregon trail, and will bring a particularly desirable class of farmers and residents into Southern Oregon. Information of the proposed movement reached the chamber of commerce this week through a letter from Henry I. Wallace, of Clay ton, Adams county, Illinois, who asked for additional information regarding the military road grant and said that over 1,000 families from Adams and neighboring counties had completed all their arrangements to come to Oregon this year.

Prepare to Pick Prunes.

Roseburg—Prunegrowers of Douglas county are finishing the work of getting ready to take care of the coming crop, a great many of the growers building additional driers, and some of them who have heretofore used the neighbors' driers to take care of their crop, are this year erecting buildings of their own. The heavy heavy frosts in the early spring will cause the yield to be slightly less than that of last year, but at the present price of prunes the growers will receive more money than they did last year.

Growers Conform to Law.

Salem—Fruit Inspector Armstrong is watching the Marion county markets closely for infected fruit, but so far has been called upon to destroy very little of it. Growers are learning fast that wormy apples cannot be disposed of. In most instances it is only necessary to notify the retailer that the apples must not be sold and must be returned to the grower. In only a few cases this summer has fruit been confiscated.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 88c per bushel; forty-fold, 90c; Turkey red, 90c; five, 88c; bluestem, 92c; valley, 88c.

Barley—Feed, \$24.50 ton; rolled, \$27.28; brewing, \$26.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$27.67/27.50 ton; gray, \$26.67/26.50.

Hay—Timothy, Willamette valley, \$14 ton; Willamette valley ordinary, \$11; Eastern Oregon, \$16.50; mixed, \$13; clover, \$9; alfalfa, \$11; alfalfa meal, \$20.

Fruits—Peaches, 60¢/85¢ box; pears, \$1.67/1.50 box; plums, 75¢ box; grapes, 85¢/1.50 crate; blackberries, \$1.67/1.10.

Potatoes—\$1.67/1.10 per hundred; sweet potatoes, 33¢/4¢ pound.

Melons—Cantaloupes, \$1.67/1.25 per crate; watermelons, \$1.50 per 100 loose, crated, 1/2 pound additional; casabas, \$2.25/2.50 dozen.

Vegetables—Turnips, 1.50 sack; carrots, \$1.75; parsnips, \$1.75; beets, \$1.50; beans, 5¢ pound; cabbage, 1 1/2¢ pound; corn, 25¢/30¢ dozen; cucumbers, 30¢/40¢ box; egg plant, \$1.75 crate; lettuce, head, 15¢ dozen; parsley, 15¢ dozen; peas, 6¢ pound; peppers, 8¢/10¢ pound; radishes, 12 1/2¢ dozen; spinach, 2¢ pound; squash, 40¢ dozen; tomatoes, 75¢/81¢ crate; celery, 50¢/90¢ dozen; artichokes, 75¢ dozen.

Butter—Extras, 31 1/2¢ pound; fancy, 27 1/2¢; choice, 25¢; store, 18¢.

Eggs—Oregon extras, 26¢/27¢; firsts, 24¢/25¢; seconds, 22¢/23¢; thirds, 15¢/20¢; Eastern, 24¢/25¢.

Poultry—Mixed chickens, 13¢/13 1/2¢ pound; fancy hens, 14¢; roosters, 10¢; spring, 16¢; ducks, old, 12¢; spring, 13¢/15¢; geese, old, 8¢; young, 10¢; turkeys, old, 17¢/18¢; young, 20¢.

Veal—Extra, 8¢ pound; ordinary, 7 1/2¢/7 1/2¢; heavy, 5¢.

Pork—Fancy, 7¢ pound; ordinary, 6¢; large, 5¢.

Mutton—Fancy, 8¢/9¢.

Hops—1907, prime and choice, 4 1/2¢/5¢ pound; olds, 1¢/1 1/2¢; contracts, 7¢/8¢.

Wool—Eastern Oregon average best, 10¢/16 1/2¢ pound, according to shrinkage; valley, 15¢/15 1/2¢; mohair, choice, 18¢/18 1/2¢.

PROBES AMERICAN MINES.

Belgian Expert Comes as Guest of Government.

New York, Aug. 26.—Victor W. Watteyne, chief of the Belgian department of mines, was a passenger on the Red Star liner Kronland, which arrived in port today. Chief Watteyne comes as the guest of the United States government and will be consulted by the bureau of geodetic survey in its coming investigation of the mining conditions in this country. Congress has appropriated \$150,000 for this purpose. Captain Desbrough, of England, and A. Meisner, of Germany, both expert mining engineers, will come later to join Chief Watteyne.

In the United States there are 3,200 deaths due to accidents every year in the mines, or three to every thousand mining employees. Speaking of the tremendous death rate, Chief Watteyne said yesterday:

"In Belgium, where the mines are the oldest in Europe and the most dangerous and deepest in the world, the death rate is only one man in a thousand—a very good record, considering the extremely hazardous nature of the work. I expect to be very much interested in my commission to study American methods."

Chief Watteyne left promptly for Pittsburg. He will go from there to Hanna, Wyo., to study a sealed mine in which, during ten years over 300 miners have lost their lives. Chief Watteyne will suggest some scheme by which it can be worked with safety.

BISBEE AGAIN FLOODED.

Third Cloudburst Within Month Does Much Damage.

Bisbee, Ariz., Aug. 26.—Bisbee for the third time in three weeks was yesterday visited by a cloudburst. The damage is estimated at \$25,000. The bursting of a subway at the head of Main street caused the damage. When the subway burst a wall of water six feet deep swept down the street, carrying ahead of it horses, wagons, buggies and the automobile of G. J. Cunningham, cashier of the bank of Bisbee. At the lower end of the street the automobile was rescued.

A number of house foundations were weakened. The Grand hotel was condemned this evening and the guests moved out. Last night the town was without fire protection, owing to water mains being washed away. The gas was off and all big sewerage mains are broken in many places. So far as is known there is no loss of life.

Bisbee is located in a canyon, so that cloudbursts in the mountains above make the place peculiarly susceptible to floods.

JAPAN IS BUSY.

Immense War Debt and Labor Problems Worry Statesmen.

New York, Aug. 26.—Japan, sorely pressed in financial matters, with labor troubles and increased cost of living changing the entire economic system, will not go to war with any nation for 10 years at least, according to General Adolphus W. Greeley, U. S. A., retired, who, with Mrs. Greeley and their two daughters, arrived on the President Grant of the Hamburg-American line today from Hamburg.

"There have been within a year not less than 140 strikes in Japan, so I was told by a prominent official," said Mr. Greeley, "and I do not believe the world in general knows that they ended successfully for the strikers. This makes for entirely different economic conditions in that country. Japan has enough, with financial problems and the question of higher wages, to be met, to keep her wisest heads busy on the situation at home for years to come."

Take Ship's Silver.

Sydney, Aug. 26.—Rear Admiral Sperry, commander of the American fleet, and the other admirals, returned to the ships today. Arrangements are now being completed for the departure. After the recent reception on board the battleship Connecticut, it was found that a large number of the spoons and forks inscribed with the name of the flagship were missing. They were probably taken as mementos, but the officers, accustomed to such things, charitably suggested that they were eaten with the ices and cakes.

First Train Into Calor.

San Francisco, Aug. 26.—The line of the California Northeastern railroad was opened from this city to Calor, on the line between Oregon and California, today. The first car to stop at Calor was that of W. F. Herrin, chief attorney for the Southern Pacific road. E. H. Harriman, since he went over the road on his way to Klamath lake, gave orders to get the line built through to Klamath river as soon as possible, and work has gone on night and day.

Japanese Sees Maneuvers.

Junction City, Kan., Aug. 26.—Major T. Tanaka, of the Japanese embassy in Washington, arrived at the maneuver camp last night. He was met at the railroad station by one of General Kerr's personal staff, and escorted to headquarters, where he was introduced to General Kerr and other officers of the staff. Major Tanaka will remain an observer at the camp for several days.

Toronto Has \$150,000 Fire

Toronto, Ont., Aug. 26.—Half of the Union stockyards in West Toronto was wiped out by fire tonight. Loss, \$150,000. Seven houses on Keel street were also destroyed. The origin of the fire is not known.

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LOCALS

Local readers will be charged for at the following rates:

First insertion per line, \$.10

Subsequent insertions, .05

Church announcements, resolutions of condolence, births, marriages, deaths and general news items will be published free. Anything pertaining to the good of the county will be cheerfully published. We reserve the right to correct all grammar defects in copy sent in. All communications must be signed by the party sending them in. Don't be abusive in your communications, but give good news.

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