

PRUNES A PROFITABLE CROP

W. K. Newell President State Board Gives Good Talk.

The prune is an important factor in Oregon horticulture. It is surpassed in value of crop only by the apple in this state. Other standard fruits may be grown in many localities, but the Italian prune finds a congenial home only in certain sections of the Pacific Northwest. The Italian, or, as it is now generally called, the Oregon prune, is by far the best of all varieties. We may well claim the name, Oregon, for this prune, as 80 per cent, at least, of the total production of the variety is produced in Oregon.

Prunes are grown on a commercial scale in Jackson, Douglas, Lane, Linn, Benton, Marion, Polk, Yamhill, Clackamas, Washington, Multnomah, Columbia, Wasco, Umatilla, Union and Malheur counties. In the four counties east of the Cascade Mountains the bulk of the crop is shipped to the Eastern market in its fresh or green state and usually brings handsome returns. When the fruit is shipped fresh it is picked as soon as it is well colored and is packed in what are known to the fruit trade as four-basket crates. In packing the prunes they are placed in the "baskets" in layers with white paper between each layer. Packed in this way they carry well and present an attractive appearance.

The prunes grown west of the Cascade Mountains are cured in evaporators with artificial heat. Every large grower has his own plant, and in every prune growing neighborhood there is at least one evaporator which does custom work for small growers.

The average annual crop of prunes in Oregon is about 27,000,000 pounds of dried prunes and 100 to 150 carloads of fresh prunes. The average price is about 4 and one-half cents per pound for the cured prunes and, perhaps, 50 cents per crate, or \$900 to \$1000 per car for the fresh fruit. It will be seen that the value of the entire crop amounts to about \$1,250,000 annually. This year, owing to very unfavorable weather, the crop was not up to the average.

The best grades of prunes are usually sold to evaporator operators at from \$16 to \$20 per ton fresh. An acre should produce from five to seven tons of fresh fruit. Pickers are paid from 5 to 7 cents per bushel box for gathering the fruit, according to the size of the prunes and the weather conditions. An average day's work for a picker is from 30 to 40 boxes.

I believe it is absolutely correct to say that from the standpoint of food value the prune is the most valuable fruit we grow, and it should find a place on the breakfast table of every home in the land. It is cheap, nourishing, palatable and healthful. For many years a foolish prejudice existed in the minds of many against this fruit and it was regarded by such persons as an article fit only for the table of a boarding house. Happily, this prejudice has been overcome and market prospects are now excellent.

The prune needs a well drained, warm soil for its proper development. It succeeds admirably on the red hill lands of the Willamette Valley and in the warm, sandy valleys of Douglass

County.

It is a good time now to plant prune orchards and the prospective orchardist should give this fruit attention.

Teacher's Examination.

Notice is hereby given that the County Superintendent of Polk County will hold the regular examination of applicants for state and county papers at the Court-house at Dallas, Oregon, as follows:

FOR STATE PAPERS.

Commencing Wednesday, February 10, 1909, at 9 o'clock a. m. and continuing until Saturday, February 13, 1909, at 4 p. m.

Wednesday—Penmanship, History, Spelling, Physical Geography, Reading, Psychology.

Thursday—Written Arithmetic Theory of Teaching, Grammar, Book-keeping, Physics, Civil Government.

Friday—Physiology, Geography, Composition, Algebra, English Literature, School Law.

Saturday—Botany, Plane Geometry, General History.

FOR COUNTY PAPERS.

Commencing Wednesday, February 10, 1909, at 9 o'clock a. m., and continuing until Friday, February 12, 1909, at 4 p. m.

Wednesday—Penmanship, History, Orthography, Reading, Physical Geography.

Thursday—Written Arithmetic Theory of Teaching, Grammar, Physiology.

Friday—Geography, School Law, Civil Government, English Literature.

Yours truly,

H. C. Seymour,

School Superintendent Polk County, Oregon.

Attention students! Leave your laundry at D. M. Hampton's and have it laundried right. We know how. Dallas Steam Laundry. D. M. Hampton, agent. 2-t

Wanted.

A band of young nannie Angora goats. Can use all you have if price is right. Give age and description. Address A, care of Herald office, Monmouth.

Strawberry Plants.

Marshal Berry Plants. Strong thrifty plants from new bed. Price 30 cents per hundred. \$3.00 per 1000.

Address, Alpine Berry Farm, Monmouth, Oregon.

President's Medal.

The winner of this contest will be awarded a gold medal, annually offered by the President, and will represent the school in the State Contest to be held in March.

Prices of Admission.

Children	10 cents
Adults	15 cents

Notice to School Teachers.

Would you like to take a trip to the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition next summer at no expense to yourself? If you would we have a proposition to make to you that will give you a chance to go. It will only require a little exertion and you can do all there is to do during your spare time. Write to the Herald and get full particulars.

Notice to Stockholders.

Notice is hereby given to stockholders of the Monmouth Creamery, that preference will be given them to purchase stock in the ice plant until March 1. After which time the same will be open to the general public.

G. T. McKinney, Secy.

Malta Vita

Regular 10c

This Week

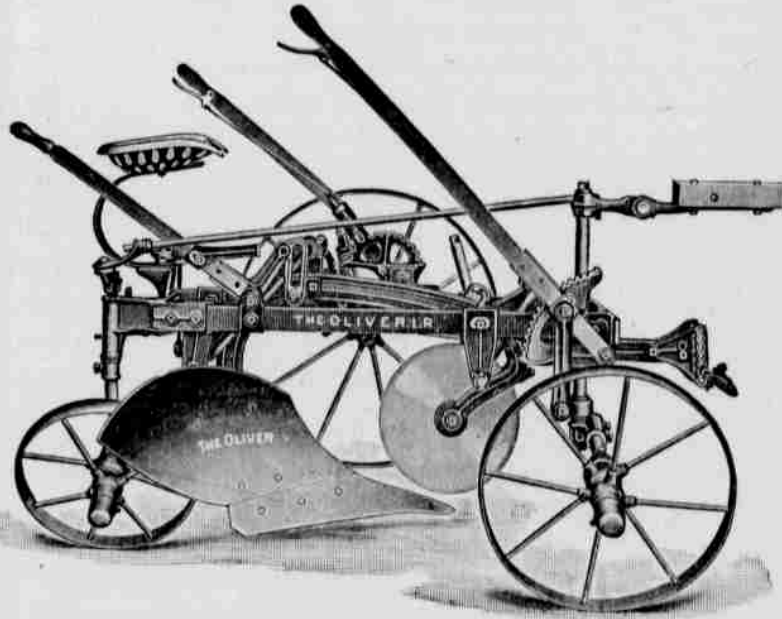
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Hardware of all Kinds, Harness, Stoves, Vehicles, Farm Implements

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Plumbing a Specialty.

Independence,

Oregon

For Sale.

One of the nicest residences in Monmouth, 12 rooms, hot and cold water, bath and pantry. Furnace heat. Four lots, some fruit trees and shrubbery together with almost entire furnishings for \$2500. Terms can be given on a part of this. Enquire of the Polk County Realty Co., at the Herald office.

This price is far below real value and will only stand for a short time.

Prize Peach and Pride of Oregon

FLOUR

Made in Polk County

Lindsay & Co., Sole Agents

Patronize home manufactured goods and help build up your home industries

Bring your Job Work to the Herald Office