

as a pioneer in the same undertaking, making homes and raising fruit on dry up-hill lands. The spring of 1872 saw the first trees planted on top of a hill by Mr. Roberts. It afterwards proved the orchard most secure against frosts. Bearing peaches one year when the entire peach crop grown elsewhere in the region was destroyed by frost. As is the case when men try something before considered impracticable, these men were the butt of many a jest and sarcasm. H. J. Waldron, a prominent citizen of The Dalles, said: "Roberts, I will have a large bust cast of you for your grandchildren, if you succeed in making a living on that dry land." Not only were trees planted on top of the hill, but corn, potatoes and watermelons, also. This was going farther than any one had dared to think; for "watermelons must be irrigated."

These were the fore-runners of the carloads that have since been shipped from this locality. Side by side with the market wagons from the creeks came the wagons from the dry upland farms. Soon people found that the corn was as sweet, the squashes and pumpkins as yellow, the potatoes mealer and the watermelons sweeter and finer grained than those that had been irrigated. Many looked on as if to say, "If you succeed, we will try it, too; but we would rather not be counted fools yet, if you fail." But failure was never one of the ingredients of the soil they tilled, nor was it woven into the tissue of their brains and brains. When the fruit came, all their expectations were realized. Now they were not alone in their venture, for others seeing these results began similar farms, and Wasco county was ready for homes in the valleys or on the hills. In the following ten years most of the rolling tillable land between The Dalles and Fifteen-Mile creek was entered.

To raise fruit for the home market was all that any farmer attempted. The Columbia river steamers, with their high freight, and the pack animals to the mines, were the only means of transportation. When the O. R. & N. line of road was completed, an impetus was given to the fruit industry, and the population of The Dalles increased for home consumption, and a market opened to Portland and the East. To the Seufert Bros. belongs the honor of making fruit shipping a possibility to the farmers. Here begins a new chapter in the history of fruit raising. The few orchards that had been previously planted gave such evidences of good results that many were induced to set more largely. Red winter apples and strawberries were especially planted in the Hood River valley. When the Indian owned the country and hunted, fished and gathered "ollalies," the Hood River valley was his finest strawberry patch, and when the white man came, he, too, gathered them in their wild luxuriance. At first only sufficient quantity was planted for the household and local market. Before 1889 berries had been shipped to The Dalles and Portland markets, but in that year shipments were made to Montana points as an experiment. The returns were so flattering that larger patches were planted, and in 1890 a few hundred crates, of twenty-four pounds each, were shipped. When the shipments reached 2000 crates, growers began to fear the market would be overstocked, and hesitated about enlarging their patches. They could not understand where all the berries went, nor that their berries would stand shipment to such markets as now take them. This accounts for the comparatively slow rate of increase in shipments, but in 1894, when 16,000 crates were shipped, and as much as two carloads were being sent every day, and telegrams from Omaha, Kansas City, St. Paul and Chicago were demanding them in car load lots, the possibilities of the market began to be realized. At the Columbian Exposition at Chicago, the Clark's Seedling, grown here, took the premium over all other berries, even though they had been in the express car four days and had traveled 2000 miles. While the cultivation of strawberries could be carried on to the base of Mt. Hood, since they are found here in their native state, the farmers have found that at

present distance must be taken into consideration in hauling the berries for shipment. But the apple crop in the upper valley is as satisfactory as the strawberry crop in the lower valley. At the District Fairs, the Mechanic's Fair, the Columbian Exposition, and we expect the same at the Omaha Exposition, the fruit of Wasco county—Hood River apples in particular—have taken the highest awards. Their size, splendid coloring, rich flavor, freedom from the fruit moth, and unsurpassed keeping and shipping qualities, cannot be excelled in any other known locality of the civilized world. In June, 1894, as an experiment, Mr. Schanno sent a few boxes of yellow Newtown pippins to London via Cape Horn. After their eight months storage before shipping, and their five months en route, they arrived in good condition.

The sandy soil along the Columbia requires fertilizers and irrigation, but are somewhat earlier with their crops. One of the most notable of the orchards of this class of soil is that owned by the Seufert Bros., two miles east of The Dalles. It consists of cherries, prunes, pears and peaches, and contains about 40 acres. Ten years ago it was a tract of drifting sand dunes, but for six years it has been bearing abundantly, and yielding handsome returns. The cherries are particularly fine, the peaches will equal in size anything California ever produced, and in flavor rival those of New Jersey and Delaware.

About 6000 acres are now planted in orchards. Each year increases the acreage planted at least five per cent. Fruit trees in this county bear from 3 to 5 years after planting. The farmer, however, does not wait until his trees are bearing to realize returns from his labor. The land between trees may be planted to small fruits or vegetables until the trees are large enough to shade the ground. With the exception of the peach, the trees are naturally long lived; old apple trees at Geo. Snipes' lower place bearing as large a crop last year as they ever had done before. The same is true of the other old orchards, when well cared for.

There are diseases and insects that affect the fruit of this locality, carelessly brought here in imported fruits and nursery stock of former years. To eradicate San Jose scale, the trees are treated to a hot spray of sulphate of lime before the buds begin to swell in the winter and when the petals fall, the pear and apple trees are sprayed with London purple or Paris green for codl'n-moth. It is the freedom from these pests that renders the highest elevations more successful in raising apples.

The shipping season is an active one. From dawn to dark the fruit raisers with their pickers and packers are busily engaged picking, packing and hauling the hundreds of tons of different varieties of fruit to the depots. It has been proven that the women make the most successful packers; their nimble fingers filling the crates faster and neater than the men. Pickers receive 75 cents and board per day; packers 3 cents a crate and board themselves. (This is for large fruits.) During the fruit season of last year some 75 persons were employed in Amberdale alone. The material used for the crates and boxes is spruce, therefore shipped in, but they are made up in the vicinity using them, thus giving employment to not a few.

Bartlett pears have not proved to be a success in shipping. They ripen as the California crop is closing and the eastern markets are full. No finer fruit for canning is raised than the Bartlett pear, and to meet this emergency as well as to dispose of the many tons of other fruits, just right to can, but too ripe to ship, the fruit raisers of Wasco county are in sore need of two canneries; one at Hood River, to meet any strawberry emergency and other fruits, and another at The Dalles.

Are there not those who can furnish the experience and capital?

Cherries, plums and prunes shipped from Wasco county last year commanded higher prices in Chicago markets than those from any other locality on the Pacific coast. The fruit is shipped directly east in refrigerator

scar to Minneapolis, St. Paul, Cincinnati, New York, Boston, Philadelphia and other markets.

Evaporated fruits are becoming quite an industry. It has been estimated that Wasco county produced 250 tons of evaporated fruits last year.

The most successful apple-bearing belts, are the foot-hills, plateaus and valleys around the base of Mt. Hood. The prune, plum and pear-bearing belt on the edge of the timber line, cherries on the low hills, peaches in the sheltered nooks of the Deschutes, as at Miller's Bridge; the sandy bottoms of the Columbia are an exemption from the frost effects; strawberries in the lower Hood River valleys and the sandy soils of our creeks and the Columbia river.

The geologist, the chemist, the reports from the weather bureau, the pioneer orchardist, the progressive fruit raiser of today, and prices quoted in eastern markets for Wasco county fruits, have all proven that from the Cascade mountains eastward along the Columbia river from the base of Mt. Hood to the Deschutes and Columbia rivers, is a country unsurpassed in fertility and climate for successfully raising and shipping all kinds of large and small fruits:—strawberries, black-cap raspberries, apples, pears, prunes, plums, cherries and peaches.

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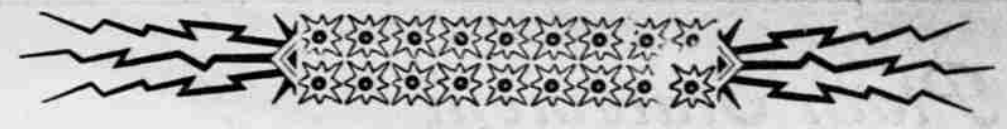
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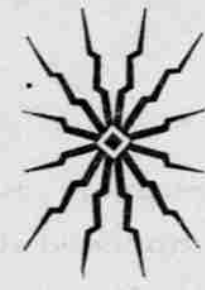
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