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THE FRUIT INSPECTOR
 It is an unfortunate and serious situation which has developed in connection with the employment of Professor Lawrence as county fruit inspector and pathologist. In its report the grand jury advised that Professor Lawrence was being paid more than the law allows and recommended that his stipend be reduced to \$3 a day as provided for by the state horticultural law.

As the strict letter of the law was in fact being violated the county court was left no alternative except to comply with the recommendation of the grand jury and Professor Lawrence has discontinued his services for the county.

Professor Lawrence has announced that it will be impossible to continue his work for the county. This, of course, to be expected and it means that the research work carried on for the past two years and the valuable information secured by him will, to a considerable extent, be wasted. Reduction of his remuneration to within the strict interpretation of the law therefore means, not only that his services will be discontinued, but that much of the work he has already done will be sacrificed.

When Professor Lawrence entered the employ of the county at the beginning of last year, after a year's work for the Fellowship Association an appropriation was made of \$3500 to cover the expenses of this department. Of this amount \$2500 was for the inspector's salary and the remainder for his expenses. Of the latter \$1000 only a part was used, so that the total expense to the county of this department for 1912 was about \$2000.

The utter inadequacy of the state law restricting payment of such a trained specialist to \$3 a day is apparent to anyone in the least familiar with the services performed. This is especially true of Hood River county—a practically one-crop community. With the annual income from the local apple crop approximately \$1,000,000 and production increasing every year, the sum paid Professor Lawrence is economy, not extravagance. It represents less than one-third of one per cent of the annual income from this product.

It would be discouraging in the extreme were the county to lose the services of an expert pathologist. Hood River has maintained her reputation as an apple-producing section because of the modern, scientific methods employed here. In perfecting the product and keeping the orchards free from dangerous pests, the work of Professor Lawrence during the past two years has been invaluable, indispensable. With a large field to cover and many different lines of research to follow out, it has been a task which might well employ the efforts of a corps of trained men. He has been handicapped by lack of assistance, but the results which he has obtained under these conditions have been of the greatest importance to the valley. Serious pests have been eradicated under his direction and during the past season important progress was made in establishing uniform grading rules for the valley. He has seen that these new rules have been strictly enforced and Hood River's reputation in the markets of the world—her most valuable asset—has been maintained.

It is stated that the county court might possibly continue the present arrangement with Professor Lawrence if it could be given the assurance that it would be given the support of the citizens of the county. Such assurance could be given if petitions were circulated and the signatures of merchants and leading fruit growers were attached.

When the county took over this department of research work from the Fellowship Association a year ago it was in compliance with a number of petitions, all largely signed. For some reason only one of these petitions, and that one carrying only 40 signatures, is on file in the county court records to sustain the county court.

In the Rogue River Valley the services of Professor O'Gara have been retained by the county at a cost of about \$10,000 a year although a state experiment station has been established there. The county court of Hood River county might feel justified in continuing this valuable work here if it had the support which it deserves. It is extremely doubtful whether anyone would presume to resort to legal means to retard this work. Or it is possible that some other plan may prove more feasible.

In the meantime there are two bills before the legislature giving more reasonable power to county courts in the matter of the employment of fruit inspectors. If either one of these is

passed the present embarrassing condition would end.

At any rate it is important that some means be devised of retaining the services of Professor Lawrence. It is an imperative economy as viewed from the standpoint of every fruit-grower in the valley.

BOOST EXPERIMENT STATION
 A bill has been introduced in the legislature calling for an appropriation of \$5,000 annually for the establishment and maintenance of an experiment station in Hood River county. Representative C. H. Stranahan introduced the bill the last of the week.

The appropriation asked for is reasonable, \$5,000 being the minimum amount upon which such a station could be conducted. This amount would be supplemented, according to the provisions of the bill, by \$1500 to be appropriated annually by the county.

Inasmuch as the bill is so reasonable in the amount of appropriation asked and in view of the great importance of this work in Hood River county, its framers are hopeful that it may meet with favorable consideration by the legislature. Representative Stranahan is using every effort in its behalf, while the efforts of Representative Anderson and Senator Butler have also been enlisted in its behalf. Every support that can be given it by residents of this county should be forthcoming in its behalf and the progress of the measure will be watched with great interest.

LOCAL LIQUOR ENFORCEMENT
 Action was taken by the grand jury upon at least three cases of alleged violation of the liquor laws. One of these investigations resulted in the arrest the last of the week of L. Toucher, who is alleged to have carried on an illicit traffic in liquor. A large supply of bottles was found in his rooms. Prosecution of these alleged offenders prompt the remark that Hood River city and county are being kept remarkably clean from illicit liquor traffic. It is a rare and indeed almost an unknown occurrence to see a drunken person on the streets. Although it is sometimes stated that much liquor is sold which ought not to be, there is little evidence of such sale. The city is free from petty malefactors, tramps, destitute persons and others of the class which is found where the liquor trade flourishes. Those who do secure liquor have become so dependent upon it that it is probable they would manage to get it by hook or crook no matter how stringent laws might be enacted. Most important of all, the younger generation is growing up freed, almost entirely, from the contaminating influence of intoxicating liquor.

ORCHARDISTS REAP BENEFIT
 It was an instructive and valuable meeting which local fruit growers held Saturday under the auspices of the Commercial Club. It was an "experience meeting" and the exchange of views upon a subject which is of vital interest to the orchardists was extremely valuable. Although there was some variance of opinions there was sufficient unanimity to provide preventative against the orchard pest—dry rot—which was under discussion. The meeting was suggested and arranged by the Commercial Club and the crowded hall proved that it had fulfilled a popular need. It is a splendid opportunity which permits the orchardists to gather in these impromptu Chautauquas and the Commercial Club deserves credit for this work in the community's behalf.

True-to-Name Nursery has opened an office in town on corner opposite from Oregon Hotel and samples of trees can be seen in tree yard adjoining office. Mr. Galligan will be at the office Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

HUNTER BAGS THREE LARGE COUGARS
 Jake Wetherell has won the championship belt for Skamania county killing three cougars inside of a few minutes last Thursday afternoon.

The scene of the slaughter was on Bear Creek, about four miles north-east of Carson. Jake ran onto the cougar tracks on the edge of the canyon and followed them through a thicket to the edge. On looking down he saw a cougar dragging the entrails of a deer in the creek, working them back and forth in a way which indicated it was trying to wash them. Jake opened fire with his 30-30, the first bullet piercing its heart, and the cat dropped dead without a move. The shot alarmed two other cougars on the other side of the creek behind a log. They jumped and were laid low with six shots, one dropping at 30 yards and the other at about 50 yards.

All three animals were females, each measuring over seven feet long. Jake then kept a sharp lookout, as he was certain a male cougar must be close, but he did not show up. He took the hide off one and carried it to the cabin about a mile and a half, and next day returned and got the other pelts.

The bounty on the three cougars is \$60, and the hides bring from \$12 to \$40.—Carson Journal.

JAYNE FAVORS REVISION
 Attorney Would Modernize Legal Procedure of the State

"I am heartily in favor of a general and complete revision and modernization of our legal procedure," says Attorney A. A. Jayne, formerly of Hood River, but now of Portland. "It is hardly reasonable, however, to undertake to make over all at once a system which is the outgrowth of many centuries of practice and precedent.

"My judgment is that the best plan would be for the present legislature to appoint a commission to prepare and report to the next session a complete revision of our civil and criminal codes and possibly of the rules of evidence. An appropriation should also be made sufficient to compensate the commissioners for their labor and this compensation should be sufficient to permit them to devote to this subject the time and attention which it requires."

WANTS CHILDREN TO HEAR THIS LECTURE
 The News is in receipt of the following letter, directed more particularly to the children of the county:

"Prof. James Dryden, head of the poultry department of the Oregon Agricultural College, is coming to your town during the next few days, the exact date of his meeting will be duly announced through your columns. We are writing to call especial attention of the school children of your county, as well as others, to the importance of hearing this illustrated lecture. It is especially opportune at this time, inasmuch as in the School Children's Industrial Contest this year we are specializing on poultry.

"At the State Fair next fall there will be a fine list of prizes on poultry. The classification in this department will be much larger than last year, prizes being given practically on all the leading standard breeds. A large number of these prizes are pure bred poultry donated by the best poultry fanciers of the state, and will afford a splendid opportunity for the children to get a start in the poultry business.

In connection with his lecture Prof. Dryden has a fine collection of stereopticon views which makes his lecture very interesting and instructive, so we trust that every school boy and girl in your community, as well as their parents and others will avail themselves of this opportunity to get instruction and inspiration in poultry culture. Furthermore, each one of them will go home from this lecture with a determination to enter the poultry contest, get some valuable experience in doing something practical, as well as winning a nice prize at the state and local fair next fall, which will repay them for all their work.

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