

We Have More Than Two-Thirds America's Hop Acreage

Oregon Has Twice as Many Acres in Hops as Rest of Country, and Then a Few

A Three Million Annual Income Asset for Salem District for Costs Alone, Even Though None is Left for Owners of the Yards

Oregon is the leading hop state in the union. This has been true for several years. It is growing more hops than all the rest of the world put together—and all the rest that are left are California and Washington. New York, once the greatest of the hop states, has gone out of the commercial growing of hops and is devoting its high priced land to other uses, and the few other states that got into the game including Michigan, are out of that line.

In February of last year a careful check showed 17,382 acres of hops in Oregon; nearly all within the trading district of which Salem is the center; in the Willamette valley counties. New yards are being planted this year, and very few acres of old hops that were on the land a year ago have been taken out.

California has about 6000 acres in hops. A recent check showed 2,555 acres of hops in Washington, nearly all in the Yakima district, western Washington having practically gone out of that business.

More to the acre California grows more hops to the acre than Oregon does, because all the yards there are irrigated. The same is true of Washington. Oregon growers who irrigate their yards get as large a per acre tonnage as do their neighbors on the north and south. But only a few of the larger yards in Oregon use irrigation.

Oregon in 1928 produced 83,886 bales of hops, figured at 200 pounds to the bale, of which 8,620 bales were of the early or fuggles variety, grown on 2,042 acres. The rest were of the late or cluster variety.

California produced last year about 60,000 bales of hops. Washington produced 31,310 bales, about 28,000 of them in the Yakima district.

What became of them? The crop of hops? Henry Corvener, of the firm of Durbin & Corvener, Salem, among the leading growers and dealers of this district, told the reporter a couple of days ago that there were unsold and in the hands of our growers 551 bales of cluster and 965 bales of fuggles hops. There is no sale for the fuggles, but some of the clusters were sold that day.

F. E. Needham, of T. A. Livesley & Co., the foremost hop merchants in their section, and among the largest growers here, and among the largest in the world, counting their connections with hop growing in British Columbia, said on the same day that there were unsold in the hands of the growers in this country the following: In Oregon, 6177 bales, in Washington, 2700 bales; in California, 10,189 bales of the 1928 crop and 4779 bales of the "old olds," meaning the crops of former years, running back to 1926 or farther.

The rest of the hops have been sold, about 80,000 bales of last year's crop going to consumers in the United States and the rest to other countries. The reports show about 23,000 bales going to the Irish Free State, England, Canada, South America and European countries.

About The 1929 Crop Mr. Needham said the growing conditions indicate for Oregon a 100,000 bale crop this year. The late rains have insured a more than average yield. But the harvesting of so large a crop will depend partly on the persistence with which spraying is done by the growers, for all the yards are already infested with lice. The Livesley people are spraying before the last heavy rains, were stopped by the storm, especially the high wind accompanying it, and are again at the work. Neglect of spraying will reduce the tonnage; how much would depend upon how general was the neglect.

There was an attempt last winter at organizing a coast wide association of hop growers, one of the objects of which was to limit the acreage picked, in order to prevent a surplus over the market demand. The movement met with indifferent success, but about 600 of California's 6,000 acres will not be picked; the vines have not been trained. This is also true of a small acreage in the upper Willamette valley, around Harrisburg and Eugene.

Washington authorities are expecting a crop in that state of about 24,700 bales this year. What Are Hops Worth? Mr. Needham estimates the average price paid for Oregon hops last year at 23 1/2 cents a pound for fuggles and 22 1/2 cents for clusters. The price depended partly upon the times of the sales. What can growers get now on contracts for this year's crop of

To Save Our Hop Industry, Organize

THE Salem district has the primacy in the whole world in quality of hops produced. It has some of the best equipped yards in the world; some of the largest, if not the largest. In acreage, this district has more than two-thirds of the hop vines of the United States, grown commercially. Based on the probable yield this year, we have a \$3,000,000 crop, for the expenses of production alone, without figuring any profit to the growers. Thus the industry brings \$3,000,000 or more annually into the channels of trade here—the most widely distributed income of that amount of any we have; for nearly every resident gets some of the hop money. Our hop industry has its back to the wall. It must organize, to either exist in anything like its present size, or to be stabilized and prosper.

It must have better tariff protection, especially on one of its by-products, lupulin. (See news article in this paper.) There is an effort on foot now for cooperative organization, for mutual protection and benefit. There are many things that may be done by common effort; nothing much can be accomplished by individual growers. There is a possibility of advertising the virtues of non-intoxicating malt drinks, for one thing. There are numerous other possibilities.

It is to be presumed that the present effort will succeed. No one who grows hops, and expects to keep on growing hops, has a right to stay out. Nothing else will either save or stabilize the hop industry, on its present acreage size here.

900 bale crop such as is expected the coming harvest. And the \$3,000,000 has a wide distribution, going to around 50,000 men, women and children in picking and packing time, to the laborers needed in cultivating the yards and training the vines, in various avenues of transportation, etc., etc.

It makes up a \$3,000,000 annual asset that would be much missed from the avenues of business here.

There is an attempt being made now to organize the Oregon hop growers into a co-operative association, of which more is said, in another part of this issue.

100 Per Cent Cooperation Sought by Hop Men Along Lines of Mutual Protection

It Is Very Plain That This is Highly Necessary If Their Industry Is to Be Kept From Destruction and Stabilized

An effort is being made to organize the hop growers of Oregon into a cooperative association. The preliminary work is being done largely by F. E. Needham, of T. A. Livesley & Co., Salem, who has already collected a mass of information and written many letters to the growers.

There are 517 different hop yards in Oregon, as told elsewhere in this issue, nearly all of them in the Salem trading district. Counting families and partnerships, and all the year around help, there are perhaps 5000 people directly interested in the industry here.

Counting the 50,000 pickers and helpers needed in harvesting time, there are about 55,000 people directly interested. Counting all who benefit from the \$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000 or more hop money annually entering the channels of trade here, practically all of the people of the Willamette valley are interested, to say nothing of the rest of Oregon's population.

Mutual Benefit and Protection The effort being made under the direction of Mr. Needham is for the mutual benefit and protection of the growers, in all the ways that are usual with a cooperative association.

A few months ago, a movement was started in California to limit the acreage of hops harvested. Meetings were held. The field was well covered, but not much was accomplished, beyond holding out about 600 acres of California's 6,000 in hops from bearing any crop this year; refraining from training the vines, and a few acres in the upper part of the Willamette valley, around Eugene and Harrisburg, will be held out this year.

That is something, but not a great deal in accomplishing what must be done if the industry is to be protected and stabilized. One of the ideas for the proposed new organization is to buy supplies in car lots. The plan is to have the growers pay 10 cents an acre into a common treasury for a working fund. They can save much more than this in the buying in car lots of soap for spraying alone.

There Are Many Ways There are many ways in which a cooperative organization could help the hop growers of this state. They may have the benefits of the new farm relief law in this way. They can get nothing as individuals. They can obtain help only as a cooperative concern. Under the new law, no aid will be given to any other group, and individuals as such will not be considered at all.

Recently a movement was started by the federal authorities to trace all the grapes grown in California to the dealers, thence to the eastern buyers and the consumers, with a view to finding what is done with the grapes; if the bulk of them were being made into wine, and the wine used in violation of the prohibition laws. The California grape growers' association, with a million dollar

Reid-Murdoch & Co. Plans Great Improvement in Big Plant Just Purchased Here

Magnitude of Company's Operations Best Explained by Statement of Huge Business Conducted in Eastern Part of Nation

(Continued from Page 1) It is the intention of the Reid-Murdoch company to build and landscape a park, 150x100 feet on the north end of the property, running from Front street to the Willamette river, with a bridge path around the exterior of this park, with a sunken garden and a cement paddling pond for the kiddies, terracing the river bank to the water's edge and putting in a bathing beach and a harbor for canoes and motor boats. There will also be dockage large enough for anchorage of amphibian planes.

People of Oregon, unless they have resided in the middle west or east are somewhat unfamiliar with the magnitude of the industrial enterprise carried forward under the name of Reid, Murdoch & Co. In points where they have established canneries, the industries have become important factors in local development. The Statesman gives a sketch and description of the organization to indicate to local people the substantial character of the enterprise.

Founded in 1883 The history of the house of Reid, Murdoch & Company is one of the conspicuous romances of American business.

Over three quarters of a century ago, when covered wagons were trending their way across the prairies and through the mountain passes, making the pioneer history of the West, two Scotchmen, Simon Reid, and Thomas Murdoch, were doing their pioneering on the banks of the Mississippi in the establishment of a mercantile house to provide supplies for this western migration.

These same two Scotch pioneer merchants, energetic and resourceful, first to sense the growing importance of Chicago, took their business there when the town was little more than a bustling western trading post. But their prudence was equal to their foresight, and when the great national disaster overtook the growing city of Chicago, and the buildings of Reid, Murdoch & Co., together with those of all other wholesale grocery houses were wiped out by the Chicago fire, Reid, Murdoch & Co., were one of the few firms that saved their books intact, and the business went on without interruption.

It was in Chicago that Reid and Murdoch built the first great wholesale grocery warehouse in the west. They chose for it, appropriately enough, the site of the "Wigwam," famous in American history as the headquarters of the great western trader, Jim Bridger.

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source flows from silver-lined tubes into sterilized bottles. The capacity of the Pierceton plant is about 24,000 bottles of Monarch catsup a day. This plant also has a capacity of something over 4200 dozen tins of pork and beans a day. Altogether nearly 2,000 cars of merchandise are sent from this plant yearly.

There is the plant of LaPorte, Indiana, supplying the demand for Monarch Toilet Tissues. The plants of the west coast, where the finest of fruits and berries are packed and where preserves are made.

There are the five canneries already operating in Minnesota, among them the one at Wadena, whose output of golden banana corn has for several years been awarded first prize by the Minnesota dairy and food department. Then there is the new Rochester, Minnesota, cannery just being completed, which is intended to make the outstanding cannery east of the Rockies. The main building is 127 by 330 feet and will be completed in time for this year's pack. The daily capacity of this plant is estimated at 3000 cases of corn and 1500 cases of peas.

Sixteen additional canneries are operated in Wisconsin, and there are others in Michigan, Illinois and other states.

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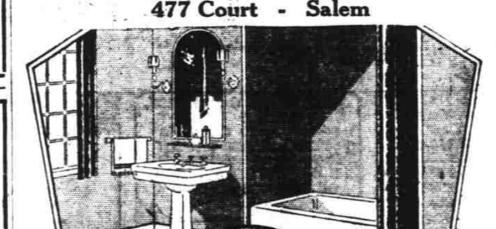
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