

AN ENTERPRISING NURSERYMAN.

WITH the rapid development of the fruit producing interests of the northwest that has been in progress during the past few years, and is gathering force from its own momentum, there has grown up a demand for first class nurseries to provide stock for the young orchards. The Pacific coast has had nurseries ever since it began to raise fruit, and the mildness of the climate tended to encourage the establishment of fruit propagating farms, but the number of nurseries that have an extensive business and a standing reputation is limited. Clearly at the head of the list stands the well known nursery of J. H. Settlemier, at Woodburn, Oregon.

Mr. Settlemier was born in Jersey county, Illinois, February 5, 1840, and at the age of nine years removed to California with his parents, who were attracted there by the gold excitement of 1849. They crossed the Missouri river at St. Joseph, and at that time there was not a settler between the Missouri and the Sacramento valley. There was not a wood or brick building in Sacramento, and San Francisco had scarcely attained the dignity of a village. The mother and one of the boys died in California shortly after arriving there, and the rest of the family came on to Oregon the next year and took a donation claim in Marion county, where Mount Angel now is and where the father still resides at the age of eighty-three years. Oregon City was then the metropolis of this uncertain empire, and Milwaukee and Portland were rivals for second position, with the chances of success in favor of the former. Young Settlemier spent his youth on the farm and in the small nursery which his father had. The nursery absorbed the attention of the young man, who obtained a thorough knowledge of the business and at length started on his own account. Going to Woodburn, in the same county, he laid the foundation for what has since grown to be by far the largest nursery in the northwest.

Woodburn Nursery is the name Mr. Settlemier has given his fruit propagating plant. It occupies the whole of one hundred acres of ground situated on both sides of the railroad track at the pleasant little village of Woodburn, which is south of Portland thirty-five miles and at the junction of the Southern Pacific main Oregon line and the Oregonian narrow gauge railway. Mr. Settlemier is the founder and proprietor of this town. It is six miles from the Willamette river. It has the best public school outside of Salem in the county, and, though it is quite an important shipping station and a local trading center, the nursery of Mr. Settlemier constitutes the most extensive enterprise there. This is constantly being enlarged, increasing about fifty per cent. annually.

There are now in the Woodburn nursery one and a half millions of trees and plants. These consist of a full line of fruit, shade, ornamental and nut trees, and vines and plants from different sections of America and Europe, including a most extensive assortment that could not be enumerated in anything short of a voluminous catalogue, and the quality of the stock is the choicest on the Pacific coast. Last season Mr. Settlemier imported from France seventy thousand young trees, mostly of the *plumora formosa* family, one of the finest evergreens known. Among them are the most popular trees of foreign nativity—double white and red flowering horse chestnuts, Italian chestnuts and Norway maples. His importations also include eleven varieties of apples and twenty varieties of winter pears. Mr. Settlemier cultivates many rare and curious plants for his own enjoyment, among which are Asiatic and South American specimens, and it is well worth one's while to look through the very interesting collection of this class, as well as the general stock of the nursery. Mr. Settlemier personally receives visitors and is always pleased to show the nursery to those who may call. Catalogue mailed free upon application.

The trade of Woodburn nursery extends throughout California, Utah, Oregon, Washington, Idaho and British Columbia. Supplying nurserymen and dealers is an important feature of the business, and it is rapidly increasing. The removal of the tariff on trees shipped to British Columbia has opened an important field there for this business. Many California orchardists and nurserymen buy their stocks of the Woodburn nursery, because the trees are found to be superior to the California production. Trees and plants propagated by means of irrigation, which is the rule in California, are of inferior quality and never yield as satisfactory results as those grown where the natural conditions are entirely favorable. The climate of Oregon is peculiarly adapted to the successful prosecution of the nursery business, as well as the general cultivation of fruit. The prices prevailing here for first class nursery stock are about one-fifth less than those quoted by eastern catalogues, and eastern competition cuts no figure in the business.

This summer four hundred and fifty thousand trees are being budded in Mr. Settlemier's nursery, this method being preferred to the more common one of grafting. Budding serves the same purpose, is more quickly and easily done, and is attended with less risk. A little grafting is done in the spring, when any defective buds are attended to. Mr. Settlemier has made a study of his business, and his long experience and unexcelled facilities for keeping up with the times in all improvements place him in the front rank of nurserymen.