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OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

WHEAT OUTLOOK VERY BRIGHT

Cold Rains Have Damaged Prunes, but Farmers are Satisfied.

Albany—Linn county people are watching the weather man closely these days, and yearning for a "fair day" flag. This is particularly true of fruit-growers, for the recent cold rains are a menace to the fruit crop.
As it is, some injury has been reported. A prominent farmer and fruit-grower of Linn county states that he is of the opinion that cherries and prunes are somewhat injured already, particularly cherries. The cherry trees were loaded with blossoms at the end of the warm spring weather that marked the closing days of February and the first half of March, and the rain caught them at the tenderest age. Then a couple of light frosts last week added to the danger.

Prunes were not brought out so much as cherries by the premature advent of spring, and may possibly escape injury. Although the trees seemed to be in blossom at the beginning of the rains, they were in reality not generally in full bloom, but were loaded with buds that were just ready to burst but had not yet exposed the tender inner part to the weather. Under these circumstances it is believed the damage will be nominal, if good weather comes soon. However, it would not take many days of chilling rains and winds to do irreparable damage. It has been stated that the prune trees were giving evidence of such a heavy crop that it would really be better for the fruit if some of the embryo prunes were killed by the cold.

Other branches of farming are faring well. An easy winter and early spring places stock in excellent condition, and every class of stock looks well. Dairy farmers are milking more cows, with better results than in years before at this season of the year. Many farmers will finish the winter in much better shape than was anticipated after the poor crops of last year.

Wheat is looking fine, and, barring some unforeseen freak of nature to destroy the present bright prospects, the wheat yield of the valley will be far above the average. Fall sown wheat can almost be seen to grow now, and many farmers are preparing to put all their remaining acreage in spring grain.

Albany Mill May Be Rebuilt.

Albany—President Charles Coopey and Secretary H. M. Grant, of the Bannockburn Woolen Mills company, who have been in Albany looking after their property, which was recently almost totally destroyed by fire, state that it is possible the mill will be rebuilt. The brick walls are part of them standing and in good shape, and some of the machinery can be saved. The big boiler in the engine room was not damaged, and altogether there is quite a nucleus around which to start a new mill. The company had a great deal of business ahead when the fire occurred.

Independence Idea To Be Aired.

Independence—It is the purpose of the Willamette Valley Improvement league to call a meeting of the executive committee provided for at Salem last week to meet in Independence the last of April. Members of the Independence Improvement league are considering the advisability of calling a general meeting, to be held here at the same time. If called, and it most likely will be, the program will be an executive session in the afternoon and a banquet in the evening, at which the Independence idea will find expression.

Logs for Riverton Sawmill.

Riverton—The Riverton sawmill, which has been idle for some months past, will begin operations in a few days. E. J. Price, of the Riverton Lumber company, and manager of the mill at this place, has secured a large number of first-class logs from the upper tributaries of the Coquille. The recent freshet is bringing down several thousand logs which have heretofore had no opportunity to float. Considerable improvements are being made in the Riverton sawmill, which it is expected will increase its output.

Ranchers to Fight for Water.

Milton—A mass meeting of 300 fruit growers and citizens of Milton and vicinity was held in Alliance hall for the purpose of providing legal advice and the best methods to pursue against the Peacock Mill company, which has brought suit against the city of Milton and all the irrigation ditch companies and private property owners in this valley, to determine the amount of water the Peacock Mill company shall appropriate for the purpose of running their mills at this place.

Klamath People Raise Big Bonus.

Klamath Falls—Klamath county has raised \$80,000 of the \$100,000 bonus for the Weed railroad extension to Klamath Falls, and has obtained an extension until May 1 to raise the balance. The balance undoubtedly will be raised, and the railroad connection of this section with the outside world is now assured.

FRAUD ON STATE.

Marion County Grand Jury Will Investigate Illegal Transactions.

Salem—Though the statutes governing the sale of state lands have been violated ever since they were enacted, the investigation to be made by the Marion county grand jury this week will be the first attempt that has ever been made to punish infraction of these laws. Several hundred thousand acres of land have been bought illegally, and the state school fund has been depleting of several hundred thousand dollars, but usually punishment of the offense has been barred by the statute of limitation before it was discovered, or, the state having received the legal price for the land sold, no one feels interested enough to start an investigation. The offense which the grand jury will investigate this week is of recent date, and the facts are so well known that the transactions can scarcely be overlooked.

Because the state in every instance receives the price required by law, and is not directly robbed, it has been easy to let the infractions of law go with scarce a passing notice. But indirectly the state has been robbed and vigorous action at the proper time would not only have landed the offenders in prison, but saved many thousands of dollars for the school fund. It is not through the ordinary sales of school land that the steals have taken place, for in all such cases the state has received all the land is worth. It is through the lieu land operations that the manipulators of public lands have made their fortunes at the expense of the school fund.

Show Valley Live Stock.

Woodburn—Two thousand people attended the livestock fair in this city last Saturday. A splendid address was delivered by Hon. James Withycombe, of the State Agricultural college, of Corvallis. Colonel J. B. Eddy, Hon. J. W. Bailey, state food and dairy commissioner, and J. H. Settlemier also delivered lively speeches. Altogether the initiation of this fair was a magnificent success. President Fred Dose and Secretary William P. Pennebaker will proceed to perfect a permanent organization. A three days fair of all products and livestock will be held during next October.

To Bring Engineers Here.

Portland—Efforts are being made to have the American institute of Mining Engineers stop in Portland this summer, while en route to or from Alaska at the close of the annual session at Victoria, B. C. It may be possible to have the members of the organization cut out Alaska from their itinerary and make a stay at the exposition. The secretary of the institute has been addressed on the subject, and it is hoped the desired results will be obtained. The makeup of this organization is notable.

Dog Poison in Bologna Sausage.

Independence—Dog poisoning has become so common in Independence that no surprise is expressed when a canine is observed in the throes of death on the street or in a front yard. Some of the most valuable dogs in town have been poisoned and though there is a standing reward of \$200, the poisoner has not been apprehended. Bologna sausage containing poison has been picked up in different portions of town, but it affords no clue as to the identity or motive of the poisoner.

Waiting for a Market for Coal.

Riverton—The bunkers of the Riverton Mining & Development company's mine have been filled and mining operations have been suspended awaiting a vessel to carry coal. Manager Rouse of the company is now in San Francisco looking up the coal market and arranging for the freighting of his coal. The steamer Chico, of San Francisco, which is now due here, will take the first cargo of coal from this place.

Heavy Snow Now in Bohemia.

Cottage Grove—There is heavy snow in the Bohemia district now, and outside work will be late this year on that account. The telephone line between Cottage Grove and the mines is down on account of the recent storms.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 87c per bushel; bluestem, 95c; valley, 88c.
Oats—No. 1 white, \$28@29 per ton; gray, \$27@28.
Hay—Timothy, \$14@16 per ton; clover, \$11@12; grain, \$11@12; cheat, \$11@12.
Eggs—Oregon ranch, 17@17½c per dozen.
Butter—Fancy creamery, 25c.
Potatoes—Oregon fancy, 90c@91; common, 75@85c.
Apples—Fancy \$1.75@2.50 per box; choice, \$1@1.25.
Hops—Choice, 1904, 23½@24½ per pound.
Wool—Valley, 20c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 15@18c; mohair, choice, 31@32c per pound.

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