

Rogue River Courier.

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No. 29.

HOOD RIVER FRUIT FAIR BIG SUCCESS

Display of Apples Fine—Orchardists Get Big Prices, Valley Prosperous, All Through Union.

Charles Meserve, secretary and manager of the Grants Pass Fruit Growers Union, returned Sunday from a weeks trip north, three days of which he spent at Hood River seeing the fruit fair at that place and in taking notes of the methods of growing and marketing fruit in that Valley that holds the honor of getting the highest price paid for apples this year by any growers in the United States.

Mr. Meserve reports a most profitable and enjoyable trip and he expresses appreciation for the many courtesies extended to him by President E. L. Smith and Secretary C. D. Thompson of the Hood River Fruit Fair Association, and to Manager E. H. Shepard and Assistant Manager E. A. Franz, of the Hood River Apple Growers Union and who are also publishers of Better Fruit, and to A. I. Mason, one of Hood Rivers most successful apple growers and to all the citizens of Hood River town and valley, who each was a committee of one and all working together to entertain to the fullest extent the visitors to their progressive, handsome valley.

Though in a busy season, for apple picking was on, the farmers were out in force at the fair and they and their well dressed families came in buggies and carriages and not lumber wagons, and when they paid a bill it was with cash or a check and not in brass money or a long-winded promise. And what was most noticeable there was not a poor skeleton of a scrub horse driven by these farmers such as can be seen all too frequently on the streets of Grants Pass, for the Hood River horses look as sleek and well fed as do their owners. The Hood River roads are fine turnpikes and the rural mail and telephone covers the valley and each farm has these essentials to modern rural life. The dwellings have the tasty appearance of town homes and the barns and apple houses are well painted. A traveler will not see cows in the front yard and pigs at the back door of a Hood River orchardist's home, nor are gates to be seen that are off their hinges and the barn yard littered with farm implements in various stages of repair.

The orchards are the center of interest to the visitors to this very handsome and productive valley for they are in their perfection the embodiment of the application of brains and muscle in farm work, but more of the former than of the latter, for it takes the reading, intelligent person to grow fruit, and the man who reads little and sits in a saddle or on a spring seat to raise stock or grain would make a failure at fruit raising. All the trees in the Hood River orchards are as uniform and symmetrical as though grown in a mould and they are as vigorous and healthy as the trees in the forests for they are given the best of care and the highest of cultivation. As to being given the sickly, scrubby appearance by pests, as is the case with every orchard in Josephine county, the Hood River orchards are as free from pests as it is possible to secure and it is the rule that in an entire orchard not a box of wormy or scaly apples can be found. Their county fruit inspector is on duty all the time and is paid \$3 a day and all expenses, and if he finds the least indication of disease or pest in an orchard the owner is forced at

once to eradicate it. By this close vigilance the pests have been almost exterminated from the Valley and not having the favorable conditions for breeding in the orchards they have almost disappeared from the forests and no longer swarm as they do here in this Valley from the trees of the woods to those in the orchard. The Hood River orchardists do not get trees from outside nurseries as they fear diseases and pests may be imported and they have found that the home-grown trees being acclimated bring the best results. That Rogue River Valley fairly swarms with pests is due to the importation of thousands of trees each year that are grown in sections where little or no attempt is made to suppress the diseases that threaten to destroy the fruit industry of the United States.

That there is big profit in Hood River fruit land is proven by the fact that \$100,000 cash was refused this Summer for the Beulah Land orchard owned by O. L. Vanderbilt. Sales though have been made for other orchards at corresponding prices.

Hood River soil is quite similar to much of Rogue River Valley land, but only apples and strawberries can be grown successfully by reason of the colder climate. The fruit crop is estimated to bring in this year fully \$300,000 and when the present young orchards are in full bearing by five years hence, there will be \$1,000,000 to pass through the Hood River banks to the credit of the farmers of that little valley that is but nine miles by 20 miles in extent. But by intelligent, intensified methods it is made to yield a wealth not equaled by any other equal sized district in Oregon and its loyal residents expect that the time is not distant when their fruit will annually bring them \$5,000,000.

Hood River town, which has a population of about 2000, has a prosperous, up-to-date appearance, quite in contrast to the average town that is dependent almost wholly on an agricultural district for its support, showing that the fruit industry is a solid basis to a town's prosperity. The stores are large and carry fine stocks and the residences are as a rule such as can be found in a city. The high school will compare with the best in the state and the country districts have graded schools, there being several two and four room buildings in the Valley.

It was 12 years ago that the Hood River fruit raisers held their first fruit fair and they have made an exhibit every two years since. So successful have been these fairs and so popular with the general public that it is proposed to hold a fair each Fall hereafter. The business men of the town heartily co-operate with the farmers in the work of preparing and carrying on these fairs and put up the greater part of the guarantee fund each year to meet the expenses. A small admission fee is charged that usually pays all the expenses. The first fair was held in a hall but it outgrew that and in recent years a tent has been used, owned by the Association. As the fair grew the tent was enlarged and this year it was 75x200 feet and every foot of space available was occupied by exhibits that embraced every kind of fruit, farm and garden products. There was also a highly creditable display of fancywork and hand painted Chinaware two of the pieces having taken premiums at the St. Louis World's Fair. Some fine poultry were on exhibition and several coops containing different varieties of pheasants attracted much attention. Several swarms of bees under glass were another attraction. The display of

(Continued on Page Four.)

GRANTS PASS SCHOOLS DOING GOOD WORK

Enrollment Shows Satisfactory Gains—Ten Rooms on Roll for Perfect Attendance.

Below are given some items from the report of attendance in the public schools for the school month of September, 1906, as compared with the same month for the two sessions previous:

	Sept. 1904	Sept. 1905	Sept. 1906
Total enrollment	684	729	784
No. days absence	392	308	261½
No. cases of tardiness	35	24	9
Average daily attend	580	631	645
Percentage of attend	97	97½	98

A glance at these figures shows a steady increase in enrollment each year and a great improvement from year to year as regards regular attendance. Of the 261½ days absence last month, 16½ days are recorded as absence unexcused. While the report of attendance for the month is doubtless the best in many respects for any month in the three sessions concerned, yet there is room for improvement. The superintendent and teachers earnestly request patrons of the school to aid in the matter of regular attendance, that the report of attendance may improve from month to month. There is scarcely any good excuse for tardiness, and there should be no absence except when sickness of pupil or sickness in the family makes absence on part of the pupil necessary. Pupils detained from school from any other causes are recorded as "absent unexcused." Two cases of absence or tardiness thus recorded unexcused, within the school month render the pupil liable to suspension.

As an incentive for regular attendances on the part of pupils a reward of one half day's holiday is offered to each "room" that has no cases of tardiness and no cases of absence unexcused during any school month. The following grades have thus earned the half day's holiday for the month of September:

- Second grade, East building, Miss Peck, teacher.
- Third grade, East building, Miss Eaton, teacher.
- Fourth grade, East building, Miss Horton, teacher.
- Fourth grade, Overflow school, Miss George, teacher.
- Fifth grade, Overflow school, Miss Parramore, teacher.
- Fifth grade, Central school, Mrs. Merritt, teacher.
- Sixth grade, Central school, Miss Rodney, teacher.
- Seventh grade, Central school, Miss Rathbun, teacher.
- Seventh grade, Central school, Miss Tufts, teacher.
- Eighth grade, Central school, Miss Olsen, teacher.

Recent school legislation makes compulsory the attendance in school for the full term of children under 16 years of age. Persons or corporations employing children under this age, during school hours, are liable to heavy fine, as is also any one contributing in any way to the truancy of a pupil. A truant officer has been employed by the local school board to see that these laws are properly complied with and to look after absentees.

We quote at length from the law:

CHILD LABOR AND COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE.
Sec. 2. No child under 14 years of age shall be employed in any factory, store, workshop, in or about any mine, or in the telegraph or telephone service.

Sec. 3. No child under the age of 14 years shall be employed in any work, or labor of any form, for wages or other compensation during the hours when the public schools of the town, district or city are in session.

Sec. 4. Attendance at school shall be compulsory upon all children between the ages of 8 and 14 years during the whole of the school term and upon all children between the ages of 14 and 16 who are not employed in some lawful work.

Sec. 6. No child under 16 years of age shall be employed, permitted or suffered to work in any employment enumerated in Section 2, etc.

Sec. 11. Any person or corporation who shall employ a minor contrary to the provisions of this act, or who shall violate any of the provisions thereof, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined in a sum not less than \$10 nor more than \$25 for the first offense, nor less than

\$25 nor more than \$50 for the second offense, and be imprisoned for not less than 10 nor more than 30 days for the third and each succeeding offense.

Sec. 12. Any parent or guardian who shall violate any of the provisions of this act, or allow any child under their custody or control to do so, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not less than \$5 and not more than \$25.

DELINQUENCY AND TRUANCY.

Sec. 1. In all cases where any child shall be a delinquent child the parent or parents, legal guardian, or any other person, by any act encouraging, causing or contributing to the delinquency of such child, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon trial and conviction thereof shall be fined in a sum not to exceed \$1000, or imprisoned in the county jail for a period not exceeding one year.

Sec. 2. The words "Delinquent child" shall include any child under the age of sixteen (16) years who violates any law of this state or any city or village ordinance or who is a truant from school, etc.

Sec. 3. Justices of Peace shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the circuit court in all prosecutions under this act.

Charter Meeting Called.

We, the undersigned members of the common council of the city of Grants Pass, Oregon, call for a public meeting at the City Hall, at 8 o'clock p. m. October 22d, 1906, at which all legal and qualified voters of the City of Grants Pass will have an opportunity to listen to a public reading of the Charter as proposed and adopted by the common council, which said charter will be submitted at the next city election. This meeting will be called to order by the Auditor and Police Judge of the City of Grants Pass, Oregon. After the reading of the proposed charter anyone desiring to criticize or object to said charter or any portion thereof will be allowed to file his objections in writing with the Auditor and Police Judge on or before noon, October 23d, 1906 and the same will be considered at a special meeting of the common council to be held at 8 o'clock p. m. in the City Hall, October 23d, 1906.

L. B. HALL,
T. W. WILLIAMS,
F. FETSCH,
W. M. HAIR,
T. Y. DEAN,
F. W. CHAUSSE,
J. C. RANLE.

ROGUG RIVER PEARS BRING HIGHEST PRICE

Medford Man Gets Record Price in New York City for Car of Comice Pears.

Last season J. W. Perkins of Medford beat the world's record in the returns received from a car of Comice pears shipped from Medford to the New York market. He realized a gross return of \$3429, and a net return of \$2700.73. This year he shipped a car of fancy stock to the same place and he has received word that he had broken the record again, the carload bringing \$3450, and netting him \$2710, an increase of \$9.27 over that of last year, and the highest price ever paid for a carload of pears in the world.

All of the pears in the car were large, averaging 35 and 40 to the half box, there being 65 35's 588 40's and about 50 half boxes of smaller ones. They were packed extra fancy with lace paper, etc., and marked with Mr. Perkins' brand, which in itself stands for high quality.

Mr. Perkins won out this year in the face of greater competition than he had last year. In 1905 there were only five cars of Comice pears marketed in New York. This season his was the 14th car to reach the market, most of the others being from California. They brought on an average from \$2.25 to \$2.75 per half box, gross. One of the factors to be considered in this connection and one that has a direct bearing on the price paid is the fact that these pears will be put in cold storage and will be in good condition in January, while eight weeks is about the limit of the time that the California product can be relied upon to keep.—Medford Tribune.

Mistakes Brother for a Deer.

Edgar Robinson was killed by his brother on Elk Creek 45 miles north-east of Medford, near the old Applegate mine, by accident, last Wednesday, having been mistaken for a deer in the brush. The coroner's jury impaneled by Coroner Kellogg found that deceased came to his death by means of a gun-shot wound inflicted by Albert Robinson, that his age was 19.

The boys were accompanied to the mountains by their uncle, Mr. Scott,

and a young man named Pearce, together with their younger brother, Leonard Robinson. The remains were packed out from the upper mountains by the survivors and taken to Medford. The young man who did the shooting was with other members of the party, including deceased, to up within a moment before the shot, and ran up to the dying brother with the exclamation: "Oh! I thought it was a deer! Forgive me, forgive me!"

NO OVERSTOCK OF GOOD APPLES

The Big Crop of This Year Has Created a Greater Demand at Profitable Prices.

One saving feature about the apple is the fact that there are so many products of this fruit. It is not only possible to find a sale nearly always for good fruit as it comes from the orchard ready for being consumed, but it has now reached the point where an enormous quantity of good apples is required every year for other purposes.

In some sections large quantities of apples are cut up and dried, some from the warmth of the sun and others dried out by especially equipped machinery. The evaporators now do the larger business in this branch, and in many cases the dried or evaporated apple has increased very much in value by slicing and taking most of the water out of the fruit when it is stored for future use.

This year the world's markets appear to be practically bare of evaporated and dried apples from the past season, owing to the short supply of apples in 1905. It goes without saying that there will be ample fruit to take care of the demand for evaporated and dried apples this season.

Reports from every direction show that the jelly makers, the cider and vinegar people and many distillers are taking time by the forelock to replenish their stock. Most of these plants are being run overtime to their full capacity.

From the several by-products we can make from the apple it has been urged that as many as possible of the cores, skins, pumice, bad apples, etc., be used for silage and dry skins be fed to cattle or other stock. It is believed that if as much as possible of the inferior fruit be used in this way the markets will be greatly better for good, sound fruit.

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The Imperial Washer