

Ranchers Discuss Local Problems at Meeting

Large Gathering of Orchardists Held Under Auspices of Commercial Club and Experiences in Control of Pests, Use of Cover Crops and Irrigation Are Given--Valuable Information Secured.

More than two hundred orchardists attended the meeting held at the Commercial Club Saturday afternoon to discuss local orchard problems...

Secretary Scott presided and as many as possible of those present filled out printed blanks detailing conditions in their orchards...

More valuable than the written reports, however, was the discussion, in which a considerable number took part. This discussion led to some definite conclusions...

Climate or Irrigation? A. I. Mason was on hand with an explanation. He declared that climatic conditions had been peculiar last year and laid the unusual prevalence of dry rot to this cause.

W. W. Rodwell was among those who took exception to Mr. Mason's explanation. Mr. Rodwell said that his orchard had been free from dry rot, while his neighbor's was considerably affected...

Paul R. Hughes of Oak Grove was of the same opinion, saying that dry rot had been found particularly where the ground was permitted to dry out too much early in the season...

Peter Mohr said that he had thrown stock salt around the trees on his place that were affected with the rot and that the trouble had left them. He thought that the salt might have been responsible.

After a couple of conflicting opinions one orchardist declared that he had observed that where he had a cover crop and irrigated freely throughout the season there was no rot. Another said he had found core rot where there were wet spots early in the season...

L. F. Henderson said he couldn't explain it as he had suffered as much from dry rot on his most fertile soil kept thoroughly wet as anywhere else. Mr. Walters of Cooper and Walters said they had dry rot on only a few trees which had suffered from winter kill or low vitality.

Mr. Lewis of Lewis and Brown on the East Side said they practiced clean cultivation and kept the ground moist the season through, but had rot on scattered trees. He thought it was due to lack of vitality and winter kill.

F. P. Friday thought it was due to peculiar weather conditions and scarcity of sunshine during the past season.

Ludwig Struck was quoted as saying that too much fertilizer or too sudden changes in the amount of moisture would cause dry rot.

Roy Brock of the Sears and Porter orchards told in detail of their experiences and thought the rot was due to an unequal amount of moisture at different parts of the growing season, causing a forced sap flow and breaking down some of the cells in the apple.

One of the most convincing statements was by O. B. Nye of Odell. He said he had observed that his orchard nearest the flume, which received plenty of water at each application was free from rot, but at the further end, which was reached by less water, the rot was much more prevalent.

E. H. Shepard Gives a Talk E. H. Shepard, editor of Better Fruit and a practical orchardist, was then called upon to give his experiences. He gave an interesting talk, stating that he had been practically free from the rot. He thought the best results were secured by growing a shade crop and leaving it in a year, planting it in the fall and plowing it under the following fall. He watered his trees six times during the season. Two trees growing near the road where the soil was kept packed and dry suffered from the rot. Others were free from it. Keep an even supply of water on the trees throughout the year, was Mr. Shepard's advice, and also maintain a sufficient amount of humus in the

soil by the use of shade or cover crops. Mr. Shepard was also of the opinion that the rot might also be caused by an excessive amount of water, declaring that the happy mean should be maintained. "There are a number of other factors which enter into a discussion of the rot," said Mr. Shepard, "and the effects of winter kill no doubt make a tree more susceptible. The same is true of weakened tree vitality from any cause. Cover Crops Valuable Aside from the value of cover and shade crops in maintaining an equable temperature in the soil and supplying humus, Mr. Shepard thought them also very valuable for their service in loosening up the plow soil. This plow soil, he said, is the hard stratum that forms just beneath the portion of the soil which is kept loose by the plow and cultivator. This plow soil, he said, often forms so hard that it prevents the penetration of moisture and air and thus diminishes very considerably the supply of plant food available for the tree's root system. Mr. Shepard has made some extensive experiments with cover crops and said that where humus is desired the winter rye, planted in the fall and plowed under the following spring gives the best results, at least such was the case on his type of soil. If it is desired to supply the soil with nitrogen or plant food he advised the hairy vetch, which makes an abundant growth and throws its roots well down into the subsoil. For breaking up the plow soil he advised alfalfa. He said this drives its roots down deeply and although it is difficult to eradicate, he said the frequent cultivation such as is practiced here would effect such eradication without bad results. More of the local troubles come from continued clean cultivation than any one other cause, Mr. Shepard declared. A number of other orchardists expressed their views upon the subject, after which Professor Lawrence was called upon to state his findings. He said that he had visited over 150 orchards that were more or less affected with the rot. He stated that it is not due to either a fungus or insect pest, as some have believed, but that it is due to the breaking of the cells of the apple from unfavorable physiological conditions. He said that the core rot, dry rot and Baldwin spot are all similar in their nature and due to much the same causes. Professor Lawrence explained how the sap is forced into the young apples from the root. Where a large amount of moisture is forced up the pressure is sometimes as great as 75 pounds to the square inch. Inequalities in this pressure are due to unequal irrigation and to extremes in temperature of the soil. Where a large amount of water is forced into the growing apple the pressure causes the cells to break down and the dry rot appears. The appearance of the rot this year in a more general form than previously was explained in part by the fact that for several years previous to last year the average rainfall in the valley was considerably below normal. Last year it was increased considerable and the greater amount of moisture accelerated the rot.

Remedies Are Suggested Three preventatives were suggested by Professor Lawrence. First improve soil conditions, he said. This should be done by definitely determining first what the soil lacked. It is a mistake to use lime on soil that is deficient in nitrogen. Before using either lime or nitrogenous cover crops it should first be determined which the soil needs. "You will also have to grow cover or shade crops," he said, "in order to prevent sudden changes in soil temperature which drive the sap into the fruit in excessive amounts and break down the cells. Also be careful to give the trees a uniform supply of water throughout the growing season." Experiment Station Needed Professor Lawrence took the opportunity to urge the need of an experiment station. He said such a station should employ several experts, all under the direction of one head, in order that they might be directed in co-op-

HERMAN PREGGE'S HOUSE IS BURNED

Fire destroyed the residence of Herman Pregge at Oak Grove Friday afternoon about three o'clock. This was the old homestead which has stood as one of the landmarks of that section for nearly 39 years.

How the fire originated is not definitely known as there was nobody in the house at the time, the family being at Mrs. W. Pregge's. E. E. Stanton, who was driving home from the schoolhouse, was one of the first to catch sight of the smoke pouring out of the building. The family were notified and many of the neighbors hurried to their assistance.

The fire was so far advanced that it was impossible to save the house or any of its contents. For a time it was feared that the large two-story apple storehouse standing nearby would also burn. The neighbors carried several hundred boxes of apples out of this building while others were trying to save it from the flames by throwing snow and water on the roof. Several times it caught fire, but each time the flames were successfully subdued.

It is said that the house was insured and that most of the loss will be covered.

WANT EXPERIMENT STATION HERE

A bill was introduced in the legislature last of the week asking that an annual appropriation be made of \$5000 for the purpose of establishing an experiment station in this county. C. D. Thompson and other local horticulturists prepared the bill and it was introduced by Representative C. H. Stranahan.

The appropriation is asked to be made contingent upon the county making an annual appropriation of \$1500 to supplement the state appropriation.

Although it is hoped that the bill may pass, it is handicapped on account of the fact that not less than nine bills asking for experiment stations have already been introduced and it may be hard sledding for the local measure. Malheur, Grant, Coos, Clatsop and Yamhill counties are among those in the field for experiment stations. It is stated that other counties are preparing to make similar requests.

Operative study of the different pests or unfavorable conditions as they might arise. He said there should be a soil expert, an expert in the use of irrigation and one or more to study the plant diseases.

Secretary Scott called attention to the fact that Professor Lawrence has resigned as county fruit inspector because of the reduction in his salary following the report of the grand jury. He said it was most important for the fruit industry here that Mr. Lawrence's services be retained and said it was up to the fruit growers.

A. I. Mason took the opportunity to call attention to the horticultural bill introduced in the legislature by the State Board of Horticulture. He said it would give the counties authority to hire such an expert without salary restriction. If it passed he said it would solve the local problem.

Professor Thompson announced that a bill calling for an experiment station here has also been introduced and urged all to give it every possible support.

CAN'T MARKET ITS FROSTED ORANGES

California will not be allowed to market its crop of frosted or frozen oranges this season. Word has come from Washington that the marketing would not be tolerated, but plans are under way to utilize the stock in other ways.

While the order of the government does not entirely prohibit the selling of these oranges, stock that is damaged 15 per cent will be considered adulterated within the meaning of the pure food law.

The message from Washington says: "In order to protect the consumer and to prevent the flooding of the market with oranges and lemons unfit for food, the pure food board of the bureau of chemistry yesterday afternoon issued a formal order forbidding interstate commerce in those fruits materially damaged in the recent California 'freeze'."

"'Materially damaged,' within the purview of the board, is where the freezing has dried more than one-fifth of the center pulp. Shipments where 15 per cent or more of the fruit is thus affected will be held to be 'adulterated by the agents.'"

"In order to prevent the frozen fruit from being sold, special instructions were issued by the bureau of chemistry to carefully inspect all citrus fruit."

"In connection with this new order, the bureau announced that it now is perfecting a method by which the growers may dispose of their frozen fruit in making confections, oil and acids."

"The bureau's reports indicate that between 65 and 80 per cent of the California crop was affected by the recent freeze."

F. R. Brisley, representative of the Acme White Lead and Paint Company, was in town Thursday making the necessary arrangements with the E. A. Franz Company for the coming year.

WINTER RETREATS BEFORE CHINOOK

A balmy Chinook wind swept in over the valley Friday night broke the backbone of winter for a few days at least and the week end in Hood River would have been a second Indian summer had it not been for the snow that still remained.

The Chinook, accompanied by bright warm sunshine, made an onslaught on the snow, which was piled between two and three feet deep, and at present there are only two or three inches left.

The rapid melting of the snow caused the river to rise rapidly and the power plants carefully guarded their intakes. No damage was done to small trees, however, as the growers took the precaution to settle the snow around them before the heavy thaw came.

On Saturday the maximum temperature, according to the official observer, Professor Lawrence, was 52 degrees and the minimum 38; on Sunday the maximum was 45 and the minimum 38; on Monday it was slightly cooler, the maximum being 40 and minimum 38 degrees.

REFUSE INSPECTORS FOR FROZEN FRUIT

Officials of the Pure Food Board hold they have no authority to place Government Inspectors in Pacific Coast packing houses to inspect citrus fruits before shipment, as has been requested by fruit men. In view of the board's order prohibiting the sale of citrus fruits frozen in the recent cold snap on the Coast, the growers asked the board to inspect shipments in the packing houses instead of the Eastern markets that they might not suffer the loss of having shipments condemned after incurring freight and packing charges.

Extension Course to be Given Local Ranchers

It is announced that an extension course is to be given in this county under the direction of the Oregon Agricultural College. The dates are from February 17 to 29.

Horticultural and agricultural experts from that institution, all with a special knowledge of local conditions, will compose the corps of instructors and it is said that Professor Lewis, Boquet, Jackson and Cordley will be here.

In order that all may avail themselves of this opportunity, meetings will be held at Parkdale, Pine Grove and Odell and on the West Side. The exact dates for each point have not yet been definitely arranged.

This work is in line with the policy of the O. A. C. to extend its extension department rather than to encourage the establishment of experiment stations in the various sections. President Kerr last week advised the legislature that he was in favor of such extension work rather than the independent stations and advised against the granting of the several bills providing for the establishment of such stations.

Another announcement in line with the same movement is that of the lecture to be given by Professor Dryden of the O. A. C. at the Commercial

Club rooms Saturday, February 15. This lecture will be illustrated by moving pictures and the subject will be the chicken business in Oregon. All will be welcome to attend this lecture, especially the women and children.

A recent dispatch from Washington, D. C., states that W. F. Thomas of that city, owns an orchard of 6000 young apple trees in Maryland. The unseasonably warm weather has coaxed out the buds and there is danger of blooming. In case of frost the trees would be injured.

Mr. Thomas consulted experts of the Department of Agriculture, and on their advice shipped 100 tons of ice to the orchard. The ice will be broken up and applied to the roots of the trees in the hope of chilling them, thus preventing the sap from rising and thereby keeping them from blooming.

Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Johansen of the Upper Valley spent the week end visiting friends in The Dalles.



News Snapshots Of the Week Raymond Poincare was elected president of France over Pams and Deschanel. Federal Judge Robert W. Archbald was found guilty of the charges of high misdemeanors and was removed from the bench. Jacob H. Schiff and George W. Perkins testified before the Pujos money trust investigation at Washington. Foulke E. Brandt, Mortimer Schiff's former valet, who declared that he had been unjustly sentenced to thirty years' imprisonment, was pardoned by Governor Sulzer of New York. Captain Rosold Amundsen was welcomed as the south pole discoverer. George A. Slipp gave damaging testimony before the New York graft investigation. Rev. Daniel Russell was named to officiate at the wedding of Miss Helen Gould and Finley D. Shepard.

Lighting Contract Let to the Hydro Company

City Council Signs Agreement for Ten Year Period Following Withdrawal of Batchelder Injunction Suit--Both Companies Pleased--Mayor Blancher Submits Message to Council.

At the meeting of the city council Monday evening a 10-year contract with the Hydro Electric Company for lighting the city streets was signed. This action on the part of the council followed the voluntary withdrawal by J. F. Batchelder of his injunction suit against the city.

It has been rumored that certain changes have taken place recently which give the Hood River Gas and Electric Company control of the local field. This being the case, it seems as though the Hood River Gas and Electric Company owes certain citizens active in the city's affairs their heartfelt thanks for the strenuous part they have taken in getting a 10-year electric light contract for the city at twice the rates which the city now pays. The Glacier in its last issue asked why Mr. Batchelder withdrew his injunction suit. Now they know.

The contract as signed contains a large number of provisions. One is that the city can demand a readjustment of the rates at any time that they may appear unreasonable, a hearing to be given before the state public service commission.

At the same time the contract protects private users of the juice by providing that maximum rate shall not be in excess of 10 cents per kilowatt for the small consumer, with a sliding scale down to five cents a kilowatt for the larger consumers.

It is provided that the contract shall go into effect not later than 60 days from date. The city shall specify where the lights shall be placed and work will be started without delay in properly wiring the city for lights -- a long felt need.

The passage of the contract by the council was unanimous with the exception of Councilman Stranahan, who voted against it.

Salaries are Fixed With the approval of the council, Mayor Blancher fixed the salaries of the appointive officers. These remain the same and are as follows:

City marshal \$100 a month, city attorney \$75, water superintendent \$100, city water clerk \$60, city engineer 75 cents an hour with a minimum monthly stipend of not less than \$50 nor more than \$150.

The fire and water committee reported favorably on the fire escapes that have been constructed on the old rink and recommended that a license be granted Messrs. Fitzpatrick to conduct a skating rink.

The Heights firemen made a protest against the present location of the fire house there. It is now on the springs property, which is owned by the city. This location makes a hard uphill pull for the department and it was requested that quarters be provided so that the apparatus can be kept in a more convenient place.

Mayor Submits Message Mayor Blancher submitted to the council a brief message as follows:

"With your permission, the mayor will deviate from the usual procedure heretofore followed of preparing a lengthy report at this time of the year with recommendations, etc., believing that more effective results may

be obtained from more frequent communication bearing directly upon the needs of the city and our ability to provide for same. We are entering a new year under favorable circumstances. The city's financial condition is splendid and much credit is due the former council for the faithful service rendered.

Should Start Street Paving "We should immediately proceed to take up the matter of street paving, carefully reviewing the work of the former council and ascertaining beyond doubt what kinds of paving will give proper results and yet be the most economical. This is no small problem and the former council was obliged to hurry matters more than they probably would liked to have done on account of the short time given them in which to decide. We, however, have ample time in which to work out this problem if we start now.

Should Employ An Expert "It is therefore recommended that the street committee be instructed to secure the services of a competent paving expert in the capacity of a consulting engineer, requiring him to make a personal investigation of the various phases of the local problem, the variation in grades, weather conditions during winter season and present valuation of abutting property, which will be required to pay for the proposed improvement, then give the council his opinion and recommendations.

"It is further recommended that steps be taken to macadamize the principal thoroughfares from the paved district to the city limits (where same has not already been done) as early as weather will permit and that the street committee be authorized to proceed immediately with the judicious expenditure of not less than \$2000 for further improvement of the East Side grade, while labor is plentiful."

RAILROAD RATE CASE POSTPONED A novel situation has presented itself in the Upper Valley around Parkdale and Woodworth stations. O. M. Bailey, a long-time resident there, has complained to the State Railroad Commission relative to rates and service. The people, apparently well satisfied with present efforts of the railroad company, have signed a joint letter to the commission, stating that the railroad company is deserving of credit for what it has done.

The plaintiff has twice asked a postponement and the hearing that was advertised here for Saturday last did not materialize. The case is now set for late in February.

Charles T. Early, who has charge of the railroad properties, is now in the East and local officers declined to give out any information. About 97 per cent of the Upper Valley people have, it is understood, gone on record as favoring the railroad company by signing the petition referred to above.

LOCAL TRANSFERS OF REAL ESTATE

Frank Davenport to Stanley-Smith Lumber Company, five acres and right of way near Ruithton.

Harry LaVein to Hannah Anderson, five acres in Barrett district.

M. Morloka to C. Nigoma, 5.92 acres in Riverside Park west of Doe, \$1300.

Christian and Missionary Alliance Sunday School at 9:45, H. C. Dietz, superintendent. Preaching at 11 a. m. Young People's Meeting at 7:15 p. m. Evangelistic service at 8 p. m. Prayer meeting Thursday evening at 7:45. These are all gospel meetings. Our motto: "Jesus Only." All are cordially invited. W. P. KIRK, pastor.

Christian Science Christian Science services are held in the Reading Room, Room 2, Davidson Building, Sunday at 11 a. m. Subject, "Truth." Sunday School at 10 a. m. Wednesday meeting at 8 p. m. The reading room is open daily from 2 to 5 p. m.

Read the News--It tells it all.