

RECORD GROP FOR MEDFORD

Medford is about to pick the largest fruit crop in the history of the Rogue River valley, according to Professor O'Gara, county pathologist. There will be a crop of from 125 to 150 cars of pears, with quality, size and general condition far ahead of anything that has heretofore been produced in this section. The apple crop will be between 500 and 600 cars, or between 300,000 and 400,000 boxes. All told, nearly half a million boxes of Rogue River fruit will be shipped out of the valley this year, and it is believed the fruit will demand the highest market price because of its quality. The result is due to splendid climatic conditions, plenty of soil, moisture, mild temperature, absence of early frosts and consistent spraying.

Christian Science Services
Christian Science services are held in the Commercial Club rooms Sundays at 11 a. m. Subject, "Love." Sunday school at same hour in Room 2, Davidson building. Wednesday meetings in same room 8 p. m. Reading room open daily, 2 to 5 p. m.

IRRIGATION COMPANY BUYS MILK COWS

The dairy industry has been given a decided impetus by the action of the Willamette Valley Irrigated Land Company in providing the settlers on the irrigated tracts with funds to buy all the milk cows they can feed, repaying the amounts in monthly installments out of the cream checks, says a communication from West Stayton.

PEACHES WILL ROT UNLESS CASH PAID

Alleging that peach buyers have combined to compel growers to ship their fruit on consignment to be sold at auction in the eastern markets, growers of the Parker Bottom district in the Yakima valley, have agreed to let their peaches rot on the trees unless they can get cash offers. At noon today growers representing 700,000 boxes of peaches had signed the agreement.

Hit a bull's eye at Jack Morrison's shooting gallery, just opened, and you get a chance on a fine piano. 25ft

Babies to Hold Sway

The State Fair Board has appropriated \$300 this year to cover premiums and expenses of a department to be called the "Exposition of Eugenics," to be held at the State Fair, Salem, week of Sept. 27.

This will be a showing of children under four years of age, at which physical perfection rather than doll-like beauty will be the standard. Certain medical standards of weights and measurements will be used, and every child compared with those standards and approach to perfection will be figured on a percentage basis. A corps of well-known women physicians will make the test, at the same time pointing out to the mother the strong and weak points in the child's makeup.

A "Child's Welfare Exhibit" under the auspices of the Oregon Mothers' Congress and the Oregon State Grange will be made a part of the Exposition of Eugenics, at which all the approved methods of handling babies, their food, clothing and other features will be demonstrated daily by trained nurses.

FIRE LAWS MUST BE OBSERVED

Land clearers must obey state fire laws, says Roy Woods, supervising state fire warden for Multnomah county. Farmers and others engaged in clearing land should acquaint themselves with the fire laws. Mr. Woods says that he is often called to remote parts of the county to inspect a slashing the owner wishes to burn, when there is no occasion for the trip. Such visits are an unnecessary waste of time and money, he says.

The state fire law, in section 7, provides that it shall be unlawful for any person to burn slashings, brush or timber land without written permit from a warden, between June 1 and October 1. The section states further, however, that this restriction does not apply to the burning of log piles, stumps or brush heaps in small quantities, under adequate precautions and personal control, and in accordance with any regulation which may be adopted by the state board of forestry.

This part of the section indicates that all burning is not prohibited by law during the restricted season, and that a permit is not always required for such burning. Mr. Woods says that if those desiring to start fires will use judgment, and at all times continuously watch their burnings, it will not be necessary for them to hunt up a fire warden on every occasion. If fires escape, the one doing the burning is held strictly accountable for all damage.

RAILWAY BUSINESS FOR MONTH OF MAY

For the month of May, 1912, the net operating revenue of the railroads declined five and five-tenths per cent per mile of line as compared with May, 1911, and that for May, 1911, was four and eight-tenths per cent less than for May, 1910. This is the salient fact of the monthly summary of the Bureau of Railway Economics, compiled from the reports of the railways to the Interstate Commerce Commission, and embracing ninety per cent of the steam railway mileage of the country.

The total operating revenues were \$226,109,262, an increase of \$7 per mile of line over May, 1911. The operating expenses were \$161,368,677, an increase of \$24.29 per mile of line, while the net operating revenue was \$64,740,585, a decrease of \$17.23 per mile of line. Texas amounted for the month to \$9,897,391, or \$45 per mile, an increase of nine and two-tenths per cent.

The decrease in net operating revenue was most severe for the Eastern group of railways, amounting to eleven and nine-tenths per cent. For the Southern group it increased four-tenths of one per cent, and for the Western group less than one-tenth of one per cent.

CHAMBERLAIN REFUSES LAFFERTY SUPPORT

Representative A. W. Lafferty of Oregon has introduced an amendment to the innocent purchasers bill. Instead of section 2 of that bill it provides that the president may open to homestead lands forfeited in tracts not exceeding 40 acres at \$2.50 per acre; but if the lands be not declared forfeited rules shall be formulated for settlement in tracts not exceeding 100 acres at \$2.50 per acre.

Senator Chamberlain said he would not support the Lafferty amendment but would work for either the senate or house bill. The date when the bill can be called up is very uncertain; probably not at this session unless a special rule be brought in.

HOW TO SHAPE FRUIT TREES

The majority of growers favor the low tree, that is, with head formed from eighteen to twenty-five inches from the ground, says the president of the Oregon Agricultural College. "In many cases one is apt to lose less trees from sunburn where headed low and properly handled than otherwise. There are several types of trees being grown, and much heated and often worthless discussion is held concerning the respective merits of the open or vase tree versus the pyramid or leader type. A third type is a combination of the two, where the leader is allowed to grow for a few years and then held in check. We should be more interested in the general principals of pruning than in the growing of an exact type. Good, strong, heavily bearing trees can be produced by all systems, while on the other hand, very weak, worthless trees can be produced by each. The so-called open or vase tree was introduced from California, where they were obliged to head the trees low and shear the tops to protect from the sun. In the Pacific Northwest, as a rule, we do not shear the tops of the trees, but still try to encourage the

open trees. Many people have made a mistake in thinking that a short trunk means a low head. This has little to do with the head of the tree unless one practices proper pruning the first five years of the tree's life and always gives the tree plenty of room for lateral development. Concerning the open versus the center tree, both will be used according to the type of tree we are growing. Undoubtedly all varieties that tend to grow large and rangy should be grown as open trees, while many varieties like the Yellow Newtown, for example, which often makes a weak, scraggly growth, can be made

stronger and larger, and be made to produce more by growing a leader for a number of years at least. Those who are using the open tree need to modify it considerably in the majority of cases. They are allowing most of the main branches to issue from the same point, with a resulting weak tree which breaks badly and is often short lived.

Head from eighteen to twenty-five inches; some prefer to head at twenty five inches to get better distribution of branches. This can be done and still keep the head as low as the average tree that is headed as low as eighteen inches. The tree should

be studied very closely during the first growing season; some buds will need to be rubbed off, others pinched back, the aim being to grow a well balanced tree, with as much space as possible between the branches. The branches will never grow any farther apart than the distance at which they are started, and in fact never get higher from the ground. If one leaves trees alone during the entire growing season the chances are he will find all the branches growing near the cut and a weak tree will be the result. At the end of the first year leave from three to five branches and head back,

under average conditions, to stubs ten to twelve inches in length. Remove all laterals other than these. I would not advise heading closer than this, as it would tend to throw future laterals too close together. At the end of the second year you will find that each of these branches will have produced from one to a dozen or more laterals. I would advise choosing two of the best located and removing the rest, heading these back to stubs ten or fifteen inches in length and either removing the remaining laterals or cut back some of these to two or three buds. These will later form fruit spurs.

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