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HOP YIELD TO BE SMALL.

Oregon Raisers Will Get Enormous Prices, Says Buyer.

Salem.—"Hop fields in the valley are full of missing hills and the crop this year undoubtedly will be smaller than last year. With this in view and the fact that in May contracts are being written for 21 cents, all indications point to enormous prices for Oregon," said James R. Linn, a member of one of the best known hop firms in the valley.

"I know personally for instance, of one man who has reset 5,000 hills up to date. Practically a third of his yard is dead and he has always had a full stand before. Last year the crop was not up to the consumption and this year it will be even smaller. In fact, there are more hills missing this year than for many years, perhaps than ever before. The upland yards are bad and yards that produced well last year show lots of hills missing."

Catlin & Linn have only 50 acres of hops of their own and are heavy buyers, consequently this information is considered as having weight behind it.

"The situation for the grower is better than it has been for years," is the way Linn summed up the situation.

MARBLE CAVE DISCOVERED.

Prospectors on Upper Deer Creek Find Winding Caverns.

Granta Pass—C. W. Walton, miner and prospector near Dryden, and H. C. Perkins, ex-county surveyor, have discovered a marble cave on upper Deer creek 25 miles south of this place and in the vicinity of the famous Josephine county caves.

Mr. Perkins and his companion were prospecting to locate several claims for a Portland firm, when they accidentally discovered an opening to large and unexplored regions of the earth beneath their excavations. Little exploration work was made as one candle was all the light they had. The opening to the new caves is not large, but inside are deep marble recesses.

One cave is 40 feet high, and several tunnels enter from different directions. A party is soon to be formed here and with available lights the interior will be inspected.

In the underground passages the bones of bear and elk were found. An ivory spearhead five inches long, and a flint arrowhead were also found.

TARANTULA IS PRISONER.

Grocer Confines Specimen Received in Bunch of Bananas.

Portland—A. L. Boscamp, an East Side grocer, had a thrilling experience last week with a monster tarantula, and narrowly escaped being bitten. While hanging up a large bunch of Panama bananas Mr. Boscamp saw the tarantula. Dropping the bananas, he got a fruit jar and began the fight to imprison the visitor.

The tarantula in the meantime had thrown himself from among the bananas, and when the grocer tried to place the jar over him he made several jumps toward his would-be captor, once nearly biting Mr. Boscamp on the hand. After several minutes the tarantula was placed in the jar and is now on exhibition at the store. It is an uncommonly large specimen, covering the bottom of the jar. The bananas had been handled several times before Mr. Boscamp received them.

Stone Bowl Unearthed.

Eugene—While grubbing out a stump on his ranch south of here several days ago, W. W. Comer unearthed a heavy stone bowl, such as was used by the Indians for grinding grain and roots. The old vessel was buried several feet deep, at the foot of the stump. The bowl is about 30 inches in diameter and 10 inches high. It weighs almost 50 pounds, and is carved, or ground, out of hard blue flint. Old settlers say they have seen similar vessels in use among the Indians, who used them as mortars in grinding. In spite of the hardness of the material the old vessel is remarkably symmetrical.

Pendleton Alfalfa High.

Pendleton—Alfalfa stems measuring three feet four inches high were taken May 9 from the 40-acre field of M. C. Barragar, near town. The land on which this was grown was covered with sage brush three years ago. Two years ago it was seeded and now it is conceded to be one of the best fields of alfalfa in the country. As a rule the growth of alfalfa has not been as rank this year as last. This is due to the unseasonably cold weather experienced.

Sane Fourth for Pendleton? Never.

Pendleton—Pendleton will celebrate the Fourth of July this year. This was the announcement made by the special committee from the Commercial association appointed to canvass the merchants and learn their wishes in the matter. It will not be a "sane Fourth." Far from it. The eagle will not only be permitted but will be encouraged to scream loud, long and often.

Florence Site Taken.

Florence—Representatives of the Klock Produce company, of Portland, have been in this vicinity for the last few days negotiating with dairymen for the purchase of their cream, and say they will open a creamery here soon. The dairy industry is building up this section of the country rapidly.

BERRY SEASON AT HAND.

Hood River Crop Estimated at 75,000 Crates.

Hood River—The world's attention to the Hood River valley was first called by the excellent strawberries it was shipping. That was nearly 20 years ago. Shipments have gone as far as China and England, and have reached those places in good condition. The first shipment consisted of but a few crates, and was sent by the Davidson Fruit company, of this city, now shippers in carload lots.

For several years past shipments of strawberries from this city have totaled from 75,000 to 100,000 crates each year, and as high as seven and eight cars have been shipped in a single day. Shipments from the valley this season, it is expected, will amount to at least 75,000 crates which will be a little in excess of last year's shipments.

Strawberries raised in the United States that come into competition with those shipments are grown in Missouri, Arkansas and Colorado. Berries grown elsewhere are either marketed before the Hood River berries are ripe or after the Hood River berries are off the market.

It is expected that shipments will go forward this year as early as May 20, and in view of the fact that the heavy frosts in the Middle West have cut down the berry crop for this year, it is expected they will bring a very high price. The strawberry situation in the East points to a heavy crop, but this does not affect the berries grown in this section.

The strawberry fields in Hood River have never been in better condition than this year; vines and plants are in a very high state of vitality. Growers are now busy cleaning their fields and getting ready for picking.

There is but one problem connected with strawberry growing in Hood River that sometimes becomes serious from a grower's standpoint, and that is the securing of competent and sufficient help to pick and pack the crop, in view of the fact that the berries are very perishable and must be picked from the vines, packed and marketed each day.

It will require a large number of people to harvest this year's crop, and unless regiments of pickers and packers come into the Hood River valley from outside sections, the growers will be unable to cope with the situation. The Indians from nearby reservations constitute a large percentage of those who come to Hood River to pick berries, and are among the best pickers.

Heavy losses have been experienced as a result of shortage of help. From present indications there is a probability that help will be scarce this year, and growers are eager and anxious to correspond with parties who are willing to take up the work this season. This year's crop should net the growers approximately \$150,000.

All danger from frosts is now past and a large crop is assured.

"CANADA NOT SO GOOD."

Ex-Oregonian for Second Time Takes Out Naturalization Papers.

Bend—The much-heralded Canadian homesteads have no attraction for W. J. McGillvray, of Bend, who last week at a session of the Circuit court held at Prineville, for the second time in his life secured naturalization papers.

The duplication of the experience of becoming an upholder of Uncle Sam's constitution was necessary in Mr. McGillvray's case because a number of years ago he left the United States, going from South Dakota to Alberta, where he found it necessary to swear allegiance to the crown before he could take up a homestead.

"The States are good enough for me," said the ex-Canadian homesteader, after he had been naturalized for the second time, "and Central Oregon has just as good lands as any to be found in all Western Canada. You bet I wouldn't give my papers for all the homesteads in the Dominion."

Fourth for Pleasure Only.

Pendleton—This place will have a Fourth of July celebration and most of the program will be given at Round up Park. It will not be a mercenary affair, but will be intended for comfort and the entertainment of people, especially of those who come to the city from over the county. This was the unanimous decision at a meeting of the Commercial club recently. The committee that canvassed the sentiment of the business men was headed by Mayor E. J. Murphy, and it was favorable to a celebration elsewhere than on the streets.

Forest Grove Will Pave.

Forest Grove—The city council has advertised for bids for paving 18 blocks in Forest Grove with bitulithic pavement. The bids are to be sealed and will be opened May 24. The contractor must begin work within ten days after the contract is signed, and the contract will stipulate that the work must be finished within 120 days. The 18 blocks to be paved include the principal business district of the town and several residence streets.

Cove Orchard Lands Sell.

La Grande—Unusual development of orchard lands about Cove, just across the Grand Ronde valley from La Grande, marks the beginning of the active preparations for the 1911 fruit season. Many deals are being made weekly; new men are coming in to buy fruit land, and fruit trees of all descriptions are being planted with much haste.

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