

Rogue River Courier.

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RECORD PRICES FOR HOOD RIVER APPLES

Resume of the Sales of Fruit for This Fall From That Famous Valley.

The subjoined article from the Hood River Glacier giving a statement of the prices realized this year by the Hood River fruit raisers for their apples and the large shipments that were made will be of interest to the fruit growers of Rogue River Valley:

"It is evident that the estimates made early in the season of the size of Hood River's apple crop were somewhat wild. For while it is shown that the crop is more than twice as large as it was last year, it is not more than 150,000 boxes. This however is so much greater than it ever was before that at least 200 cars of apples will be shipped from Hood River. This is a greater number of cars than is shipped from any other part of Western Oregon. Heretofore Rogue River has led in the shipment of fancy fruit, but this year she will have to give way to Hood River as her crop is said to be in the neighborhood of 150,000 boxes. The large shipment of apples from here has been the means of making Hood River the greatest shipping point on the line of the O. R. & N. except the terminal points of Spokane and Portland. Hood River took the lead during the past month and passed Baker City which had been first before that.

"The prices obtained for the union apples this year are found to average much higher than ever before for all varieties but Ben Davis. The highest price, which was for Spitz, was \$3.15 a box and the lowest \$1.49. The Ben Davis brought 85 cents. The good demand and good prices for the odd varieties is the cause of much congratulation to the union management and their ready sale this year means that they will be more readily taken at good prices next.

"The entire apple shipment will be practically covered this season by Christmas which is somewhat earlier than usual, except a few thousand boxes that are being held in cold storage. The business has grown to such proportions this year that it has awakened many to the fact that there are several features which must be looked after closely next season.

"Indications are that many who already have successful bearing orchards will seek to add to their possessions this winter and a number have purchased additional orchard land either cleared or uncleared and will spend the winter months getting it into shape for planting in the spring. They have commenced to realize what the apple business means and are anxious to invest more heavily in a proposition that is turning out so handsomely."

SAYS NEW APPLE IS A RANK FAKE

Charles Waters Tells History of the Supposedly New Seedless.

Charles Waters, more than 86 years of age, an inmate of the Patton Home for the aged, is authority for the statement that a seedless apple, discovery supposed to have been made in Colorado recently is nothing but a fake, says the Portland Journal.

"In the early fifties I received a

shoot of a seedless apple tree from Virginia," says Mr. Waters. "At that time I was residing at White Salmon, Wash., and placed the shoot in the ground and later made some cuttings from it. In the White Salmon Valley there are many of those trees remaining, but not a single grower of that place will even think of putting away those seedless apples for long keeping.

"The fruit is of inferior quality and is the same as that grown on the trees furnished by the Spencer company at \$2 a tree. Mr. Spencer claims to have discovered this wonderful seedless apple, but I myself took him several dozen of them to his home at Grand Junction, Colorado, in 1890. I took them to him myself and know they are the same tree.

"I have known this Spencer for many years, in fact since he was a baby, and know positively that he never discovered anything in the horticultural line in his life. These seedless trees he is selling at \$2 a tree are the old trees I secured a shoot of in 1890, and it was not a new discovery even at that time.

"I have denounced this fraud on several occasions, but they have clever advertising writers who easily persuade people to buy their worthless stock. Sometime ago I was approached by a member of the Spencer company and offered \$100 if I would keep my mouth shut on this matter. They told me that the tree sold by Spencer was not the one I had given him, but an entirely new one, but I know better."

Mr. Waters says he is denouncing the seedless discovery because he does not want the public to be bamboozled.

THE EXCISE QUESTION IN ANCIENT BABYLON

An Old Code Gives Insight into the Life of the Great City of Babylon.

A translation of King Hamourbi's code, written about 2250 years before Christ, gives us an insight into the life of the great city of Babylon at that remote time, and of the way in which the excise question was handled by its legislators.

Nearly all the dealers of wines and liquors at that time were women, as many of the laws translated from the code speak only of women as sellers of drinks. Severe measures were taken against those who adulterated the wines or mixed them with water, so as to safeguard the purity of the article for the use of the public. The barmaid was held responsible for all disorderly scenes or drunkenness in her premises, and death was the penalty for those who did not denounce all cases of drunkenness to the police. Those women who were employed in the temples were forbidden to enter public hostelry under penalty of death, and even drinking in private was forbidden to them.

Special police officers were detailed for the enforcement of the excise laws in the city of Babylon, but then as well as now, the officers charged with this duty were, if we are to believe the code in question, either negligent in the performance of their duties or too willing to accept bribes from the barmaids in the shape of drinks or even money.

Severe punishment was dealt out in the document to the police officers who shall accept bribes in connection with the excise laws of the city of Babylon, but it is probable that then as now, many of the fair saloon keepers found a way to bribe the officers and evade the law.

BURIED IN A SHAFT FOR FIFTEEN DAYS

L. B. Hicks, the Miner, Was Three Days Without Food or Drink.

L. B. Hicks, the miner who was rescued Saturday night, was entombed alive under 60 feet of debris 15 days ago in the tunnel of the Edison Electric Company, 17 miles northeast of Bakersfield, Cal. Five of his fellow workmen were buried at the same time by the cave-in of thousands of tons of earth and rock. The men had just begun work in the tunnel, which is being built to aid in generating electric power from the waters of the Kern River, when, without warning, the perpendicular walls of the shaft above them collapsed. No immediate help could be rendered.

The work of recovering the bodies was immediately begun, and prosecuted with vigor, but, owing to the yielding nature of the soil slow progress was made. Hope of rescuing any of the victims had been abandoned, when, three days after the disaster the sound of tapping on a water pipe in the shaft was heard. Instantly a response was sent, and the answering raps proved that at least one of the imprisoned miners was alive.

The water pipe was cleared and communication established through it with the man at the bottom of the shaft. He proved to be Hicks, a former soldier and an expert miner, whose life had been saved by a steel car under which he was pinned. His five companions were dead.

Fearing to dislodge the debris in the shaft, the rescuing party began work on a drift from the side of the hill, and work was not suspended day or night. Hicks was given milk through the pipe and soon showed signs of renewed vigor. He said that during the three days previous to his discovery he had subsisted on a plug of chewing tobacco. Thereafter, during the long hours of his imprisonment in closely cramped quarters, he was kept well nourished. Every effort was made to keep his mind in a cheerful mood, so that it might not become unbalanced by his surroundings. He stanch from the remains of the dead miners was perceptible at the surface of the ground, and was intense in the close quarters where Hicks was confined.

A phonograph was placed so that the lonely man could be entertained by music. He also was in almost constant communication with his friends. Only at rare intervals did he seem despondent, and frequently sent words of cheer to those on the outside.

His rescue was a most difficult piece of work, and that it was accomplished at all is regarded as marvelous by all those acquainted with the conditions which were met and overcome.

SUMMARY OF MINERAL PRODUCTION FOR 1905

Iron and Coal Are the Most Important of Our Mineral Products.

A most interesting chapter in the volume entitled "Mineral Resources of the United States, 1905," published by the United States Geological Survey, is that which contains a summary of the mineral production of the United States during that year.

In 1905 for the seventh time, the total value of our mineral production exceeded the enormous sum of \$1,000,000,000. The exact figures for 1905 are \$1,623,877,127, as compared with \$1,360,883,554 in 1904. As heretofore, iron and coal are the most important of our mineral products. The value of the iron in 1905 was \$325,450,000; the value of the coal, \$476,750,963. The fuels increased from \$584,043,236 in 1904 to \$602,477,217 in 1905, a gain of \$18,433,981, or 3.16 per cent. Anthracite coal showed an increase in value of \$2,904,980 from \$138,974,020 in 1904 to \$141,879,000 in 1905. The increase in value of the bituminous coal output over 1904 was \$29,480,962, a combined increase in value of coal of \$32,383,942 in 1905, or 7.3 per cent.

The gain of \$262,993,573 in the total value of our mineral production is due to gains in both metallic and non-metallic products, the metallic productions showing an increase from

\$501,099,950 in 1904 to \$702,453,108 in 1905, a gain of \$201,353,158, and the non-metallic products showing an increase from \$859,883,604 in 1904 to \$921,024,019 in 1905, a gain of \$61,140,415. To these products should be added estimated unspecified products, including molybdenum, bismuth, tungsten, and other mineral products, valued at \$400,000, making the total mineral production for 1905 of \$1,623,877,127. Besides the usual table and summary of quantities and values of the country's mineral output by products, the volume contains this year, for the first time, a summary, in tabulated form, of the value of the mineral products by States. These tables were compiled by Mr. Wm. Taylor Thom.

A Banner Apple District.

The apple crop of Pajaro valley this season was very much larger than most people imagine. Up to and including last night 1613 carloads of apples had been forwarded from Watsonville for the season to date. About 100 carloads of such fruit may be added to the above total as the shipments for this season from Pajaro, Vega and Aromas. The canneries, cider works, etc., have used up fully 100 carloads of apples, and the seven driers, which have been running overtime since the opening of the season, have converted no less than 900 carloads of apples into evaporated stock.

It will be seen from the above figures that 2718 carloads of apples have thus far been handled for the season, and shipment will continue for some time yet.—Fruit Trade Journal.

ANOTHER MARKET FOR ROGUE RIVER FRUIT

Great Northern Railroad to Supply Fruit Growers Unions With List of Dealers.

J. I. Springer, of Portland, traveling freight and passenger agent of the Great Northern Railway, was in Grants Pass Wednesday looking up business for his company. The Great Northern, which is the road controlled by Jim Hill, the most progressive, aggressive and successful railroad man in the United States, has decided to make a vigorous effort to secure traffic from this section and hereafter Mr. Springer will make regular trips through Southern Oregon.

The Great Northern reaches a very large fruit market in Montana, Dakota, Minnesota and in Alberta, Manitoba and other sections of Canada and it is Mr. Hill's purpose to build up a fruit traffic for his roads that cover this territory. To that end the traffic department of the Great Northern is preparing a complete list of all the reliable dealers in fruit in this vast extent of country. A copy of this list is to be supplied to each fruit growers union and other large shippers of fruit. It was one of the purposes of Mr. Springer's trip to Rogue River Valley to work up the shipment of fruit from this Valley to the Northern markets and while in Grants Pass he called on Secretary Meserve of the Grants Pass Fruit Growers Union to get information as to the possibilities of traffic from this fruit district. To aid the Union in getting in touch with the markets of the various cities on the Great Northern lines Mr. Springer stated he would send Secretary Meserve a full list of all the reliable dealers in fruit in Montana, Dakota and other Northern states and in the Canadian provinces. This list will be sent out early this Spring in time for the Union to correspond and arrange with the dealers for handling fruit this coming season.

Production of Platinum.

The production of platinum from domestic ores in 1905 was 318 ounces, valued at \$5320, as compared with 200 ounces, valued at \$4160 in 1904; with 110 ounces, valued at \$2080 in 1903; with 94 ounces, valued at \$1814 in 1902; with 1408 ounces, valued at \$27,536 in 1901; and with 400 ounces, valued at \$2590 in 1900. In December, 1904, the price of ingot platinum at New York advanced from \$18.50 to \$19.50 an ounce; in April, 1905, it was \$20.50; in February, 1906, it advanced to \$25, and in September, 1906, it was \$34 an ounce.

Job work at Portland prices at the Courier office.

ROGUE RIVER APPLES WIN COMMENDATION

A Shipment Made by the Grants Pass Fruit Growers Union Suits Californians.

The Grants Pass Fruit Growers Union for its first year in the marketing of fruit is making a commendable and what will prove to be a profitable reputation for sending out high grade fruit, and on most of the shipments very flattering compliments have been received from the purchasers. A few of the shipments have fallen short of the high standard set by the Hood River and other older unions that put up a fancy pack that readily sells at from \$2 to \$3 a box f. o. b. for the reason that it was not possible under the conditions with which the Grants Pass Fruit Growers Union had to contend to enforce rigid rules for picking, grading, packing and hauling that are essential in getting fruit aboard the cars in the most perfect condition. Another year it is expected that the Union will be able to make its entire pack strictly first-class and to get the top price and commendations from its patrons.

President R. A. N. Reymers and Secretary Charles Meserve have each received a marked copy of the Sacramento Bee that contains a highly complimentary mention of shipment of apples that the Union made to a firm in that city. The apples were Spitzbergers and were from Mr. Reymers' orchard and were packed just as should be to give satisfaction to the buyers. The following is the article, which was run as an advertisement in the space in the Bee controlled by R. D. Finnie, one of the leading grocery firms of Sacramento:

ROGUE RIVER VALLEY BEAUTIES.

Luscious Spitzbergers From the "Land of Big Red Apples."

Ever made a trip to Oregon? If so, you will remember, as you topped the rise over the Siskiyou, looking down into a beautiful green valley, dotted with orchards and pretty white farm houses. That was Rogue River Valley, the most famous apple-growing section of Oregon, which has itself been known for 80 years as the "Land of Big Red Apples." In that loveliest of the Valleys of Southern Oregon the favorite table apple, the Spitzberger, reaches perfection. Believing that in Sacramento we could find a sufficient number of people who would buy some of these toothsome, satisfying red fellows, as beautifully colored as a Summer sunset, we sent for 64 boxes. So careful was the Grants Pass Growers' Association with this consignment, that we don't believe there is an unsound apple in the lot. They are solid, free from worms and taste better than a nut sundae. In boxes of 3 1/2 and 4 tiers. Somewhat higher in price than ordinary kinds—but that's exactly the point: They're extraordinarily good—oh, yum, yum. We had a time getting these, so we shall probably have no more. Better use the telephone.

Pajaro Orchardists in Hard Lines.

Ten years ago the Pajaro Valley was the most famous apple district on the Pacific Coast and Watsonville apples, as they were known, commanded the highest price of any apples sent East from this Coast. While that valley still leads Rogue River or Hood River in the number of cars shipped

their price is no higher than that had 10 years ago and all because the growers have no union to market their fruit but take just what the local dealers offer them.

The following from the Pajaritan, of Watsonville, giving an extract from an address by the president of the Pajaro Valley Horticultural Society clearly explains one of the principal causes for the Californians getting only 90 cents a box for their apples: "All I ask for is 50 men and in two years I will revolutionize the whole system of handling fruit," said President Rodgers. "Yes, sir," he declared "if 50 of you orchardists will stand together we can revolutionize the whole system of raising and selling fruit. We have now an almost perfect condition and if we will only organize I dare say that we should be able to get from 15 to 30 per cent more money for our fruit. Take for instance the Hood River apple district of Oregon. Up there they are getting from \$2 up a box for their apples, while we are satisfied with 90 cents and \$1.

"But a lot of people will laugh at that and state that the quantity turned out up there doesn't amount to a drop in the bucket. That isn't the question, gentlemen. The question is that we are in the apple business to make money, and not for fun. While I admit that we can not raise quite so fine an apple as the Hood River apple, yet the Hood River apples did not bring more than 90 cents a box the selves before the orchardists of that section organized. If we will organize I am almost morally certain that we can get from 15 to 30 per cent more for our apples.

"Our packing system is no good. One man is pulling this way and the other that, and all the time the reputation of the Pajaro valley Apple is being torn down. Let us take up this discussion at the next meeting, the last Saturday in December, and let us get the 50 men together."

ITALIAN LABORERS WARNED BY CITIZENS

Men of Douglas County Do Not Want Foreign Gangs in Their Midst.

The Italian gangs employed on railroad sections to displace Americans are not meeting with the success the railroad company would wish. The first of last month a gang arrived at Riddle, and after learning the condition of things, left immediately. Last Monday another gang at that place was waited upon by a committee of citizens, and being informed that the members were receiving less than the former crew and that foreign labor was not desirable in Douglas County, it also left.

Sunday morning the gang at Green's Station, five miles south of Roseburg, received an anonymous letter as follows:

"To the Italian Gang, Section 34. You are not wanted here. You will get out of here soon and avoid trouble with citizens of this part of the county.

(Signed) "CITIZENS."

The letter was forwarded to the roadmaster by the section foreman, and the laborers assured that everything is all right, but the Italians are afraid of trouble, and may leave, as all of them are becoming familiar with the stories of the Greek trouble last year, which cost one life and the county several thousand dollars.

Quartz blanks at the Courier office.

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