

OREGON PRUNE CROP

Will Bring Into State About Half a Million Dollars.

YIELD IS 13,000,000 POUNDS

Estimate of the Output by Districts—Quantity Decreased but Quality Improved—Much Gained by Packing in Boxes.

SALEM, Nov. 18.—(Special.)—The prune crop of Oregon for the 1902, according to men whose business requires them to know the size of the crop, will be in the neighborhood of 13,000,000 pounds. It is estimated that the entire crop sold for an average of 35c per pound, to the grower, or a total of \$4,575,000.

One requested authority on the size of the prune crop divides the state into four prunedistricts. He has made estimates of this year's crop by districts, as compared with a normal crop in the same regions. His estimates give the prune crop as follows:

Table with 2 columns: District and Estimated Crop (Pounds). Includes entries for Santiam, Coast, Willamette Valley, and others.

Portland to Santiam, East 9,000,000 3,000,000
Portland to Corvallis, West 2,000,000 1,000,000
Santiam to Oregon City 2,000,000 2,000,000
Yacoma to Rogue River, Inclusive 5,000,000 3,000,000

Total for Oregon.....13,000,000 13,000,000
It will be recalled that the 1901 estimate before it was placed in the market at fully 60 per cent of a crop. That estimate was probably correct, but the growers have saved more than 60 per cent of the usual amount.

When a full crop is grown a considerable quantity of fruit is packed in boxes. This is done to care it all before it spoils. This year practically the entire crop was saved. The prunes were of good size, the prices propped well, and the quantity did not exceed the capacity of the driers, so that nothing was permitted to go to waste.

The entire crop of the state, about 3,000,000 pounds, or nearly one-fourth of the total yield, will be handled by the Willamette Valley Prune Association. In this city. The association has already shipped nearly 70 carloads, and has orders for 30 cars more. Practically the entire crop handled by the association was packed in boxes before being shipped.

The fruit was packed very neatly, so that it will have an attractive appearance when put on display in the markets of the Eastern States, Canada or Europe. Before being packed the fruit was cleaned, and being made uniform in size, it brings out through a steaming process. Each box bears the association label, a beautiful colored picture of a Mongolian sheasant, with the name of the association. By this means the prunes shipped from this city are gaining a good reputation in the eastern markets.

The demand for the fruit is being met by the fact that the association has for two years secured prices higher than dealers generally thought possible.

It is G. S. Gille, manager of the association, estimates that in the first district mentioned in the foregoing table, 75 per cent of the fruit was packed in boxes, and the remainder was packed in barrels. The second district about the same proportion of the crop was boxed. The crop in the Santiam or Cresswell district was practically all shipped in boxes, while in the southern district about one-third of the crop went in boxes.

The market for the fruit in boxes is readily apparent. Buyers readily pay the advance of 4c per pound for prunes packed in 50-pound boxes, and 5c for prunes in 25-pound boxes. Besides making the prunes sell more easily to the consumer, this creates a preference for Oregon fruit, the quality being secured for the working people of the state. If the entire crop were packed, the proceeds would be \$20,000 greater, this sum being paid to the men engaged in the manufacture of boxes and the packing of the fruit.

Fruit men have everything to gain and nothing to lose by packing before the fruit is placed upon the market. The present season has been an exceptionally good one for Oregon prunedistricts, even though the yield was small. The light yield makes the prunes run to large sizes, for which there was a premium this year. California, with its great crop, could not supply the market with large sizes, and dealers who wanted good fruit came to Oregon to get it. It will be remembered that dealers came to the Pacific Coast from France to buy "petite" or "french" prunes. After looking over the goods on the market in both California and Oregon, they decided to buy in this state. The fact that Oregon has sold French prunes to be shipped to France does not mean that this state is making inroads upon the markets of that country, or that we can expect to find a steady market there for the fruit. The crop of that country was short this year, and the eastern country was compelled to come to this country to buy. They bought where they could find the best goods, and, fortunately for Oregon, this state had a splendid quality of prunes to offer.

Oregon crop been a "bumper," the sizes would have been smaller, and the fruit would have not found so much favor. After all, quality is what counts.

PRUNES IN THE EAST

Late Arrivals Going Freely Into Jobbers' Hands at Firm Figures.

NEW YORK, Nov. 18.—(Special.)—Prunes continue active late arrivals going freely to jobbers at firm figures for 60-60s and 50-60s. There is some shading on 60-90s, inclusive. Oregon 30-40s spot are firm at 7 1/2c. There is a scarcity of 40-50s spot. Coast wires offerings at slight shading from 3c four-size basis on 30-40s for prompt shipment. California 40 size spot are easy, with 2 1/2c basis quoted by wire.

Raisins are very firm on seeded at 5 1/2c 5/6c fancy Coast pack. California clusters are easier at \$2 20 per box here. Sultanas are dull. There is a better supply of three-crown loam, and 6 1/2c is quoted.

There is a good movement in oranges, with Jamaica given the preference, owing to ripeness. Sales were made at \$4 per barrel, re-packed: California Valencia, \$4 50 for choice and \$5 75 for fancy per box. California lemons are active, and large fruit is very firm. Auction rates of 400 boxes of new Sholly show a range of from \$2 10 to \$3 00 per box.

Tomatoes are steady, both spot and Baltimore demand moderate. Corn is more active, and fancy offerings are held firmly. Salmon is steady but quiet.

NEW YORK, Nov. 18.—(Special.)—The hop market closed firm, choice Pacific selling at 30c. A fair inquiry was noted from English exporters for choice state at 37c, but owing to light offerings only small sales were made. The demand from brewers was light, they showing a disposition to withdraw until after the turn of the year before making additional purchases of 1902 hops at new Sholly show a range of from \$2 10 to \$3 00 per box.

FOREIGN TRADE IN CHINA. Imports of American Flour Greatly Increased.

PEKING, Nov. 18.—The British Consul at Amoy, 10, has reported that the imports of American flour in this district, but the importations of American flour are increasing greatly. During last year 12,000 tons of American flour were imported, an increase of 3000 over 1900.

PORTLAND MARKETS. Grain, Flour, Feed, Etc.

The wheat market closed yesterday, after the light flurry of the day before. The tone was still strong, but, so far as could be learned, little business was passing in the interior. No change was reported in oats or barley. The flour market was firm at the recent advance.

WHEAT—Walla Walla, 69¢; bluestem, 71¢; Valley, 71c per bushel. FLOUR—Feed, \$23 per ton; brewing, \$23 50.

ORANGE—Valley, \$5 40 per barrel; hard wheat, \$2 50 per bushel; soft wheat, \$2 25 per bushel.

CATTLE—Native, \$4 00 per head; foreign, \$3 50 per head.

HOGS—Receipts, 15,000. Market 10c lower; bulk of sales, \$9 50 per cwt. Heavy, \$9 30 per cwt.

SHEEP—Receipts, 2,000. Market steady to strong; bulk of sales, \$10 00 per cwt.

Wool Markets. DOSTON, Nov. 18.—There continues to be a very active demand for all grades of wool here. California wools are in demand, and buyers are buying freely.

PRESSURE AGAINST POOLS

LIQUIDATION CONTINUES IN NEW YORK STOCK MARKET.

NEW YORK, Nov. 18.—The most noteworthy feature of today's market was the steady and persistent, though moderate, liquidation. Operations were again comparatively small and profitably maintained, such improvement as was shown at time being due chiefly to covering by shorts.

Operating prices were irregular, and rather under the market. There was also a conspicuous feature of the day, opening at a gain and selling to the extent of 134,000 shares, with a gain of 3c. The movement in this stock is the only explanation. Other features of the early trading were Erie, United States Steel and Colorado Fuel, all of which showed improvement. On the other hand, Reading, Union Pacific, Canadian Pacific and St. Paul were heavy, though not to a marked degree.

Prices held barely steady in the early afternoon, though renewed pressure was brought to bear against St. Paul, and Louisville lost 1/8 of its early gain. Rock Island also fell off, and Reading, which was freed of its early advance, closed at a profit of 1/4c.

Bank Clearings. WASHINGTON, Nov. 18.—Today's transactions available cash balances.....\$204,734,754 Gold.....118,615,082

SALE OF PRODUCE AT THE BAY CITY. SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 18.—(Special.)—Potatoes and apples are firm.

NEW YORK, Nov. 18.—Tin recovered about 1/4 of yesterday's close, spot closing at London at 114, and futures at 113 1/2. But the London market is still strong, with a standard closing at 107 1/2 nominal; Lake, 115 1/2; 60c electrolytic, 114 1/2; and casting, 113 1/2.

MINING STOCKS. SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 18.—Official closing quotations for mining stocks.

SECOND STREET TO ARMS! Dr. Strowbridge Resists the Action of the Street-Car Companies.

PORTLAND, Nov. 18.—(To the Editor.)—The electric cars are now back on Third and other streets, being descended Second street after making the round street a convenience for a number of years, and the several daily papers refer to said street as the Hong Kong route, and say that the employees' guild road express extreme joy at the change, as they despised the Second street route.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE AT NEW YORK. NEW YORK, Nov. 18.—Official closing quotations for grain and produce.

CHANGES IN AVAILABLE SUPPLIES. NEW YORK, Nov. 17.—Special cable and telegraphic communications received by Broadway's show the following changes in available supplies, as compared with last accounts.

WHEAT, UNITED STATES AND CANADA, AND OF ROGLIES, INCREASED.....2,140,600 Afloat and in Europe, increased.....2,000,000

GRAIN AT SAN FRANCISCO. SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 18.—Wheat steady. Barley steady. Oats firm.

EUROPEAN GRAIN MARKETS. LONDON, Nov. 18.—Wheat—Cargoes on gas-stove sellers at advances of 1/2c cargoes No. 1 standard California, 30s 1/2; Walla Walla, 29s 1/2.

LIVERPOOL, Nov. 18.—Wheat—Firm. No. 1 standard California, 6s 7d. Wheat and flour in Paris firm. French country markets steady. Weather in England, frosty.

COMMERCIAL NOTES

DEBTS IN GOVERNMENT, MUNICIPAL AND MISCELLANEOUS SECURITIES.

MARGINS REQUIRED: Grain, 1c per bushel; Stocks, \$2 per share. Commission, grain, 1-5c per bushel; stocks, 1-4 of 1 per cent.

PAKING IN BOXES. The market for prunes in boxes is readily apparent. Buyers readily pay the advance of 4c per pound for prunes packed in 50-pound boxes.

FRUIT MEN HAVE EVERYTHING TO GAIN AND NOTHING TO LOSE BY PACKING BEFORE THE FRUIT IS PLACED UPON THE MARKET.

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Capital and Surplus, \$300,000.00

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CEREAL MARKETS STRONG

DECREASED RECEIPTS HELP WHEAT PRICES AT CHICAGO.

Feature of the Corn Trade is the Active Covering by Shorts—Up Three Cents on the Day.

CHICAGO, Nov. 18.—Wheat ruled firm, and the market was active, with good commissioning. Receipts for the week were 3,000,000 bushels, but the market was active, with good commissioning.

There was a fair trade in oats, December closing 1/2c lower, at 27 1/2c. The market was active, with good commissioning.

WHEAT. Opening. Highest. Lowest. Closing. December.....70 7 1/2 69 7 1/2 68 7 1/2 69 7 1/2

CORN. November.....55 1/2 54 1/2 53 1/2 54 1/2 55 1/2 54 1/2 53 1/2 54 1/2 55 1/2

OATS. Dec. (new).....30 30 1/2 29 1/2 30 1/2 30 1/2 30 1/2 30 1/2

LARD. November.....10 10 1/2 10 10 1/2 10 10 1/2 10 10 1/2

CASH QUOTATIONS WERE AS FOLLOWS: Flour—Firm. Wheat—No. 1 Spring, 78 1/2c; No. 2, 67 1/2c.

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