



Jacksonville Post



VOL. VIII.

JACKSONVILLE, JACKSON COUNTY, OREGON, MAY 16, 1914

NO. 2

PORTLAND LETTER

Rose Festival June 9 to 12. Crop Prospects in Oregon Are Good.

Portland, Ore., May 12, (Special)—Reports from nearly every section of Oregon indicate that the grain crop for 1914 will be the largest in the history of the state. Not only has the grain acreage been greatly increased, but weather conditions have been unusually favorable and in nearly all districts the yield per acre will be larger than usual.

Fruit reports from some sections are not quite as encouraging as grain estimates, but in most cases the loss from frost has not exceeded the annual thinning of fruit. A large acreage of new orchards will produce the first commercial crop this year and it is estimated the total fruit yield will be far beyond that of last year.

Don't forget Portland Rose Festival dates—June 9 to 12 inclusive. The only change of importance in the program has been the complete elimination of Rex Oregonus and the substitution of a "Queen of Rosaria" who will be the sole reigning monarch during Festival week. The election of Her Majesty and her maids of honor is now on and the polls will be open until the night of Saturday, May 16. The queen and her court will be given a grand tour of all the principal coast cities prior to the opening of the Rose Festival.

The combined commercial bodies of Coos county have decided to erect a building at the Panama-Pacific Exposition. The lumber mills of the county have agreed to furnish all needed wooden material the railroads will transport it to California free of charge and the County Court and the citizens are expected to provide the necessary funds, about \$15,000 to pay for collecting and installing the exhibit.

The Salem Cherry Fair will be held June 25-27 inclusive. It has been decided to hold the show on the court house grounds, and that in addition to cherries, there will be exhibits of small fruits.

Electric Sparks

We assume that in handling the troops "every little movement has a meaning all its own."

Try to imagine that the next fly you see is Huerta, and swat him.

And we used to contribute regularly to the cause of missions in Mexico.

Villa is pronounced as if it were spelled Wheeler, but he isn't a bit like old Joe.

Be on your guard, gentle reader, against the war correspondent who fakes the news.

It is a safe bet that none of Harry Thaw's lawyers will volunteer for service in Mexico.

It gets our goat when we try to figure out how some college graduates got their sheepskins.

No man ever thinks himself educated after his four-year old boy begins to ask him questions.

We are quite sure that if Huerta ever consulted the fortune tellers they told him to beware of a silent man.

The grape juice brigade makes another score. Villa is said to belong to the order. Incidentally, Huerta does not.

A lot more people would attend to baseball games if it were not for the ginks who insist on talking to the players.

It is our candid opinion that many a man has escaped a surgical operation because the doctor's didn't think he had the price.

Have you noticed that all the marines went into transports of joy when they were ordered to go aboard the transports?

THE PRIZE WINNERS

In Spelling Contests Held in Schools of the County

The results of the final spelling contest, held May 6, were as follows:

CLASS A.	
Gold Hill.	96.7
Rogue River.	94.1
Central Point.	93.7
CLASS B.	
Wagner Creek.	99.2
Oak Grove.	95.7
Butte Falls.	88.5
CLASS C.	
Pankey School.	91.6
Anderson Creek.	90.0
Bybee Springs.	90.0

Estray

Strayed from my pasture near West Side School on Central Point road, a large Belgian mare, dark chestnut color, one white stocking on hind foot, with white star on forehead. A suitable reward will be paid for her return or information of her whereabouts.

Frank Tisdale
Medford R F D 2
Box 57

MEETING OF DOCTORS

Held at Medford Tuesday and Wednesday. Banquet in Evening.

The twenty-third annual meeting of the Southern Oregon Medical Association was held in Masonic hall at Medford, Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning. Between thirty and forty medical men were in attendance. Dr. Jesse Truax presided at the sessions.

Addresses were delivered by Dr. W. House of Portland, Dr. F. D. Stucker of Grants Pass, Dr. Andrew Smith of Portland, Dr. E. H. Porter of Medford and Dr. C. White of the State Board of Health, Portland, followed by a general discussion and presentation of cases.

The visitors were taken for an auto ride through the valley. An election of officers was held resulting in the choice of Dr. Gregg of Ashland, President; Dr. S. A. Lockwood of Medford, Vice President and Dr. J. J. Emmens of Medford, Secretary and Treasurer.

A banquet was served at Hotel Medford in the evening which was attended by about forty. The next meeting of the association will be held at Ashland.

Epworth League Elects Officers

The Epworth League held its monthly business and social meeting at the M. E. Church Wednesday night nearly forty being present. One new member was admitted and the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, W. G. Caudill; 1st Vice-president Ernest Neidermeyer; 2nd Vice-President, Margaret Morecom; 3rd Vice-President, Mrs. Abbott; 4th Vice-President, Carl Neidermeyer; Secretary, Etta Morecom; Treasurer, Ora Stout.

After the business session, the young people repaired to the parsonage where games were played and refreshments of ice-cream and cake were served.

Subscribe for the Post.

FOR SALE at a Bargain—House and lot on Oregon street, near City Hall. Must be sold soon. Call on Rogue Realty River Co. Adv.

Here is a woman who speaks from personal knowledge and long experience, viz., Mrs. P. H. Brogan, of Wilson, Pa., who says, "I know from experience that Chamberlain's Cough, Kennedy is far superior to any other. For cough there is nothing that excels it." For sale by all dealers.

COUNTRY EDITOR IN PANAMA

Strange Lands and People Meet on Voyage to the Isthmus

as Recorded by the
Editor of a Weekly
Newspaper.

Resources of Tropic Islands

One of the things to be considered is the resources of the islands on the way to the Panama Canal as well as the main lands to the south. There is no denying the advantages of inter-commerce so far as the United States is concerned but that is not the only thing to consider. The United States is well taken care of in the matter of internal railroads, but our foreign commerce is one that can yet be developed. To the south of us and coming nearer every day, as faster boats are built, are large areas of undeveloped land, capable of producing food stuffs which will go to feed us as we become more densely populated. Our land is practically all taken and as manufacturing increases and the population becomes more dense we will have to turn to outside sources for a portion of our food.

As yet we have not discovered South America. England, Germany and other European countries are more closely acquainted than we are. I shall have something to say later on this subject. Just now I wish to speak of the one industry which we have developed both as promoters and consumers and that is the banana industry.

About forty years ago a tramp schooner loaded with fish poles came into Boston harbor with a few bananas on board. They sold so easily that the captain resolved to bring in a whole cargo. It was two years before he got around to it but this time he loaded with green fruit allowing the fruit to ripen on the way. The market thus created has never been supplied. The island of Jamaica alone sends sixteen million bunches principally to this country and other Central American countries send as many more. The Jamaican banana is the sweetest and most palatable fruit, while the Central American products export the largest. The industry is mainly in the hands of the United Fruit Co. although a rival concern, the Atlantic Fruit Co. have made considerable headway in the last few years. The great problem on the start was to convince the natives of the desirability of cultivating the fruit. A fruit so common that it grew wild, and only was utilized in a limited way as food and to fatten hogs, seemed utterly unfit as a marketable product. Finally the United Fruit Co. went into the matter of buying their own land and developing their own plantations. As time went on they grew in importance and branched out into owning railroads and hotels and in fact whole countries. The United Fruit Co. are in these latitudes what the Standard Oil is at home.

The banana industry has the first call in the island of Jamaica. They have the advantage of being two days nearer New York than Central America, their closest rivals, and they further have the most palatable fruit although as above mentioned they are not as large owing to the lighter rainfall. A bunch of bananas when shipped is as green as Irish grass. It looks like a dream of the elixir morbus germ. But when it reached New York it has already begun to turn yellow and in a few days it becomes the banana of commerce. Figured on paper banana culture is one of the most profitable games in the tropics and one has merely to turn to the marvelous success of the United Fruit Co. for verification. Also there are individuals in the island of Jamaica and in all the ports in the tropics who are rolling in wealth and who made their pile out of bananas. Figure from seven hundred to 300 banana trees to the acre and figure the average yield to the tree at from three bunches to five according to the rainfall. There you have a radius of two to four thousand bunches per acre. In Honduras where the rainy season is prolonged it is expected that a banana tree will yield five bunches per year. But take the smaller figure. The perfect bunch of bananas the nine hand bunch, now brings fifty cents at the wharf, so that figuring the modest yield of 2000 bunches to the acre the revenue is \$1000 a year per acre. The item of labor is the best part of it. Wages are from five English shillings per week up to fifty cents per day, this latter

being considered high. They will figure you a cost of production all the way from six to twelve cents per bunch and the beauty of the whole scheme is that in eleven months from the time you lay the jungle and plant your first crop you will begin to cut your fruit and one planting lasts from twenty to forty years.

There is the banana scheme as it appears on paper and there are plenty of successful planters in the island to whom you can refer for verification. The banana plant is not a tree, it is a perennial, growing from a bulb, like a giant tulip. When the stalk bears its fruit it dies like the blackberry. This is cut away and another shoot is allowed to bear. These shoots come up from the bulbs and grow to a height of fifteen or twenty feet. The leaf is something like Indian corn only cross ribbed and growing to a great length giving the plant the appearance of a palm. The suckers are cut back at the roots and only three to five are allowed to live, according to the strength of the soil and the amount of rainfall, for the banana is a water plant and thrives best where the precipitation is greatest as in Honduras where in a year the rainfall is over a hundred inches.

But there is another side to this picture. There always is. In the first place no northern man can stand the climate, and even if he can, he cannot work under the tropic sun. Another thing and paralleling the last statement, nobody else will work. Labor is cheap and the quality cheaper. Again, one must have a care in selecting banana land not only for its quality but for accessibility to the railroad or wharf.

Enterprising promoters have sold thousands of acres of the richest kind of banana land to northern suckers, land that for growing purposes could not be surpassed, but unfortunately for the investors was lying back of strips owned by rival fruit companies and no right-of-way obtainable. In Jamaica, land can be bought for a song and the reason is that it costs more than the bananas are worth to get them to the wharf. Again the bulbous nature of the plant does not admit of its rooting deeply, and thousands of thousands of acres have been destroyed by hurricanes after all the labor of bringing them to bear. Another fly in the ointment is the banana disease which has made its appearance lately in Costa Rica, and the United Fruit company have lost thousands of plants on that account. Still another drawback is the enormous waste. We perhaps never stop to think that we buy more bananas in the summer time when we see a delicious bunch hanging in front of a fruit store, but the tropical planter knows this and the United Fruit company also know it. They buy on contract from the planter, taking so many bunches per year, but they take more in the summer than in the winter. The only party to the whole transaction who knows no difference is the banana plant. It goes on cheerfully bearing fruit at about the same rate, year after year in season and out. The loss is enormous.

I believe if we had a problem of that sort we would figure out some way to take care of the waste but as yet little has been done in the tropics. There is some talk of a banana flour and banana vinegar, but if such things exist they are in small quantities and cut no figure as a commercial proposition.

Returning to Jamaica we will briefly review her varied products before crossing the Blue Caribbean to Panama. The diversity of production in this island is surprising. For instance, in the public market we find peas, beans, corn, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, string beans and many other products which we are familiar. Side by side with these we find grapes, fruit, oranges, bread fruit, guava, pineapples, sugar cane, tobacco, coconuts, pineapples, apple, casava, mangoes, pawpaw, and a hundred other fruits and vegetables which we never heard of. Cotton, coffee, logwood and bee keeping are among the profitable products. A growing industry is the manufacture of Jappa Jappa hats which is another name for the Panama hat which is made from a variety of palm.

All these things grow in Jamaica, an island little in itself, but big in its range of products and bigger in its opportunities. They raise cattle, hogs, goats and sheep, and the growing industry is more or less profitable. Milk retails for 12 cents a quart, while beef steak sells for only 12c a pound. Eggs were 31 cents a dozen on the market on the 17th of March. I am told the price ranges from 25 to 50 cents a dozen.

But to northern eyes there is something ludicrous in the way they go at things in Jamaica, although they themselves are serious enough.

They are serious with which they attack the soil would give the northern husbandman the heartache. They would rather carry a wheelbarrow on their heads than to propel it. They would prefer a five pound grub hoe with a crooked handle to a plow. They would prefer a single acre and carry all they raise to market on their heads, than an estate of larger magnitude which might require some effort to cultivate. The land is either owned in immense tracts plantations, or in little patches by the natives. But in either case they only work enough to settle their meals.

Jamaica is a land of woman's rights. That is, the woman is born to an inheritance. She inherits all the work, and the older she gets the more they pile on her. I once asked a native to show me the hardest, toughest job on the island.

"What do you want to see it for?" he said.

"I want to see the oldest woman on the island," I said.

While waiting for a man in a down town office I saw across the street a new building going up. A woman was mixing the mortar and another was carrying the load, on her head of course and on the walls a woman was laying the brick.

One of the sights in Jamaica is the morning visit of the women from the country districts bearing produce to market. It is all on their heads, some times from a distance of ten miles. How these women overcome the laws of gravitation is a mystery. They never spill anything and yet they swing along with burdens that seem to be dangerously near the falling point. This meanest kind of drudgery has one advantage. The women of Jamaica have a physique and a grace of carriage unsurpassed by any country on earth. The free, swinging, athletic strides of these ebony creatures is a delight to the eye. No curvature of the spine here, and no flat chests; no hobble skirts, nor tango steps needed. In the matter of skirts, there is little to be said and the same applies to sleeves. Bare footed, bare armed, balancing a burden which would make a man stagger, they swing into market with the early morn, and at night they return. The long, graceful strides with which they cover territory seems easy and tireless, but I don't want the task of attempting to keep up under the glaring rays of their tropic sunshine.

Next week we will be in Colon, the American entrance to the Panama canal, and so we will have to leave Jamaica, although somewhat reluctantly, for to me it is the most interesting island in the West Indies and the most desirable.

Lou D. MacWethy

INDUSTRIAL REVIEW

Manufacturing Enterprises and Improvements Providing Payrolls and Promoting Development of Oregon

The United Railways Co. part of the Hill system has been making a showing during the past week of reverses on the London and Portland line, asking an increase of fares from five to ten cents, on the ground that it costs nine cents to haul a passenger between those two points.

Marion and Clackamas counties are holding road bond elections, May 17, that will if carried, result in expenditures of over a million dollars on hard surface highways.

The Cottage Grove Co-operative Creamery will look to increase its capital stock to \$10,000 and enlarge the plant.

The business men of Canby are trying to establish a ferry across the Willamette.

Farmers and fruit growers of the state generally are organizing against the proposed eight hour law.

Arrangements have been completed for the construction of 27 miles of logging road out of Sutherlin toward Coos Bay.

The Catholics will build a church at North Bend in connection with their hospital there.

The Southern Pacific will build a mile passing track at Mohawk Junction.

About two thousand dollars has been subscribed to establish a pottery plant at Molalla.

State Labor Commissioner Hoff has not carried out his threat to have the State officials placed under arrest for not introducing the Eight Hour law in state institutions.

(Continued on Page 3.)



ULRICH'S

The Pioneer Store

Jacksonville, Ore.