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HORTICULTURE IN HARNEY

INTERESTING ARTICLE ON SUBJECT BY R. D. MAPLESSEN.

Gives a Few General Hints That Will be of Benefit to Those Who are New in the Business.

EDITOR THE TIMES-HERALD:—In response to your kind invitation to contribute something to the columns of your valuable paper, for the benefit of those who are interested in horticulture in Harney county, I will present a few thoughts for the consideration of your readers with the hope that these ideas may be of some practical benefit to those who are making such an earnest effort to beautify their homes and to bestow upon their children the blessings that come from an abundance of wholesome fruit—a blessing, by the way, that continues to future generations long after the generous giver has passed away. At the present time the reading public are supplied with so many able works on horticulture in all its different branches that it seems almost unnecessary to rehearse what has already been written by able writers, who have made the subject a life study. However, it is a fact well known to all who are familiar with the soil and climate of Harney county, that many of the plausible theories which are productive of a fair degree of success in a locality that is especially adapted to fruit growing, would not be at all practical in Harney county. To those who wish to enjoy the many benefits that accrue from an abundant supply of wholesome fruit and to render the home still more home like, the first question that naturally presents itself is this: Is the soil that I have adapted to trees and plants? To this question we would reply that after having twice thoroughly canvassed Harney county we are of the opinion that on nearly every farm we have visited there is some land that might (if properly prepared) be profitably devoted to the cultivation of the hardier varieties of fruit and especially berries. To those who have had but a limited experience in growing and producing fruit it is sometimes difficult to determine just what portion of their land is best adapted to the production of fruit. No one set of rules has yet been devised that would apply in all particulars to every locality. But there are some general ideas that must be rigidly observed in all localities in order to insure any reasonable degree of success. In selecting the site for an orchard it is best if possible to secure ground that is not subject to great extremes of the drought or moisture. Always remember that trees are like people in one respect, and that is they will not thrive with wet feet. If you have no land that is just what it should be for fruit the next thing is to better as far as possible the existing condition of the soil.

That fruit has been and can be grown at a profit in many localities where the soil and climate are not all that could be desired no observing person will attempt to deny. Having selected the best site that you have for your orchard, the next and by no means the least important part is the preparation of the soil. Different kinds of soil of course require different treatment. But all soil for orchard purposes should be first plowed deeply at least, twice—more is better. Then it should be thoroughly pulverized so that no clods remain. The ground should then be treated to a liberal coat of well rotted manure—say about thirty or forty loads to the acre. Before the manure is applied it should be thoroughly worked over with a manure fork, so that it will contain no lumps, too much straw in the manure is not desirable, especially in dry ground as it will be likely to cause the ground to dry out more quickly. After having applied the manure the ground should be plowed again so as to work the manure well into the ground. If the only ground that you have available for

your orchard is low and wet and the water standing near the surface as is sometimes the case, especially in some parts of Harney valley, it would be best to plow and pulverize the ground as before described, this should be done when the soil is not too wet otherwise it will be likely to bake. After having prepared the ground it should be laid off in rows, making them the distance apart that you wish to plant your trees. Then take your plough and turn a back furrow right where you want the row of trees to stand. Continue to turn back the furrows until you have gone over half the distance between the first row and the second row. Then go back and repeat the performance at least twice. In this way a gradually sloping will be formed. Plant your trees on this ridge, digging the holes just as you would on any other ground, and the result will be that the trees will be far enough from the water to insure a successful growth. Some of the most productive orchards that we have are grown in this way. In the more open and exposed portions of the county where the orchard is exposed to bleak winds, it would be a great advantage to plant what is known in the northern prairie states as a wind break. For this purpose, some of the native trees now growing in Harney county would answer the purpose quite well. The soil for the wind break should be prepared in the same way as for the orchard. The trees for the wind break should not be planted so close to the orchard as to shade the ground or to have the roots interfere with the cultivation of the soil.

To make a good wind break several rows of trees should be planted. On low ground willows answer the purpose very well and on higher ground the poplar is good. The trees for the wind break should receive the same cultivation for at least several years, as the orchard does. They should be planted at the same time as the orchard if possible. In many of the prairie states orchards are successfully grown where it would be otherwise impossible, on account of the bleak North winds that sweep across the prairies during the winter season. Having selected the site for the orchard and prepared the soil, the next question to decide is what shall we plant, and where can we get reliable stock that is true to name. To the first question we would say plant only such varieties as are known to be hardy and capable of withstanding extreme changes of temperature. Some varieties of apples, pears, plums, prunes and cherries also a great variety of small fruits may be planted with a reasonable expectation of success. To this list may also be added several varieties of shade and ornamental trees and some varieties of roses and flowering shrubs. To the second question, we would say, buy your nursery stock from some firm in which you have confidence, and who has an established reputation to maintain. In but few fields of business is there a greater temptation for the practice of fraud than in the nursery business. He who plants inferior stock or that which is not true to name not only loses the money invested in the purchase price, but he loses the use of his land and his labor besides, and that is far more than the price of the trees. Always remember that a poor tree is dear at any price no matter how cheap you can buy it. It costs no more to produce a good thrifty tree than it does a scrub, we cannot get something for nothing so we say again buy only the best stock even if it does cost a little more at first. You can always depend on one thing and that is when a nursery man offers his stock for a very low price there is a reason for it. So much fraud has been practiced in the nursery trade that one is almost inclined to ask if there is a reliable firm on the face of the earth. However, we believe there are several firms that deal in nursery stock that can be relied upon to give the purchaser what he orders. Perhaps they are in some respects like Angels visits—few and far between, but there are some men who have been in the

RECORD OF THE LEGISLATURE

COMPLETE LIST OF THE NEW LAWS WHICH WERE PASSED.

All in a Nutshell for Busy Readers—What Was Done by Oregon's Saloons at Recent Session.

HOUSE BILLS PASSED BOTH BRANCHES.

No. 1, by Barrett, Amending mining law.

5, by Rice, Times and places of court, Second District.

19, by Kirk, Relating to electric wires on highways.

20, by Kirk, Validating certain marriages.

21, by McCracken, Penalties for injuring or destroying records on public lands.

24, by Story, Amending law for relief of indigent soldiers.

26, by Poorman, Reorganization of Oregon National Guard.

27, by Grace, Uniform system of mine bees signals.

33, by Montague, Appropriation \$1000 for Soda Springs.

39, by Pearce, Relative to taxation of personal property.

44, by McCracken, To aid Oregon Historical Society.

54, by Holcomb, Amending Bankruptcy law.

59, by Grace, Punishment for poisoning domestic animals.

62, by Nottingham, Consolidating offices in Multnomah county.

63, by McCracken, Providing for building bicycle paths.

65, by Pearce, Providing extra clerical aid for State Treasurer.

66, by Nottingham, Fixing witness' fees in Multnomah county—coroner cases.

71, by Thomson, Regulating survey companies.

76, by Holcomb, Providing for election of road supervisors.

88, by Schuman, Regulating purchase of public supplies.

97, by Driscoll, Public bidding for county supplies.

100, by Heitkemper, Protection of labels and trademarks.

102, by Orton, To prevent coercion and intimidation of voters.

108, by Mattoon, For collection of road poll tax and manner working roads.

110, by Eddy, Protection of forests, game and wild fowl.

113, by Reeder, Duty of surveyors in establishing boundary lines.

121, by Thomson, Duties of State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

122, by McGreer, Amending trespass law.

126, by Thomson, Amending law in relation to kidnaping.

128, by Bernard, Amending law authorizing furnishing of public records.

144, by McCracken, Protecting copyrighted plays.

146, by Harris, Relating to mining claim locations.

149, by Nottingham, Providing punishment for desecration of American flag.

171, by Smith of Marion, Appropriation for general expense of state.

172, by Reavis, Providing for domestic irrigation.

177, by Eddy, Reserving oyster beds in Netarts bay.

178, by Colvig, Regulating disbursement proceedings.

179, by Simpson, Regulating fishing on Alsea river and bay.

183, by Heitkemper, Regulating recording of chattel mortgages.

187, by Grace, Relative to service of citation.

188, by Shipley, Primary election law for Multnomah county.

189, by Driscoll, Abolishing separate board of Commissioners for Multnomah county.

200, by Geer, Increasing salary deputy clerk of Malheur.

105, by Mattoon, Providing for collection of road and poll tax.

208, by Briggs, Declaring certain thoroughfares to be county roads.

217, by Simpson, Protection of oysters and lobsters.

219, by Kruse, Propagation and protection of salmon.

225, by Colvig, Relating to final accounts of administrators.

229, by Edson, Providing for standard weights of produce.

237, by Smith of Multnomah Fix-

ing Multnomah Columbia boundary line.

249, by Merrill, Fixing salary of certain county Treasurers.

260, by ways and means committee, Appropriation for state departments.

262, by Story, Providing manner of selling state lands.

274, by McAlister, Relative to Eastern Oregon District Agricultural Societies.

275, by Mattoon, Relative to Southern Oregon District Agricultural Societies.

280, by Grace, Annexing panhandle to Baker county.

288, by Harris, Compensation of Lane county officers.

292, by McQueen, Extending time for construction of Siuslaw & Eastern Railway & Navigation Co. line.

294, by McCracken, Making Vancouver avenue a county road.

295, by Roberts, Punishment for mutilation of hides of cattle.

296, by Harris, Fixing compensation Clerk of Supreme Court.

311, by Geer, Increasing salary of Judge of Malheur county.

313, by Grace, Increasing salary Judge of Baker county.

346, by ways and means committee, Defining duties Attorney-General.

347, by ways and means committee, General appropriation bill.

348, by ways and means committee, Appropriation for payment of claims against the state.

349, by Orton, Authorizing city of Portland to levy tax for Oriental Fair.

SENATE BILLS.

1, by Mays, Providing for expression of choice in selection of U. S. senators by the people.

10, by Sweet, relating to drawing juries.

13, by Looney, Taxation of goods, merchandises, etc. in cities and towns.

23, by Smith of Multnomah, Increasing efficiency of public schools.

29, by Sweet, Authorizing Portland to dispose of market block.

37, by Brownell, For publication of revised code.

38, by Inman, Fixing fees county officers Multnomah county.

44, Steiwer, Sessions of Circuit Court in Seventh District.

56, by Mulkey, Declaring unnavigable streams highways.

61, by Josephi, Selection and sale of state lands.

62, by Smith of Baker, Relating to meeting by State University Regents.

63, by Looney, Food and Dairy Commissioner act.

64, by Inman, Amending code relative to Multnomah Judges.

72, by Dimmick, Relating to actions in Justice Courts.

75, by Mays, Providing vestibules for street cars.

79, by Steiwer, Amending act creating Wheeler county.

84, by Hunt and Mays, Monument fund for second Oregon volunteers. (Houses disagree over amendments. Bill fails.)

86, by Daly, Creating office of State Bacteriologist.

88, by Hunt, Preventing unlawful interference with telegraph or telephone wires.

97, by Wehrung, Appropriating \$8000 for state fair premiums.

98, by Sweet, Raising salary of Supreme Court reporter.

103, by Kuykendall, Authorizing district and high schools.

108, by Williamson, Providing for scalp bounties.

112, by Fulton, Providing bounties for destruction of fish-destroying animals.

114, by Fulton, Relating to directors in corporations.

106, by Daly, Relating to school lands.

125, Kuykendall, Auditing claims against the state.

130, by Brownell, Providing for care of orphans and foundlings.

137, by Josephi, Creating office of Auditor of Multnomah county.

138, by Inman, Defining liability of owners of vessels for damages.

142, by Kuykendall, deposit of canceled warrants with Secretary of State.

145, by Booth, Relating to location of mining claims.

152, by Brownell, Providing additional compensation for governor.

171, by Smith of Multnomah, Incorporating Port of Portland.

173, by Kelley, Enacting Torrens law system of title registration.

174, by Brownell, Providing for fish hatcheries.

169, by Kuykendall, Limiting printing of biennial reports state officers.

180, by Hunt, Amending Australian ballot law.

189, by Kuykendall, Relating to filing of reports by state officers.

190, by Marsters, Relating to Oregon Soldiers' Home.

191, by Hunt, Primary law for Multnomah County.

196, by Steiwer, Fixing salary of Superintendents of Schools in Wheeler county.

197, by Mays, Amending law regarding transfers of stocks of goods.

201, by committee, Uniform system for taxation of property.

202, by Johnson, Acceptance by state of certain lands.

206, by Hunt, Incorporation city of Portland.

209, by Mulkey, Prohibiting saloons within 200 feet of school buildings.

210, by Smith of Baker, Regulating sale of liquors near mines.

216, by Williamson, Amending law relating to Prosecuting Attorneys.

220, by Smith of Baker, Fixing

salaries of certain officers in Baker, Malheur and Clatsop counties.

221, by Mays, Charter commission for Portland.

227, by Smith of Yamhill, Providing water for state institutions.

232, by Brownell, Method of building branch railroad lines.

234, by Booth, Fixing salary certain county Treasurers.

238, by committee, Appropriating \$25,000 for Pan-American Expositions.

SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR.

2, by Barrett, Establishment and maintenance of school libraries.

3, by Whitney, Amending Albany bridge act.

4, by Nichols, Appropriating \$45,000 for Oregon Agricultural College.

11, by Mattoon, Relative to property bid in for taxes.

16, by Colvig, Amending act relative to County courts.

18, by Colvig, Time of holding courts in first Judicial District.

22, by Stewart, To establish school libraries.

25, by Harris, Appropriating \$47,500 to Oregon State University.

52, by Dresser, To amend code relating to appeals.

111, by Poorman, To reimburse Oregon Volunteers for clothing money.

178, by Colvig, To regulate disbursement proceedings.

(CONCLUDED ON EDITORIAL PAGE)

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