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## ADAPTABILITY OF VARIETIES SHOWN

A few extracts from an article on "Variety Adaptability" by Prof. Lewis of the O. A. C. are given herewith:

There is probably no problem of greater importance to the fruit grower of Oregon today than that of variety adaptability. No matter how good a location he may have for an orchard, no matter how intelligent the care of the orchard may be, if he has chosen varieties that are not adapted to his conditions, he will be doomed to failure, or at least must be satisfied with very ordinary returns. The Division of Horticulture of the Oregon Experiment Station has undertaken the task of trying to solve for the people of Oregon this problem of variety adaptability. Every member of the staff has given more or less attention to this problem and we are hoping that every fruit grower will co-operate with us along this line of work. We should like to have a large number of fruit growers keep weather records for the entire growing season, since we feel that after all there may be a very close connection between climatic conditions and the successful growing of certain varieties.

This state has tried to solve the problem of variety adaptability altogether too soon. In the early days many of the orchardists planted 40 or 50 varieties. This undoubtedly was a mistake, and most fruit growers soon learned that it is much better for a single orchardist to grow only three to five varieties. On the other hand, where the greatest mistake seems to have been, was when whole communities or sections, and, in fact, the entire state, concentrated on only two varieties, Spitzenberg and Yellow Newtown. While these have done well, unusually well in some sections of our state, nevertheless the state as a whole is not especially adapted to these varieties.

There are a great many kinds of fruits that are well known to the commercial world and almost any variety of apple, peach, pear or cherry, for example, finds a ready market in some quarter of the world. It was a decided mistake to graft over all the trees in the community of two or three varieties. I am satisfied that some sections, even like Hood River, tried to settle this variety problem too quickly. If a man hears of a splendid sale of fruit of a given variety, he immediately concludes that this is the variety for him to plant, regardless of whether or not his natural conditions are suited to the variety.

### Effect of Altitude

Varieties of apples like the Winter Banana and Delicious seem to do better where the seasons are shorter, altitudes higher, nights cooler and the temperatures in the middle of the day fairly warm. The fall and early winter temperatures are often a determining factor, as some varieties do not go into the dormant period easily, but tend to continue growth and run to wood rather than to develop fruit. In these localities where winter comes on abruptly we find that many varieties like Spitzenberg and Yellow Newtown do not do well; varieties like the Rome Beauty and McIntosh are far superior. This is one of the cases when Rome Beauty and Wagoner do not do well, since such varieties are easily winter-killed before the tree are hardened. On the other hand, Rome Beauty will stand heavy frosts and will not shed its fruit as badly as many of the late varieties. Frost during the growing season affects most varieties. Some withstand these conditions better than others.

From observations which we have made we feel that the average moisture content of the atmosphere is going to play an important part in variety adaptation. The amount of transpiration which takes place in a plant will bear a close relation to its development.

Altitude is very important and bears a close relation to temperature. Ordinarily varieties find a longer grow-



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ing season in the lower altitudes and mature earlier. We find that Spitzenbergs in some of the lower valleys are at their prime by Thanksgiving time, but when grown at higher altitudes mature later. This is especially true in regions of the Inland Empire but not so true in regions west of the Cascade Mountains, or those which extend to the west. As regards altitude in its relation to individual varieties, we have noted that in the Rogue River Valley, Yellow Newtown matures earlier by nearly a month at an elevation of 1,000 feet above the valley floor. The time at which it matures throughout the valley floor itself is sometimes influenced by the type of soil on which it is growing.

In choosing a variety we must give consideration to the soil, the important points being drainage, general fertility, and, at times, type, that is, the influence of clay, sand, silt or volcanic ash on the coloring and development of certain varieties. We know, for example, that Spitzenberg, if put on a poor soil, becomes weak and sickly, but when put on extremely heavy soil the tree becomes vigorous, but it is not so often productive, nor is the color of its fruit so high. If one can get a soil which is not too heavy, is abundantly supplied with food and moisture, provided the altitude is not too high, the Spitzenberg will probably succeed. On the other hand, the Gano seems to do well, on some soils that have proved too thin and poor for many of our commercial varieties. The Northern Spy, if placed on very heavy soil, is late in coming into bearing. The Yellow Newtown often shows some of the same characteristics.

## WENATCHEE FARMERS FAVOR AFFILIATION

Indications are that either the Wenatchee Fruit Growers' Association will decide to affiliate with the North Pacific Fruit Distributors or that growers, acting independently of any present local organization, will organize a sub-central there and place their fruit with the Distributors.

No other conclusion seems warranted from the feeling expressed by growers following a big meeting at the Commercial Club at Wenatchee last week, when upwards of 200 growers listened to a discussion of the plan by J. H. Robbins of North Yakima, H. F. Davidson of Hood River, W. N. Yost of Boise and other members of the board of trustees of the Distributors.

The resignation of W. T. Clark of Wenatchee as a member of the board and president of the Distributors was handed to Secretary H. C. Sampson last week to be effective should the Wenatchee organization of which he is president, decide not to affiliate.

Early in the day the trustees met with the Distributors and a proposal was made that the Wenatchee organization affiliate with the central so far as standard of pack, systematization of methods, dissemination of reports and distribution of products was concerned, but not as regards selling. This was rejected by the trustees, who insist that Wenatchee growers shall affiliate completely, as growers in other districts are ready to do, or not at all.

The plan of the Distributors had never been presented to the growers at Wenatchee and there was evident a complete change of feeling when the purpose of the organization was unfolded to them.

John Gellatly and Harry Stowell, representing the Wenatchee Fruit Growers' Association, were appointed a committee to meet with J. H. Robbins and H. F. Davidson of Hood River to arrange for affiliation if an agreement could be made. Should this prove unsuccessful, several growers have expressed their determination of taking the matter in their own hands and three growers voluntarily agreed to interview the growers and arrange for a mass meeting.

### MUSICIANS' RANKS SWELLED

Two young men who should be an addition to church and musical circles, have located in Hood River in the interest of the San Francisco Exposition of 1915. L. H. Stone has been a member of the choir of the White Temple Church of Portland for some time. As a student at the O. A. C. and the University of Michigan he was a member of the glee clubs and other student organizations. He has been engaged in the work of boosting the fair for several months. Ed Wetmore, while a student at the O. A. C. was director and instructor of the cadet band. He gave up a position as traveling salesman for a large music house to engage in this work.

### 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.

## EXPECT SMALL CROP IN YAKIMA VALLEY

Dispatches from North Yakima state that the fruit crop of the Yakima valley will total slightly less than 5000 cars this season, according to estimates of a number of buyers and sales agency men who have gone over the situation in preparing for the summer work.

This valley shipped out 7400 carloads of fruit in 1912 but the production last year was abnormal and prices obtained in most cases were so low that the profits were small. In 1911 the total production was but 1250 cars, while higher prices in the Eastern markets brought good profits.

Three-fifths of the 1913 fruit harvest in the Yakima valley will be apples, of the three leading varieties, Jonathans, Newtowns and Pippins. Peaches will constitute nearly a third of the total. Other crops will yield 250 cars of pears, 125 cars of prunes, 50 cars of grapes and 20 of cherries.

The spurt in the development of orchards in that valley five and six years ago made itself felt last summer for the first time. Trees planted then came into bearing last year. More will produce for the first time this summer, so that the actual producing acreage will be larger than that of 1912. This season is what is known among growers as an "off year," however, which accounts for the decrease of 30 per cent expected in the total production from the yield of 1912.

The effect of low prices and the difficulty in finding profitable markets last summer directed the attention of growers to the fact that they must develop methods of selling their fruit, as well as grow it, and the agitation for the formation of co-operative sales agency, the activity of semi-co-operative stock companies for handling fruit and the extension of market connections of the commission dealers who buy outright will insure the growers more money for their crops this year than they received for the one nearly 50 per cent larger last summer.

### BETTER THAN SPANKING

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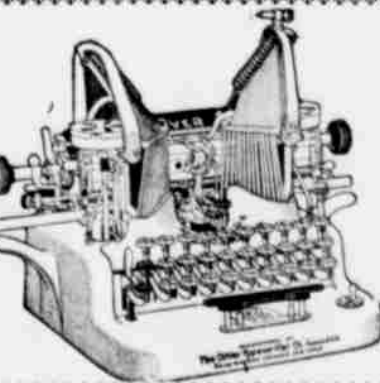
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