

OREGON NEWS OF INTEREST

GREAT FRUIT YIELD.

River Valley Trees Promise Choice Product.

From the viewpoint of the grain-grower, the nature of the soil in the state of Oregon is in a state of growth prevailing for the past few years having woefully reduced the yield in all small grains. It appears as if nature, indeed, rebelled against the persistent perversion of soil conditions intended to produce nectar for the gods, to the uses of growing provender for the uses of grain for human kind or for cattle.

The orchards and alfalfa meadows, however, are yielding up such stores of wealth as only those realize who deal with existing conditions. Apples and pears promise fancy figures again this year, in fact growers are recording breaking prices, owing to a partial failure of fruit of ordinary quality in the east. Of course the fruit for which this section is distinguished is not exactly in competition with ordinary barrel stock, the scarcity of the latter article enhances prices all round. Growers are carefully thinning and spraying the summer spray at present, and favoring weather conditions giving promise of quality surplus, perhaps, any former year in the history of the local trade.

FIX PRICE OF PRUNES.

Willamette Valley Growers' Association Says 2% Cent Basis.

The Willamette Valley Prune Association held an important meeting at Astoria last week. Delegates were in attendance from Douglas, Lane, Linn, Benton and Clackamas counties, and from Vancouver, Wash., and the most representative gathering of the fruitgrowers of the Northwest ever held in that city. Organizations are already formed in Linn, Douglas, Marion and Yamhill counties, and at Vancouver, Wash., and associations will be formed all over the state and the northwest in the near future. The plan under discussion at the meeting was to have all associations in the Northwest unite in one secretary, so that it will be possible for one organization to control another in the market, thus setting uniform scale of prices for prunes on the coast. The plan met with the approval of all present and an effort will be made to bring the price of prunes this year is fixed at a 2% cent basis.

Coming Events.

Annual regatta, Astoria, August 19-21.
State fair, Salem, September 14-19.
Second Southern Oregon District Fair, Eugene, September 29-October 3.
Summer association of the Northwest Indian agencies, Newport, August 17-27.
Lane county teachers' institute, Eugene, August 4-5.
Clatsop county fair, Klamath Falls, October 6-9.
Good roads convention, Jackson, August 15.
Fruitgrowers' convention, Jackson, August 15.
Teachers' institute, Tillamook, July 31.
Folk's celebration, La Grande, August 1.
The Hoo contenttion, Portland, August 1.
Nights of Pythias convention, Astoria, August 20-21.
Teachers' institute, La Grande, August 17-21.

Smiling Fields of Polk County.

Excellent samples of hay and grain have been brought to Independence last week. Early oats and spring wheat have commenced to change color, and the heads of each are well filled. Some early crops have been harvested in town, which are three-fourths grown. Hay harvest is being pushed rapidly forward, and there is a large acreage in Polk county this year than has ever been planted here. The fruit season for cherries and berries has practically passed, and the plums, prunes and apples are commencing to ripen.

Bricks Made on Coos Bay.

The first lot of brick just burt at the new kiln in Catching slough was delivered this week at North Bend and is being used in the foundation of the boilers and engines of the power mills and sash and door factory. This is the initial burn and somewhat of an experiment, but from the appearance of this production Coos Bay will be able to turn out kiln-dried brick, a much needed industry, for heretofore this article had to be imported.

Huckleberry Season Here.

Huckleberries are beginning to ripen in the foothills of the Blue mountains. Never before was there promise of such a bountiful crop there as is now presented. The season has been an ideal one for their growth. There were no early frosts, and as a consequence none were blighted. They bush is loaded, and already berries are being formed to go out and gather the luscious fruit.

Collecting Mining Data.

George E. Boos, of the United States Geological Survey, Washington, D. C., is at Baker City, and will make a complete report of mining in Eastern Oregon, showing production, cost of operation, wages, etc. By act of congress mineowners are compelled to furnish information under penalty.

Ready for Steel Bridge.

The approaches and center pier for the Lewis and Clark draw bridge near Astoria have been completed and are ready for the steel draw when it arrives from the east. It has been on the road for several weeks and is expected within a few days.

JUNE OUTPUT SPLENDID.

Sumpter District Mines Cleared Up All of \$350,000.

Estimates based on the production of ore in the Sumpter mining district for the past month give much greater returns than heretofore. The deep sinking operations carried on in most of the leading properties have resulted in opening up a larger area of mining territory and consequently an increased production has resulted.

According to the estimates that are at hand from the best sources obtainable, the Bonanza is said to have cleared up during June \$50,000; the North Pole, \$80,000; the Columbia, \$45,000; Golconda, \$35,000; the Badger, \$30,000; total, \$240,000. The production of the Red Boy is variously stated to be from \$25,000 to \$50,000, and therefore should be added to the total production.

There are many other properties that are constantly shipping ore away for treatment at smelters. It is impossible to get any figures as to the value of these ores, as no returns are given from the smelters receiving them, except to the owners, and the latter as a rule are opposed to making public these figures. It would be safe in fixing the total at \$250,000 for the month. This total includes the cleanup from many claims in the district that are not ranking with the big producers. This also includes the output of the placers as far as can be learned.

Oregon King Looking Up.

As Oregon mining, which has been shut down for several years on account of litigation, is again holding its own. The management is looking for more miners and preparing to make heavy shipments. To give a history of this mine would be to repeat that of other properties accidentally discovered, abandoned, relocated and developed sufficiently to make a trial shipment, which was found to give surprising returns. Shipments followed, which, after deducting charges for a 60-mile wagon haul to the then terminus of the Columbia Southern railway, which was being extended southward, and freight from there to the smelter at Tocama, netted over \$105 per ton.

Not Enough Water.

The voters of the proposed Little Walla Walla river irrigation district near Frewater turned down the proposition to form an irrigation district by 89 to 52, the voters living at the upper end of the district killing the proposition on the ground that the river does not give enough water when at low ebb for those holding riparian rights, whereas if an irrigation district were formed including both themselves and those below them, they would have to divide what water was with those below them. A three-fifths vote of the residents was required to carry the establishment.

Hot Contest for Land.

A contest of more than usual importance was begun in the Oregon City Land Office a few days ago. Important is the contest because an entire section of heavily timbered land located near Corvallis, Benton county, is involved. It is estimated that the section contains 16,000,000 feet of fine timber. There are four entrymen, each having filed upon a quarter section, and there are as many contestants on the ground that the entrymen abandoned and did not prove up properly on the land.

Prospects for New Flax Mill.

James Boyce, a millionaire of Muncie, Ind., who is at Salem, is investigating the prospects for a new flax mill in that city. He has made a fortune in that business, and is impressed with the idea that such an industry would be a paying one there. He is much pleased with the excellence of the Oregon flax fibre, and may back Mr. Eugene Bosse, the local flax-grower, in the construction of a mill to manufacture the flax fibre into a marketable product.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 77@78c; valley, 79c.
Barley—Feed, \$19.00 per ton; brewing, \$20.
Flour—Best grades, \$4.10 @ 5.50; Graham \$3.35@3.75.
Millstuffs—Bran, \$23 per ton; middlings, \$27; shorts, \$23; chop, \$18.
Oats—No. 1 white, \$1.07 @ 1.07½; gray, \$1.05 per cental.
Hay—Timothy, \$19@20; clover, nominal; cheat, \$15@16 per ton.
Potatoes—Best Bu-banks, 70@75c per sack; ordinary, 35@45c per cental, growers' prices; Merced sweets, \$3@3.50 per cental.
Poultry—Chickens, mixed, 11@12c; young, 16@17c; hens, 12c; turkeys, live, 10@12c; dressed, 14@15c; ducks, \$4.00@5.00 per dozen; geese, \$6.00@6.50.
Cheese—Full cream, twins, 15½@16c; Young America, 15½@16c; factory prices, 1@1½c less.
Butter—Fancy creamery, 20@22½c per pound; extras, 22c; dairy, 20@22½c; store, 16@17.
Eggs—20@21c per dozen.
Hops—Choice, 15@16c per pound.
Wool—Valley, 17@18c; Eastern Oregon, 12@15c; mohair, 35@37½c.
Beef—Gross, cows, 3½@4c, per pound; steers, 5@5½c; dressed, 7½c.
Veal—7½@8c.
Mutton—Gross, 3c per pound; dressed, 5½@6c.
Lamb—Gross, 4c per pound; dressed, 7c.
Hogs—Gross, 6@6½c per pound; dressed, 6½@7c.

GUARDS RUINS OF POMPEII.

Aged Sentry Keeps Sights Out of Area of Excavations.

Old Luigi has occupied week by week for twenty-two years his little sentry box on the topmost point of the highest heap of ashes and scoriae that the excavators have cast up out of Pompeii to the northward, says a correspondent of the New York Evening Post. There he sits, and smokes in peace his diminutive pipe of execrable but not cheap tobacco. While the other guards are hurrying through the gaping ruins below him successive groups of drooping travelers, apparently just come from the building of Babel, old Luigi's only duty is to keep a weather eye open for the unduly inquisitive stranger who may want to make his way into the forbidden area of the excavations still in progress, or for the more pertinacious native who advances a hundred plausible reasons for similar transgression from the beaten paths of the adjacent vineyards and orchards.

For the troublesome native Luigi has short words and but scant courtesy. Toward the ignorant foreigner he is more affably disposed and a pipeful of imported tobacco and a few friendly words open both his heart and his lips.

Luigi has a magnificent view from his high perch. Behind him is the lord of the landscape, Vesuvius. He has been wrapped for an hour in a private mantle of cloud and that has just lifted to show his great gray shoulders white with unaccustomed snow. Luigi says it will be a hard afternoon for the travelers at the summit. Immediately in front are the roofless, ash walls of the ruins of the ancient city, sloping down to the very edge of that prehistoric lava stream that marks the eariler and greater rage of the monarch who visited sudden destruction upon the people that ventured to build upon the skirts of his trailing robe. Beyond stretches the almost level plain of the Sarno, laid out in rectangular garden patches all the way across toward the rugged, towering heights of Monte Sant Angelo, now capped with the late snows of departing winter.

In a sheltered nook, half-way up the steep, nestle behind the frowning outposts of a ruined castle the pink and yellow and white houses of the little village of Lettere, whence, just 1,350 years ago, the last king of the Goths marched down to meet defeat at the hands of Narses in the plain below. Farther to the left one can just make out the castle of Nocera, where Helena, Manfred's widow, wept her life away in captivity after the lamentable slaughter at Beneventum. At the right beyond the clustered buildings of Castellamare, the blue Mediterranean glitters out to the twin heights of Capri and the massive dome of Ischia.

ST. LOUIS MILLIONAIRE WHO IS EXPLORING THE BLUE NILE

A dispatch received in London announces the arrival at Adis Ababa, Abyssinia, the capital of King Menelik's country, of the expedition headed by W. N. MacMillan, of St. Louis. The expedition is to explore the whole course of the Blue Nile to ascertain its navigability as a trade route from central Abyssinia to the Mediterranean.

Mr. MacMillan was detained a week owing to the murder by natives of M. Dubois de Saulee, the correspondent of the Figaro, who was accompanying the expedition. The party will explore 1,000 miles of river, from Adis Ababa to Khartoum.

The expedition which was arranged by Mr. MacMillan, and the expense of which he is bearing entirely, is one of the largest of recent years. It consists of 100 camels, forty attendants, an escort of armed Abyssinians, and a flotilla of boats. Mr. MacMillan is the son of William MacMillan, who at the time of his death was president of the American Car and Foundry company, and is rated as a millionaire. It is expected the trip will consume two months.

Lounge Anatomy.

The modern interest in science through "observation" has become more or less of a mania. Even the children are bitten by it. The Little Chronicle says that George, aged five, takes a great interest in physiology and anatomy.

One day some members of the family had been studying a dissected porcupine, and making drawings of the bones.

Not long after his sisters took an old lounge apart, and George watched them. Presently he came running to another member of his family, his eyes on fire, his cheeks flushed, and his locks flying behind him.

"Come! come!" he cried. "If you want to study physiology, now's your chance. The girls have got the lounge all to pieces!"



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Crime in Massachusetts.

Massachusetts has 1,800 prisoners per million population.

The man who gets there acts as his own crutch; he doesn't lean on others.



When Mother Goes Away.

When mother goes a-visitin'
There's lots uv things to do;
An' fur a week or so ahead
She's in a reg'lar stew.
She says she's got to clean the house,
An' labors night an' day
At cleanin', scrubbin', pickin' up,
Afore she goes away.

Place of the College Girl.

Various conjectures as to the part the educated girl is to play in the social and economic affairs of the new time have been offered by educators and sociologists. Not a few have expressed some doubt as to the value of the higher education to the young woman who is to embrace the vocation of wifehood and motherhood. Many have not hesitated to question the utility of an education that has so little bearing upon the duties incident to the ordinary sphere of womanly activities.

In an address of much force delivered before the graduating class at Vassar College Whitelaw Reid defined the place of the college girl and the range of influence which her training and knowledge may take in the social and economic world. Outside the immediate and inestimable effect on the family, the conservative power of educated women, in the opinion of Mr. Reid, naturally will show its influence on social life. Their influence will check the degradation of social life, the constant craze for newspaper publicity, and the evils that come from excesses. This influence, he declared, may infuse moderation into our new and admirable devotion to athletics. It may also restore sanity to our "charity run mad."—Chicago Record-Herald.

The Dressing Sack Woman.

There is a popular delusion to the effect that household tasks require slipshod garments and unkempt hair. Let the frowzy ones contemplate the trained nurse, and in her spotless uniform, with her snowy cap and apron, and her shining hair. Let the doubtful ones go to a cooking school and see a neat young woman in a blueingham gown and a white apron prepare an eight-course dinner and emerge spotless from the ordeal. One who cleans is to be considered the directing force rather than the rag, and it is not essential to assume intimate personal possession of foreign substances.

The woman who puts on an apron over her dressing sack by that act openly proclaims that the thing would be better if it was belted in. Then why not a shirt-waist? Does one ever see a trained nurse in a dressing sack, even when she does heavier work than any other woman is ever called upon to do? If a woman in the uniform of a trained nurse can do the manifold things assigned to her calling, surely the laundress and the cook do not need a dressing sack.

Cure for Headache.

Headache is perhaps the most common ailment mortal flesh is heir to. A very simple remedy, often found to relieve the most violent headache, is this: Take a small quantity of black pepper and put it in a piece of fine linen, then fold over so the grains will not fall out and wet the whole bandage with camphor. Place it across the head and lie down on your back. The pain will have ceased in a very short space of time and the patient will fall asleep. When the camphor dries out of the linen, if not relieved, saturate it again. A mixture of ice and salt in proportion of one to one-half tied up in a linen cloth and held to the head will often give relief. For sick headache take a glass two-thirds full of finely shaved ice, the juice of one lemon and a teaspoon of sugar. This mixture, eaten slowly, will allay feverish thirst and quiet the disturbed stomach. Biliary headache may often be relieved by drinking two teaspoonfuls of finely powdered charcoal dissolved in half a glass of water. A powder should be taken one hour later.

The Work of Women.

The position of a rich and idle woman, bedded in a luxurious home, with all the arts and crafts ministering to her personal gratification and the extension of her vanity, from body to dress, from dress to home and furniture, and with all the endless fripperies of display, is one of painful abnormality. A woman working all the time in her home is primitive, but genuine. She represents an early period of development, it is true, but one of use and beauty and righteousness in its time. A woman who works neither in the house nor out of it, who greedily accepts all that human labor and human wisdom and human skill can do for her, and who does nothing in return for any human creature—this pitiable being can only be regarded as a morbid by-product of the home. She does not make the home, she does not pay for it, she does not serve, and she has no vital use or place either in the home or in the world; yet she is, in her way, an inevitable result of too much home—just as a toiling, narrow-minded drudge is another.—Charlotte Perkins Gilman in Success.

Black Eye.

If a child receives a blow over the eye likely to cause a "black eye," butter well the parts for two or three inches round the eye with fresh butter, renewing it every few minutes for the space of an hour or two, which will in all probability prevent the appearance of a "black eye."

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