

HOP CROP IS THE KING OF OREGON

Weather Improves Outlook in Willamette Valley and Immense Yield Predicted—Picking Arrangements Being Made.

(By William J. Clarke.)
(Special Correspondent of The Journal.)
Gervais, Or., Aug. 5.—Hop picking in Oregon will be in vogue soon after September 10, not before.

Owing to late rains the crop has improved wonderfully and where a few weeks ago a light crop was anticipated the outlook is now bright. Weather conditions have added fully 20 per cent to the crop.

This condition has not caused the crop to mature any earlier but to the contrary. The bur is now forming and is more numerous. It will be what is termed a "top crop" and it is thought that the bur will be small and light—that idea now remains to become a fact.

A personal visit to numerous yards situated at Gervais, near Angel, Monitor and Marquam induce the belief that the yards inspected will produce a normal crop, say four bales per acre, on an estimated average of about 18,000 in the state, not including new yards. New yards having suffered most from the dry season, and in many cases will produce little or nothing.

Oregon in the Lead.
Under favorable conditions Oregon is the hop producing section of the United States today. It was not until 1863 that the production of hops acquired in Oregon any standing as a commercial commodity. It is true that a few vines were bearing as early as 1850, but not to any large extent was the cultivation carried on. The past 25 years has demonstrated the adaptability of Oregon soil to the growth of the hop vine.

The first efforts at extensive hop growing were made at Payallup, Washington, in 1866 when John V. Meeker set out half an acre. He dried the hops in an attic and obtained 155 pounds which he readily sold at 80c per pound. Later yards were planted at Bunsenville in Marion county, and from this small beginning has emanated the vast acreage that now covers the Willamette valley easily reaching 25,000 acres.

Many Enter Field.
The early history of the culture of hops in Oregon tell of success in the business and up to quite recent years an average of 15 cents per pound was obtained as an average price gross to the producer. As a consequence of these high prices many were induced to go into the business, partly to diversify their farming work.

It was a steady phenomenal growth until 1882, when a crop equaling 100,000 bales was produced in Oregon, as well as a like proportion in other hop-growing countries and the grower was facing an immense surplus and was only able to obtain 8 cents to 9 cents for all grades. This caused many to go out of business with a loss and many acres were plowed up and thousands of acres were allowed to go uncared for and the total yield in 1897 was almost half of the year previous.

During this time there has been some phenomenal price years, especially in 1882, when prices went sky high and it is related that the Hon. Geo. H. Hood had 5,000 pounds for which he refused \$1.15 per pound, holding out for \$1.25 per pound. He finally sold the crop for 25 cents per pound and the mortgage on his fine farm was never paid.

The same year a 20-bale lot was sold in California for \$1,074 per pound. These are the highest offers and prices ever paid on this coast for hops, and it is doubtful if it will ever be repeated.

Outranks Other States.
So much for the ancient history of this crop that means so much for the prosperity of one state and employs such a vast array of workers and distributes wealth to the rich and poor alike. Oregon outranks both Washington and California in acreage, yield and quality, with the single exception of Sonoma county, California, which leads the world in quality. It is history that Wisconsin at one time produced 30,000 bales. None worth speaking of is grown there now.

New York, once a large producer, now grows less each year. Washington is increasing her right along. Oregon is forging ahead and while Madison county, New York, was once the largest hop-producing county in the world, now Marion county, Oregon, holds that title. Oregon produces annually one-third of the hops grown in the United States and there is no telling the limits one state will obtain.

The facts have been demonstrated that Oregon can grow hops at less cost in the bale than any other known section. In Europe, even with cheap labor, it costs 15 cents per pound to raise hops and put them in the bale. In New York state it costs about 12 cents per pound to accomplish the same results. Here in Oregon hops can be produced for 5 cents. In some instances even a trifle less. Why is this possible? In the first place, Oregon and New York are obliged to fertilize extensively each year as well as to fight vermin and weather conditions. This is not the situation in Oregon and Washington. Our soil is deep, rich and virgin; it has not yet had to be brought up to tilth by artificial methods.

While this is so; yet it does seem folly for our planters to vie with each other to see how cheaply they can produce this crop. To an onlooker, this seems to be the situation when growers enter into perilous contracts at figures hovering about 10 cents per pound, which is nothing more than an average price.

Uplands and Lowlands.
In this state there is two hop-growing sections and they are denominated uplands and lowlands. The lowlands produce heavily and carry much foliage liable to pest and ripen late. The uplands do not have near the yield, nor the foliage, nor so liable to vermin and ripen earlier.

The average yield per acre, when the acreage is considered, amounts to about 800 pounds per acre. It is certain that Oregon has 25,000 acres and an average yield under favorable circumstances would be 100,000 to 110,000 bales of hops, estimating each bale at 200 pounds. All of this will not be choice, but range down quite a few degrees.

The quality terms in vogue by dealers are: Strictly choice, choice, choice prime, prime, common prime, medium, and each one means just what its name implies.

Sandy River Bottoms.
The soil best adapted to the growth of the hop vine is the low sandy river bottoms, dry rolling sandy uplands, oak grub lands and our black prairie lands. The season being favorable to an easy harvest of the crop then the bottom lands are best. When unfavorable conditions prevail, then the rich uplands are best. The liability to mold causes this distinction.

An early harvest of the crop is very desirable, and this is not so possible in

the bottom lands owing to heavy foliage and rank growth.

Every section produces a slightly different grade of hops, differing only in color. This is not due to drying, although sulphering may bring the color nearly the same, but mother earth alone is responsible.

Susceptible to Care.
No crop is so susceptible to care and cultivation as is the hop. When properly cared for the soil will produce enormously, and as it comes from the root annually, does not have to be annually planted, only cared for and produces accordingly.

Higher Price for Picking.
Pickers will be better paid this year than formerly. It would not be surprising to see here a rate of 50c per box of nine bushels prevailing. Why? Simply because times are prosperous and those who engage in this work don't have to pick hops unless prices are remunerative. Then, again, hops will sell higher than usual, especially since there are so few contracts compared with former years against the crop.

This season growers may not like the idea of paying from 45c to 50c per box, yet it must be paid, else the crop will go unpicked.

Hop picking is an enjoyable outing in addition to the financial aspect of the case. We find whole families that make enough in a few weeks from hop picking to keep them in good shape during the winter.

As a rule the hop farmer does much toward making the picker feel "at home" while on his premises, and it is not infrequently the case that potatoes and like vegetables are supplied freely to pickers, and many of them maintain neat and comfortable living quarters.

Pickers are already being engaged and it is possible that there will be all the help necessary to harvest the crop.

A Few Statistics.
Oregon has 25,000 acres in cultivation to hops. An average yield per acre, based on actual results, divided by actual acreage, is 800 pounds or thereabouts per acre.

It cost \$1,350,000 to gather and cure the crop of Oregon hops in 1903. The crop of hops in Oregon in 1903 netted the producers \$3,500,000.

At 25 cents per pound, an acre will produce \$200, and already this season's crop, on the poles, has been sold at \$100 per acre.

From 24,000 to 25,000 people are employed to gather the Oregon hop crop each year.

It takes 15 days to harvest the Oregon hop crop and 1,000,000 pounds are cured daily on an average.

The hop crop is the uncrowned king of the Willamette valley.

In this article the writer has endeavored to treat the subject in a general manner that will interest, and all attempt to explain details are purposely omitted. As to cultivation, most of planting out a yard, cost of gathering, best way to manage and cure the crop, are texts for future articles.

Should Not Appear.
Statistics as to the status of the crop since 1860 are obtainable, and while of interest, should not appear in an article of this character.

While passing through the agricultural building at St. Louis, Mo., recently, the writer was attracted by the display of a large brewery concern and a sample of hops which, upon inquiry, we were informed were Bavarian hops. Rubbing a sample between our hands and taking the professional whiff, we were told "that they were the very best and imported for use of this especial brewery."

The individual in charge even went so far as to say that they were an exceptional kind that was raised from vines especially planted each year, and that they had to be replanted every year.

As the hop vine comes annually and our informant was apparently not posted on hop growing, we passed on to hear other hot-air stories.

Many breweries in the United States import continental hops and brew choice beer for favored and rich customers. A certain brewer in Portland, it is related, was once showing an up-country dealer through his establishment, and as the dealer was a hopgrower, Mr. Breweryman took him into his store-room to show him a few bales of "imported hops" just received. The head brewer was then taking out some hops from one of these "imported bales" and while so doing came across a printed card, which, upon examination, bore the "imported" dealer's name and address, and the wealthy brewer found out that that "imported" bale of hops had left Oregon and had been rebaled and rebranded and returned as the "imported" kind.

It is also related that dealers nowadays insist on having "no cards" in bales purchased. It was formerly a practice among growers to have cards printed bearing their name and address. This was before "dealers" were so active and growers had to seek the dealer. Now all this is changed, and the buyer seeks the grower, and seeks him often and

All Walks of Life.
Hop picking brings together an unusual lot of people and they come from all walks of life, not altogether for the money they can obtain; but on account of the healthfulness and the experience to be had.

During the picking season fun and pleasure rule supreme. There is the hop-house dance to which no formality inures. Then there is visiting among neighboring camps and hopyards. Candy pulling and all other classes of amusement, to say nothing of visiting the villages and towns on one pretext or another. It's a jolly, good-natured crowd from start to finish and the best of feeling and humor prevail, and accidents are turned into mirth, and during the long winter months form the topic for entertaining ears around the home hearstone.

Other states may have their cotton gathering, the corn husking bees, and their winter sports, yet we in Oregon long to live from one hop picking season to another and write in our diary "H. P. A. D. 1904."

Nor is the children overlooked; they are in evidence and are decidedly in the majority.

There is no easier, pleasanter or more healthy occupation to be found than that of hop picking and the outing incident thereto.

Schedule of Steamer I. J. Potter.
The seaside steamer T. J. Potter will leave Portland, Ash street dock, for Astoria and Ilwaco as follows:
August 8, Saturday, p. m.
Get transportation and berth tickets at O. R. & N. ticket office, Third and Washington streets.

GUESSING CONTEST TROLLEY PARTY

For the little girls who handed in answers to our Guessing Contest last month.

TOMORROW AFTERNOON AT 2 O'CLOCK

FIRST PRIZE

EVERY LITTLE GIRL IS INVITED

Who brought in a list of answers to the Puzzle Pictures in our Furnishing Guessing Contest. In fact, we gave every little girl a card which was a ticket for our Grand Trolley Party. And we want all those little girls to be our guests tomorrow afternoon.

We have engaged twenty cars, so there we will be room for all. Don't stay away on account of the crowd. There will be a nice bag of candy, a pretty badge and a fine horn for each little girl. A brass band will furnish music for you and you will have a fine ride.

As a favor to us, we'll ask you to be on hand at 1:30 P. M., sharp. It will take a good while to get started, so come early. Please come immediately to our Second-street entrance as soon as you arrive at our store. Every little girl must come in by that door and pass out to the cars by the front door. Bring your cards with you.

BE AT OUR STORE TOMORROW AT 1:30 P. M.
BRING YOUR CARDS WITH YOU

YOUR CREDIT IS GOOD

TULL

COMPLETE HOUSE FURNISHERS

GIBBS

MAKE YOUR OWN TERMS

LOGGING COMBINE IS NOT PROBABLE

AT PRESENT THERE IS NOT SUFFICIENT HARMONY AMONG COLUMBIA RIVER LOG MEN TO INSURE THE SUCCESS OF ANY ORGANIZATION.

At present the conditions do not appear favorable for the formation of a Columbia river loggers' association, and there is a variety of conflicting opinions among those interested. Some of the loggers complain bitterly about the scaling; others say that there is no use of curtailing the output as long as the Weyerhaeusers continue to put in millions of feet daily, while still others contend that they do not want to be used as figureheads in the move to effect an organization. Several of the loggers have expressed themselves as satisfied with present conditions.

One logger says that the Portland millmen have become familiar with the logs from various localities along the Columbia river and know just what each will produce in the matter of clears.

A number of the smaller camps are still closed down, waiting for the log market to look better, and some of the large ones have reduced their output.

The Benson Logging & Lumbering company has started up its Clatskanie

camp, after closing down for a few weeks, but its Bunker hill camp on the Washington side has been running continually.

H. L. Colvin of Marshland, the largest individual logger in that section, and county commissioner of Columbia county, is at the St. Charles hotel. Mr. Colvin stated that he was running his camp and found the demand for logs good. He owns several thousand acres of the best grade of yellow fir, and there is a constant demand for this timber as it produces a large percentage of clears.

Mr. Colvin said: "There is no difficulty in selling a high grade of logs at any time. I receive \$7 per thousand for my logs, which is likely all the market can stand at the present selling prices of lumber." In response to an inquiry, he said: "The scaling by the mills is satisfactory, and I have no complaint to make on that score. The present conditions are hard on men who are cutting a poor quality of logs, and I do not know what will become of some of them."

L. Saldren of the Deep River Logging company is taking things easy at his home in this city. He has been in the logging business on the Columbia river for 26 years, and said that during that period there had been five different times when logs dropped to bottom prices. He said:

"For some time past I have been selling to the Tongue Point Lumber company, near Astoria. However, I am again sending rafts to the Portland mills, and find a good demand at the present prices, as the lumbermen are anxious to get good logs. Although I have six donkey engines, the most of them are now lying idle, I am working a force of only 20 men on account of

the prevailing low prices of logs. The loggers should curtail the output."

O. E. Elliott, a popular Marshland logger, has gone into bankruptcy, his liabilities amounting to about \$25,000. Unfortunate sawmill speculations is given as the cause of his financial difficulty.

John West, bookkeeper for the Benson Logging & Lumbering company, has returned from several weeks' stay at the Green river hot springs in Washington.

James Muckle and family are now camped on the Coweeman in Washington.

S. Benson and family are camping on the Clatskanie, above the terminus of the logging railway.

TWO DROWN IN CLOUDBURST.
(Journal Special Service.)
Boulder, Col., Aug. 5.—A sudden rush of water caused by a cloudburst overwhelmed a camping party in Hummer gulch, near here, late yesterday afternoon, resulting in two deaths. Mrs. Lina Chambers, of York, Neb., and the 12-year-old daughter of Charles Renkes were swept away. Their bodies, badly bruised, were recovered late last night.

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The Kind You Have Always Bought
Bears the Signature of *Wm. D. Galt*

RECEPTION FOR VISITING KNIGHTS

LOCAL KNIGHTS TEMPLAR WILL ENTERTAIN DELEGATIONS PASSING THROUGH THE CITY EN ROUTE TO CONCLAVE—PITTSBURG LODGE WILL BE HERE ONE DAY.

The 29th triennial convolve of the Knights Templar will be held in San Francisco, September 5 to 10. Portland Knights are making elaborate preparations to attend the convolve, and will leave September 3. The Portland delegation will consist of between 50 and 60 Sir Knights and their ladies. There will be 20 ladies in the party will be largely represented at the convolve. There will be two cars of knights from eastern Oregon, one from Salem, and one from southern Oregon.

The convolve will be one of the largest that has ever been held. A number of Canadian officials will be present and an official representative will be sent from England, besides large delegations from all over the United States.

The Pittsburg lodge, conceded to be one of the richest and largest in the United States, has chartered a special train in which to make the trip across the continent. It will consist of six large Pullman sleepers, a 48-foot baggage car, a 22-foot dining car and four

compartment cars. The dining car was built to order for the tourists. The party will go by the northern route, arriving in Portland at 6:15 on the morning of August 31. They will remain in Portland until 4 o'clock in the afternoon, during which time they will be entertained by local knights. In the afternoon they will be tendered a trolley party in special cars. The party will breakfast and lunch at the Portland hotel. In San Francisco they will be entertained at the Palace hotel, 50 rooms having been engaged for the party.

EDITORS MEET AT MACOM.
(Journal Special Service.)
Macomb, Ill., Aug. 5.—The Military Tract Press association, one of the oldest state editorial organizations in the country, held its annual summer meeting here today. Papers on topics of interest to the editor and the newspaper worker were presented by Will Curtis of Kewanee, O. L. Campbell of Knoxville, Miss R. Louise Fitch of Galva, E. A. Snively of Springfield and a number of others.

Your Grocer is glad to moneyback Schilling's Best; it costs him nothing and brings him good-will and confidence. Why should he not be glad?