

W. C. M. LEONARD

Many Improvements in 1800-Acre Farm Made During Past Two Seasons.

GOOD RETURNS EXPECTED

Builder of Multnomah Hotel, Now Practical Agriculturist, Improves Large Holdings Near Grants Pass for Future Home.

BY ADDISON BENNETT.

In my article regarding the Grants Pass country I purposely left out all mention of the Leonard Orchard Company, whose lands lie only a few miles west of the town. This was done for the reason that I considered the activity in this company of so notable a nature as to be well worthy a separate article.

As the story is understood that the company will hereafter be known in this article as C. M. Leonard, the principal, more than likely the sole owner of the Leonard Orchard Company in the days when the Leonard Construction Company was building the Multnomah Hotel, C. M. Leonard, the head of the company and in actual charge of the work, and while in the state he made a good impression upon all with whom he came in contact.

Large Tract Purchased. While here engaged in construction work he traveled around some and finally became interested in the Grants Pass section, as will any man who goes down there with a car-searching eye and unprejudiced mind and studies the agricultural conditions and then gets the prices of land. Mr. Leonard did this and as a result he purchased about 1800 acres of valley land lying on both sides of the Applegate River, from three to seven miles from Grants Pass, in a westerly direction from the city.

He did not come into possession of this tract until about January 1, 1912, less than two years ago. There was about 30 acres and a hop yard of about the same size. The cleared land altogether amounted to something like 800 acres. Much of this was in grass or meadow land, about 100 acres in alfalfa and the rest was cropped in grain, of the most of it aside from the orchard and hop land.

For two seasons then Mr. Leonard had possession of the farm. What has he done? He has cleared the hop yards, waited for the "boom" to come along that he might sell out at a large profit. On no large farm in the state has there been the activities which have been on the Leonard farm. He has cleared nearly 100 acres of woodland, and to clear 100 acres of brush and deadlands, take out stumps and lay out root plow depth, then plow the land, grade it for irrigation and crop it—the Lord knows that is some work!

That has been done on the Leonard tract, and 80 acres more will be cleared this winter, more the winter following—he hopes to have every acre cleared in six or seven years.

Cultivated Land Extended. The hop yard has been increased to 60 acres, the orchard to 70 acres. A new water system has been installed, miles and miles of pipe have been constructed, roads have been built, buildings repaired, fine crops of hay, alfalfa and grain, including 40 acres of fine corn have been raised, and four fine bungalows are being built, good enough to grace the best of Portland's suburbs. These are for the help, one of them for Mr. Leonard's son, who has gone on at a disadvantage owing to a lack of team work between owner and manager. Mr. Leonard finds no particular difficulty in getting the best of his team. They just did not pull together exactly right, so they decided to separate. About a month ago C. P. Niles, who is in charge of a large farming enterprise near Medford, was engaged by Mr. Leonard and he is now at the head of affairs.

That was how I came to get track of the farm and spend a day there going over the land and learning of the business, for Mr. Niles was a resident of Irigoin in the palm days of the irrigator and Rabbittville, being foreman of farming operations for the Irigoin company, but as a capable man, a man of the best of habits, level-headed, clean in every way, honest as the sun, will be on the job every hour of every day, and will be a better man Mr. Leonard could not have secured.

Home Site Chosen. If you go down to the Leonard farm and cross the Applegate on the west side you will observe a promontory upon the extreme western edge of the tract. It is a lovely spot, such as an artist might fancy as an ideal subject for pastoral canvas.

"On that knoll," says Mr. Leonard, "I'm going to build me a home, not a house, not a dwelling, not a mansion or a palace, just a splendid home-like home."

Others who explain that he did not buy the place as a something to develop and make a big and quick profit on. He intends to develop it to its capacity as a general farm, as a fruit farm as the name implies, but as a general dairy, stock and fruit farm. They are now milking 45 registered cows, Holsteins, Jerseys and Guernseys, and are experimenting to see which they like best. A carload of 20 registered Holsteins and 14 calves, also registered, arrived the evening I was there.

"We intend to get our dairy up to 500 milkers in a couple of years," said Mr. Niles, and keep 100 brood sows and perhaps 50 brood mares—any animal registered or subject to registry."

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