

MALHEUR FRUIT TREES GROAN UNDER HEAVY LOAD

Malheur county has the largest fruit crop this year that has ever been experienced in that section of the state. Trees are being broken in many instances with the weight of the apples, pears and peaches, notwithstanding the fact that nearly all orchards were thinned fully 50 per cent. This bountiful crop is not confined to fruit alone; in fact, all farm and garden products seem to be competing with each other in an endeavor to see which can be the most profitable.

William Morfitt, who lives two miles southwest of Ontario, from his 3-year-old peach orchard picked and sold an average of 200 pounds of peaches to the tree.

Alfalfa will yield seven to 10 tons per acre, 10,000 tons of which has been contracted for by one purchaser at \$5.50 per ton in the stack. Alfalfa seed is proving to be a paying crop, as some of the farmers say they will clear at least \$75 per acre from this source. Sugar beets look particularly good this year, promising to equal the highly satisfactory yield of 30 tons per acre two years ago.

Low Land Values.

While many orchards are yielding \$1000 per acre and alfalfa as high as \$88 to \$40 per acre, land values are exceedingly low as compared with other more extensively advertised districts of the state, as good irrigated orchard land can yet be had at from \$100 to \$150 per acre, including water rights. These prices will, however, experience a substantial increase over the prevailing prices at the present time, owing to the recent organization of commercial clubs which will bring the wonderful resources of their county to the attention of the general public.

Malheur county is in the extreme southeastern corner of the state, bordering on Idaho and Nevada, and contains some 9784 square miles. Fruit raising that has been particularly successful there has been with apples, apricots, raspberries, blackberries, strawberries, peaches, pears, plums, prunes, nectarines, grapes and all the small fruits common to a northern latitude. These, in size, flavor, color and quantity compare most favorably with the products of the best known fruit districts in the northwest. Apples 15 inches in circumference, peaches 12, and Bartlett pears weighing 20 ounces are no rarity.

Three Crops of Alfalfa.

Alfalfa comprises the principal hay product and the conditions seem particularly fitted for its growth. The cost of raising it is merely nominal and the hay crop is very strong. Farmers there cut three crops a year and the yield is often seven to 10 tons an acre. It is easily and cheaply grown and gives large crops.

Other products include all the cereals and vegetables common to this latitude, such as wheat, barley, rye, oats, corn, etc., and potatoes, onions, beets, carrots, parsnips, beans, squash, pumpkins, melons, tomatoes, etc. Corn fields making 40 bushels per acre; wheat, 50; oats, 70; barley, 45; potatoes, 500 bushels per acre, are not uncommon nor are 50-pound cabbages, 75-pound melons, 6-pound spuds or 10-pound beets.

The Snake river the Malheur and Owyhee rivers and their tributaries are the principal streams in the county. Their chief value is the extensive irrigation they offer. The climate is mild and balmy with bright, sunny days far into the autumn, beautiful clear falls, and with the winter so modified by the gentle influence of the Japan current that there are

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seldom more than three or four weeks of real winter weather. Farming work continues throughout the year. Though the summer is warm and pleasant, there are seldom any hot days and the nights are always cool. In winter the mercury seldom goes down to zero during the night and in the daytime it usually raises to 40 or 50.

Malheur county claims to have the best soil in the west for raising of sugar beets. Farmers raise from 20 to 30 tons an acre and get a net profit of from \$40 to \$80 per acre. The sugar beet factory at Nampa, Idaho, offered prizes of \$150 and \$100 for the best 10-acre field raised in the Snake river valley, and A. J. Quackenbush of Ontario, received first prize and John Ray of Nyssa, second prize. Both these fields produced over 29 tons per acre and netted the owners \$75 per acre profit. This industry has become a very profitable one, it being demonstrated that a few acres properly cultivated is sufficient to support a family. The sugar beet factory is located at Nampa, Idaho, 40 miles from Ontario, Ore., and they pay \$4.50 per ton loaded on the cars here. They have built beet dumps at all convenient places along the railway, which makes it convenient for the farmers, necessitating hauling their beets but a short distance. Beet land rents for \$20 per acre.

This is a good dairying country, because hay is grown so cheaply, and butter fat sells from 25 to 37 cents a pound. Those who have tried it claim the country is good for hog raising. Alfalfa makes a good tissue builder, and with a little corn and barley the hog thrives well. Cholera, the bane of the business in many states, is absent here.

Canning and Drying Fruit.

There is a fruit cannery at Arcadia which does a good business, and there are several fruit drying and evaporating plants. The mild climate is good for apiculture, and the honey secreted by the alfalfa plants is excellent. Almost every ranch has its bee hives, where from 60 to 120 pounds are gathered by each colony yearly.

The towns of the county are Ontario, Nyssa, Arcadia, Vale, Jordan Valley, Westfall and Malheur. The first four are situated on the Oregon Short Line railway; Vale is the county seat. Each of these towns has its special value to the section in which it is located; all have good schools and enjoy financial health. The volume of business pouring through Ontario's channels of trade aggregates more than \$2,000,000 annually.

Poultry raising has met with success in this county. Chickens sell readily at high prices and the cholera element is unknown. What is said to be the largest plant in the world for the propagation of the luscious salmon is situated one mile south of Ontario, on the banks of the Snake river.

Sagebrush for Fire Wood.

The chief tree growth is sagebrush, a desert shrub, which furnishes fire wood. In the foothill country juniper and mountain mahogany appear; the former making good fence posts, the latter a very valuable fuel supply. In the western and northwestern portions of the county are dense forests of pine, fir, tamarack, which furnish lumber, fuel, posts and building material generally.

Hot springs are found in nearly every part of Malheur county, all of about the same character, while the most notable are the Geyser or Hot Wells, on the bank of the Malheur river at Vale, the county seat. Medical experts assert that these wells are of great value for medicinal purposes and if properly improved would equal, if not excel any other health resort in the state.

In sinking deep wells for artesian water in the vicinity of Ontario, a flow of natural gas was found that in two or three instances furnished enough gas to use for illuminating the residence of the owner, and at the same time a flow of artesian water was procured at a depth of about 240 feet. Numerous indications of the presence of petroleum are found in this county.

There Are Some Stock Shipments.

Annual shipments—
Wool, pounds, 3,000,000 to 4,000,000
Cattle, head 25,000
Horses, head 15,000
Mutton, sheep, head 50,000

Swear to the Crops.

In the advertising literature for Malheur county sworn statements are published concerning the output of various farms. J. M. Butler says that he has raised corn near Ontario with an average of 70 bushels to the acre

and alfalfa with seven tons to the acre which brought him \$9 if he fed it, and \$6 if he stacked it. A. F. Boyer says he planted 200 Winesap apple trees on his land 10 years ago, and they yield on an average of 12 boxes each. He has now 800 trees on 10 acres, and last year sold his entire crop for \$1 a box. Many of his neighbors who did not sell at a previous contract price received as high as \$2.50.

B. F. Tussing says he picked and sold 4000 boxes from 11-year-old apple trees on seven acres of ground. M. B. Sherman has 35 acres of raspberries, and has averaged \$100 per acre above expenses. He has netted \$250 from an acre. I. F. Street swears to the following output on his land:

	Per Acre.
Strawberries yield from \$500 to \$1100	
Melons	200 to 350
Dewberries	300 to 700
Potatoes	300 to 400
Cabbage	150 to 200
Onions	450 to 600
Tomatoes	250 to 500
Green beans	200 to 400
Canning beans	40 to 80
Pickling cucumbers	200 to 300

Bee's Laxative Cough Syrup always brings quick relief to coughs, colds, hoarseness, whooping cough and all bronchial and throat trouble. Mothers especially recommend it for children. Pleasant to take, gently laxative. A. C. Koeppe & Bros.

Rural Carriers.

Little Rock, Ark., Sept. 8.—Arkansas rural mail carriers, in session here today, will send a delegation to Omaha next month to attend the national convention and invite that organization to meet in Little Rock in 1909.

Foley's Orino Laxative is a new remedy, an improvement on the laxatives of former years, as it does not gripe or nauseate and is pleasant to take. It is guaranteed. Pendleton Drug Co.

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of the happy homes of to-day is a vast fund of information as to the best methods of promoting health and happiness and right living and knowledge of the world's best products.

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Don't Burn Trash.

Parties Are Prohibited from starting fires and burning trash within the city limits during the present dry period as they endanger property to loss by fire. By order of

J. L. VAUGHAN,
Chief Fire Department.

Kodol will, without doubt, make your stomach strong and will almost instantly relieve you of all the symptoms of indigestion. Get a bottle of it today. It is sold here by Tallman & Co.

I offer for sale the N½ of the NW¼ of section 17, Tp. 3 north, range 35, E. W. M., being 80 acres about three miles south of Athena, Oregon. Price \$90 per acre. Inquire of F. S. LeGrow, Athena, Oregon.

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