

CROP OUTLOOK STILL CONTINUES BRIGHT

Federal Reserve District Review Is Issued.

PRICES ARE UNCERTAIN

Notable Exception Is Grape Market Where Abnormally High Returns Prevail for Growers.

September reports from various sections of the 12th federal reserve district show that favorable crop conditions continue to prevail, says the review of general business and agricultural conditions issued under date of September 27 by John Perrin, chairman of the board. Compared with August the condition of the ranges and general crops in California, Oregon, Washington and Idaho has improved, due to timely rainfall in the Pacific northwest.

The report says in part: "Harvesting of all grains and picking of remaining fruits are in progress and reports of good quantity and quality of yield are in the majority; but the prices which most of the various agricultural products of this district will bring are still uncertain, and this is causing an underlying note of concern. A notable exception to this general statement is the wine and table grape market, where abnormally high prices have prevailed. Compensation for short crops of peaches and pears has been found in the high prices which they brought, but pears are not selling strongly at the opening figures quoted last month; prices of the main crops of the district generally and for the northwestern apple crop are not so high as last year's; however, almonds and walnuts are facing destructive competition from Europe, and almonds have just opened at prices 20 per cent below those of last year; prices so far offered for the present rice crop are less than those of 1919, and prices for the large wool clip of the district remain at what growers consider ruinous levels.

Lumber unsettled. "The lumber industry of the Pacific coast is seriously unsettled by the application of the new freight rates, and mining throughout the district manifests no improvement over the inactivity of 1919. Business generally, however, while indicating the hesitancy natural under present revisions in the wholesale prices of numerous commodities, is reported to be satisfactory and sound. Business failures show a decrease compared with last month, and labor continues to be fully employed, without strikes or disturbances of consequence. Although interest rates show no tendency to weaken, the available funds in the district seem reasonably adequate for all legitimate needs, which is encouraging in view of the heavy seasonal demand for crop moving, now at its peak.

"Harvesting of hops is now in full swing, except the late crop in parts of Oregon. As picking progresses the crop appears to be slightly smaller than was estimated a month ago, due to unfavorable weather conditions during this period. Prices are holding steady and the growers are receiving from 55 to 62 cents a pound. Ready markets are indicated in Japan, Australia, India and South Africa, which are expected to absorb the majority of the crop of the Pacific coast, practically all of which will be exported this year. The European market is uncertain.

Fewer Apples Indicated. All estimates still point to a much lighter crop of apples throughout the district than last year. The total 1920 production is now forecast as 29,041,000 bushels as compared with 38,484,000 bushels in 1919.

Prices are lower than last year in all sections. The bumper apple crop elsewhere in the country, particularly in New York, and the increased freight rates from western shipping points have combined to bring down the price offered to the grower here. Early sales in the northwest varied from \$2.75 to \$1.50 a box, depending on variety and quality. California Bellflowers are now being offered at \$1.25 a box as compared with \$1.60 earlier in the year.

FARMER AID REQUESTED

RELATIONS OF AGRICULTURE AND BUSINESS REVIEWED.

Railroad Official Tells Club Close Co-Operation of City and Country Beneficial.

Relation of the business man to the farmer was reviewed by the Progressive Business Men's club at the regular weekly meeting yesterday noon at the Benson hotel. "Farmer" Smith, agriculturist of the Oregon-Washington railroad, spoke, and the Crystal room was bedecked with vegetables and fruit provided by Market Master Eastman.

As a prelude to the speaking programme the garden truck, which was gifts from the Japanese gardeners selling products on the public market, were given away to the members.

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present. Nearly enough produce was on hand to provide every member present with a pumpkin, squash, head of cabbage or some other fruit or vegetable.

"Farmer" Smith in his talk emphasized the fact that the welfare and prosperity of the city and business generally is largely dependent upon the farming community, and urged business men to co-operate in all ways possible with farmers and with other elements in the commun-

ity to the end of increasing production and putting farming upon a more stable and profitable basis.

Hoquiam, Elma, Montesano, Cosmopolis and Oakville. Teachers in other towns and in the rural schools will have their institute at Montesano on Monday for three days. It will be attended by teachers from Aberdeen.

Grays Harbor Teachers to Meet. (Special.)—Six lectures, to be delivered by Dr. Bailett of New York State university, will be the chief feature of the Grays Harbor county institute which will meet in Aberdeen Monday for three days. It will be attended by teachers from Aberdeen.

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