

# FAMOUS ROGUE RIVER ORCHARD YIELDS A BIG CROP TO OWNERS

The Rogue river valley is famous for its orchards and its prize-winning Spitzenberg and Yellow Newtown apples. All over the world where choice apples and pears are in demand the name Rogue is a household word.

The remarkable fact about this is that as yet there are comparatively few old orchards in the valley. And these few orchards are the ones that have earned the valley its reputation. In a few years thousands of acres planted in the last six years will have

reached maturity and their product will reach this market for choice fruit through the fame of the few older orchards.

What is considered to be by fruit experts the best orchard in the valley is the VanNoy orchard, four miles west of Grants Pass. This orchard is ideally located at the confluence of VanNoy creek and the Rogue. Its owners are Elmer Shank, who owns one-half of the tract, while the firm of Buckley and Baker owns the other half. Mr. Shank manages the place and gives it his personal attention.

The harvesting of the apple crop has been completed for this season and the result is 14,000 boxes of choice fruit from thirty-two acres of twenty-year-old trees. The varieties are Spitzenbergs and Yellow Newtowns and both are of excellent quality. The Spitz from this orchard are the most highly colored apples that will reach the markets this year. The crop of 14,000 boxes from this orchard required nineteen carloads to ship it to the eastern markets.

It is almost beyond the comprehension of the average doerwest fruit grower to realize how large profits can be made from an orchard in the Rogue river valley. While no returns are in yet from the shipments, it is estimated that the crop

of fruit men in the valley, and was brought to its high state of cultivation under his ownership.

The orchard is fully equipped with all the modern conveniences and appliances used in the fruit growing business. The packing house is sixty by sixty feet in size and is three stories in height. The place has its own power plant, consisting of a steam boiler capable of developing 20 horse-power. Then here is a fully equipped spray factory, where the owners manufacture all their own sprays, for this orchard is scientifically managed and every precaution is taken to keep infection from gaining any sort of a foothold.

There is a modern and commodious residence on the place, several barns and tenant houses, as well as a boarding house for the help. Last year this orchard took six premiums at the fair at Ashland and this year it won the prizes for the best wine-saps against the entire Rogue river valley at the fourth annual exhibition of the Rogue River Valley Industrial fair held at Grants Pass. Experts who have seen the packed fruit of this orchard say that it is remarkable for color, size and uniformity.

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A BUNCH OF SPITZENBERGS FROM THE VANNOY ORCHARD

year they yielded a box to the tree. The whole farm contains 85 acres and so far there are 65 acres in trees. All of these trees will commence to bear next year so the crop will be even greater than it was this year and will increase from year to year until the apple trees have reached maturity.

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PACKING HOUSE ON THE VANNOY ORCHARD

will not over \$20,000 this year, on the basis of prices received in other years. When it is taken into consideration that the present owners paid only \$27,500 dollars for the orchard less than two years ago, it can be readily seen how profitable an investment in Rogue river valley orchards is.

During the picking season this orchard was the scene of much activity. Forty-five persons were employed as pickers, packers and sorters.

The VanNoy orchard has its own irrigation system and thus is not at the mercy of any corporation for its water. The creek forms a small

growing of fruit. It is easily worked and yields bountifully of all kinds of crops.

The place has quite an interesting history. The orchard was formerly old Fort VanNoy and was the scene of hostile preparations during the Indian wars. It was named after the original settler on the land. A ford and a ferry were also maintained at this point on the river and the place was known all over Oregon in the early days.

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## ALASKA SHOWS GREAT PROGRESS EVERYWHERE

C. G. Coutant, of The Courier, and Mrs. Coutant returned from their Alaskan outing on Friday, having been absent a little more than five weeks. They made short visits in Portland and Seattle from which last named place they took a steamer for southeastern Alaska. The steamer left on the 12th of September and the trip was one long to be remembered, as they sailed over a smooth sea the entire distance; even Queen Charlotte sound, Milbank sound and Dixons entrance, which are usually more or less rough, were as placid as a mill pond. The distance traveled by water to reach their point of destination was about 1100 miles.

On the way up the steamer touched at the famous mushroom city of Prince Rupert, B. C., which is to be the terminal point on the Grand Trunk Pacific. In 1907 Mr. Coutant visited this place and found about 50 people residing there and today it has a population of over 6000. It has large business houses, hotels and three daily newspapers. It is a live town, which is indicated by the business done and the price of real estate. Business lots have sold as high as \$30,000 each. It is expected the railroad will reach Prince Rupert within the next three years. This, we are told, is to be the metropolis of British Columbia, and the commercial center from which even Alaska will draw a large share of its supplies. The location is 90 miles south of Ketchikan and our Canadian cousins claim that the Grand Trunk Pacific will open a new route to the middle west which will be two days nearer Chicago than by way of Seattle. By the time the road is completed the company will have ready a line of fine steamers to run to all cities along the Alaskan coast.

The steamer made a stop of an hour at Prince Rupert and then pushed on to Ketchikan, where a large amount of freight was unloaded, which gave opportunity for the passengers to go ashore and meet old friends. The next stop was at Wrangell, the second white settlement in Alaska, then came Petersburg and finally Treadwell, where Mr. and Mrs. Coutant were met at the dock by their daughter, Mrs. Alkens. They remained at Treadwell 19 days, visiting from time to time friends in Juneau and Douglas.

Juneau is the capital of the big northern territory and it abounds in enterprising people. It has two good daily papers, each of which are served with cable news reports from the States. Juneau has not been as prosperous as it should during a year or two past, but it has a bright future before it. New and rich mines are opening and additional machinery is being added to old ones. It is safe to say that within a year or two Juneau will be the center of lasting prosperity. What the mines of Treadwell are on the opposite side of Gastineau channel, those around the capital city will be in the new future.

Much has been done in the way of improvement around the mines of Treadwell during the last year, but the story is too important and too long to tell in connection with this outing.

There is nothing more to be told, except the return trip, which was begun on the sixth and ended in Grants Pass on the fourteenth. The steamer part of the journey, which was so pleasant going north, was quite the opposite southbound. Dixons entrance was lashed by a storm of great fury and of the 130 passengers few escaped sea sickness. For two days only 12 went down to meals. Conditions may be illustrated by the experience of a lady passenger and her little five-year old daughter, but sea-sick people never get any sympathy. The steamer mounted the great waves and rolled over the ocean quite recklessly. The mother of the little girl lay in her berth, apparently unable to life her head. Dorothy, the child lay on the floor, very sick. "Mama," she called in a weak voice, "I am going to die."

The mother, filled with sympathy, replied: "I can't help it dear." But this poor little girl and her mother were no more to be laughed at than a large majority of the other passengers.

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## A LEADING QUESTION

The Southern Oregon State Normal school is the only state institution in southern Oregon. If permanently discontinued, it will probably be many years before we have another state institution.

The normal school is the most beneficial of all state institutions, for its product is trained teachers for the public schools, and these better fitted teachers go out to every locality and the whole of southern Oregon gets the benefit.

If the citizens of southern Oregon were to select any one of the state institutions which they would like to have placed in their midst, they could not select a cleaner or more attractive one. If we could have for the asking a branch insane asylum or branch penitentiary, it would simply mean the expenditure of a large amount of money and benefit in that way only the particular community where located and no other; such an institution has no product—it is simply a public safe-guard.

A state normal school does not require much money for maintenance, but its product is clean and healthful and lasting. The whole state is better because of it.

The Southern Oregon State Normal is the poor man's school; his sons and daughters can be graduated there at much less expense than at any other state school. Or if they attend but for a few terms, the training received in that short time is immediately available to them as teaching experience and the district securing their services gets better returns from this sort of a teacher than from one with no normal training.

Every other state in the union, save Nevada, Wyoming and Delaware, support state normals; Delaware is a very small state and has two city normals instead; Wyoming and Nevada are not states for Oregon to pattern after in an educational way. California has six normals, Washington three and little Idaho two. Oregon needs all three normal schools and until they are provided the public schools of the state will suffer and suffer tremendously. Forty-three point seven per cent of the present teachers in Oregon's public schools have had normal training and our normals have been in existence only a comparatively few years.

## HORN HANDS WIN ENTRY TO COUNTRY

Ellis Island, N. Y., Oct. 18.—Because he had hands that looked like the hands of a toiler and his words had the ring of truth, President Taft today allowed George Thornton, a Welsh miner, to enter the United States with his seven children, overruling the objections of special inquiry board.

"I have my health and strength; and, sir, look at my hands. Are they not the hands of a man able to do work?" was the plea Thornton made.

"They say might kiddies might become public charges because I have only \$165. That is not so. There is not a Thornton of the name that ever asked for charity. All I ask is a chance to make a living for the babies. Their mother is dead and they have nobody to look after them but myself."

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We will refund your money without argument if they do not do as we say they will. Two sizes, 25c. and 10c. Sold only at our store—The Rexall Store, Clemens.

Mrs. Frank Burkhardt, of Ketchikan, Alaska, was met at the train by a number of friends on Friday morning, while on her way to California to spend the winter. Mrs. Burkhardt has a number of friends in this city and at Fruitdale who will remember her while residing in Alaska.

Mrs. W. W. Webb left Tuesday morning for her home at Mercedes, Tex., after visiting with her mother, Mrs. M. M. Spencer, of this city. Mrs. Webb will visit at San Francisco, Los Angeles and Hutchinson, Kan., before returning to her home in Texas.

## A FAIR PROPOSITION

Proposed Nesmith County Merits Support of Voters

The people of southern Lane and Northern Douglas counties, numbering more than eight thousand souls, feeling that they are qualified to economically administer their own affairs from a governmental standpoint, have initiated a bill for the creation of a new county to be known as Nesmith, in honor of James Willis Nesmith, a pioneer whose name shines in the firmament of illustrious Oregonians. The proposed county would contain 1,940 square miles, of which 1,472 would come from Lane and 468 from Douglas, leaving the former 2,908 square miles and the latter 4,393 square miles, a sufficient area from which to still form several counties the size of Multnomah, Hood River, Columbia and Washington. The total assessed valuation of Nesmith county would be \$5,399,576, leaving Lane \$18,000,000 and county within the proposed new county is capable of maintaining an organization that would, we believe, be to the best interests of the people embraced within the territory, and at the same time not deprive other people affected of their rights, nor increase their burdens, nor work them any injury whatsoever.

Owing to the large area of the two old counties affected many residents are put to great inconvenience, delay and expense in transacting business at the county seats. To compel residents to travel from twenty to sixty miles over bad roads in order to pay their taxes, serve on juries, or as witnesses, is to inflict a hardship upon them; yet it is more a matter of self-government for which the progressive people of this proposed county are contending. Taxation and representation should go hand in hand, but not so under present conditions. For instance, Cottage Grove, the second city in size and importance in Lane county, has never been permitted to name a county judge, and it has been a quarter century since it had representation on the county board of commissioners; while the territory from Douglas county has never had either a county judge or commissioner. The representatives in the state legislature are from the county seats—Eugene and Roseburg—thus leaving a large tax-contributing community without voice in either local or state affairs. Ninety-two per cent of the residents within the proposed Nesmith county signed the petition, praying the voters of Oregon to grant them self-government by the creation of the new county, while one particular section immediately outside the original boundary lines petitioned the Nesmith committee for admission to the new county, preferring to take chances with the new rather than to remain with the old. This shows conclusively that the sentiment of the taxpayers of the proposed new county are practically unanimous in favor of division.

Jointly Lane and Douglas have 5,800,000 acres, or more than the entire Willamette valley, and of this vast area, only a million and a quarter are asked by the new county.

The people within the territory of proposed Nesmith county are presenting their case to the voters of the state without the slightest misrepresentation, pinning their faith in the voters to support their contention that local self-government is the ideal form of government; that the nearer home government is cheaper; that laws are more effectually enforced; that greater development of country is possible; that better highways are attainable; that its citizens are inconvenienced by nearness to the seat of government; that taxation and representation go hand in hand, and that by the creation of Nesmith county the efforts of a large and progressive community would be rendered more effective in increasing population, developing the resources and enhancing the greatness of Oregon.

(Paid Advertisement.)

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