

# Prune Growing Huge Industry

### Fruit Introduced in US by French Settler in California

By L. HILL  
Prunes were introduced into America in 1856 by Louis Pelletier, a Frenchman, who settled in California. A few years later prunes were grown in Oregon, where in 1880 they were considered a minor crop.

The climate of the Willamette, Umpqua and Columbia river valleys proved to be favorable for their production. About 20 years ago new orchards appeared and the industry of prune growing spread by the hundreds of acres. At the Dalles and in the Umatilla district of northeastern Oregon, prunes are raised on a smaller scale. There, on irrigated prunes ripen early and have a longer keeping period than those raised in the valleys. Few of these are dried, the greater amount of the crop being shipped to eastern states.

The chief commercial varieties of prunes grown in Oregon are the Petite or French prune and the Italian. The Petite is the sweetest of all and the smallest as its name implies. The Oregon-Italian prune when properly prepared has a flavor not found in any other variety. It is large, firm of flesh and slightly acid.

Three-fourths of the crop grown in the state is produced in four counties in the Willamette Valley. There are many types of soil adaptable for prune growing, but all must have a sub-soil heavier in mixture, but with some material from basalt rock below. A red-clay loam throughout parts of Marion county produces the best fruit.

### Rolling Ground Best

The prune orchards thrive best on rolling ground at an altitude of 600 feet above river beds. This type of land drains well during the long rainy season, but sufficient water stays in the ground during the summer to provide adequate root moisture.

The prunes are ready to harvest as soon as the fruit commences to drop on the ground. In the Dalles region, picking may start as early as August 10. It is usually about the middle of September when harvesting begins in the valleys.

The harvest covers a period of about three weeks in each locality. There are two pickings; sometimes called shakings, for the fruit does not ripen all at the same time. The limbs are shaken by means of a hook fastened to a pole. The shakings occur about ten days apart.

After the prunes are gathered into boxes they are rushed to driers and canneries. Most, however, are dried. The driers are large shed-like buildings which are located close to the orchards as the prune is a perishable fruit.

Drying Time Varies  
At the drier the prunes are dipped in a hot solution of weak lye-water and then rinsed several times in clear water. They are sorted for extremes of ripeness as they are put on the drying trays. The trays are then placed on a wheeled rack which is rolled into the drying compartment. A fan circulates the warm air evenly between the trays so that the fruit is uniformly dried.

After being in the oven a few hours a certain amount of their moisture has been passed off. The heat is then increased to 150 degrees or over. The length of time required for drying is from 12 to 48 hours, depending on the size and ripeness of the fruit. The better grade takes about 22 hours. A properly dried prune must not contain over 24 per cent moisture, otherwise it will spoil.

Some packers dip the dried prunes into a sugar syrup or diluted glycerine which adds to their appearance, but does not produce additional weight. This is one method of eradicating the insect germs which may not all ripen.

The best quality prunes are packed in wooden boxes and paper cartons while the poorer grades are sacked in burlap bags. The chief enemy of a prune crop is the climate. A late frost will kill the young prunes in the blossom. A prolonged foggy or rainy period will keep the fruit from ripening. An early rain continuing through the ripening period will produce a fungi, sometimes called brown rot. The above conditions have more than once demolished any hopes of a crop.

An especially good orchard has been known to average 600 pounds of fruit to a tree. It is claimed that Oregon produced over 35,000 tons of dried prunes one year; two-thirds of the Northwest crop.

The chief foreign markets for Oregon prunes are Europe, Argentina, New Zealand and Canada. Eleven per cent of the world's total prune output was in the states of Oregon and Washington. With the addition of California, the Pacific states produce more than all of the foreign countries put together.

# Almost A Christmas Tragedy

### Christmas Almost Turned Out to be a Day of Tragedy for Mr. and Mrs. Henry Witts of New York

The baby was taken from its crib on Christmas morning. A few blocks away, police arrested a man who was getting into a cab with the child. The man, Andrew O'Rourke, a stranger to the Witts, is held in \$5,000 bail.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Witts and baby

# Chronology of 1938

(Continued From Page 12)

27—Governor Murphy of Michigan branded un-American by Dies probe—FDR comes to his aid.  
27—Japanese occupy Hankow—war again called "nearly over."  
28—United States sends strong note to Japan re China.  
28—Alma Gluck dead.  
29—Warden Lewis of state prison dies.  
29—Marselles swept by fire—30 dead.  
30—Chiang Kai-Shek hurds deft at invaders; Arita made Japan's foreign minister.

### NOVEMBER

1—Men of Mars radio scare—show panics millions.  
2—Solly Krieger upsets Hostak for middleweight title.  
3—Japan slams China's open door.  
4—Mysterious explosion sinks German liner Vancouver; nazis angry.  
5—Hungarian troops take over Czech allotment.  
6—Oregon republicans and most others in nation ball election victorious.  
6—Erschel Grynszpan's shooting of Vom Rath starts nazis after Jews.  
11—Salem community chest reaches its goal.  
11—Eugene breaks Salem high's two-year grid victory streak at 15.  
12—Pacific breaks Willamette's conference victory streak at 26.  
12—Clarence Mackay dies.  
15—Robert Irwin pleads guilty to Easter morn murders, gets life.  
15—United States sues to Germany called home for talks.  
17—United States, Canada and Britain draw closer together in comprehensive trade pact.  
19—Germany calls her ambassador home to report.  
20—Seven U. S. army fliers dead in Georgia crash.  
22—National grange closes convention at Portland.  
22—CIO strike closes Chicago stockyards.  
24—Forest fires destroy homes in California; \$5,000,000 damage.  
24—Snow, gales cover eastern states; 71 die.  
25—Popo Fluz wins death battle after heart attack.  
26—Oregon State's basis Oregon 14-9 in civil war.  
29—Dr. Ross T. McInyre named rear admiral of U. S. navy.  
29—Dr. Kent W. Barry, three others, convicted in Olympia kidnap-torture.  
29—George Alexander new state prison warden.  
30—German hairdresser and mechanic convicted of espionage.  
30—Five down near Point Reyes, Cal., when airliner lands in sea.

### DECEMBER

1—Discrepancy in cash on hand reported by audit of county treasurer's office.  
1—Daladier smashes French general strike with martial force; riots ensue.  
1—Half-million development by U. S. army of Salem airport hinted.  
2—Seedling flight kills 25 students and school bus driver at snow-blinded Utah crossing.  
2—Cupid takes beating as marriage law effective.  
3—Oregon storms tie up shipping, do widespread damage.  
4—Estimate says 32,039 persons now live in Salem.  
6—Italians start clamor for Tunisia.  
7—Germany, France sign friendship—colonial claims "out."  
8—Anna Marie Hahn, poisoner, dies in electric chair.  
8—Cyrus E. Woods, republican leader and former diplomat, dies at 77.  
12—Detroit Tigers buy Freddie Hutchinson.  
13—State labor groups open fight on picket law.  
14—Picket law doesn't affect unemployment compensation, Van Winkle rules.  
16—Coeter identified as Musica—swindler's past probed.  
16—Comedian George Burns not happy under smuggling indictment.  
16—Edwards, Mr. Beecher named governor's secretariat.  
20—Japan irked as United States loans money to China.  
23—Defense pact reached by Lima conference.  
24—Seven die in crash of U. S. army plane in Alabama.  
27—Harry Hopkins named secretary of commerce, succeeding Roper.

# Bandon Schools' Troubles Listed

### Fire-Scarred Coast City Needs Aid From State or Schools Close

RANDON, Dec. 30.—(AP)—Unless the state legislature allocates \$18,117.50 to pay half the salaries of teachers, Bandon schools can not operate in the next two years, the school board said today in letters to state representatives and senators.

The board explained the assessed valuation of the district was \$911,323 before the city burned in a forest fire, but that it dropped to \$399,348 immediately after, and had increased only \$79,000 in the two years since.

"Conditions in Bandon are in such a state of uncertainty that landholders are not paying taxes," the board said. "Once valuable property is now, to all intents and purposes, worthless. If the legislature fails to provide assistance it will be impossible for the schools to operate as our credit is in a precarious position at best and has only been maintained through the last biennium with the help of the previous grant."

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# County Agent Year Is Busy

### More Is Done by Office in Year 1938 Since Work Opened

Work of the Marion county agent's office, headed by Harry L. Riches and his assistants, during 1938, reached a high point since the establishment here in 1934, shows the annual report covering the year ending November 30.

While the agents work covered the whole diversity of farm crops and enterprises in the county, major projects were carried on in tree fruits, small fruits, irrigation, turkey improvement, pasture improvement and alfalfa and corn.

### Irrigation Interest High

Highlights of the report, covering 117 closely typed pages, show a great increase in interest in irrigation in this county, with 23 farms now having 570 acres under irrigation and a goal of 2000 more acres under irrigation projects by 1943. Also a noticeable expansion of forage crops and seed crop plantings. Of the former, 6200 acres were planted to Grimm alfalfa last year as compared to 2000 acres in 1937; 500 acres of Ladino clover (an irrigated crop) as against 150 in 1937; and 8000 in red clover.

Nineteen small seed crops were grown in the county in 1938, covering 3805 acres with Austrian field peas, Alaska clover, hairy vetch and common vetch leading the field, the report records.

### Educational Programs

Educational programs in most farm lines were conducted during the year, and work was accomplished in soil improvement, crop improvement, rodent, predatory animal and pest control, dairy, animal and poultry husbandry, agricultural economics and home economics. Corn variety trial, grass nurseries, demonstrations in weed control, vegetable seed production, rodent control, turkey demonstration flocks and fertilization demonstrations were conducted.

An entire 1938 soil conservation program for the county was handled through the county agent's office, with 2063 farms signed up, representing 86 per cent of the crop land and 2700 farmers, who will receive a total of \$294,000 in benefits. As a result of the agricultural conservation program, the total reduction in wheat and other soil depleting crops approximated 30,500 acres.

### Was Agricultural Secretary

The county agent served as secretary of the agricultural conservation program with R. Dean Jones, assistant secretary and Miss Jean Freeberg and Miss Isabelle Creech, clerks. Miss Helen Boardman is secretary to the county agent.

A revision of the county agent's office created at the beginning of the year, the assistant county agent and horticultural inspector, has proved highly satisfactory and is in charge of Robert E. Reider.

Reider's activities, covering the horticultural crops of the county which represent an annual income of about \$3,600,000 or 40 per cent of the total farm income, have centered in spraying orchards through application of DDT, covering the fields and various demonstrations, including pruning.

Special attention of the horticulturalist was focused on the strawberry fruit worm, the most serious pest of the ripening fruit in the county during the year. The problem is serious and control measures will soon determine the fate of the strawberry industry in Marion county, where about 2000 acres were grown in 1938.

Fertilizer trials on blackberries are slated for the coming year to combat blossom blight on that fruit.

### Statistics Impressive

Statistically speaking, the county agent's work included 195 days in the field; 10,313 miles traveled; 210 farm visits; 2577 office phone calls; 10,705 office callers; 145 circular letters or 32,453 copies; 4803 bulletins distributed; 10 radio talks over KOAC; 2553 individual letters.

Recommendations of the county agent for the new year include: continuation of turkey breeding improvement; increase of alfalfa and corn acreage; greater use of hybrid corn due to increase of 16 to 20 per cent in yields; careful work in use of sprays and control measures for insects, pests and diseases of fruits; diversions of 24,800 acres of agricultural land to other uses; development of irrigation; and additional pasture green nurseries to encourage seedings of perennial grasses.

### Debated Grass' Edibility

Proved by Hungry Rodent

BAKER, Dec. 31.—(AP)—Baker county AAA grass culturists were wondering whether a batch of Poa bulbosa grass they had developed in a window box was palatable.

Came the news, bringing the natural roughage of an enterprising mouse. The mouse ate the grass an dime back for more, proving the tufts edible.



Our resolution for the New Year is—to better serve you in every possible way.

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# Northwest's Representatives In Congress Mapping Plans To Aid This Area for Year

### Will Campaign to Revise Some Federal Statistics Including 1938 Farm Bill, Beet Acreage Quota, and Wagner Labor Act

By JOHN L. WHEELER  
AP Northwest Correspondent  
WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—(AP)—Pacific northwest congressmen, determined to protect the interests of their states during the next year, laid plans today for a drive to revise several vital federal statistics.

Their preparations for the next session of congress, convening January 3, foreshadowed a more or less united stand on issues striking close to home, with a division—not always along party lines—on questions of strictly national character.

There was some feeling that the 1938 farm bill, launched enthusiastically by two administration stalwarts, Senators Pope (D-Ida) and McGill (D-Kan), who were later defeated in the fall elections, should be changed, but there was a variety of opinion on how the measure should be revised.

Some price fixing plan was expected to find supporters among the northwest congressional delegation.

There were also indications from both democratic and republican quarters that some more would be made to remove quota restrictions on sugar beet acreage. The quotas announced recently by the agriculture department brought strong protests from growers and professors in Washington, Idaho and Oregon.

Wagner Act Argued  
It was freely predicted in Oregon and Washington offices that a determined effort would be made to revise the Wagner labor act, although the national labor board has insisted no change is necessary.

Business men and officials of the two states feel differently, however, contending the act is one-sided and conducive to unrest among various labor factions. They point to the bitter controversy between the CIO and AF of L that has raged for months in the northwest states.

Rearmament proposals have been received by the delegations of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Utah with mixed emotions, and a sharp division is expected, though not entirely along party lines.

Neutrality, wage-hour and social security legislation are topics which are also expected to evoke the lively interest of the northwesterners, although so far no definite action has been planned to initiate legislation looking toward a change.

The coming session undoubtedly will find representatives of the four states thinking alike on legislation affecting reclamation, forestry, mining and public lands.

### Coulee Completion Eyed

One of the toughest fights is expected to center around an appropriation for continuation of work on Grand Coulee dam in central Washington. It is reliably reported that the public works department has asked \$28,000,000 for the fiscal year 1940, more than twice the amount appropriated for the current fiscal year, in an effort to speed up construction on the big Columbia river project.

Funds will also be asked for continuation and expansion of the blister rust control program in the western forests, and this request is expected to require and receive the united support of the western delegation.


A movement is also under way to boost the price of silver from 64.6 cents an ounce, its present price under the government's silver purchase program, to 75 cents. Utahans are pressing hard for this increase.

Before the gavel falls marking the end of the first session of the 76th congress, expected in late summer, the northwest states will have received more millions of dollars of federal funds.

### Federal Millions Expected

The great variety of federal activities in the states—agriculture, forestry, mining, reclamation, national parks, roads, power projects, and national defense—requires that large sums be appropriated annually.

Any idea of what may be expected from these sources may be obtained from an inspection of the latest national emergency council report compiled by the treasury. This shows that between April 8, 1935 and November 1, 1938, Washington was allocated \$174,456,355 by these agencies; Oregon \$24,874,426; Idaho \$26,237,



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# US Puts Cash Into Northwest

### Oregon's Share for 1938 Estimated \$49,947,750 of Federal Funds

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—(AP)—The Pacific northwest's estimated share in 1938 actual federal expenditures, in addition to millions for routine departmental activities, is \$188,928,462, for the states of Washington, Oregon and Idaho and the territory of Alaska.

Also, the three states and Alaska received a total of \$43,796,905 from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation in loans authorized and from the Federal Housing Administration in loans accepted for insurance, small home and property improvement.

The state of Washington received the largest share of disbursements from alphabetical and other agencies—\$108,892,883. Oregon received \$49,947,750, Idaho \$26,864,770 and Alaska \$2,423,059.

### WPA Outlay Heavy

Works Progress Administration—Washington \$29,500,000; Oregon \$11,500,000; Idaho \$6,500,000; Alaska \$1,500,000.

### Public Works Administration

Washington \$12,964,523 in grants for non-federal projects and \$21,758,120 in grants to various departments for federal projects; Oregon, \$628,500 in loans and \$4,452,960 in grants for non-federal projects and \$4,894,170 in grants to various departments for federal projects; Idaho, \$148,500 in loans and \$1,958,750 in grants for non-federal projects and \$887,874 (to various departments) for federal projects; Alaska, \$1,769,600 and \$688,500; Alaska, \$192,700 and \$67,195.

### Rural Electrification Administration

Washington, \$760,000; Oregon, \$22,000; Idaho, \$294,000; Alaska, none. Federal Housing Administration acceptance of loans accepted for insurance, small home and property improvement, respectively—Washington, \$9,564,900 and \$2,764,208; Oregon, \$1,653,700 and \$2,071,973; Idaho, \$1,769,600 and \$688,500; Alaska, \$192,700 and \$67,195.

\$1,937,159 in grants for non-federal projects.  
Civilian Conservation Corps—Washington, \$7,950,000; Oregon, \$10,250,000; Idaho, \$8,280,000; Alaska, \$820,000.  
Much Spent On Roads  
Public roads—Washington, \$2,134,500; Oregon, \$3,061,500; Idaho, \$2,376,500; Alaska, none.  
Reclamation—Washington, \$2,870,000; Oregon, \$2,375,000; Idaho, \$1,379,000; Alaska, none.  
Agricultural Adjustment Administration—Washington, \$1,499,638; Oregon, \$2,131,149; Idaho, \$2,654,868; Alaska, none.  
Reconstruction Finance Corporation (loans disbursed)—Washington, \$2,381,096; Oregon, \$1,297,641; Idaho, \$1,456,772; Alaska, \$75,000.  
Reconstruction Finance Corporation (loans authorized)—Washington, \$19,372,338; Oregon, \$2,070,125; Idaho, \$291,666; Alaska, \$173,500.  
National Youth Administration—Washington, \$760,000; Oregon, \$304,000; Idaho, \$276,000; Alaska, none.  
Surplus Commodities Corporation—Washington, \$1,863,000; Oregon, \$528,000; Idaho, \$987,000; Alaska, none.  
Oregon Rivers Helped  
\$3,223,000 for rivers and harbors and \$722,000 for flood control; Oregon, \$8,182,000 for rivers and harbors and \$2,143,000 for flood control; Idaho, none for rivers and harbors and \$12,400 for flood control; Alaska, \$470,000 for rivers and harbors and \$1,400 for flood control.  
Rural Electrification Administration loans—Washington, \$237,000; Oregon, \$294,000; Idaho, \$1,240,000; Alaska, none.  
Federal Housing Administration acceptance of loans accepted for insurance, small home and property improvement, respectively—Washington, \$9,564,900 and \$2,764,208; Oregon, \$1,653,700 and \$2,071,973; Idaho, \$1,769,600 and \$688,500; Alaska, \$192,700 and \$67,195.

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