

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

REPORT ON OREGON.

Irrigation Expert Investigates State and Issues Circular.

Washington—Oregon farmers who resort to irrigation, will be deeply interested in a 30-page circular just issued by the department of Agriculture, entitled "Investigations of Irrigation Practice in Oregon." The book is written by A. P. Stover, irrigation engineer, who spent last season in Oregon making a study of irrigation as it is practiced, so as to find out the errors that have been made and gather data which would be helpful in instructing the irrigators how to avoid mistakes of the past. The report is not as comprehensive as might be desired, but contains a great many valuable suggestions, and is worth the perusal of every farmer who is obliged to artificially water his lands.

Mr. Stover made a study of the precipitation in various parts of the state, and to a limited extent gathered data on the discharge of the principal streams that can be utilized for irrigation. He states, in opening his report, that the greater part of the arable land of Oregon lies in the arid section and can be brought under intensive cultivation only by irrigation. He found that the low water flow of most of the streams of Eastern Oregon has already been appropriated for private irrigation, but as yet practically no steps have been taken to conserve the winter floods.

He finds that little of the water now being diverted is used economically, so that there is a large supply for future development.

Because of its comparatively low elevation and consequent mild climate, Mr. Stover says that Northeastern Oregon has advantages over the southeast.

The practice of winter irrigation, now practiced along the Umatilla river, is described, and the value of this practice is indicated. It is shown that these Umatilla lands, under the Maxwell flood water canals, yields a net profit of \$24 an acre, when planted in alfalfa. It seems that the Umatilla valley, however, is exceptionally well adapted for this sort of irrigation, because of the unusual formation of the soil and the underlying bedrock. Few localities will be found where winter irrigation will be as successful. On Butter creek, where winter irrigation has reached the highest stage of perfection, fruits are successfully grown by combining the principles of winter irrigation and dry farming.

Several pages are devoted to a detail description of irrigation canals along the Deschutes river, which have been in operation for the past few years, and also of the Maxwell and Irrigon canals in the Umatilla country. For some reason there is nothing in the report bearing directly on private irrigation in the Klamath country. The report, however, contains something of interest to all irrigators, and will be furnished by the department upon application.

Fix Hop Picking Price.

Salem—One dollar per 100 pounds, or 50 cents per box, will doubtless be the popular price paid for hop picking in the valley this year, since this seemed to be the predominating sentiment as expressed at a meeting of about a score of members of the Oregon Hop-growers' association, held in this city last week. The prevailing tendency on the part of growers, also, is that hops will go to 20 cents by harvest time and all present were in favor of holding out for that figure at least.

Dry Weather Hurting Hops.

Salem—The continued dry weather is showing its effect upon the hop crop, especially in old yards, and those not cultivated as thoroughly as they should be. And it is declared by many that the yield will be far under the 215,000 bales that has been predicted. Yards that have been well cared for are standing the dry weather in good shape. The potato and corn crops are also keeping a good appearance where cultivation has been good, and the second crop of clover is coming in in good shape.

Linn County Wheat Heavy.

Albany—New wheat is coming into the Red Crown mill in Albany daily now. This is the Portland Flouring Mill's Linn county branch, and annually receives all the wheat it can get in this vicinity. The new wheat this year is quite heavy, and is running well up in yield. In many localities the yield is reported more bushels to the acre than in years past, and everywhere the crops are good.

Harvesting in Yamhill County.

McMinnville—Harvest is now in full swing in old Yamhill. Most of the harvesting crews began work last week. The runs will probably extend from 25 to 30 days. The harvest this year will be the largest for a number of years. Wheat is yielding 23 bushels to the acre. Oats yield 40 bushels to the acre and weigh 39 pounds to the bushel. Barley is yielding from 50 to 60 bushels to the acre.

MORE JUDGES NEEDED.

Supreme Court Badly Behind With Its Appeal Docket.

Salem—The fact that the Oregon Supreme court is about a year behind in its work and has been losing ground in the last few months has revived the suggestion that the number of judges be increased from three to five. There are now on the docket ready for trial 67 cases appealed from Western Oregon counties. There are also some on the Eastern Oregon docket at Pendleton, but the exact number is not known. The cases now ready for trial extend back as far as December, 1905. There are also on the preliminary docket 84 cases which will be ready for trial in the next few months, so that there is every prospect that the supply of cases to be heard will not diminish.

The causes of the court getting behind in its work are several. The number of appealed cases has been unusually large and several cases of extraordinary magnitude have occupied an unusual amount of attention. Then there has been a change on the bench, which always causes some delay. Judge Hailey was appointed to the supreme bench last winter. He had extensive business interests at his home in Pendleton and could not at once adjust his private business so as to give his whole time to his judicial duties. Then the political campaign came on and took considerable time for two months.

Another change will be made the first of the year, when Judge Eakin goes on the bench.

Clover Huller in Linn County.

Albany—For the first time in the history of Linn county a clover huller has begun a season's threshing. Frank Roth and Ernest Howard, proprietors of the huller, have already listed about 1,000 acres of clover to hull which assures a 40 day's run and success for the venture. In the past three years the rise of the clover industry in this county has been remarkable and even if the present phenomenal increase in acreage does not continue, clover hullers running the season will be an established feature of Linn county's annual harvest.

Lane County Poultry Show.

Eugene—At a meeting of the Lane County Poultry association it was decided to hold the first annual poultry show in Eugene from December 12 to 15, 1906. There are several bird fanciers in and about Eugene and a poultry show will be a success here. Secretary Williams was instructed to arrange for competent judges for the first show. County Assessor Keeney was chosen as assistant secretary of the association.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 68@69c; bluestem, 70@71c; valley, 71@72c; red, 65@66c.

Oats—No. 1. white feed, 30c; gray, 29c per ton.

Barley—Feed, \$23.50 per ton; brewing, \$23.50; rolled, \$24@24.50.

Kye—\$1.50 per cwt.

Hay—Valley timothy, No. 1, \$11@12.50 per ton; clover, \$8.50@9; cheat, \$6.50@7; grain hay, \$7@8; alfalfa, \$11.

Fruits—Apples, common, 50@75c per box; fancy, 1.25@2; apricots, 1.25@1.35; peaches, 75c@1; pears, 52; plums, fancy, 50@75c; blackberries, 5@6c per pound.

Melons—Cantaloupes, \$1.50@2.25 per crate; watermelons, 1@1.50c per pound.

Vegetables—Beans, 5@7c; cabbage, 1 1/2@2c per pound; celery, 85c@1 per dozen; corn, 15@20c per dozen; cucumbers, 40@60c per box; egg plant, 10c per pound; lettuce, head, 25c per dozen; onions, 10@12 1/2c per dozen; peas, 4@5c; bell peppers, 12 1/2@15c; radishes, 10@15c per dozen; rhubarb, 2@2 1/2c per pound; spinach, 2@3c per pound; tomatoes, 60@90c per box; parsley, 25c; squash, \$1@1.25 per crate; turnips, 90c@1 per sack; carrots, \$1@1.25 per sack; beets, \$1.25@1.50 per sack.

Onions—New, 1 1/2@1 3/4c per pound.

Potatoes—Old Burbanks, nominal; new potatoes, Oregon, 75@90c.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 20@22 1/2c per pound.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, 21c per dozen.

Poultry—Average old hens, 13@14c per pound; mixed chickens, 13@13 1/2c; springs, 15@16c; roosters, 9@10c; dressed chickens, 14@15c; turkeys, live, 15@17c; turkeys, dressed, choice, 20@22 1/2c; geese, live, 8@9c; ducks, 11@12 1/2c.

Hops—Oregon, 1905, nominal, 12@13c; olds, nominal, 10c; 1906 contracts, 15@16 1/2c per pound.

Wool—Eastern Oregon average best 16@20c per pound, according to shrinkage; valley, 20@22c, according to fineness; mohair, choice, 28@30c per pound.

Veal—Dressed, 5 1/2@8c per pound.

Beef—Dressed bulls, 3c per pound; cows, 4 1/2@5 1/2c; country steers, 5@6c.

Mutton—Dressed, fancy, 7@8c per pound; ordinary, 5@6c; lambs, fancy, 8@8 1/2c.

Pork—Dressed, 7@8 1/2c per pound.

MANY TO MEET AT BOISE.

Interest High in Coming Session of Irrigation Congress.

North Yakima, Wash., Aug. 7.—During the first week of September the National Irrigation congress will be in session at Boise Idaho, with an attendance of several thousand delegates. Exhibits of fruit and honey are being prepared by different localities and states. The premiums are liberal. It is expected that the governor of Washington will appoint 25 delegates, that each commercial club will appoint ten, and that each board of county commissioners will appoint five. It is believed that if a full delegation attends the convention it will be able to secure the next national congress at some point in this state. It is hoped that the various fruitgrowers' associations and the State Beekeepers' association will have on exhibition products of the orchard and apiary which will take silver cups and other premiums. The Yakima County Horticultural union is arranging to send elegant exhibits of fruits and honey. The delegation from that county will ask the convention to pass a resolution memorializing congress to appropriate \$300,000,000 for reclamation of arid lands in the West.

The State Beekeepers' association has secured a Bigelow observatory hive, stocked with pure bred Italian bees, for the purpose of giving object lessons in the apiary. It will be used at the monthly meetings of the association to teach the farmers and high school classes. It will be one of the interesting features of the display at the Washington State fair. The secretary of the fair has agreed to set apart one of the prominent corners in the main pavilion for the apiary exhibit, and \$200 has been appropriated for premiums in that division.

The three days' midwinter convention of the State Beekeepers' association will be held at the Agricultural college at Pullman next January, and the observatory hive will be in full operation to instruct the students of that college. The students of the Idaho Agricultural college, which is only nine miles from Pullman, are also invited to be present at that meeting.

The business of beekeeping is an adjunct of the orchard, bees being the best friend of the fruitgrower, for the reason that these insects cross pollinize the blossoms and increase the yield. These two industries go hand in hand, and are rapidly becoming valuable sources of income.

As an example of what organization does, a few years ago the Yakima County Horticultural union incorporated and sold its shares of stock at \$10; the past year the dividends were 70 per cent, a warehouse 50x180 feet has just been completed, the material being stone and the structure two stories and full basement, one front being on the Northern Pacific railroad and the other on the North Coast road. The shares are now selling at \$20, and it is anticipated that the capital stock will have to be increased in order to accommodate the demand.

Fruit Inspector Brown, of Yakima county, says that in five years from now he calculates that 12,000 cars per year will be shipped from the warehouse at North Yakima.

Calls for Texas Rangers.

Cold Springs, Tex., Aug. 7.—As a result of yesterday's election tragedy, in which E. B. Adams, a candidate for tax assessor, and his brother, Sam Adams, were killed and several others wounded, the sheriff has asked that rangers be sent here to prevent further bloodshed. C. L. Williamson, one of the participants, heard that a brother of Robinson was looking for him. Alf Carnes stepped into the door of a saloon where Williamson was and was shot and seriously wounded by mistake for Robinson.

Americans Caused Trouble.

Mexico City, Aug. 7.—The Imperial charges that the recently circulated handbills, warning foreigners to leave the country by September 16, were put out by an unknown American, who went from station to station distributing and posting the pretended proclamation. The Imperial also asserts that certain railway camps in Texas and California have taken part in promoting the circulation of false and sensational reports.

Raise the Price of Bread.

San Francisco, Aug. 7.—As a result of the demands made by the union bakers for an increase of \$3 a week in their wages, which has been granted by the master bakers, the latter will raise the price of bread in this city. The manner in which it will be done has not yet been agreed upon, but it is said that most of the bakers favor a loaf not a trifle larger than one-half the size of the present loaf.

Commerce Outstrips Population.

Washington, Aug. 7.—The foreign commerce of the United States has grown more rapidly during the last decade than its population. Completed figures for the fiscal year 1906 just presented show that while the population has grown since 1896 but 20 per cent, imports have grown 57 per cent and exports 109 per cent.

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