

Fruitgrowing Industry in State Is Now Being Conducted Along Practical and Scientific Lines

Output in 1915 Not as Large as in Previous Years, but Quality Is Improved—Standard of Apples Is High—Prune and Pear Crops Profitable.



Young Apple Orchard in The Shadow of Mt. Hood.

Oregon fruitgrowers have had little to complain of in the results of their operations in the past year. It was not to be expected that prices would be high with the fluctuating export trade caused by the European war, yet in spite of all the adverse circumstances, their net returns have been quite satisfactory.

Particularly were the applegrowers gratified in this respect, as predictions were freely made before the season opened that apple prices would be unremunerative. Instead of this, values proved to be better than in some previous years.

Apple Production Less.
The apple crop of Oregon in 1915 is estimated at about 1,124 cars. It was a short crop year, the output being about 40 per cent of that of 1914, owing to climatic conditions. The Hood River district did not fall off as much as some of the others, but all sections were affected. In Western Oregon particularly, the very dry season in the preceding year had much to do with reducing the 1915 crop, and as the winter following was also short of moisture, the orchards naturally suffered.

The present winter weather is exactly what the fruit trees need, and from that standpoint the prospects are excellent for a very large yield in the summer and fall of 1916.

It has been one of the fastest shipping seasons the apple trade here has ever known. Only a few hundred cars are now left in storage in this state. The new apple acreage, which is scattered all the way from Clackamas County to Cow Creek Canyon in Douglas County, is estimated at about 25,000 acres. It is estimated, will come into bearing in 1916, and with the ideal winter weather conditions, the prospects are for a bumper crop of Oregon apples.

Prune Growing Profitable.
The Oregon Italian prune crop amounted to about 25,000 pounds of dried product and it was disposed of early at good prices. The prune industry in the Northwest has a most promising future. There has been a material increase in the acreage and a steady growth in the output is assured. Not only are the farmers finding it one of the most profitable fruit crops for this climate, but as the old prune lands in California are being put to other uses, an enlarged demand for the Northern fruit can be expected. Prunes from here have made a study of the subject estimate that within the next few years the Northwest will be able to turn out

annually about 50,000,000 pounds of dried prunes, which will represent an income of about \$2,000,000 a year. This will put the prune industry in the same class as the other great agricultural industries of the Northwest.

A considerable part of the prunes in Oregon is paid out in the immediate vicinity of the orchards for farm and packing-house labor, which gives the money ready crop.

Bumper Peach Crop Hoped.
Oregon produced in the past year one of the largest peach crops in the history of the state. The abundant yield here was partly responsible for the low prices that prevailed, but the weakness of the market was due principally to the very unsatisfactory peach markets in the East. Still, had the growers of Western Oregon been more closely organized, it is said that better values might have been realized for a part of the crop.

The pear crop was an extremely short one and quickly passed out of growers' hands. The pear market improved as the season advanced and the stock placed in storage was taken out at very good prices.

The small fruit crops were of about the average size and for the most part brought good prices in the Portland and home markets.

Not only are conditions favorable for the manufacture of good cheese, but they are equally favorable for the manufacture of good butter. Our cool climate, water, and soil are able to produce a higher grade of raw product with less expense and trouble than in any section of the United States. In order to take advantage of these climatic conditions, it will be necessary to teach the farmer to take better care of his cream; creameries to grade and pay for cream according to quality; and the consumer to pay for quality. At the present time, to develop a market where butter and cheese will be sold on a quality basis, and to induce the newspapers and the business men to share with the dairymen, a little of the publicity and boosting they have been devoting to the fruit business, these things done, in less than a year New York City will be consuming Oregon dairy products. What will the result be? In a few years Western Oregon will be a land of open roads and good homes, of fertile clover and vetch fields dotted with high-producing dairy cattle, good hogs, and poultry.

Oregon now has some 250,000 dairy cows, and is making annually some 14,000,000 pounds of butter, and 1,500,000 pounds of cream. Let us suppose that 100,000 dairy cows, 20,000,000 pounds of butter, and 1,500,000 pounds of cream from their immediate vicinity, and not by the cream-

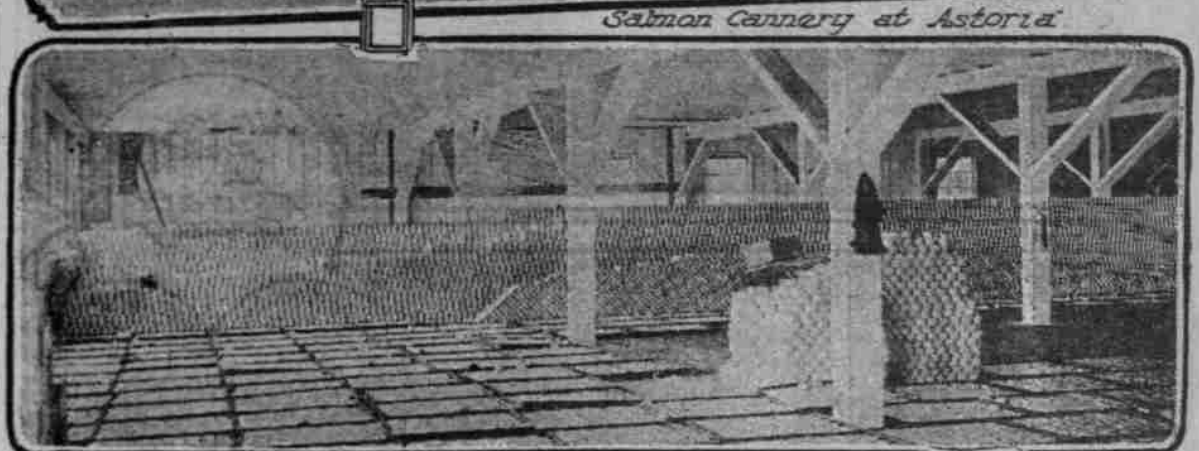
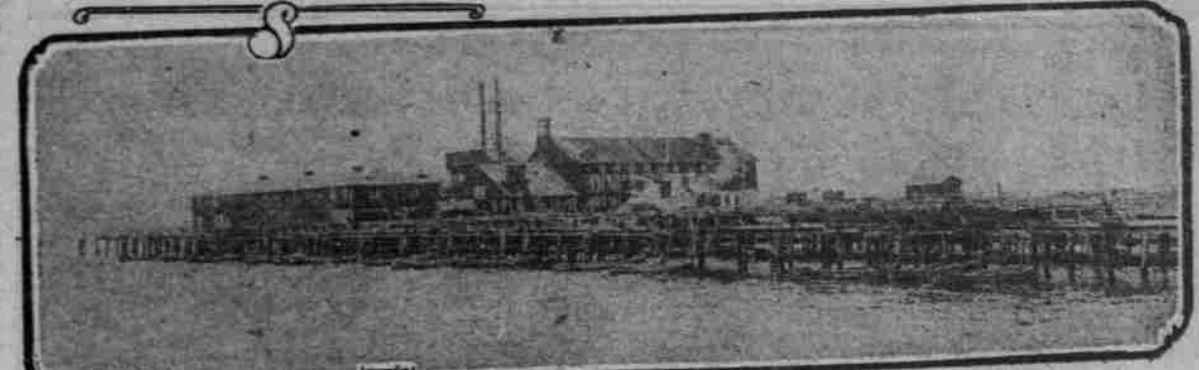
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Output of Canned Salmon in Oregon Reaches Total of 714,108 Cases, Valued at \$6,000,000

Total Pack Weighed 21,453 Tons and Required 34,325,000 Cans—Chinook Salmon, King of Oregon Fish, Has High Food Value—Hatchery Methods Effective.



Butcher's Room
It takes four years to obtain results in this work, and in 1914, the first year in which results could be expected, the industry had the largest catch pack, from a financial standpoint, in its history. Still there were some who doubted the work of the hatchery department and expressed the idea that the run last year was unusual, but liable to happen any time. But when the figures for the 1915 pack began to roll in with an increase of 15 to 18 per cent over those of 1914 the most skeptical literally "sat up and took notice," and are now among the strongest in their praise of modern hatchery methods.

Much Wealth Produced.
This season there have been liberated in the commercial streams of the Columbia River district about 17,000,000 Chinook salmon fry by the Fish and Game Commission. The commercial fish are not liberated till they are from four to six months old and from four to five inches in length. By retaining them in the feeding ponds until they have attained this age and size they are more able to withstand the rigors of the stream, and those which are liberated are better able to protect themselves from the cannibal fish which infest all our waters.

The commercial fishing industry of this state is so important that were it to be wiped out entirely over night it would directly affect the means of livelihood of about 8,000 of our citizens and indirectly would cripple the incomes of many hundreds more, while hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of nets, wheels, gear, boats and machinery would become idle and useless. Since authentic records have been kept the salmon industry on the Columbia River has produced over \$100,000,000, or approximately \$25 per acre per year for every surface acre on our majestic river.

Oregon is furnishing each year an increasing quantity of canned salmon to the markets of the world. It is one of her important industries, which, under modern hatchery methods, will continue to grow and develop. The results obtained in the last two years have more than justified the retaining and feeding ponds adopted by the Fish and Game Commission. Should the state now take a backward step and discontinue the modern feeding system, the packing industry immediately would begin to slump. As it is the state is keeping alive and growing an industry which is of vital importance to thousands of her citizens, and it is doing this without any expense to the taxpayers. To paraphrase a familiar quotation, "the State of Oregon casts its fish into the waters and in four years they return manifold to bless and enrich us."

Oregon's Hop Crop 100,000 Bales
While Yield Was Lower Than in Former Years, Quality Was Good—Export Causes Held Prices to Lower Level.

By T. L. McNeill.
THE 1914 season passed with the general range of prices higher toward the close than at any time during the year, considerable activity being shown by English and American buyers. The apparent lack of interest the brewers have taken in this year's hop situation; and last and by far the most vital factor, the prohibition movement, which has caused a heavy loss in trade and decreased consumption, as well as the cancellation of many contracts with brewers that are located in states that are affected by prohibition, which loss ultimately falls on the grower.

The general range of prices since the opening of the season ruled steadily from 8 to 12-1/2 cents, the bulk of the buying being done between 10 and 12 cents at country points. Had conditions been such that dealers would have done the usual volume business with brewers in the fall, with no war conditions to contend with, the prevailing prices would have undoubtedly ruled higher.

As is always the case when market conditions advance, growers are hardest to deal with; business during the month of August came to a standstill, awaiting principally the outcome of the new crop, the estimated production of which was being hurriedly figured. The crop was on one side to 150,000 bales, and on the other, as it is possible to estimate, the actual production of Oregon for 1915 will not exceed 100,000 bales—about the same amount as was grown in this state during the high-priced year of 1911.

The exceedingly low production was due mainly to serious trouble with vermin during the summer. Notwithstanding the persistent spraying on the part of the growers, many yards fell short of their usual production. However, the short crop as it turned out, is ample to supply the demand at present; since the principal demand has come from those who are supposed to be covering sales made last summer, and those having term contracts with brewers. The export demand likewise has kept the market at a steady level since its opening; particularly has the price been maintained for the better grades, which in this state are not as plentiful as is usually the case.

The fall of 1915 will go down in the hop history as witnessing one of the most difficult problems that have ever

East Is Calling for Dairy Products From Oregon

Big Future Awaits Great Industry if Supply Is Built Up and Exager Markets Are Developed. Home Consumption Equals and in Some Cases Exceeds Supply Now.

By R. E. Green, Professor of Dairy Husbandry, Oregon Agricultural College.
THE future of this great industry in Oregon and the Northwest? That is the question that has been troubling many dairymen during the past year. Two years ago dairymen were making great strides of progress in Oregon. Today it is practically standing still. Of course, the financial stringency that has crippled many industries has also to some extent injured the dairy industry. Hard times have caused many families to economize in the consumption of butter and other dairy products, and thus the total consumption in our home markets has undoubtedly decreased somewhat.

A year ago a shipment of butter was imported from New Zealand and Australia, and there was great fear among the dairymen that this foreign competition would destroy our business. The total amount imported, however, was very small, and the moral effect was worse than the actual damage. This last summer has seen butter in quite large amounts exported from the

Pacific Coast to New Zealand and Australia, and it is not far from the truth to say that some of this butter was so poor that it was returned.

The real problem for the dairymen to face is the fact that Oregon and the Pacific Coast are producing practically as much butter as is consumed, though our production of cheese has not as yet equaled its consumption. If our dairy industry is to continue growing and we are to become a great and prosperous dairy state, we must turn soon to outside markets.

COUNTIES' RESOURCES BIG

Productive Lands Are Available at Reasonable Prices.

Among the counties in Oregon that offer splendid opportunities to home-suckers and investors are Curry, Columbia, Grant, Harney, Wheeler, Polk and Sherman. Curry and Columbia counties have large areas of standing timber, they are well watered and are ideal dairying sections.

Grant, Wheeler and Sherman counties, in Eastern Oregon, are important stockraising and wheatraising sections. Harney County, in the southeastern corner of the state, is famous for its production of livestock. Cattle and sheep are raised there on an extensive scale.

Polk County, in the Willamette Valley, is rich in natural resources. It has considerable standing timber, a large area of fertile farm land. Diversified farming is carried on extensively in that county.