

Phases of Industrial Growth in the Pacific Northwest

APPROXIMATELY BECOMING FAMOUS

Wonderful Commercial Possibilities of Valley Drawing Orchardists.

BIG GAINS IN FEW YEARS

Scientific Cultivation and Care of Crops and Judicious Irrigating Have Made Lands Equal to Any in Entire Northwest.

MILTON, Or., July 11.—(Special.)—Although one of the oldest settled districts in either Oregon or Washington, the Milton-Freewater country, situated in the eastern end of Umatilla county, 12 miles across the state line from Walla Walla, is regarded from the standpoint of fruit-growing as a "new" and undeveloped territory. This aspect of the valley has been derived largely from the fact that during the half century and more that the Milton-Freewater country has been settled, it has been almost entirely a grain and hay-producing center. But few orchards have been planted here until the past two or three years, the original settlers of lands adjacent being wholly employed in the culture of cereals and grasses.

Present conditions, however, present an entirely new appearance to the newcomer from that shown five years ago. When the first of the few venturesome businessmen planted their apple orchards, they were discouraged on every hand, for it was not thought at all possible to grow a marketable apple in this valley. It was said the climatic conditions were such as to encourage pests and destroy for marketing purposes all the fruit of this variety grown here. Spraying was unknown, and the use of such useless and money thrown away. But things have changed to a marked degree, and now it is an acknowledged fact that there is no country on earth so especially adapted to the growing and culture of the Winesap, Rome Beauty and Jonathan apple as is this territory adjacent to Milton and Freewater. The soil seems to possess the best qualities required to bring out the richest color and flavor in this fruit, and in consequence hundreds of acres of apple orchards have been planted during the past two years. It will require from five to seven years to secure returns from these orchards, but once they become bearing trees their value is practically unknown.

Wealth From Old Trees. At the present time the wealth which is annually derived from the apple crop in this vicinity comes from orchards 10, 15 and 25 years old. These have been trimmed and sprayed until they are now capable of producing handsome revenues, and the fruit taken from orchards in this locality now stands in the front rank in any market in the world. Five years ago these same orchards were an eyesore to the fruit growers and their appearance did much to keep out the more progressive spirits in the horticultural world. The old trees have been large quantities of strawberries grown here for a number of years, but these were not properly picked nor packed and their value was being shown in outside markets that they are now making. Peaches, cherries and prunes have also been grown here to a certain extent, and the quality of these fruits has been so similar to that of the strawberry, that the Milton-Freewater section has not become as famous for its growing standpoint as it is in reality.

Better Prices Encourage. Increased prices which have been received for fruits grown here as a result of the better methods used in the production and marketing have given added incentive to grow better varieties and more strictly commercial fruits than has been the case heretofore. The question of irrigation has never been fully looked into by residents of this valley until the past two seasons, when the real need of plenty of water has been felt. Heretofore there was but one drop of water for irrigation purposes whatever and in many cases willful waste has been noted. But as more lands have been opened for cultivation and placed in orchards, a better equalization of the supply has ensued and more care exercised in using water. Consequently many times the number of acres which were originally under irrigation have been placed in a position where sufficient water can be secured to grow any kind or variety of fruit or garden stuff that is to be grown in the Northwest.

5000 Bearing Acres. There are approximately 5000 acres of bearing orchard and berry lands in the Milton-Freewater Valley at the present time, and it is estimated that 5000 more are to be planted to young trees. There are estimated 20,000 acres more, however, which are now being used for grains or less productive crops, which can readily be put into orchards and made to increase in value several hundred per cent within a short time. The value of the acreage last year amounted to approximately \$1,000,000, but it is possible to increase this sum many times, and that it will be done as the fruits of the valley are marketed. The general belief of those who have made this question a study. Increasingly better market facilities are also adding to the recovery of the valley from a fruit-grower's standpoint. The advent of the Walla Walla Valley Traction Company's line from here to Walla Walla, connecting with the Northern Pacific trains at that point, has given much advantage from a shipper's standpoint and this is being in the general activity of the fruit market here.

Willow Creek Supply Big. According to W. C. Mendenhall, of the geological survey, who conducted the explorations in Morrow county, the principal coal deposits of Eastern Oregon, so far as known, are on Willow Creek, about 22 miles from Heppner. The coal was discovered several years ago by Willard Herron and \$82,000 is reported to have been expended in the exploitation and development of this property, which is owned jointly by D. A. Herron, C. A. Redfield and George Conner.

PROPOSED \$15,000 HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING TO BE ERECTED AT WOODLAND.



STRUCTURE WILL BE MODERN IN EVERY DETAIL. WOODLAND, Wash., July 10.—(Special.)—Woodland will spend \$15,000 for a high school building that will house the local high school. The building will be 80x75 feet, two-story and a basement, and will contain eight class rooms, recitation rooms, library, teachers' rooms, principal's office, and large halls. The basement will be full concrete. The heating plant will be of modern construction. P. Chappelle Brown, of Portland, prepared the plans and specifications and will have supervision of construction, which will be within 15 days. A feature of the building will be that two of the class rooms running the length of the building can be thrown into one room in connection with the lower hall, by means of drop partitions, thus making a large assembly room.

OREGON COAL GOOD

Three Localities Mine Enough Fuel for Their Own Consumption.

MANY DEPOSITS FOUND

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BLACK PINE MAKES PULP

Supposedly Worthless Forests Prove Valuable.

Samples of Wood Sent to Lebanon Paper Mills Show Black Pine Surpasses Other Woods.

NEW YACOLT WATER PLANT

Reservoir Just Completed and Gravity System to Be Built.

VALE RAISES SEED ALFALFA

Farmers Make \$50 to \$150 an Acre Exclusive First Hay Crop.

TOWN WILL BUILD WHARF

White Salmon to Have Best Boat-Landing on Columbia.

WARREN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

317 BECK BUILDING, PORTLAND, OR.

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town, and everybody can get all the water he wants. The company is also in a position to connect with the fire hydrants, as soon as they are installed in the town. The Town Council has decided to put in a fire-hydrant system. The new reservoir is located on a large tract of land on a rise of ground 13-inch cut having been made in the side of the hill so as to reach a solid foundation. The reservoir is built on solid concrete piers. It is covered and screened so as to keep the water free from all possible contamination. The company has at present a pumping station, and the water furnished the citizens of Yacolt is pumped from deep wells. But the company has bought the falls on Big Tree Creek, three miles west of town, and expects before long to harness the falls, run a pipe line into Yacolt and thus establish a gravity system. The waterworks system in Yacolt was put in three years ago. R. F. Anderson is the manager and superintendent. A new bank will soon be opened in Yacolt by some Eastern men. The lots on which the new bank building will have been bought and construction work on the new block started. A new meat market building has just been completed, and an ice plant is to be erected in the rear of the building. The new, commodious hospital, which contains 14 rooms for patients, is finished, and as soon as it is furnished will be formally opened.

RAINS AID TO WHEAT

HEPPNER YIELD MAY EXCEED THAT OF LAST YEAR.

GRAIN IS NOW IN CONDITION TO WITHSTAND HOT WINDS WITHOUT DAMAGES.

HEPPNER, Or., July 11.—(Special.)—The rains of the past week and the continued cool weather has had a wholesome effect upon the grain fields of Morrow County. The rains which fell during the fore part of the week came in time to furnish a stimulus to the filling grain, and the cool days following have tided the grain through so that it will take several days of hot winds to have any telling effect. The crops on the Heppner Flat country and further south, near Hardman, will be much better than first expected, and the cool days following have tided the grain through so that it will take several days of hot winds to have any telling effect.

DITCH SUPPLYING WATER

Grants Pass Berry-Growers Make Use of Irrigation Canals.

GRANTS PASS, Or., July 11.—(Special.)—The irrigation ditch on the north side of the river has been completed. The ditch is now being used by the farmers and the berry-growers east of the city and up the valley. This week water was let into the city and its suburbs, and many people who have been complaining of the lack of water are now enjoying the advantage of the situation and using the irrigation company's water instead of the local company. One gardener who here has been paying for water at the rate of \$6 to \$10 a month during the irrigating season, secured water yesterday for his acre lot for the rest of the year for \$10, this being the amount fixed for farmers and fruitraisers to pay, and gardeners in the suburbs.

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drawn up and sent to the Secretary of State. The corporation will build and maintain a first-class wharf where the old dock now stands. For a number of years the people of White Salmon and the boat companies have been rebuilding and repairing the old dock. This has been very expensive and unsatisfactory, both to the people of White Salmon and the boat companies. Under the present plan the White Salmon Wharf Company will build and maintain a first-class dock and charge a reasonable price for all freight carried over it. The maintaining of a good, substantial wharf here is of great importance to the people of the entire valley, since it is the only place adjacent to the valley where the boats can land during high water. Plans for the new wharf are being drawn up and the work of construction will be begun at once.

Ferry License Is Renewed.

GOLDENDALE, Wash., July 11.—(Special.)—At the meeting of the County Commissioners this week a license was again granted to Ferryman Dean to operate a ferry on the Columbia between White Salmon and Hood River. The competition for this license was keen, but as the service in the past has been satisfactory and considering the fact that Mr. Dean had already secured the license on the Oregon side the Commissioner renewed the privilege for five years.

Rain Helps Stevens County.

COLVILLE, Wash., July 11.—(Special.)—The rains of the past week and the continued cool weather has had a wholesome effect upon the grain fields of Morrow County.

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