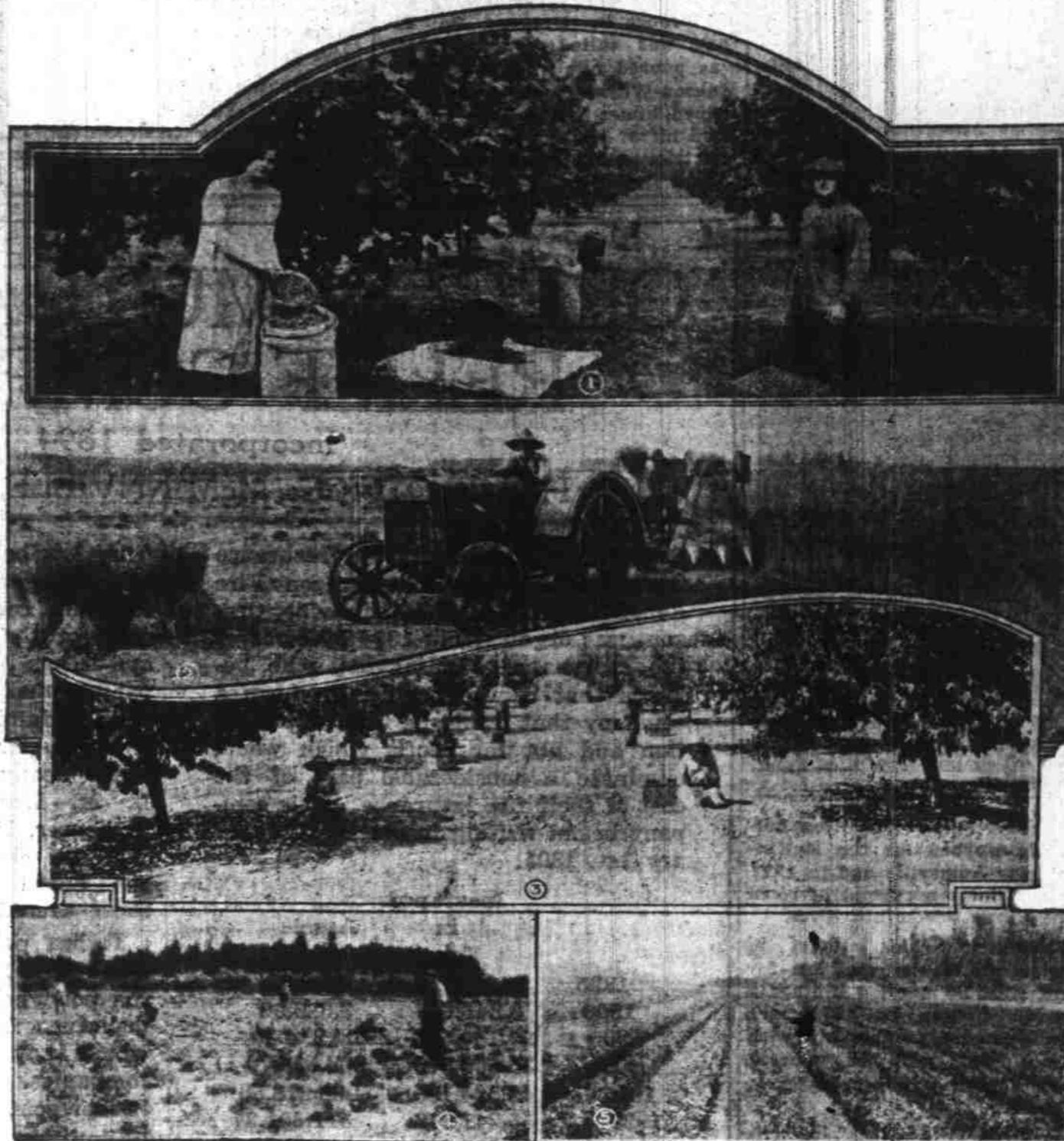


In a Country, "Good for Furs"

Plow Replaced Steel Trap; Immigrant Trains Brought a New Type of Settler; Variety of Crops Made Valley Strong, Rich

COUNTY DEVELOPMENT IN AGRICULTURE



1. FILBERT GROVE IN HARVEST TIME. 2. TRACTOR-DRAWN FLAX PULLER IN FLAX FIELD. 3. STRAWBERRY PATCH OF MANY ACRES. 4. CELERY GROWING AT LAKE LABISH.

Loganberries Met Rebuff at Start Because of Acid Content and Price

BY MRS. ALYN NUSOM

Many farmers here remember when loganberries were worth only one and one-fourth cents per pound and Richard Patterson, who set out his first berry patch about 12 years ago, recalls the fact that one year he lost his entire crop because there was no demand for the product.

A. W. Nusom, who owned a three-acre yard in 1904, shipped his first crop in five gallon cans to a company in Portland. The first halocks and crates were the knock-down type and after a few years this improved method of handling was used.

Today to every one then and still Oregon soil continues to yield.

Harvest time reveals the wide variety of crops now grown in this valley. A partial list includes hay, such as alfalfa, clover and grain; grain, wheat, oats, barley, rye and flax; vegetables of all kinds including cannery supplies of peas, beans, tomatoes, pumpkins and squash; fruits such as apples, pears, plums, peaches, apricots, prunes, cherries and grapes; berries, including strawberries, raspberries, loganberries, gooseberries and blackberries; dairy products such as butter, milk, cheese, cattle, sheep; wool, mohair, fibre flax, tobacco and flower bulbs including tulips and daffodils.

In the beginning of the loganberry industry the fruit was dried much the same as prunes are dried. A man named Powers in Salem was the first to take the berries through a drying process as an experiment. Dried berries, stewed or used in pies are said to have been of excellent flavor; and for many years no other use was made of the product. For several years Britt and Pier Aspinwall, brothers, operated a berry dryer which was built by them at Brooks in 1910.

Drying of Fruit Increased Output

After 1915 very little drying was done as canneries were in operation and various uses were found for the fruit. One of the first canneries built in Salem was the Oregon Packing company on 12th street, and later the King Dehydrating Co. and Hunt Brothers. Growers in this community increased their acreage as the demand increased.

However, there was not much demand and the producers received a low price for logans until beverages were made from the juice. In 1912 Cliff Pugh of Falls City built and operated the first juice plant. The highest price paid the grower was 13 cents per pound in 1919.

The first plants set out in Mission Bottom were those given to A. M. LaFollette in 1900 by Dr. J. A.

Richardson of Salem when he returned from a trip to California where he secured a few dozen of the newly propagated plants. They are a cross between the red raspberry and the blackberry and Judge Logan of California was the propagator. Soil and climate conditions were excellent here for the cultivation of this fruit and in a short time the berry industry began to grow.

In 1902 A. M. Aspinwall bought plants from Mr. LaFollette and set them out on his farm at Brooks. Later fifty acres were put into loganberries. It was mainly to accommodate Mr. Aspinwall that his sons, Britt and Pier Aspinwall, now of Waconda, constructed the dryer in 1910.

One hundred sixty acres were planted to logans in the year 1919 on the acreage now known as the McGilchrist berry farm. At present there are sixty-five acres in berries on this place.

When Al Nusom moved to his present home in 1926 a two-acre yard of logans was plowed up. This field was set out in 1900 by Mr. Nusom's father. Tons of berries of excellent quality had been harvested by Mr. Nusom on this piece of ground but after twenty-six years the yield was so small as to make it necessary to remove this crop to make way for some other.

\$110,000 COST COURTHOUSE

Beautiful Structure was Started in 1872 in Center of City

The year 1872 marked an auspicious move in county government. Then it was that work was begun on the county courthouse, still one of Salem's most beautiful buildings.

Although the original contract price of \$89,650, when the architect, W. F. Boothby, had finished with the job the bill was \$110,000. Fifteen years after its erection it was still boasted that the courthouse was "admirably near the center of the business portion of the city."

C. N. Terry was county judge when the structure was authorized, and John Giese and Al Coolidge were commissioners.

From the first, part of the basement was occupied by the sheriff, as is still the case. For a number of years the court room was located on the first floor, as was also the county offices.

Tigers All Hot 'n Bothered at Big Barn Blaze

The Tigers were a fightin' fire company. Here's how they fought a fire on the roof of a barn in "South Salem" June 8, 1887, when they had to set their steamer in the slough:

"Tigers' steamer had a very exciting run down to the slough. The road leading from the elevation upon which the barn was situated down to the water is very crooked. The steamer came dashing up to the fire, and it appeared no water was obtainable except from the slough; so without hesitation, Tigers started down the rough descent. It required the greatest grit; but they did it. The engine got down in good shape; but at one place especially it had a very narrow escape from capsizing. After the fire was extinguished it was considered doubtful if an ordinary force of men unaided could pull the engine up the hill. It was undertaken however by a hundred men, and hard pulling once more placed the steamer in a good road none the worse for her descent."

\$190 Asked For Team Harness For Fire Engine

"Tiger engine company are making arrangements to have horses for their engine. A short time ago a communication from the company was sent to the council, offering to furnish a team of horses and a \$190 harness for fire service provided the council would fit up stalls in the engine house. The dray company will let one of its teams stand in the engine house ready for use at all times, provided suitable accommodations are furnished for them."—The Statesman, Feb. 5, 1887.

HOME TALENT DRAMA

"Saratoga, the enjoyable comedy-drama, was repeated before a good sized audience at the Reed on Tuesday night. The seats were all filled and the audience at the Reed was fashionable and thoroughly appreciative, as evidenced by the repeated encores. Saratoga will be produced at Independence by the Salem amateurs shortly."—Statesman, Dec. 16, 1892.