

# Ashland Has Advantages for Poultry Raising

## Business Men Trying to Interest Farmers in Poultry Raising

That the Ashland district is one of the few natural poultry raising districts in the country, is the opinion which has been expressed scores of times, by poultry experts who have visited this section.

Blessed with a moderate climate, with just the right amount of rainfall to keep green feed the year round for the flocks, the upper end of the Rogue River Valley is ideally located for the protection of poultry.

With none of the hot, sultry summer days possessed by many sections, now making a success of poultry raising, Ashland has summers of even, cool temperatures, while the winters are of the finest, having none of the below zero weather, so destructive to the egg producing propensities of a poultry flock.

De composed granite, and gravelly soil, all furnishing excellent drainage, giving the district another excellent advantage of poultry production.

Every natural advantage possessed by the Petaluma, California and Linden, Washington sections, recognized as the two leading poultry producing districts on the Pacific coast, are possessed by the Ashland district. In fact, in climate conditions, this section very closely resembles those two famous districts. The soil conditions here are even better than in the Petaluma district, and are the equal of those in the Linden territory.

Several of the leading poultry experts of the Pacific Coast, have visited the Ashland district, and after a careful survey, have declared it to be ideally acclimated for poultry production.

One of these men, A. L. Lloyd, of Petaluma, California, was so greatly interested in the possibilities of this section that he remained in Ashland for almost two weeks, interviewing those interested in poultry production, and in going over the ground, surveying the possibilities. He left, enthusiastic over

that in the Petaluma district, there are scores of young men, thoroughly versed in poultry production, who are at present unable to get into the business for themselves, simply for the reason that they cannot purchase land. Land in the Petaluma district is on the market for from \$100 to \$1500 per acre, and these young men cannot afford that price. However, here, with land selling much cheaper than that, they could, if given some encouragement, get into the business, and carry on their work to success.

Another suggestion has been made by several of the leading business men of the city that may tend to bring about the establishment of a poultry producing colony here. These men suggest that the business men of the community form a company to promote a model poultry farm. With this farm in operation, the farmers of this district could be shown the concrete advantage of poultry production, and thus be induced to enter the field.

Several poultry experts have advocated the securing of several graduates of the Oregon Agricultural College, offering locate here and engage in the poultry production. They point out that these young men are thoroughly versed in the conditions under which poultry production can be made to pay in Oregon, and especially Southern Oregon, and are therefore more likely to succeed than the untrained man, no matter how hard working and thrifty the latter may be. These men have a technical and practical education in poultry culture, and are therefore further fitted for the job.

Lloyd advocated the securing of young poultry raisers, either from the sections now interested in poultry production, or from one of the technical schools and in giving them special advantages in order to locate them in this district. He explained

wholesalers declare. Carl J. Brommer, manager of the Ashland Fruit and Produce association states that on several occasions he has been forced to go out of town, to wholesalers in other cities, in order to procure eggs to fill Ashland orders.

Experts have declared that the Portland market would be the ideal market for Ashland eggs. There in one egg producing center nearer Portland than Ashland, and they say that eggs could be shipped into Portland from Ashland and sold cheaper than they are now being sold in that city.

Both the Petaluma and Linden districts were forced to fight for some time to secure favorable freight rates on their eggs, but once their right to be called egg producing centers was established, they were easily successful in securing the reduced rates. Petaluma was the most successful in this line, since a water line connects that city with the bay districts, her largest market.

However, Petaluma eggs are shipped East, and sold on the markets there in competition with eggs produced in the East, and Petaluma shippers have been very successful in this venture, they assert.

In a small way, the poultry producing idea has been carried on in Ashland for some time. There are two men who have been successful in this line, but their entire effort has not been centered upon egg production for the general market, but upon the production of breeding stock of the highest type. Of course, egg production is one of the main qualities in their work, for it is to produce high production birds that they are laboring. However, most of their eggs are used for incubation, in the production of additional stock, and are not placed on the open market.

Of these two men, E. O. Smith is the larger operator. E. Bert Fresman, the second

poultry man, is now working with a small flock, building it up into a high egg producing flock.

Smith operates a nine acre farm, near the city limits of this city. His place is an ideal chicken farm, and according to his own statements, he has had even more success than he anticipated in this line. He attributes this success to the natural advantages this section has for egg production.

He has a poultry farm, from which has come much of the high egg producing stock now in Jackson county and Southern Oregon.

The Smith Quality Poultry Farm is located on Oak street, near the city limits on a nine acre tract of well drained gravelly soil. The whole of the nine acres is fenced and crossed fenced for chickens, there being nearly two miles of poultry fencing on the place. The large double yard system is used which insures for the breeding stock, as nearly a free range condition as is possible on a specialty poultry farm.

The 2500 hens on the place are housed in large open front houses of an approved design. Both in housing and yarding the health and vitality of the fowls receives first consideration. The hens are never confined to the house, but have access to the yards at all times.

Hatching equipment has heretofore consisted of a small hot water, oil heated machine. Five years ago, Mr. Smith had one 120 egg machine. The next year he jumped to a machine of 3,000 egg capacity and the last two seasons he has had machines of 6,000 egg capacity. Due to the great amount of labor entailed and the inadequate capacity of the machines used in the past, Mr. Smith is this year installing a Buckeye Mammoth machine of 12,000 egg capacity. This incubator is recognized all over the country as the last work in artificial incubation.

In speaking of his flock, Mr.

Smith said: "The strain of Leghorns which we have endeavored to build up during the six years that we have been breeding Leghorns, is getting to be to well known in Jackson county to need much boosting here. Three years ago we paid the enormously high price of \$100 for one of the Hollywood poultry farm's high record males. Up to that time this was the highest priced utility bird ever to be shipped into the country. All of the cockerels which we will use in our breeding pens this year are grand sons of this bird, and there is not one of them out of a hen that laid less than 220 eggs in her first year of laying. We believe that the high flock averages made in the past are due to the prepotency of this Hollywood male."

The hens used in the breeding pens on the Smith place are all yearlings or over. Nearly half of them are trapped, and the balance are out of trap nested hens and are very carefully culled.

No male bird will be used this year less than 220 egg pedigree and the most of them are better than that, a vigorous, peppy bunch, raised on free range.

Incubation eggs received the most careful attention on the Smith poultry farm. Mrs. Smith says: "By exercising extreme

care each year in the selection of the hatching eggs as to color and size, we have practically eliminated the tinted egg, and the hen that lays the small egg is rare indeed. An egg must be well shaped, pure white, and weigh at least 23 ounces to the dozen before it is a fit egg to incubate."

St. Helens work begins on Gray-Vearlo Building, to cost \$15,000.

Marshfield — Cedar veneer and battery-separator factories running double shifts.

### HISTORY OF TIDINGS STORY OF THIS CITY

(Continued from page one)

visit the island in the lake.

The advantages of a townsite at Ashland were extolled and the proper booster spirit shown by the Tidings from its birth. A summary of the local resources of the community in which it was published was full of optimism, and concluded with the following interesting paragraph:

"There is one peculiarity in which Ashland differs from most towns. It has neither church nor saloon; however, whiskey is sold by the bottle and preaching done in the schoolhouse; therefore the people are generally happy."

Notwithstanding the early success of the Tidings along literary lines, the business end of it was evidently not going very strong. On top of this Mr. Sutton's health failed and he had to give up the paper which was taken over temporarily by J. M. McCall & Co., local merchants, until other arrangements to continue the paper could be made. In a few months the name of O. C. Applegate & Co., publishers, appeared at the masthead of the paper. Mr. Applegate was not a practical printer but was a pleasing writer and well equipped to conduct the editorial end. During the time of his management a large amount of historical matter, particularly with reference to the early Indian wars of the Rogue River Valley and Southern Oregon, was printed in the Tidings. Captain Applegate, hale and hearty, but not quite so young as he used to be, now lives at Klamath Falls, where he is still active in public affairs and widely recognized as an authority on Oregon pioneer history.

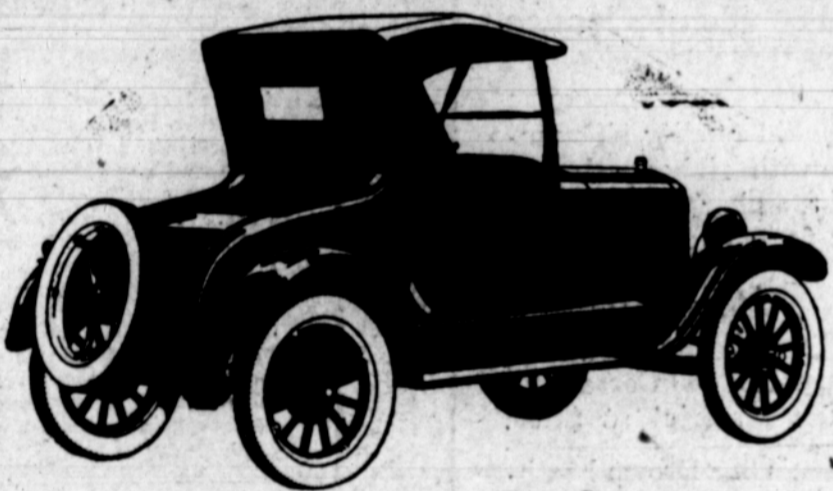
It was in 1879 that two young men, who had for their capital some experience as printers, and plenty of ambition to work and grow up with the country, came here from the north and bought

the Tidings. They were William H. Leeds and Corlies Merritt. Merritt did not "stick" and Leeds became sole owner after a few months. The latter continued as the directing head and editor of the paper for many years. A man of clean personal character and a forceful and polished writer, he, it is generally admitted made a deep impress upon the business, educational and political life of Southern Oregon during a period notable for a marked expansion in population and wealth in this region. Mr. Leeds was elected state printer for Oregon in 1894 and reelected in 1898, changing his residence to Salem to carry on his official duties. Later he removed to San Diego, Calif., and died in 1921.

In 1894, F. D. Wagner, who had grown up in the Tidings office, having qualified as "roller boy," first in 1881, was taken in as partner, and became active manager. He later bought out the Leeds interest and continued as publisher and editor until March, 1911, when he sold out to the Bennett Brothers, two bright young easterners who came here from newspaper work at Portland. In less than a year Bert R. Greer, member of a well known family of newspaper men and women from Kansas and Oklahoma, blew into town, became enamored of Ashland and offered the Bennetts a good premium on the Tidings plant and good will. The history of the Tidings since that time is familiar history to most of its present day readers.

The old Washington handpress on which the Tidings was first printed was discarded about 1885 after the railroad came to Ashland and to the valley, from the north, and a Prouty cylinder press was installed. This proved not quite satisfactory for a growing business so in 1887 a Cottrill cylinder, a wonderful press for a country office at that time, was

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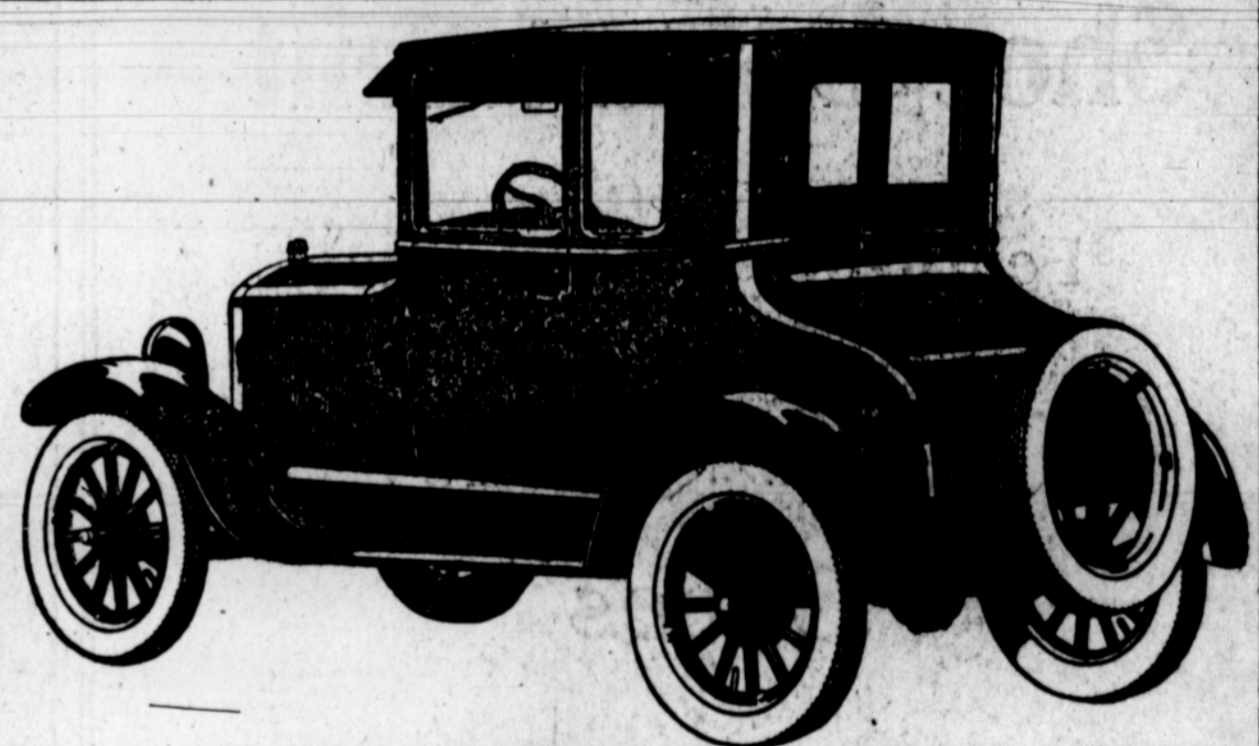
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