

Wheat Crop Varies; More Dried Prunes

A lighter wheat crop in China, particularly in the north China area, and a slightly larger one in Japan, is estimated at present according to latest government cable dispatches from the orient received by the market division of the Oregon State College extension service. This country normally exports much more wheat and flour to China than to Japan. Meanwhile estimates of domestic production are for a much smaller winter wheat crop than last year but a larger spring wheat crop, judging from present conditions.

The Pacific coast dried prune crop this year will be about 35,000 tons more than a year ago, but 57,000 tons below that of two years ago, according to latest government estimates as of July 1, which show a prospective crop of 239,000 tons this season. The California crop is expected to be much larger than last year, tho that of Oregon and Washington, consisting mostly of the Italian prunes, is estimated at only 20,300 tons this year compared with 29,750 tons a year ago.

The rise in hog prices, amounting to \$2 from late in May to early in July, has been front-page news throughout the country. Examination of figures for past years reveals that a raise of that amount is not far out of line for the season, as the four-year average rise for this period in 1925-28 inclusive was \$1.95. The rise this year was far greater in proportion to price, however, as hogs had reached a low mark in Portland of \$4 late in May for top quality light butchers, so that the \$2 advance represented a 60 per cent increase in price.

OLD GRAND RONDE NEWS (By M. PETERSEN, SR.)

Mrs. Melvin Wilson and baby boy have arrived and are doing fine. Her house has been enlarged, redecorated and painted.

Mrs. John Thurm and daughter Julia visited recently with the M. Petersen family. The families have been friends since 1891.

The rock crusher broke down this week, causing delay in the work and laying off some of the men temporarily.

Lots of Blackberries and lots of pickers.

Prizes were awarded members of the garden club this week. Bruce Simpson won first prize, a Schaeffer pen, and Ruth Mathie, second, \$2 in cash. Edwin LaChance, Harry LaChance, Marjorie LaChance, Weymouth Crowell, Billy Ann Williams and May Petite received honorable mention.

Frank Norwest and Andrew Smith visited with the Petersens on Sunday.

Massachusetts Held as Nation's Apple Nursery

Massachusetts is the cradle of American horticulture, according to records in the division of horticulture at the Massachusetts State college. Studies conducted at various times by the college fruit specialists indicate that a total of 142 named varieties of apples have been developed in that state by fruit growers and breeders.

Of those the Baldwin apple probably is the most prominent today. This apple originated in Wilmington about the year 1740, so far as can be determined from old records, and today constitutes the principal variety in New England commercial orchards. Hubbardston is a variety which takes its name from the town in which it was originated approximately 100 years ago.

Benoni, mother, fall orange, roxbury russet, and Tolman sweet are other Massachusetts bred varieties that are still prominent today.

The oldest planted fruit tree in America is a pear tree between Danvers and Salem on the farm once owned by Gov. John Endicott. There is some evidence to indicate that the tree was brought over from England in 1630 by Governor Winthrop.

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