

Transportation Is Factor Ruling Development

Crops Of Area Are Largely Determined By Transit Angle

Climate, a fixed factor, and transportation, a flexible one, determine the type of agriculture a region can pursue.

In the early days, local farms swappable for other commodities were limited by their adaptability to stand transit to market and were necessarily limited to butter, wool, cheese and hides. These were moved to the markets at Crescent City by teams and wagons which were returned, laden with merchandise to the ranchers.

Improvements in travel—roads, bridges, motor vehicles—increased the ranchers' scope to allow disposing of fat lambs, mutton, hogs, and beef, and milk; commodities still ranking high in farm dollars as well as enhancing his outlet for other, smaller items. Even the "take" of tons and tons of cascara bark, stripped from a tree-like shrub, found on many ranches, has been increased by its adaptability to transit conditions.

At the present time probably the most dollars come to the ranchers from sheep. Sheep have been raised here since about 1860, apparently being the first cash-producing animals in the area.

Early settlers, of course, brought milk and draft stock but did not then the facilities for disposing of their products and the horses were being brought up from California by the Indians and Spanish and sold, outright, to the ranchers and miners. Their route, incidentally, was up the long valleys of California, over the Siskiyou to Happy Camp, and from there distributed along the coast from Humboldt county (California) to Douglas County, Ore. Today, flocks of sheep downward from 5000 head, range in southern Curry county. Owing to the comparatively high moisture the breeds are usually crosses determined by such fleece character as is impervious to mould and sloughing of the fleeces, best known to the trade as "quarters" and which are much in demand for specialized wool use—the making of the enormous felts used in paper-making machinery.

The clip is mostly disposed of through a wool pool and brings, usually, the highest price in the western wool trade. An adjunct to the flocks is the highly lucra-

tive market for fat lambs which are, each year, eagerly awaited by the San Francisco stockyards. Here again, climate plays a prominent part in the dollar trails from the market back to the ranchers. Because of it Curry County ranchers are blessed with prime lambs just after the California lambs are cleaned up and before the up-coast lambs are ready for market. Transportation in this deal also shows prominently, the lambs being laid down in San Francisco, via speedy stock trucks over good highways usually around 36 hours after they have been loaded from the range. And, following the lambs, cull ewes are shipped out to the market.

Ranchers from all over can hardly believe their eyes and ears when they learn that ranch livestock can here be brought to market in prime condition, let alone carried through the winter, without feeding.

Most ranges, throughout the year, carry livestock very nicely without any other food than native grasses and browsing brush. This is a tremendous advantage over such herdsmen who have, not only to buy feed, but to have to change ranges. Here, many successful stock and sheepmen never have to tend their animals excepting at marketing and shearing time and many a fine beef animal is rarely seen by its owner between rounding-up late in summer and putting out on range again in early fall. Of course, more care brings commensurate returns. Range lambing is the common practice but herdsmen who give more attention to their "critters" at this time are rewarded.

Poultry of all kinds do well but cannot compete well with other more adaptable areas where feed is cheaper and transportation less restricting. The same may also be said of rabbits.

Some years ago milk goats were tried but it was said they suffered from some shrub they ate on the ranges, and died off. However, a very successful goat milk cheese factory enterprise was operated. Angoras also do well.

Owing to restricted suitable areas, grains are not very heavily grown. Here and there are splendid bottoms which yield heavy crops, all of which are consumed locally—usually on the farm where produced.

Where the area shines is in the production of garden truck. Everything, within reason, flourishes with little care and yields so abundantly. A large variety of garden crops is to be had the year around, with exception of such crops as require long periods of hot weather. Again, climate is the controlling factor.

Immediately adjacent to the coast, corn, tomatoes, and such crops do not do any where near as well as a couple of miles up the river valleys, and still further up melons and sweet potatoes will yield well.

Much closer to the coast, root and green crops thrive in the frost-free areas and the yields, even on a small plot, are often startling. Potatoes planted in January will turn out good crops in early summer, and before them many "volunteers" will come in mighty handy. Green crops put out about the first of October will mature in late winter. New Zealand spinach seems to be a frequent perennial. There is a ready local market for all the edible vegetables one can produce. It is an ideal garlic country, a crop also well adapted to local transportation facilities.

All soil in the area has a tendency toward the acid side so the use of both lime and additional humus in the form of alfalfa meal, ground sheep manure, etc., brings better returns. Irrigation during the dry summer months certainly helps.

Berries and fruits do well—all the kinds adaptable to the temperate zone. However, tree and cane fruits should be dosed with appropriate sprays to get best results. There is a good local market for all of these food products.

The best obtainable data on general ranch and farming as practiced in the area can be had, of course, from the operator himself, especially if you talk his language. Next best and possibly more to your liking can be had from county agricultural agent at Gold Beach, and still another source is the state department of agriculture at Salem.

Frankly, within the district under discussion, there is very little ranch property available for operation as such. The ideal, possibly, is a place adjacent to the Siskiyou Forest where considerable range may be had at a nominal cost per head. There are a number of ranches of considerable merit who have adapted some of their holdings to the growing of floral products thus bringing the value of their places in sharp contrasts. The yield gained from one acre of bottom land in this type of agriculture is often in excess of the yield from hundreds of acres of range land. Should an owner contemplate selling he certainly would not be inclined to transfer his high-yielding acres and be left holding those side hills of brush, suitable only for range.

In our next spasm of this series we shall discuss the floral culture where, more emphatically than in this brief treatise, the two governing factors, climate and transportation play the most vital hand in our unique, highly specialized agriculture.

The V. F. W. over 20 members of the post enjoyed a coffee and pumpkin pie feed, the latter drapped with whipped cream, following their business meeting. Two matters were acted upon during the session. The post decided to press for federal work on the river entrance through resolutions to be signed by both the post and auxiliary, and forward these documents to the congressional representatives at Washington, D. C. In reply to a letter from the Gold Beach chamber of commerce suggesting that a county-wide committee take action on an adequate county memorial to those residents of Curry county who served in World War 2, M. S. Brainard was named to represent the post at a county-wide veterans committee, the meeting scheduled to be held at Gold Beach May 1.

Charles Sackett, former Jacks Creek resident, returned here for a visit after spending the winter with his brother at Delevan, Cal.

Little Miss Marilyn Gardner, daughter of Mr and Mrs. Harold Gardner, is under the doctor's care, suffering from a case of bronchial pneumonia.

Mrs. Milton Foster returned recently from Seattle where she spent several weeks with her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Bailey, and their new son, Robert Floyd.

Emery Wallace has come down from Reedsport where he was

employed, and will join Ernest Foster at the former Will Tolman place on Mislatah Creek, in the Upper Chetco country.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Streubing and H. T. James drove to Grants Pass Tuesday where Mrs. Streubing took the train to go east. Mr. Streubing and Mr. James returned home the same day.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Essley (Evelyn Payne) have moved from Harbor to their house, north of Brookings.

Rev. O. C. Hicks, pastor of the Smith River Methodist church, was a brief business caller at Brookings, Tuesday.



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Local News Items

All veterans of the recent war should investigate their status in regards to registration for voting before the closure of the poll books on April 16.

Mrs. Frank Sullivan is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Dutch Steinke, at Reedsport, while being treated for a throat disorder at Coos Bay. Mrs. Sullivan went north last Wednesday.

Lawrence Pinson, local manager of the Brookside Azalea and Bulb farm, is on a business trip east to Minneapolis. The Brookside ranch is a branch of the Hans Rosacker Co., of Minneapolis. Besides the large local establishment where fully a quarter million azaleas are under cultivation, as well as sizeable lily and daffodil plantings, the Rosacker Co. has eight acres under glass at Minneapolis.

At last Wednesday's meeting of

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