

matic conditions, together with the character of the soil and surface characteristics, make Oregon naturally adapted to the production of choice fruits. It was these considerations that appealed so strongly to the early settlers and induced them to plant orchards and raise fruit for the remarkable market which then demanded their product. And, as is usual in localities highly favored by nature, there was no exertion, or almost none, to improve the fruit crop and reduce orcharding to anything like a systematic industry. When those fabulous prices for apples prevailed, the buyer had to gather the fruit himself, and merely for lack of enterprise on the part of the producer the industry languished for years. If the trees, without cultivation, produced good crops, and buyers willing to do the harvesting came along at the proper time, the business was profitable; but the farmers seldom expended much labor on their fruit. The harvest was often abundant without any cultivation having been bestowed on the crop. Fruit was regarded as a sort of spontaneous production, and the attention of agriculturists was devoted to those crops which would not grow without artificial aid.

During the past few years, orchardists of Oregon have been awakening to a realization of the opportunities they possess for developing a vast industry. With the increase of population and the extension of transportation facilities to reliable markets, a new incentive to fruit growing was created, but mainly to the infusion of new ideas and more correct appreciation of the merits of the business does orcharding owe its present favorable aspect. It has recovered from the decadence into which it lapsed after the early boom, and is rapidly gaining the attention which its importance deserves. While the apple was formerly all the fruit that Oregon produced to any considerable extent, the new orchards yield a variety suited to this climate. In no part of the world can better apples, plums, prunes, pears and cherries be produced than in Oregon. Other cultivated fruits, such as peaches, quinces, blackberries, raspberries, gooseberries, currants, grapes and strawberries, also yield abundantly and of fine quality.

The fruit growing interests of Oregon are chiefly situated west of the Cascade mountains, in the valleys of the Willamette, Umpqua and Rogue rivers. Of this western section of the state, there is a difference in producing capacity between the northern and southern portions. The grape and peach are most influenced by the difference in climate of these localities, the Willamette valley being usually admitted not to produce as good grapes as the Umpqua and Rogue river valleys to the south; but whether thorough culture would not be productive of as good results in the northern as in the southern portion re-

mains to be demonstrated. Undoubtedly the raisin grapes can be produced to better advantage in the dryer valleys to the southward, but of the remainder of the catalogue of Oregon fruits nearly all grow equally well in the various localities of western Oregon. The "big red apples" of Yamhill county perhaps have the widest reputation at present of any Oregon fruit, but the Bartlett pear of this state is also famous, and the other fruits are gradually becoming well known in the markets of the western and middle states. Formerly the principal orchards of the Willamette valley were in lower Marion and Clackamas counties and Washington and Yamhill, and some in Linn county. Now every county in the state grows fruit, and every county in Western Oregon produces abundantly for market.

In the order of their present importance, the principal orchard fruits of Oregon are apples, pears, cherries, prunes, plums, peaches and quinces. Large quantities of choice grapes and fine berries are also grown, but they are chiefly of local importance, except the strawberries, which are shipped to markets throughout the northwest. Of the apples, those in greatest favor are the Baldwin, King, Spitzenburg, Red Cheek Pippin, Winesap, Yellow Newton Pippin, Red Astrachan, Northern Spy, Roxbury Russet, and Gravenstein. There is no necessity for selecting the iron clad varieties, for the climate here will permit the tenderest to flourish, and the selections are made with reference to the demands of the market. Of pears, the Bartlett is far in the lead, and other varieties grown are the Fall Butter, Winter Nellis and Anjou. Of cherries, the Royal Ann, or Napoleon Bigereau, and Black Republican, a seedling of this country, lead, but the Black Tartarian and Kentish cherries yield well and are particularly desirable for canning purposes. The leading varieties of prunes raised in Oregon are the Italian (*Fallenberg*), and the French (*Petite d'Agen*), and the Gross, or Pond's Seedling. The former two constitute the great bulk of the prune production of the state, as, in fact, they do of the whole Pacific coast, though the Italian prune of California is a very inferior fruit. The Peach plum is at the head of that kind of fruit, and the Oregon growth is not surpassed elsewhere in the world. It is suitable for shipping green or for canning or drying. The Yellow Egg ranks next as a plum for canning, and the Washington, Columbia and Jefferson are of about equal importance for general purposes. In peaches, the Early Crawford is the most popular, but is closely followed by the Amsden and Hale's Early. The Early Crawford is the prevailing peach of the Willamette valley.

Almost all the grapes of California can be successfully grown in Southern Oregon, not excepting