

INDEPENDENCE ENTERPRISE

AND WEST SIDE.

NINTH YEAR.

INDEPENDENCE, POLK COUNTY, OREGON, JULY 17, 1902.

NUMBER 33

STRAWBERRY INDUSTRY.

Independence People to Start the Enterprise.

POLK COUNTY THE NATURAL HOME

Of the Berry--No Better Soil and Climate for the Purpose Could be Desired.

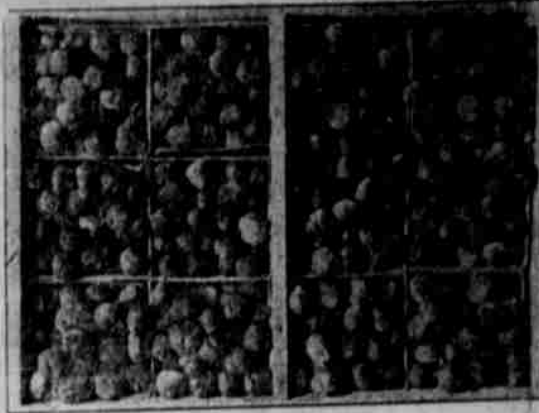
No more welcome news has come to the knowledge of the people of Independence and vicinity than the fact that the great strawberry industry now engaging the attention of many is soon to be established here on quite an extensive plan. Some of our energetic and enthusiastic citizens have for some time past been looking up, and working up this very important project, till it has culminated in the organizing of a grower's union to carry forward this industry upon a uniform and co-operative plan.

It is self evident that there is no section of the country better suited and more promising of profitable returns than in this immediate locality. The soil here is well adapted to those varieties of the strawberry, which command the highest market prices. These varieties can be raised here with less labor and expense, and in greater abundance than elsewhere. Moreover markets are near at hand, or if shipping facilities are desired, there are no better to be found than in Independence.

From an industrial standpoint, no greater or more fortunate thing could happen to Independence. As Mr. Hofer, of Salem, very truly states: "It would give labor for all the people at a time when work is scarce and would put money in general circulation. All that is needed is a spirit of rustle and enterprise. No bonus, no capital, no new equipment is demanded." As the strawberry is indigenous to this locality and can be better grown here than elsewhere, its culture may be depended upon as always successful.

In every enterprise the great question always is asked, "Will it pay?" It is stated that last year the Salem growers cleared from \$125 to \$300 per acre on their crop, while Hood River growers realized a net profit of \$400. One quart is the average yield of a plant for one season. Planted three feet apart each way, the plants count 4500 to the acre. This yields an average crop of 200 crates to the acre for five years. Growers can very easily estimate the returns from this basis they are certain of receiving from \$1 to \$2 per crate for their berries, if they wish to ship them and not less than 75 cents at the canneries at home; hence the cost of production being small the profits are satisfactory and sure. Our citizens should aid in every possible manner the efforts of those, who are endeavoring to push this enterprise forward to a successful completion.

Independence has abundant natural resources if only developed, to make it one of the most flourish-



Crate of Strawberries.—Courtesy of Pacific Homestead, Salem, Oregon.

ing cities in the Willamette Valley and this strawberry industry is certainly one of them.

Time to Train Strawberries.

Col. Hofer, of Salem, who is enthusiastic on the strawberry question had two acres planted to berries this year which netted him \$500. Two hundred and fifty dollars an acre is a pretty good return, he thinks. The Colonel gives the results of his experience of many years in the following letter to the Pacific Homestead of Salem:

June is the time to train the vines for new plants to set out early in the fall. If properly done, growers of strawberries can gain nearly a year's time on new acreage. There is all the difference of a year between much of the nursery stock from the far East and the best home-grown plants. It will pay all who expect to grow for the market to look after a good plant supply for next year. Some plants will be needed to fill in missing plants in old patches. If new acreage is to be put out making the new plants is very important. Most strawberry growers raise some plants to sell. For all these purposes plants should be made as strong as possible, and a few simple rules about raising strawberry plants may not be out of place:

1st.—The best plants are obtainable only from new stock—that is plants set out last fall or this spring. Plants from older vines have not the vigor and vitality of growths from the younger stock.

2d.—Do not make over one to four plants from a hill. By setting the first plants that run out and fixing them to the ground with a stone or lump of earth they will root immediately. All secondary runners starting from this new plant should be removed.

By this process you will get large strong plants with great root power and with a fully formed crown, and if set out as early in the fall as the ground will permit, you will get a profitable crop next spring. Plants grown in this way and set out in the latter part of September or early in October will look like a field a year old and bear nearly as much.

It will be argued that this is a great deal of work, and you will ask "Does it pay?" I have tried both ways and am satisfied a trial will convince you. The old way of making strawberry plants was to let a plant set all the new plants it

would—sometimes 20 to 50, and often a perfect mat of plants, none of them large or strong, and most of them puny, weak and emaciated. None of this kind of stock ever makes much of a crop the first year after planting. With such plants the rule is to wait a year for a crop. It takes a year to get them on their feet, to grow a crown that will produce fruit in profitable quantities, for all time such plants will never be as strong as if the vines had been trained and limited to producing on an average of two new plants to the hill.

As the runners have to be removed from each hill after the fruit is off, it is not much more work to train two plants for new stock. After picking, go through the rows you want to make plants from and remove all weeds, then go through and train the two strongest runners, laying a clod on the runner next to the first joint and pinching off the runner that is just starting. Train them with the rows so that you can run the cultivator through once in a while. One hand can train several thousand in a day, and each plant grown this way, if set out early in the fall, will produce 2 cents worth of fruit next year of the finest quality.

If such plants are grown near to where new acreage is to be laid out, they can be removed in the fall with the earth on the roots and never stop growing.

It will be said this means work, but it is work that pays. We have been paying too little attention to getting plants started right and we have been growing too much poor product as a result. A weak plant will not only lose us a year in the crop but will never have the vitality and productiveness of a properly trained plant. I am satisfied that it will pay any grower to raise his own plants in this way. The nurseryman who grows plants to handle by the thousands, at \$1.50 to \$2.50 per 1000, is doing it to meet competitive commercial conditions, but the strawberry grower for profit must go to the beginning and grow his plants on correct principles if he would get the greatest results.

If a Man Lie to You

And say some other salve, ointment, lotion, oil or alleged healer is as good as Bucklen's Arnica Salve, tell him thirty years of marvelous cures of piles, burns, boils, corns, felons, ulcers, cuts, scalds, bruises and skin eruptions prove it the best and cheapest. 25c at Kirkland Drug Co.'s.

ACT OF REJECTED LOVER.

Polk County Man Attempts to End His Life With Poison.

John Remington, an employe on P. Hansen's farm, near Dallas, took carbolic acid with suicidal intent, says a telegram to the Oregonian July 14. He left Hansen's house before breakfast, went to the pasture and there took a large dose of the deadly drug. When found he was in great agony. Medical assistance was immediately summoned, and Remington was removed to the home of his father. He is still alive, but little hope is entertained of his recovery. He left a note stating that the reason for his rash act was because he had been disappointed in a love affair. Remington is about 30 years of age, and the oldest son of Reuben Remington, a well-known Polk county pioneer.

Changes Hands.

This week L. S. Perkins purchased the Brisbine drug store at Monmouth, taking possession at once. Mr. Perkins was the former proprietor of the establishment. Mr. Brisbine, while he is undecided what to do, may conclude to accept a position he has been tendered in the commissary department at Manila.

A Pleasant Affair.

Special from Buena Vista.

The ladies of the Woodman Circle of Buena Vista, had a royal good time at their hall Friday evening. The occasion was the semi-annual installation of officers, and in their usual whole-hearted style of entertaining the ladies made the occasion most pleasant. After the installation ice cream and cake were served and the remainder of the evening spent in social converse.

The new officers are: Guardian neighbor, Mrs. Adda Pillar; Past Guardian Neighbor, Mrs. Addie Calbreath; Advisor, Miss Lulu Locke; Magician, Mrs. Carrie Kreutz; Attendant, Miss Adelaide Hecker; Captain of Guards, Miss Ethel Locke; Inner Sentinel, Eston Bevens; Outer Sentinel, "Gabe" Locke.

This order is rapidly increasing in membership here and its popularity is its own recommendation. Three candidates were initiated on this occasion, and three more are to be ushered into the order at the next meeting. The ladies are justly proud of their organization, which has a bright prospect in future. Already their roll-call contains about 50 names.

Chautauqua Association.

"The Willamette Valley Chautauqua Association will be held at Gladstone Park, near Oregon City, July 8th to 19th; reduced rates via Southern Pacific Co's lines on the certificate plan.

Special attraction this season, Chemawa Indian Band; base ball, every afternoon; Chas. Craig the noted impersonator. Dr. Robt McIntyre, the great word painter of the west, and Thos McClary, the entertaining lecturer.

On July 10th the Hon. Henry Watterson will speak on 'Money and Morals' and on July 11th will deliver his celebrated lecture on Abraham Lincoln.

July 19th the entire program will be furnished by pupils of the Chemawa Indian school, music, vocal and instrumental, recitations base ball, and a grand closing concert by the Chemawa Indian Band, should make this day one of interest and entertainment.

For programs and further information call on nearest Southern Pacific agent.

To The Front!

Special from Buena Vista.

A wave of prosperity, awakened energy, aroused ambition, or what you will, appears to have struck this corner of Oregon. There is a buzz and a whirl of business about our ears that is refreshingly new to the Webfoot. In city, town and village the influence is felt, though perhaps only a few, here and there, pause to consider and inquire the reason.

There is an unusual influx of Eastern people to our borders the past ten or twelve months. Many of these strangers have cash and are seeking a location. Homes in the storm-swept East have been sold, and all bridges have been burned behind them as these people turned to Oregon. Homes they must and will have here, regardless of the cost.

The money placed in circulation by these new comers, during the past year, would, if set out in round numbers, amaze one. They have the money, we the land. Herein is the key: Land is in greater demand, hence its value is enhanced. Capitalists pay the laborer and the laborer places his earnings in circulation again, and times improve.

It is only a question of time, and not so long a time as one might fancy, until all the desirable land near the larger business centers will be taken; necessity, go farther into the interior to find a home.

Buena Vista should bid for its quota of immigrants. Excellent farming land and beautiful home sites are all about us. The location of Buena Vista itself is most picturesque and beautiful. But there is need of a rousing awakening. There are too many neglected fences, too many "shacks", too many untidy yards and alleys, too many places where sidewalks should be but are not, too many evidences that the owners are becoming Moss-backs in reality.

Let each one take up this matter and make it personal.

Let all work in unity at the end that property may be enhanced in value; that a desirable class of new-comers may be induced to locate in this section; that other business enterprises may find a welcome, and that we may eventually become a live country village where peace and plenty will be the lot of all.

Ballston.

Work hands are very scarce here and farmers are short of help to harvest their grain.

J. C. Wilcox went to Portland this week to work.

Grandma Birks has been quite sick, but is better at present.

Miss Winnie Sears has just recovered from an attack of so-called smallpox. She was exposed before leaving school at Eugene.

Our school teachers will receive the following salaries next year: Principal \$45 per month; assistant \$35.

Edward Dorton rode the Woodman goat Saturday.

J. H. Butler has been elected clerk of the Woodman camp here in place of A. W. Thornton, who has gone to Portland.

There was a large attendance at the annual basket meeting of the Christian churches, Sunday. Members from Salem, Dallas, Sheridan and Amity were present. C. A. Dotson, of Portland, preached both morning and evening. Rev. Arthur Cam, of Sheridan assisting. The next meeting will be held the 2d Sunday in July, 1903 at Ballston picnic grounds. Sheridan church will have charge, R. A. Porter is chairman of committee.

Mrs. N. M. Conner, has gone to Portland to visit her father, who is dangerously sick.

Miss Lena Stouffer, of Dallas, is visiting Milt Davis and family, at Willamina.