

**THE HOOD RIVER NEWS**

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**MAINTAINING LAND VALUES**  
It is natural that orchardists should be anxious to maintain land values. This does not mean that they should force them up to an unreasonable figure, but rather that they would retain their investment at its original value.

Heretofore the price of land in this valley has been determined largely, not by the actual returns upon the investment so much as by the price that could be secured. The demand has been great, the supply limited and the result has been that in some instances the price has been forced considerably in excess of what was warranted by present income or hope of future returns. On the whole, however, it is not considered that the price for Hood River land has been out of reason. This is especially true of bearing orchards. The income from these is known and has warranted a high valuation. The past year, on account of the unusual conditions prevailing, was not a criterion upon which to base the value of orchard land.

In this connection it was pointed out, and truthfully, at the meeting last week that the surest way in which to maintain land values in this valley is to place the apple business upon such an economical and substantial basis that the assured returns will provide an indisputable proof of the value of the land. To do this will require economy of production and employment of the best possible marketing methods.

Consolidation of local shipping interests, which is now assured, will be a most potent agency in bringing about the most efficient possible marketing of Hood River apples. If the organization receives the support which it should the returns secured to the growers will be such that there will be no trouble in maintaining land values upon a basis which will be both satisfactory to the orchardist and attractive to the investor.

**BOOKER T. WASHINGTON**  
Booker T. Washington, who spoke in Hood River last week, is one of the great men of this country. He has won distinction not only as a leader of the colored race but also as a man of broad and sympathetic mind—so broad, indeed, that he cherishes no class hatred although he has lived under conditions which have shown gross injustice. Only a man of high moral courage and generous breadth of mind retains his balance and power in the midst of conditions with which Dr. Washington has had to contend.

His magnanimity has had a wholesome effect upon both white and black races in driving out the prejudice of the whites and the resentment of the blacks. But more than that he has raised up new ideals among his people. He has taught them the honor of manual labor and has undertaken to fit them to be an asset rather than a liability to the land of their adoption.

The story of Tuskegee Institute—the modest beginnings, the construction of all the buildings, except four, by students, the instruction in farming, cooking and other vocations—illustrates what may be done by a man like Dr. Washington, who has a clear and resolute aim. A half century ago 97 per cent of the negroes could not read nor write. The percentage of illiteracy has been reduced to 32, and today negroes own more than 20,000,000 acres of land. Dr. Washington has had an important part in this progress and is deserving of the cordial receptions given to him in all parts of the country. He is a leader and benefactor of the negro race, but he is even more than that for he is a humanitarian in the highest and best meaning of the word.

**CHURCHILL WILL SUCCEED ALDERMAN**

Governor West has appointed J. A. Churchill of Baker, Superintendent of Public Instruction, to succeed L. R. Alderman, who has been elected City Superintendent of the Portland schools. Alderman will not officially resign until July 1, and Churchill will then assume the office.

The chief contestant against Churchill for the office was E. F. Carleton, who served as Assistant Superintendent under Ackerman, and who is now occupying the same position under Alderman. He is a Republican, and so is Churchill, but the latter, in addition to having Republican support, had the support of such Democrats as Senator McCulloch of Baker, and E. E. Bragg of La Grande. He is the Superintendent of the Baker schools, and is known throughout the state as an able educator. Carleton will likely remain as Assistant Superintendent.

Vancouver, B. C., refuses to accept \$50,000 for library purposes from Andrew Carnegie.

making a gain in weight of 60.70 lbs. Those in lots 3 and 4 ate 110.30 lbs. barley and 663.75 lbs. steamed potatoes and made a gain of 70.60 lbs., while those in lots 5 and 6 ate 188.60 lbs. barley and 564.80 lbs. steamed potatoes and made a gain of 78.10 lbs. Lots 7 and 8 ate 500.10 lbs. of barley without potatoes and made a gain of 69.5 lbs.

At the present market value of seven cents a pound live weight for hogs the raw potatoes showed a feeding value of 29 cents to the hundred, while the steamed potatoes showed a feeding value of 47 cents to the hundred. Inasmuch as there is a ready market for hogs it is a question whether the overabundance of potatoes might not be profitably turned into the more marketable product.

**WOMEN BECOMING FARMERS**  
It is interesting to note, especially in this Western country, that with the enlarging sphere of women's activities, they are placing themselves upon an equality with men in the oldest of human arts—agriculture. Here in Hood River we see women successfully superintending some of the orchards, while the number of women attending the agricultural courses at the O. A. C., especially the short courses, is increasing every year.

The same is true in the East, although to a lesser extent, as the conventional retains there a stronger hold upon the gentler sex. When Cornell University first began with its ideas of equal opportunity for men and women the "coeds," as they were called, were few and had on the whole a hard time of it, between the ridicule of some of the students and the unremitting social attentions of others. But time has more than vindicated the original purpose of Mr. Sage, for whom the girls' dormitory was named Sage college, and young women of thoughtful and studious habit are to be found at Cornell in ever increasing numbers. It is said that there are now something like 150 girl students in the course on agriculture alone. Farming modernly requires chiefly special expert knowledge, interest and steady attention on the part of the farmer or owner, whereas of old the farmer himself did much of the work now relegated to machines.

Charles Morse, banker and ex-convict, has regained his health during his trip through Europe and has reentered business in New York, where he will undertake to regain his financial standing. Morse was pardoned after serving one year of a 15-year sentence because he was so sick his life was despaired of. Influential friends and poor health appear to be an infallible sign that Dame Justice is about to wink the other eye.

Oh, do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger men and women. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for powers equal to your tasks. Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle. But you shall be a miracle. Every day you shall wonder at yourself, at the richness of life which has come to you by the grace of God.—Phillips Brooks.

We would suggest that the hearing on the electric rate increase be set on the anniversary of the Hydro president's triumphal entry into the city a year ago were it not that the recollection might be unpleasant to his sensitive nature.

"A Box of Monkeys" may not be strictly horticultural, but the Upper Valley Thespians who acquitted themselves with such credit Saturday night must by all means be enlisted among the entertainers at the horticultural chautauqua next summer.

Mexico and Finland are very different countries. In the latter a revolution would necessarily have to reach a Finnish very soon.

**STORM INJURES EASTERN ORCHARDS**

While the reports of damage done by the storm last week to fruit and agricultural crops in the middle western states are likely to be somewhat exaggerated, as they usually are in such instances, still there can be no doubt that widespread injury was occasioned by the terrific storm. The frigid weather conditions and violent windstorms swept all the states between Montana and the Great Lakes and covered practically the same territory as a similar storm a few days previously.

In the opinion of fruit growers, apple dealers in this place, great damage has resulted to the apple districts in Missouri, Illinois and Michigan, and these states, which last year produced such heavy quantities of fairly good barreled stock, are certain at best to market only light crops this year.

The storm was no less severe in Colorado than elsewhere in the Middle

West, and it is almost sure to have the result of materially curtailing this season the box apple output of that commonwealth.

The Pacific Northwest apple districts not only have escaped violent storms this spring, but the weather conditions have been unusually favorable for the fruit industry. The late season is holding back the trees and there seems not the least likelihood that they will be damaged by any frost.

**SAYS HOGS PAY DEBTS**

Dr. James Withycombe, director of the Oregon Experiment Station at Corvallis, is authority for the statement made at a recent meeting, that the hog has paid more debts, built more homes and bought more clothes and school books for farmers and their children than any other product in Oregon.

Anyhow, when women vote and the election doesn't go to suit him a man can blame it on his wife.

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