

HAPPENINGS HERE IN OREGON

PRUNES IN POOR DEMAND.

Association Holds Price Up to Two and One-Half Cents.

Salem—Dullness and uncertainty prevail in the prune market. The greater portion of the crop in this vicinity has been harvested and by the middle of the week all the growers in the hill country south of Salem will have their prunes cured. The yield has been large and the quality is first class. The prunes are rich in sugar, of excellent flavor and of unusually good texture. The dried fruit this year shows no "bloaters" such as are found some years. The crop having turned out better than was expected, the growers have nothing now to trouble them but selling the crop.

It is estimated that the Oregon crop, including that of Clark county, Washington, will amount to about 1,000 carloads. Of this quantity probably a little more than one-third has been sold at prices ranging from 4 to 4½ cents for the 40 to 50 to the pound size. The sales at the higher price were made early and recently 4 cents for 40s, or 2½-cent basis, has prevailed. Lower prices have been made by a number of dealers. A little less than one-third of the entire crop will pass through the hands of the Willmette Valley Prune association, the Umpqua Valley association and the Clark County association and individual dealers who are at present holding for a 2½-cent basis price. It is estimated that more than a third of the crop is unsold and in the hands of the growers who are not identified with associations and who are looking for a chance to sell at the best price they can get.

FIND OF PHONOLITE.

Large Body of Ringstone Located South of Baker City.

Baker City—A large body of phonolite, said to be as rich in gold as that found in Cripple Creek, Colo., has been discovered on East Camp creek, 55 miles south of this city. The discovery was made some time ago by J. H. Graham and J. W. Miller, but they were not certain that it was phonolite until they sent samples to Denver and to Washington and had assays made by the local assayers. They have received reports from all sources confirming the fact that it is phonolite. Samples of the ore range in value from \$4 to \$600 per ton. Phonolite, or ringstone, as it is called, is said to exist only in sections where there are very rich gold ledges.

The discovery has caused a great deal of excitement here and a number of prominent citizens and mining prospectors will leave for the new gold field at once. One specimen of float rock was picked up on the ground near the original discovery last week which only weighed a few pounds, yet it yielded the owner \$35 in free gold.

Educator for German Congress.

Salem—W. T. Harris, United States commissioner of education, has written Governor Chamberlain calling attention to the international congress and school hygiene, which will hold a session at Nuremberg, Germany, April 4, to 9, 1904. It is desired that Governor Chamberlain appoint a delegate to represent this state. If any resident who is interested in the subject to be discussed by the congress is going to Germany at that time, Governor Chamberlain will be pleased to communicate with him.

State School Funds Put at Interest.

Salem—The surplus school funds in the state treasury were diminished by \$82,700 last week when the state land board approved 60 applications for loans aggregating that amount. The loans are secured by mortgages on real estate of three times the value of the loan. The money draws 6 per cent interest and the proceeds go into the state school fund which is distributed among the counties each year.

Sugar Beet Pulp for Food.

La Grande—The farmers of this district use the pulp from the sugar beets after they have passed the process at the sugar factory as stock food. A large number of sheep will be brought to yards near the factory and will be fed there until the produce is gone. Some of the farmers are buying it and hauling it to their ranches for their cattle. It is much cheaper than hay.

Cold Storage Plant Site.

Pendleton—A deed to Messrs. Schwanz & Greulich for a lot at the rear of the W. & C. R. station, Webb street, from Peter West has been filed. The consideration was \$1,250. This is the site on which the Empire meat company is erecting a cold storage plant.

SURVEY IN HARNEY VALLEY.

Whistler's Party Investigating Proposed Reservoir Sites.

Harney—The field party of the geological survey in Oregon, under the direction of John T. Whistler, district engineer, consisting of M. D. Williams and Frederick C. Huber, is continuing the development of topography of irritable lands in Harney valley. Something over one-half of the valley north of Malheur Lake has now been covered. It is estimated that the work can be completed by December 1.

Another field party, consisting of Herbert D. Newell and Esmund I. Davis, is investigating an additional reservoir site on lower Bully creek and one on upper Willow creek. The Willow creek reservoir site is being studied with a view of ascertaining the possibility of covering certain lands on the west side of upper Willow creek valley. The work on the Umatilla project has been in charge of Thomas B. White and a party of four assistants. After a full examination of the reservoir site, the canal line to Umatilla river will be taken up, topographic work being carried on at the same time.

A representative body of citizens of Union county, has presented to the chief engineer of the United States geological survey a statement of the existing conditions in that county, accompanied with a request that investigations and surveys be made of certain reservoir sites and of the possibilities of developing an underground water supply by means of artesian wells. The petition asserts that Union county contains more than 100,000 acres of fertile irrigable land, and that the present water supply during the two months of low water suffices to irrigate only about 1,000 acres.

WARNER SETTLERS WILL SUE.

Will Test Validity of Deeds Issued to the Stock Company.

Salem—Attorney John Hall, of Portland, is preparing papers for the commencement of a suit in behalf of the settlers of Warner valley, Lake county, in their contest with the Warner valley stock company. When Mr. Hall was in Salem a few days ago he said that a suit will be filed in Lake county to test the validity of the deeds issued by the state for the lands which are in dispute.

The proceedings heretofore have been conducted in the general land office and the department of the interior. The decision in the department was adverse to the settlers, who are homesteaders, and claimed title from the United States.

May Move Fibre Factory.

La Grande—It is rumored here that the main factory of the Oregon Pine Needle Fibre company, now operating at Grant's Pass, is to be established at Summerville, a small town a short distance from here. Attorney Turner Oliver of this city has secured a controlling interest in the plant, and it is said he intends to bring the institution here. The factory will have a capacity of 2,500 pounds of fibre per day. If the understanding is carried out successfully, it may mean the establishment of a mattress factory in this city.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 74c; blue-stem, 78c; valley, 76c to 77c.

Barley—Feed, \$20 per ton; brewing, \$21; rolled, \$21.

Flour—Valley, \$3.75 to \$3.85 per barrel; hard wheat straight, \$3.75 to \$4.10; hard wheat patents, \$4.20 to \$4.50; Graham, \$3.35 to \$3.75; whole wheat, \$3.65 to \$4; rye wheat, \$4.50.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$1.10; gray, \$1 to 1.05 per cental.

Millstuffs—Bran, \$20 per ton; middlings, \$24; shorts, \$20; chop, \$18; linseed dairy food, \$10.

Hay—Timothy, \$16 per ton; clover, \$13; grain, \$10; cheat, \$10.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 25 to 27½¢ per pound; dairy, 16½ to 20¢; store, 15 to 18¢.

Cheese—Full cream, twins, 14c; Young America, 15 to 16c; factory prices, 1 to 1½¢ less.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, 10 to 10½¢ per pound; spring, 10c; hens, 11 to 11½¢; broilers, \$1.75 per dozen; turkeys, live, 15 to 16¢ per pound; dressed, 16 to 18¢; ducks, \$6 to 7 per dozen; geese, \$7 to 10.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, 27½¢; Eastern, fresh, 26c.

Potatoes—Oregon, 65 to 75¢ per sack; sweet potatoes, 2 to 2½¢.

Hops—1903 crop, 19 to 22¢ per pound, according to quality.

Wool—Valley, 17 to 18c; Eastern Oregon, 12 to 15c; mohair, 35 to 37½¢.

Beef—Dressed, 6 to 7c per pound.

Veal—Small, 7 to 8c; large, 5½ to 6c per pound.

Mutton—Dressed, 5 to 5½¢; lambs, dressed, 6c.

Pork—Dressed, 7½ to 8c.

BACK TO DOMAIN.

Oregon, Washington and California Withdrawals Not Permanent.

Washington, Oct. 24.—The disclosure of the operations of the land grafting in Oregon, California and Washington, brings out what appears to be the true reason why temporary withdrawals of vast areas "for forest reserve purposes" have been made in these three states on very slight showing of justification for withholding such enormous tracts of vacant lands from entry. Chief Gifford Pinchot, of the bureau of forestry, as well as other officials, state that only a minor part of the lands now withdrawn will ever be converted into forest reserves. In some cases, practically the entire withdrawals will ultimately be restored to entry.

There appear to have been two prime reasons for withdrawing these lands, and in many cases the more important of the two was to place the valuable vacant public timberland beyond the reach of "scrippers," speculators and land grabbers. The only way this could be done, while existing laws continue in force, was by withdrawing the lands from entry and, of course, bonafide entrymen have to suffer along with the land thieves. As long as these lands can be kept in withdrawal, under pretense of examination to determine their desirability for forest reserves, so long will the public timber be protected.

In the meantime, the interior department, with the full sanction and approval of the administration, is preparing to put in a hard winter's work before congress, in an effort to secure remedial public land legislation, such as the repeal of the timber and stone act, the desert land law, and commutation clause of the homestead act, but more than all else, the repeal of the forest reserve lie and law, which is responsible for many of the frauds that have been perpetrated by the land grant ring.

LEDGES BLAZE WITH GOLD.

Remarkable Richness of the New Find on Owl Creek.

Butte, Mont., Oct. 24.—Almost fabulous finds of gold ore rivaling the Klondike discoveries have been made on Owl creek, near Hamilton, Mont., according to reports received in Butte. The greatest excitement prevails, and a stampede is on to the new fields. Miles Romney, mayor of Hamilton, and one of the well known editors of the state, has returned after spending several weeks at the scene of the discovery, and his account of gold finds sounds like a fairy tale.

Ten massive ledges exposed on the mountain side fairly blaze in many spots from the glint of shining gold particles, dazzling the eye. A towering cliff overhangs the leads and a large gulch below is choked with boulders of ore sloughed from the heights. These chunks of gold laden rock, Romney declares, range from the size of a hazelnut to masses as large as dwelling houses. Enough gold ore is in sight, he says, to run a thousand stamps a hundred years.

W. D. Gross, a Denver mining expert, made the first discovery of deposits on Owl creek on August 1. Conservative estimates of the value of the ore place the figures between \$14 and \$300 a ton, this calculation including thousands of tons of ore lying on the surface. Sections of the veins will run into the thousands of dollars' worth of gold. Within the past few days over a hundred claims have been staked out. Associated with Gross is Senator George Green, of New York, who with others represents a capital of \$50,000,000.

They are now engaged in incorporating a company, and have 20 men at work on the property.

Flakes War on Thugs.

Ogden, Utah, Oct. 24.—Five hundred citizens tonight attended a mass meeting, which was called for the purpose of taking some action concerning the numerous hold-ups and robberies in this city recently. As a result of the meeting a vigilance committee, to be known as the Citizens' League, was formed, and over 100 men signed a roll rendering them subject to call for the purpose of ridding the city of suspicious characters. The organization, under Mayor Glasmann, will begin operations at once.

Internal Revenue Receipts Decrease.

Washington, Oct. 24.—The monthly report of the collections of internal revenue shows that for the month of September, 1903, the total receipts were \$19,708,241, a decrease as compared with September, 1902, of \$177,128.



Handling Corn Crop.

In sections where the corn crop is likely to be short it must be handled carefully to get the best results from it. If the corn is fed and one has a silo the corn should be cut as soon as it begins to dent and put into the silo. If without the silo then the plan should be to allow the corn to stand as long as it is possible to do so without danger of frost. When it is cut it should be carefully shocked and fed in any way that is the most economical. While the writer does not like the plan of feeding it to cattle in open yards or fields with hogs to follow, the plan is one of economy, and, perhaps, ought to be followed this year by those who have done it heretofore. If possible to shred the corn it should be done, for in this way the cattle will consume the bulk of it. Keep in mind the lesson which the short corn crop teaches, the value of the silo and plan for one another year.

Apples for Export.

Growers of high-grade apples should look into the prospects of the foreign markets. Correspondents in the large cities who ship apples to Europe advise us that the demand is promising and that prices will rule quite high. They say, however, that only the finest fruit should be sent, then it must be properly wrapped in white or manila tissue paper, and advocate the use of the box, rather than the barrel. Prices are such on the other side that more fruit will be sold if packed in boxes than if packed in barrels.

Crisp apples are those preferred, and such varieties as Wealthy, Snow, Gravenstein and Alexander are always salable. Growers are advised to communicate with some reliable commission man and get in touch with those who export apples, but only if the quality is high, for it will not pay to export poor fruit.

Set Out Forest Trees.

In a recent address Secretary Wilson, of the United States Department of Agriculture, spoke as follows: "I am sorry to say it, but it is a fact, that unless something is done right away there will be very few tracts of timber left in the country within fifteen years. It may be a little longer, but not much." Later in his remarks he also said: "The only remedy lies in educating the farmer up to the necessity of planting trees, and in the government also planting."

This is certainly a startling condition of affairs and one which should make every farmer, with land to spare, more than willing to set out forest trees, if not for his own profit, for the benefit and protection of his children and his children's children. The department at Washington will be glad to co-operate with any farmer who is interested. Write the secretary of agriculture.

A Vast Oklahoma Farm.

The Oklahomans claim to have the largest farm in the southwest. It is the 101 ranch in the Ponca reservation, and is so big that it is necessary to plant several varieties of wheat in it, one of which ripens several days later than the other, in order that all of them may be harvested at their prime. On this farm the wheat fields are of 1,000 acres each, the cattle pastures are 1,000 to 1,500 acres each and pasture 6,000 head annually, the corn rows are one and a half miles long, requiring 500 mules and 300 men to handle the crop, and it takes 30 self-binders three weeks to cut the wheat crop and a dozen or more steam threshers 40 days to thresh it. There are 50,000 acres in the ranch.

Poultry Notes.

Use carbolic acid occasionally to destroy lice.

Give poultry a variety of both dry and cooked food.

Scatter the food so that the fowls will not eat too fast.

Filth, the accumulation of droppings, is a prolific cause of disease.

Old newspapers can often be used to good advantage in making the poultry house warm.

Clover helps to keep the hens in good laying condition.

Mix all soft foods given fowls with milk instead of water.

When hens lay thin shelled eggs it shows they need lime.

Ground bone is one of the best ways of supplying lime to poultry.

Sifted coal ashes and dry wood dust makes one of the best mixtures for the dust baths.

Lice do not attack fowls that are in a good condition as soon as they do those in an impoverished state.

Secure good ventilation without exposure to drafts immediately upon the fowls.

A table fowl should be fat, as a preponderance of fat indicates excellent condition and health.

One advantage with ducks is that they grow so rapidly that money can be made quickly.

The object of caponizing is to improve the quality and increase the weight of the fowls.

A Good Dairy Cow.

A good dairy cow should have great depth of chest and also fair width of floor of chest. She should have a large, capacious barrel that is capable of utilizing generous quantities of food, and her udder should be of good size and well balanced as regards to size and portion of quarters. It should extend well forward on the abdomen. The teats should set well apart and be of such size as to be conveniently grasped by the milker. The milk veins should be large, crooked and branching, and the holes, or milk wells, where the veins pass into the body, should be large. The udder itself should be free from coarseness and not appear to be full of meaty tissue when handled after milking. Her skin should be soft and yellow, and the hair should be soft and silky. She should have a mild eye, a pointed head and a dishing forehead.—Winchester (Ind.) Herald.

Potato Rot and Time of Digging.

The question of how soon blighted potatoes should be dug has been frequently asked the authors, and a series of investigations has been undertaken at the Vermont station to ascertain the proper time of digging. The size of the plants and the extent of the experiment are considered too limited to admit of generalizations, but it appears that there was usually a greater loss from the earlier digging. So far as the investigations go, they seem to show that where there is danger of potato rot it is best to delay the digging for ten days or more after the tops have died.—Exchange.

Don't Buy Patent Lime.

Reports from various sections tell of men who are offering a so-called high-grade lime which they claim contains manurial value, usually sulphate of lime. The product may bear out the claims made for it, although it should be remembered that sulphate of lime is the same as gypsum, which may be bought for about one-half the price asked for the new (?) product. If lime is needed on the farm, buy unslaked lime and use it properly. If fertilizers are needed, buy fertilizers, but don't believe that any process applied to lime will make it a valuable fertilizer.

Farm Notes.

Hard coal ashes make a good mulch for current bushes.

The quince can be grown from cuttings made in the fall or spring.

Strong lye made of hard-wood ashes will cure ivy poisoning. Better if put on hot.

Keep the colts growing. If the pasture gets poor, give them bran and oats in the field.

Those who contemplate putting out an orchard next spring should manure the ground this fall.

All wire fences are made visible to stock by attaching scrap tin to the top wire. A good use for waste product.

Pack the grapes for keeping in well-baked sawdust. To keep them a short time, lay them on a sheft in a dry, cool place.

Keep down the raspberry canes; four or five good canes to every four feet of row will give a better quality of fruit than if thicker.

Try dropping powdered caustic potash in the mole runs and see if it does not drive the rooters away to more agreeable forage grounds.

Some townsfolk slur people by calling them "old farmer" or "hayseed." This infers ignorance when farmers are not ignorant nor uninformed. It takes the smartest kind of people nowadays to become farmers. The farmer not being accustomed to town ways sometimes appears green when in town, but the city man is far more verdant when he is in the country.

In few other parts of New England can so large a per cent of thrifty looking, well-kept, cosy farm homes be found as in Vermont. Business and professional men in the large cities are beginning to appreciate this fact, and are buying country homes and bringing their families to grow up under the healthful, invigorating influences of country life at its best. The value of farm property has steadily increased for several years, and there are to-day comparatively few unoccupied farm homes in Vermont.—New England Homestead.