

The Ontario Argus.

Representative Newspaper of Ontario, Malheur County and Snake River Valley.

VOLUME XXVIII

THE ONTARIO ARGUS, THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 1915.

NO. 16

PROSPECTS FOR BIGGEST CROP IN YEARS

Early Spring Weather Gives Orchards and Fields a Good Start

MORE CORN THAN EVER BEFORE

Early Varieties of Fruit are Now in Full Bloom—Apple Crop Heavy

Never before in the history of the Lower Snake and Payette River valleys, have the prospects for a bumper crop been so good as they are at present. Our spring so far has been ideal and shade and fruit trees are almost in full foliage and bloom. Early varieties of fruit trees are a mass of blossoms, and the many orchards on both sides of the Snake river present a most pleasing and beautiful sight.

Every farmer in the entire district is busy with his spring planting, and many crops are already growing and the many fields are commencing to take on the green covering.

A large increase in the acreage of corn is being made this year, it being estimated that probably three times as much corn will be grown this season than ever before. There are also many new apple orchards that will bear this year for the first time, especially in the Fruitland section, and the apple crop this year will be much greater than ever before.

The acreage of alfalfa will probably be somewhat reduced, but the alfalfa hay crop in this section has been too large for the market the past year or so, and a reduction of the crop is needed by the farmers.

While there is a shortage of rainfall in this section of the country as is common all over the northwest, yet the effects thereof are not felt here as much as in other localities. For this is principally an irrigated section, and there is an abundance of water for irrigation purposes.

In the dry farming sections, however, the lack of rainfall is felt severely, but it is hoped that rains later in the season will bring out a good crop.

MRS. C. W. PLATT CROSSES DIVIDE

After a lingering illness of over two years' duration, Mrs. C. W. Platt, one of the best known residents of Ontario and Malheur county, passed away early Monday morning. Mr. and Mrs. Platt have been residents of this county since 1885 when they settled at Jordan Valley. They moved to Vale in 1894 when Mr. Platt was elected County Assessor of this county, and came to Ontario in 1899 since which time Mr. Platt has been identified with the First National bank.

Mrs. Platt, whose maiden name was Edith M. Lewis, was born in New Haven, Conn., and received her education in the public schools of New York City, where her parents moved while she was quite young. She was married to Mr. Platt May 10, 1876, in New York City, the father of Bishop Paddock, present Episcopal bishop for this section of Oregon, performing the wedding ceremony. She was baptized in the Congregational church, but was brought up as an Episcopalian, and has always been a sincere worker in her church. She was a member of the Rebekah lodge, and was a member of the Carnation

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Prospective Settlers

E. W. Van Valkenburg of the Ontario Real Estate Co., left yesterday with three prospective settlers for Harnes county. The new comers are looking for stock ranches. One man who came from Wyoming brought a car load of household furniture and stock with him, and has settled in Ontario temporarily until he can find a ranch.

M. E. Bain Appointed.

M. E. Bain, former editor and publisher of the Argus, has been selected as one of the delegates of the State Editorial association to the International Press Congress which meets in San Francisco July 5 to 10. Others chosen are: Edgar McDaniel, Coos Bay Harbor, North Bend; Elbert Bede, Sentinel, Cottage Grove; Geo. P. Putman, Bend; G. A. Robbins, Pilot Rock; E. H. Woodward, Newberg; A. E. Voorheis, Grants Pass, and E. W. Allen, U. of O., Eugene.

MALHEUR CORN IS GIVEN BIG BOOST

"Country Gentlemen" Devotes Full Page to Corn Growing Here

An interesting article in the "Country Gentleman" under date of April 17 deals with the corn growing possibilities of Malheur county and southern Idaho. The article takes up at length the corn show held in Ontario last fall, and tells how E. L. Tate produced 121.68 bushels of corn to the acre. The article is illustrated with several nice half tones, and will be a great advertisement for this section of the country. The first part of the article follows:

For some time it has been known that corn could be grown in the intermountain country, but how successfully it could be grown and at what yields to the acre have been very puzzling questions. The developments of the past season have, however, removed all doubts of what could be done in the corn belts of the irrigated west. This term "corn belt" is applied to these intermountain districts—for all irrigation projects do not fulfill the requirements for corn, other than for silage—and it is only in the lower altitude country that corn can be made to produce very profitable and enormous yields.

One of these districts stretches across the full length of southern Idaho and into eastern Oregon and is known as the Snake River valley. Throughout this district there has been a very active campaign by county agriculturists to bring corn into its own, and at a corn show held recently in Ontario, Ore., the results were most surprising and interesting. Every competitor represented was required to select his corn, not from an experimental acre but from a field of sufficient size to insure ordinary field conditions; and the yield of his acreage was determined by a committee that supervised the measurement of the land and the husking and weighing of the corn. Fifty per cent of the farmers competing in the show grew over 100 bushels an acre; the sweepstakes winner, E. L. Tate, grew 121.68 bushels an acre, thereby establishing a record yield for the intermountain country; Bert Robertson, of the Big Bend district, 112.5 bushels an acre; and A. M. Johnson, Nyssa, Ore., 112.95 bushels an acre. The lowest yield represented was 63.6 bushels an acre.

Though this contest was open only to eastern Oregon growers the yields in Idaho during the season were none the less satisfactory. Mr. Butterfield, Weiser, Idaho, who in 1913 grew 160 acres of corn that averaged 75 bushels an acre, surpassed this yield by 10 bushels an acre last year, as an average from a 200-acre field.

Arthur Van Sicklin of Weiser motored over from Weiser Saturday.

250,000 HEAD SHEEP GATHERED AT RIVERSIDE

Many Bands Gather at End of Line to Undergo Spring Shearing

BIG WOOL SALE MAY 10TH

Several Thousand Head of Sheep are Sheared Each Day

Probably the largest number of sheep that were ever banded together in Eastern Oregon are to be found now at Riverside where approximately two hundred and fifty thousand head are now undergoing the process of being sheared. The sheep belong to a score of owners, among whom are Anderson & Gwinn, I. V. Williams, John Woods, Bill Allen, A. Van Ator, Mealy Co., J. Hughes, Davis Bros. and several others from Idaho.

The shearing is going on near the depot at Riverside, and the wool is being stored there. About four or five thousand head are being sheared daily. The shearing plant belongs to Prow & Johnson. It is the intention to sell all the wool at Riverside, and the first sale will be held on May 10th. Buyers from all over the country are expected to be present to bid on the wool.

FRANCHISE IS ASKED BY DEAD OX FLAT CO.

Mammoth Project to Irrigate Huge Tract is Being Worked Out

HAVE OWN POWER SITES

Would Market All Surplus Power in Ontario and Neighboring Cities

The City Council of Ontario is now considering an application for a franchise for electric power asked for by the Dead Ox Flat Irrigation Company. The irrigation company was originally organized for the purpose of bringing some twenty-two thousand acres on Dead Ox Flat under irrigation. The company now owns power rights on the north and east forks of the Payette river which will produce electricity to the extent of some fifteen thousand horse power, and the intention of the company is to develop this power, transmit it to the Snake river and utilize it for pumping purposes to raise the water to a sufficient height to water the vast territory north and east of Ontario.

Realizing that they will have a vast amount of surplus power, the company is now taking steps for the

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RAMBLES OF A VISITOR THROUGH THE MODERN GARDEN OF EDEN

Being One of a Series of Articles Telling of a Visit to Each of The Many Farms and Places of Interest in This Section.

When the Lower Snake River Valley was created the Maker thereof was most certainly in a generous frame of mind. For the once His thermal cares must have been at a minimum, allowing full attention and careful planning for the future in the making of this, one of His most favored spots. For nowhere in the world were His gifts of natural resources greater, than to this section of the Lower Snake and Payette River Valleys. A "Modern Garden of Eden" it has been aptly called, and truly the appellation

brush made a ranker growth. The first pioneers passed up this land, however, seeking what they thought were more favorable spots further to the west. Thus it was that the most of the early settlers of the Willamette valley trailed their oxen and their covered wagons across this rich section without realizing the golden opportunities they were passing by. Mile after mile the valley lays almost as level as a floor, and its rank growth of sage brush told the secret of the richness of the soil. But it remained

Diversified Farming Scene



Taken on the P. A. Cieger Place on Fruitland Avenue in the Fruitland District. Mr. Cieger is Standing by the Corn Row.

is not a misnomer. While it remained for those who came later to find out the secret. The soil itself is a rich sandy loam of an almost incredible depth. Without irrigation it is a good farming land, but with irrigation it becomes the true "garden spot." With climate ideal for the growing of the most tender crops, the rich soil lay dormant for centuries, awaiting for man to direct to it the benighted irrigation water.

Until the advent of the white man this section of the country was looked upon as a part of the great Nevada desert. It differed little from the sandy country to the south only that the surface soil seemed a little more susceptible to vegetation and the sage-

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Grand Jury Meets

The grand jury is in session this week at Vale, and Prosecuting Attorney Brooks has been in attendance all week. The jury will probably be in session until the last of the week. It is said that their duties this session are light.

Ships In Sow

Dorothy Anderson, an enterprising student of the Lincoln School west of Ontario, has entered into the industrial school work with a vim, and is the first student in the county to select hog raising as her project. She has secured a young sow from the Union Stock Yards Company, of North Portland; who arrived in Ontario Tuesday, and expects to raise a fine litter of pigs. Lloyd Holloway, of the same district, has also selected hog raising, and has sent for a sow but it has not yet arrived. It is said one or two students in School District No. 33 have also sent for sows. The Stock Yards Co. have made arrangements that the sows can be paid for when the pigs are marketed.

JOHN S. AKER DIES SUDDENLY

Came Here Four Years Ago and Took up Homestead Near Town

John S. Aker, aged 59 years, and a resident of this section for the past four years, died in his chair at the dinner table Sunday at his home in Ontario, after having driven in from his homestead on Dead Ox Flat in the morning. Death came entirely unexpected and was a shock to his wife and son who were with him.

John S. Aker was born in Fulton, Schoharie county, New York, on November 5, 1855. He was reared to manhood and lived at that place until coming to Oregon four years ago. He immediately took up a homestead on Dead Ox Flat and had just advertised to make final proof on the place, the date for final proof having been set for May 15, next.

The deceased is survived by his wife, Mrs. Carrie B. Aker; a son, Leslie J. Aker, who is a local attorney, a daughter, Mrs. Mabel Gebauer of Boise, and a sister, Mrs. Rebecca Hamilton of Amsterdam, N. Y.

The funeral will be held this (Thursday) afternoon from the residence in Ontario.

SCHOOL ELECTION IN FRUITLAND TUESDAY

The people of the Fruitland school district No. 18 will vote next Tuesday as to whether or not the trustees of the district shall issue bonds not to exceed \$15,000 for the purpose of building a new high school building in Fruitland. It is the intention of the trustees to use the present building for the grade schools and erect the new building for high school purposes. A union heating plant for the two buildings is also one of the contemplated improvements.

It is stated that the present facilities of the high school building are adequate for only about forty pupils, and that the present enrollment of the high school is 86. It is estimated that the enrollment next year will be about 110. There are many people in the Fruitland section that are in favor of the proposed improvement, and it is freely predicted that the measure will carry.

Caldwell Coming Sunday

The Caldwell aggregation of alleged ball players will cross bats with Ontario on the local diamond Sunday. From recent write-ups of the Caldwell team they are playing a good class of ball and good game is expected Sunday.

FRUITLAND MAN GORED BY BULL

J. M. Royston Well Known Stock Raiser Instantly Killed by Animal

DRIVING BULL INTO THE BARN

Wife and Daughter Present When Accident Occurs—Funeral Today

J. H. Royston, one of the best known farmers and stockraisers of the Lower Snake River valley, was almost instantly killed by a jersey bull at his home two miles south of Fruitland last Friday evening. The accident occurred about 6:30 in the evening, when Mr. Royston attempted to drive the bull into the barn from an adjoining pen. The hired man on the ranch has been accustomed to caring for the bull, but the hired man had gone to town and was late in returning, and Mr. Royston decided to put the bull in the barn himself.

The bull is said to have been cross for some time, and has been watched closely by those who have handled him, but this is the first time he has attacked anyone. Mr. Royston entered the pen against the protests of members of his family who were there, believing he could handle the bull as well as anyone. He started to drive the bull toward the barn, when the animal became suddenly infuriated and charged Mr. Royston. Mr. Royston is 60 years of age and could not avoid the oncoming bull as readily as a younger man, and he was caught against the side of the barn. One of the horns entered the groin and the other horn entered the leg just above the knee. As the horns entered, the bull jerked his head and literally tore the horn through the flesh. Blood vessels were severed.

Miss Royston, the youngest daughter, witnessed the scene, and her cries for assistance brought Mr. Morrison, a near neighbor, who was passing the house, to the rescue. The bull did not charge his victim again but stood pawing and bellowing when Mr. Morrison reached the pen. The injured man was immediately carried out of the pen but died before he reached the house. Loss of blood and the shock are said to have caused death, although the injury was a severe one.

Mr. Royston has lived on his ranch near Fruitland for the past twenty years. He has specialized in thoroughbred stock and has won prizes at several northwest stock shows. He was widely known throughout this section of the country, and the news of his untimely death was a shock to the entire community. He came to this country from near Kearney, Neb., where he spent the early part of his life. He is survived by his wife, six sons and five daughters. The children are grown and many one son and one daughter residing at home. The others are scattered and are living in the Twin Falls country and in the east. They are: Edward Royston of Twin Falls, Schuyler Royston and Earl Royston of Kimberly, John Royston of Crosson, Neb., and Charles and Lase Royston of Fruitland. The daughters are Mrs. Edward Williams, Kimberly; Mrs. Harry Hart, Twin Falls, and Clara, Irma and Josephine Royston of Fruitland. Two brothers, Robert Royston and William Royston, and their wives are here from Baltimore, Md., to attend the funeral, and Henry Miller, a brother-in-law, from Freeland, Md., is also here for the funeral.

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