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PROSPECTS AS we go to press are that it will rain. Many farmers desire rain. The harvest is fully over, so let it come.

THE BRIDGE is going ahead rapidly, and before many months Salem will have connection by bridge with Polk county.

OREGON is beginning to produce some remarkably speedy trotters. There is no section in the United States that can produce better horses with better lungs and bottom than Oregon and California.

PRINCE ALEXANDER, of Bulgaria, has been made to abdicate his throne, but at the present time the prospects are more than favorable for the prince's return and his absolute possession of the throne. It was a bold strike, but did not win.

JACK POWERS, who has been an inmate of the Oregon State Penitentiary since 1881, has been pardoned out of that institution. We are glad to see him released, as he has been unjustly held there all these years, and we consider that he was less to blame in the case than the other parties.

REV. E. R. GEARY, one of Oregon's foremost citizens, living at Eugene City, is reported as passing calmly away at his home surrounded by his family. Mr. Geary has held for many years places of trust, and is closely allied with the best interests of our State. He is a man who will be missed in the common walks of life throughout Oregon.

THE gala fortnight that comes to Salem this year will begin September 8 by a grand display of firemen and their apparatus, followed by a fine field of contests. The annual tournament promises to be unusually attractive, and several contesting teams will come here more than strong. Let all who enjoy athletic sports attend. Half fare on all the railroads.

OUR SERIAL STORY entitled "Called Back," by Hugh Conway, is finished with this issue, and we commence another, which is an interesting short sketch. We desire to get the feeling of our readers upon the publication of such stories. We wish to ascertain if they are liked and read. Similar serial stories will appear from time to time if our readers desire them.

WHY is it that Salem mills only pay 61½ cents for wheat, when Jefferson, eighteen miles farther from Portland, and Buena Vista, even farther away, on the river, pay 62½ to 63 cents a bushel? Since the Kinneys owned and operated mills here the farmers in this vicinity have gotten less than the market calls for. Own your own granaries and make the mills pay for your wheat. Have good roads, so that hauling at any season of the year is possible.

THE STATE FAIR has in prospect one of the best seasons ever had. The secretary informs us that the speed programme and race-track privileges will pay the society fully \$2,000. Last year it netted the society about \$800. Every department promises to have a full representation, as well as a meritorious display. Those desiring information must address the secretary, J. T. Gregg, at once, and they will know just what to do.

It is said that cattle are dying in parts of Montana for want of water, the long continued drouth having dried up many small streams. A party who bought a large lot of cattle from Ben Snipes to take to Miles City, where he proposed to convert them into canned beef, had the misfortune to have his nannery burned. Several train loads of cattle arriving one after another on the top of the disaster caused the buyer more loss, as the cattle had to be shipped to Chicago, where they were sold for much less than the cost. It is probable that Snipes may lose something by the transaction, as it is understood that the checks he received for his cattle had not been cashed before the fire.—Yakima Farmer.

FRUIT CANNING IN OREGON.

The other day we had a visit at the farm from Mr. Lusk, of California, one of the brothers of that name whose canning operations are on a very extensive scale. Mr. Lusk visits Oregon and Salem with a view of commencing at some favorable location an enterprise of that kind that will, if really launched in full force, be a great help to fruit growers in this vicinity. He expressed some disappointment at finding little encouragement for his scheme at Willamette prune orchards, for while he pleasantly conceded that he found there the best cultivated and cared for orchard he had seen in Oregon, its fruit was chosen chiefly for drying, with some for shipping in a green state, and not calculated for canning. We improved the opportunity to gather useful information for the benefit of our readers on a subject that possesses very great importance to all farmers, and especially to all fruit growers, and all farmers should be fruit growers.

Mr. Lusk spoke only from the view a canner would take, and gave us points for the guidance of those who would engage in fruit growing to supply a canner's needs. Of course he does not understand Oregon fruits, and we need not infer that he expects our region to produce what California does. There, the canning business, taking 100 as the whole product, cans fifteen per cent. of Bartlett pears, twenty-five per cent. of apricots, thirty per cent. of peaches, fifteen of plums, and fifteen of cherries. Peaches must be of large size to maintain this average, and apricots medium size. As to the varieties of fruit needed, it is not easy to designate the best kinds, for every district has its preference. Some fruits are firm and good on upland, while the same kinds are too tender on river land. Mr. Lusk says that Western Oregon should plant 100,000 pear trees every year, mostly Bartlett. Other varieties, that are good shippers, are Fall Butter, Clapp's Favorite, Winter Nellis, Clargo, and Beurre Easter. All others are secondary, for the Bartlett is the prime favorite for canning and shipping.

Peaches are a great article with canners, and Mr. Lusk thinks we should set out one hundred thousand peach trees annually, mostly free-stones and firm and solid fruit. Nothing of worth precedes the Early Crawford, and Foster. The Salway is very late, and may not ripen well in this climate. Every grower must be governed by the experience of his section, and plant what succeeds there. This rule is applicable to every kind of fruit to be named in this article.

He says, plant 100,000 apricots, and we say: if apricots thrive with you, plant them and take the chances. As to the varieties to be cultivated, we have no information to give the reader. "Plant 50,000 cherries," said he. Now we are up to cherry growing, and only need to know that canners want a cherry of light color that will not stain the syrup too much. The Royal Ann is the favorite canning cherry. No other fruit equals it, though many are nicer flavor to eat. Canners use no black cherry whatever. Other sorts do for table use and are valuable for shipping.

They also can largely of plums, using only light colored fruit, and the favorites are Coe's Golden Drop, Yellow Egg, and Washington. There are some others fairly good, but those are preferred.

Mr. Lusk talked as if he were in his own State, and while the fruits named generally thrive in Oregon, it is doubtful as to some kinds, especially as to peaches and apricots. When peaches do mature with us, they are luscious eating. We have never seen better peaches than are grown in Salem, that have been sent to us from Mr. Hendrix at Wheatland, from Seth Luelling, Milwaukee, and from the Columbia river above Vancouver. The writer is now planting five hundred peach trees on a western hill side near the Willamette, on the east of it. We know that they mature thoroughly on sandy river bottoms. They cannot be grown any and everywhere, to be sure, but there is room enough to plant out, in favorable locations, all the peach trees the country ought to produce, to supply an immense trade.

Apricots may succeed where peaches do, but they should not be taken for granted. It will be easy to ascertain what success is realized by those who have tried growing them. They are much in demand at the East, and while usually an insipid fruit, canners pay well for them, and one-fourth of their whole pack is apricots, as our figures show. We shall be glad to publish the experience of any or all who have culti-

vated them, and ask our friends to furnish facts from their own knowledge.

It is Mr. Lusk's opinion that every farmer should plant out six varieties of late keeping apples, each man choosing for himself. When the railroads are finished, viz: the one East from Yaquina and the Oregon & California road, there will be a heavy demand for winter apples. California is giving up apple growing because there the apple is a short-lived tree, so we can count on having a good customer for apples in California. We say here that many old orchards can be renovated and made productive with a little labor that the first year's crop will repay. The most desirable is the Yellow Newtown Pipin, but others are also popular and will pay well, if good keepers. Canners use largely of apples, and the time will soon come when they will be in good demand.

THE BEST PAYING PRODUCT.

The time has come when Oregon farmers find wheat growing, the great staple in the past, to be unproductive, and are looking for some reliable means of production to enable them to live in comfort, as of old. We present to them fruit growing as the best, surest and most permanent resource in this emergency. They will say: we do not understand it; we cannot afford to wait five years for returns; we have no certainty of a market.

To these objections we respond:

1. The WILLAMETTE FARMER will make the planting of fruit trees understood and answer all reasonable questions.

2. An orchard takes but a few acres, and if you plant out five acres a year you will soon have a fortune growing. This will not interfere with your regular farming operations, and trees can be furnished at moderate prices. So we say, plant them.

3. As to a market: we shall soon have four transcontinental roads, and the Canadian road besides, along the line of which there will be a demand for green fruits, while canners will be glad to come here and work on fruits that can be had cheap enough and possess a finer flavor and better substance than any California can grow. No man of sense can doubt the reliability of our fruit market, and if we do not raise enough to make it worth competing for, capital will not waste time on us. California grows millions of bushels of the fruit we do, and competition of shippers who send fruit East—a train a day—late drove canners out of the field, as we saw in the California papers. It would be a great matter with canners to have peaches and apricots, that constitute half of the whole pack in California. It is possible to grow fine peaches here, the finest known, but because they do not succeed everywhere there is an idea prevalent that they cannot be grown reliably. It is proven that they grow well on river bottoms as far up as Colville on the Columbia, and Boise City on the Snake, and above Lewiston on the Clearwater, 500 to 700 miles inland. There are sound peach trees, old ones, bearing well on Brown's Island, just above Salem, and they do well in our Salem gardens. They do well in many places along the Columbia and Willamette, and we know of trees planted by a pioneer who brought the peach stones across in 1843, and planted them on his donation claim a year or so later. These are over forty years old, yet they bear regularly. One blew down, yet keeps on producing peaches in its prostrate condition. Peaches and apricots bear considerably the third year, so give quick returns. There are many favorable locations where they should do well, and as they are a necessity in canning to make up a variety, we must grow them if possible.

Let every man set out fifty Early Crawford and Fosters and see how they do. It won't require much land, and will speedily test the question.

If we can grow good table grapes the roads running east will take them to plenty of markets. We never have known if the Milwaukee vineyard, close by the railroad, was a success. It is probable that Brother A. R. Shipley, of Oswego, who experiments largely and practically, can give valuable information on grape culture in Oregon, and we invite him to favor us with his valuable experience. Mrs. Shipley is also a capable writer, and we shall be glad to hear from them. If others of our readers can give personal experience or observation on grape growing, we urge them to do so. We propose to make the FARMER especially valuable as an exponent of fruit culture in the great region known as the Pacific Northwest, and request the aid and co-operation of all persons interested from

Spokane and Whatcom to Rogue river and Goose lake. There is no subject possessing greater importance than this, because it offers a sure and safe recourse to farmers in this section for reliable returns for use of land, time, money and labor.

VALUE OF CHOICE FRUIT.

Our Oregon people have but little idea of the value of fruit, and do not comprehend the fact that the more fruit we grow the better the demand will be. Now we do not grow enough to make it an object for men to engage largely in the business of handling fruit, whereas, in California they grow so much that fruit trains go East daily, and the competition between canners and shippers keep the price at a high figure. Market reports in the daily press at San Francisco, for years past, show that canners have paid such prices that fruit-growers have made fortunes, as well as the canners. From the best authority we are informed that canners have paid for apricots, peaches, choice plums of white varieties, and Bartlett pears, three to four cents a pound, and for cherries six to eight cents. This averages \$1.50 to \$2.00 per bushel for all the rest, and \$2.50 to \$4.00 a bushel for cherries. It requires no argument to prove that these are paying rates. It is upon such returns as this that we hear of prune orchards giving \$350 an acre annual income. Two hundred prune or plum, or of peach and apricots, can be put on an acre. When trees have made their growth they will last for a generation, and average three hundred bushels per acre and at \$1.50 per bushel the returns will be ample. Supposing the yield to be half that, and the price only half, still the returns will pay the farmer better than any other crop he can grow.

That was the way we reasoned years ago when we began planting, and, so far, the result justifies our early views. Last year, from twelve acres, we had \$2,000 worth of product, and the trees not nearly grown. Mr. Lusk, who is quoted elsewhere, says he finds a great difference in the same fruit grown here and in California. Our trees seem to grow to root, while theirs quickly make a heavy top. Here fruit goes to sugar, while in California it is acid. He says there is a finer flavor to fruit and vegetables grown here, while they may not be so large. So that our products possess greater value for all purposes. As a canner he is impressed with the fact that Oregon fruits and vegetables will furnish a much better canned article for commerce than California does. He expressed himself plainly on this point, but as to starting a cannery here, much or all depends on the prospect for a supply of fruit to justify the outlay. A cannery establishment, on a scale to pay to advantage, will need a great supply of fruits and vegetables. He visited Browns Island and other bottom land in the Willamette, above Salem, and became satisfied that we can raise corn, tomatoes, peas and beans without difficulty. They may feel assured that if they are in earnest in the matter, there will speedily develop a fruit supply to justify their effort and pay them well for their enterprise. True, canners need particular varieties, but if they put buyers in the country, early in the season, to engage fruit, they will find that almost every farmer can furnish something. There are many Bartlett pears wasted each year, also, choice plums and cherries. Of course, they come here to take advantage of our isolated position, and being first and only in the field to buy cheaper than in California. Our farmers need not be timid about planting fruit trees, because the time is at hand that before trees can mature and produce there will be a good demand and a strong competition. As a fruit-grower the writer expresses his confidence that a good orchard is the best property in the State. Mr. Lusk says our orchard of forty acres and 7,000 trees should (and would in California) yield a revenue of \$250 an acre a year. We give his voluntary opinion so that farmers may have more faith in tree planting, not from any desire to be egotistical. The trouble is that few are willing to set out trees and cultivate them for five years without returns, but if carefully treated your tree is a friend for life that will give you a handsome profit every year.

As we look at it, there is every inducement for experienced men to commence the canning of fruits and vegetables in this valley. We can already furnish the fruits for affair beginning, and as soon as people learn that canners mean business, fruit will be sent from every county from the Columbia to Siskiyou. The O. & C. road has given a low rate on green fruit furnishes inducement for a beginning. Our small fruits also are

superior, and as soon as there is a beginning made to demand them they can be grown in profession. Of late we have more confidence in the growing of peaches and apricots. We certainly grow the finest flavored fruits possible, and the yield is abundant. Canning will soon begin here on a large scale, and will give to fruit-growers a fine profit, so we urge to plant trees and shall keep it up henceforth.

VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL FAIRS.

Our State Fair attracts people who generally come for pleasure, to meet old friends and see what is to be seen. Young and old are calculating beforehand that they will have a good time at the fair; they camp under the oak groves and often a cluster of friends put their tents near each other. Many have their shanties built on the grounds where they have more comfort than they can get out of canvas walls. The evenings are made bright by camp fires and lively circles cluster around them. There are attractions for all spare hours and often there are devices on the grounds that should not be permitted. Our camp ground is well calculated for the purpose and people go there for a holiday rather than for business.

How to utilize the occasion and confer information as well as enjoyment is a matter of importance. Those who attend a really good fair can learn a great deal of value. The young can see stock of all kinds and study understandingly the different breeds and methods of breeders. Proper enjoyment and sound information can go reasonably together and those who attend a good State or County fair can acquire valuable information that will be of use in their own farming operations. It is only natural that men should talk over the subject of farming and discuss their several methods of work. Thus with what they see and hear combined, education goes on and men go back home wiser than when they went to the fair. Some go merely to gossip, see horse races and find fault with what they can't understand; but even these must pick up some little by observation, even against their will. The management of the fair should aim to call out good display of products from careful farmers to excite emulation on the part of all who really desire to make progress. Even as a source of legitimate pleasure agricultural fairs have great value and if they really can be made to represent the best methods of agriculture; the best breeds and methods in stock raising; the value of horticulture and in fact all things a farmer has interest in. If every county had an agricultural society and maintained an annual fair, the State fair could then represent them all collectively and would possess vastly greater interest.

While the State Fair is too distant for a general attendance there is no farmer who cannot attend his own county fair, therefore the county fairs are very important. They afford every farmer a chance to see the best products and stock of his section and so are educational; they gather at the county seat a good exhibit of the products of that section, and by transferring these to the State Fair we secure an excellent showing of the products of every locality. The value of local fairs, and of the State Fair, is hardly understood. At the coming State Fair efforts should be made to secure organization of county societies under the co-operation of the State Society.

Boiled potatoes left over should never be heaped up warm to steam one another. They should be laid out on a table, and are then as good for frying or mashing as when first cooked.

Unnecessary Misery.

Probably as much misery comes from constipation as from any derangement of the functions of the body, and it is difficult to cure, for the reason that no one likes to take the medicine usually prescribed. HAMBURG FIGS were prepared to obviate this difficulty, and they will be found pleasant to the taste of women and children. 25 cents. At all druggists. J. J. Mack & Co., proprietors, S. F.



MUFFINS

Are not necessarily bad, on the contrary they are never bad when raised with

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The House-keeper's friend. It is Pure, Wholesome, and Health Preserving. If your Grocer does not keep it, send for it by mail to

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10 Cents a Box, 10 Cakes in a Box, enough to raise 40 loaves of bread.