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Local Crop Estimate

The figures printed on another page, as compiled by Mr. Davidson, will be of vital interest to local orchardists as giving some idea, not only of the crop which may be expected this year, but also of the production for which Hood River may look during the next few years. It is the more valuable for the reason that it is not based, as are many estimates, upon pure conjecture, but upon actual records for the past five years.

The estimates give a rich promise for the future. They also serve a useful purpose in indicating some of the big problems with which the local orchardists must cope in handling such a gigantic production of fruit. The present season, with the addition of storage facilities for nearly half a million boxes, will see a great step taken in the solution of this problem. The matter of finding adequate markets and of working out the best possible distributing system will take time and concerted action, but with the strong support which the Union is receiving and the assistance which will be given by the independent shipping and storage organizations, there is little doubt but what a satisfactory solution of this problem will be evolved.

A Six Year Term

There is a movement in Congress to make the presidential term six years and limit any person holding the office to one term. This movement is said to be meeting with considerable approval from members of both parties. People are getting tired of this constant political fighting for office and the present campaign has shown how undignified it may become when a President is compelled to take off his coat and get into the political arena in his own behalf. If the term of office were extended and every man limited to a single term, such a situation would be impossible. Then, too, there is an upset condition of business conditions every four years under the present arrangement which is very disturbing.

In limiting the office to one term it would also relieve the federal office holders from remaining loyal to one who in their judgment might be unfit for the place. Under the present system when they are serving under a man they naturally do not care to lift up their voice in disapproval.

Of course if an incompetent man were elected to the office it might prove unfortunate, but such a contingency would not be likely.

There are a number of reasons which make the six-year-term idea worthy of serious consideration.

As Others See Us

It is sometimes a good plan to take into consideration what others may think of us. The country is now passing through, if not the most important, at least the most lively and interesting presidential campaign we have ever witnessed. To say the least, the performance is never dull when Theodore Roosevelt is on the stage. A new and somewhat unusual element has recently come into the situation. Mr. Bryan has decided in the last few days that it is necessary for him to take part, and has discovered that things are shaping themselves in the Republican party with Theodore Roosevelt as the probable nominee, and that the Democrats to win at the election must be led by no other

than Mr. Bryan himself. In this connection it is rather interesting to see how Europe views the political situation in this country. A short comment in a recent number of the Times, one of the leading daily papers of Paris, is to the effect that American people would have cause to be pitted if at the fall election they should be obliged to choose between two candidates, both of whom hold such extreme views and whose programs contain so much that would cause unrest as do those of Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Bryan.

Going Ahead!

A glance at the events of the week as chronicled on the first page of the News this week is sufficient to show the trend of events in Hood River valley. A million-box apple crop in prospect, work started on the road to Portland, and a fifteen-mile extension of the Mt. Hood Railroad into undeveloped country contemplated. It is enough to make anybody sit up and take notice, for things are going ahead and development of the wonderful resources of this favored section is continuing despite presidential fights, supposedly hard times and a general lethargy in business conditions throughout the country.

If fairly good prices are secured for the apple crop it will bring a splendid revenue into the county. The Columbia River road, when it is completed, will put Hood River on the main artery of automobile travel between the East and the West and between Portland and the south as well. Extension of the Mt. Hood Railroad as projected will open thousands of acres of untouched timber and agricultural land, all of which will be tributary to this city and valley.

Housecleaning Time

This is the season of the year when the industrious housewife ties an apron around her head, grabs a tack-puller and yanks the shape out of the sitting room carpet. She hangeth it over a clothes line and whaeth all the stripes out of it, annihilating microbes and scattering real estate all over the township. She shoveth all the furniture onto the front porch and then growls at the weather man because spring showers are likely to come sneaking around the corner of the house. She climbeth to the top of the step ladder to fix a curtain and the ladder upsets and great is the fall thereof. The old man eateth cold grub and weak coffee on the kitchen table and goeth to bed with a cross woman and carpet tacks between his toes. Such are the ways of the world, and lots of it in house-cleaning time.

Another thing to be thankful for. The recent heavy rains have meant thousands of dollars to local ranchers, all of whose crops have reaped a splendid benefit from the copious rainfall.

Commencement orators who have saved the country must be in fear and trembling that the election this Fall will undo it all again.

Colonel Roosevelt defines a progressive as a "man who works with his face toward the light," and a facetious exchange moves to omit the last three words of the definition.

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Miles of orchards drifted white with bloom as though the snow fields of Mount Hood had been lifted from peak to valley, warmed with the breath of spring and tinted with the sunrise, is the season's earliest view.

A green valley of green trees, sheltered by mountains, shading the rushing river, waits the beauty seeker now.

A little later the days of sunshine will give their gold to the Yellow Newtowns and nights of frost will stinging the color into the ruddy cheeks of the Spitzensburgs, the furrowed ground beneath the trees will be creased with wagon wheels and ladders of the pickers will press against the branches. This gives yet another view.

Not until the writer made a trip to Hood River recently did he learn that the body and breath of Mount Hood gave flavor, substance and color to the apples of the famous valley. The iron of the soil, its chemical constituency and volcanic fertility, are all from the mountain of personality, as is the breeze that blows down the canyon at night, bringing the frost from the never-melting snow which the alchemy of nature transmutes into the color of the fruit.

Mount Defiance borders the western horizon; the break of the central Oregon table lands is on the east, and north is Mount Adams to be seen from the high points of Hood River valley as from no other locality. The most intensive soil cultivation of the west, the most successful horticulture, and some of the most ruggedly grand mountain, valley and river scenery are all provided and the superlatives of the completest vocabulary are unequal to proper description.—Marshall N. Dana in Oregon Journal.

J. C. Johnsen

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