

STATE MARKET AGENT TELLS WHERE FARMER LOSES OUT

The state market agent hears many grievances of producers and how they and consumers are forced to pay tribute to the middle speculators through the ramifications of the organizations that control produce marketing, says C. E. Spence, state market agent.

A farmer a few miles south of Corvallis relates how he was forced to ship a quantity of garden produce to Portland because he could not sell it in Corvallis, and that the same stuff was shipped back to Corvallis merchants and retailed.

Express charges for two hundred miles, and commission profits to Portland dealers, were added to the retailers' profits when the consumer bought the product. Another farmer across the river from Corvallis states that in one of the largest grocery stores of that city not a bushel of Benton county potatoes were carried.

The Farmers' Union reports that garden truck raised at La Grande had to be shipped to Portland for a market and then was shipped back to Walla Walla and retailed. One shipper stamped his name on the bottom of a crate and his produce came back in the original crate.

The Banner-Courier at Oregon City, under date of June 22, stated that 75 per cent of the cabbage supply carried by the stores of that city was grown in California and shipped to Oregon City through a Portland commission house. The paper related how a nearby grocer at Canby brought a quantity of choice cabbage to the city and could not sell it.

The unorganized raiser has nothing to say as to the price of his product, nor has the eater at the other end. The unorganized producer has no control over the price or distribution of his product. He takes what the dealers or brokers offer.

The consumer has nothing to say about the retail price. He pays whatever is asked. He has to go without. Both are at the mercy of the middle interests.

The producer has simply got to play the game for himself as others have played it against him. By combinations of products and central selling agencies he must control his products all the way from the ground to the retailer. By controlling the commodity the market can be stabilized, middle speculation cut out, waste minimized, unnecessary competition eliminated and the products so distributed through the full season that a fair price can be maintained.

Commercial, financial and business interests of the state are working with the producers to bring this about, but so far there has been little or no effort or interest from the consumers' end.

The purpose of the state market law is to give the consumer as fair a deal as the producer. President Harding

said that organization of consumers can shorten the bridge between grower and eater and greatly reduce the retail price.

When the workers in the cities and towns of Oregon will show as much interest in reducing middle speculation as the farmers are now demanding, the state market agent will be glad to confer with them and work with them to shorten the line and reduce the cost of products between the farm and the home.

There is a large middle handling expense and middle profit and speculation that should be eliminated and this added cost as far as possible divided between the producer and consumer. If the producer through organization can control the product and its distribution it would seem that consumers through organization could cooperate and distribute it to its members. There are many organizations that are doing this and in Great Britain consumers have powerful organizations for the benefit of the working class.

United States Senator Borah in a speech in Portland July 11, made the startling statement that out of the twenty-two and one-half billions of dollars of farm products produced in this country in 1922, the farmers received but seven and one-half billions, while the commission men and other middle interests absorbed fourteen and one-half billions. Senator Borah truly says that "this condition will destroy any industry."

Sixty-six per cent is too much to add to the producers' price and have a normal consumption of any product. Under such a system much produce must rot where grown because the retail price is beyond the common reach of families. But if this middle expense could be divided to a large extent between the producing and consuming classes there would be no cause to curtail production, as consumption would increase enormously.

FAIRVIEW

Members of the church and Sunday school of Smith Memorial Presbyterian church will picnic at Mt. Tabor park next Saturday, September 15. Conveyances will be provided for those who have none and they will leave the city hall at 11 o'clock.

Mrs. A. L. Turner was taken to the Good Samaritan hospital in Portland recently for a surgical operation and treatment. Mrs. F. D. Axtel accompanied her as her nurse.

More people would be willing to change places with you than you would be willing to change places with.

The Bank of Gresham pays 5 per cent interest on time deposits.—Adv.

SANDY SCHOOLS OPEN WITH GOOD ATTENDANCE

Three schools opened on Monday, September 10, ready for the year of study. The enrollment on the opening day at the union high school was 49, with several yet to enter. The teaching force consists of Carl Lindholm, principal, Mrs. Belle Thrift Hogan, Miss Sybil Lindell and Miss Elizabeth Settlemer. The members of the school board are Caspar Junker, chairman, A. C. Baumbach, J. D. DeShazer, William Ganger and J. J. Jenkins, with W. G. Duncan, clerk.

Two teachers are employed in the Sandy grade school. They are Mrs. Lottie Tomlinson, principal and Miss Susan Hicks, primary. School opened with 61 pupils present in the grades.

Besides the public schools, the Lutheran parochial school opened with 19 pupils, under the instruction of the pastor, the Rev. F. Dobberfuhr.

PLEASANT HOME

The Methodist Ladies' Aid will meet next Wednesday afternoon, September 12, at the home of Mrs. M. Lennartz, to take up matters of importance in connection with the next year's work of the Aid.

About 35 friends of Miss Anna Lennartz, members of the Epworth League and other friends, gave her a surprise on Friday evening. Music, games and refreshments were enjoyed on the lawn. Miss Lennartz expects to leave next Sunday for Salem to attend Willamette University. On Saturday her Sunday school class of boys gave her a surprise party. They were accompanied by Mrs. Alta Gentry and Miss Mabel Sloop.

The Methodist choir will meet on Wednesday evening at 7:45 for practice and to discuss the final plans for the trip to Portland to attend the annual conference next Sunday.

POWELL VALLEY

The Ladies' Aid society of the Swedish Lutheran church will meet at the home of S. M. Staffanson Thursday afternoon, September 13, at 2 o'clock. All are cordially invited.

John Read and wife of Portland have bought a 10-acre place from W. Vaughn in the Powell Valley district and have taken possession. They have two young people in the high school. In the same home are Mrs. Jessie West and her daughters, Esther. The latter has entered high school. Mr. Read is an expert plasterer and expects to be kept busy in this vicinity. Karl J. Hagberg, handled the real estate transfer.

TERRY

Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Sutherland have returned to their home in Seattle, after visiting with the latter's mother, Mrs. E. M. Coons.

PROPS NEEDED FOR LIMBS TOO HEAVY

Propping the fruit trees must be resorted to when the load becomes too heavy for the trees without danger of breaking, recommends the horticulturists of the O. A. C. experiment station.

"Trees that have been properly pruned from the start seldom need tying or bracing," says W. S. Brown, head of horticulture. "It is becoming the common practice to let the upright limbs bend down with their weight, thus spreading the tree where the long system of pruning is used."

The problem of support becomes acute only a few weeks before the crop begins to color up, when the starches rapidly turn to sugar as maturity approaches. When the grower sees the fine strong limbs he has fought to maintain against pest and pestilence begin slowly but surely to bend under the fast increasing flood of sugars, he sets his mind to the task of rigging up props and braces.

Masts of 2-inch square pieces a few feet higher than the tree are often used on trees not properly thinned. They are placed in the center of the tree, one end on the ground. No. 2 ropes are tied near the top for supporting the larger limbs. Smaller rope will do for the smaller limbs. To prevent girdling of limbs the bowline knot is used. This apparatus is expensive.

Wiring is often done even when not necessary, especially with trees so pruned as to allow the limbs to come down gradually. It is best to do no wiring until the load has bent the branches down to some extent.

Wooden props are not so reliable as they often fall. The cheapest are made from forked saplings, but are likely to cause wounds.

Potato Tour Benefits Many

Continued from page 1

state of Oregon. It further provides that all potatoes when sold or offered for sale or shipment in lots of 50 pounds or more shall be labelled by stenciling, or printing on the container, a label consisting of block letters at least one and one-fourth inches high and that is clear and easily read and containing the following information:

Name of state in which potatoes are grown.

Grade of potatoes in the container.

Name and address of the grower or growers association.

On all potatoes sold or offered for sale or shipment for seed purposes the label shall contain in addition to the above the name of the variety of the potatoes in the container.

All certified seed potatoes sold or offered for sale or shipment in the state of Oregon shall bear in addition to the label required for seed potatoes the official certification tag or seal of the Oregon Agricultural College or if certified in another state the official tag or label of the certifying agent of that state.

No seed potatoes may be sold certified seed potatoes in Oregon unless they have passed the certification requirements of the Oregon Agricultural College, or if certified in another state unless they have been passed by the official certifying agent of that state using standards at least equal in all respects to those of the Oregon Agricultural College.

All potatoes sold or offered for sale or shipment that do not conform to any of the United States Grades for Potatoes shall be labelled "Culls."

All containers of potatoes sold or offered for sale or shipment in the state shall be uniform, sound and clean and in the case of sacks shall be new sacks or "No. 1 second" grain sacks.

All potatoes shipped in car lots or otherwise in lots of ten or more tons shall be inspected by the state inspection department in accordance with the United States Grades for Potatoes and such rules and regulations as may be made by the state market agent, and that the cost of such inspection shall be met by fees and charges set by the state market agent.

BOOKS TO BE FOUND IN TROUTDALE LIBRARY

The Troutdale library is now open three afternoons and evenings a week, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 2:30 to 5:30 and 7 to 9. Any resident of Multnomah county may borrow books from this library.

Among the new books just received are

"Beasts, Men and Gods" by Ossendowski. The adventures of fiction never give thrills equal to those received from following the account of the real adventures of the author in the wilderness of the Far East.

"Homesteader's portfolio" by Alice Pratt. What will you do with life? Old maid? When confronted with this question the author decided to become a creative farmer. From her introduction to the wild west in the Pendleton round up to the final acquiring of her farm and its equipment the narrative is full of humor and very entertaining.

"Faint Perfume" by Zona Gale. Like Miss Lulu Bett, Leda Perrin is a poor relation. Delicate, sensitive, high-souled she is driven by circumstances into the vulgar squabbling family of Crumbs where every word and act lacerate her.

"Health and Growth" by L. M. Holt. Dr. Holt is president of the Child Health organization. He discusses simply for the general reader the importance of nutrition in the health of the school child.

"Barnum" by M. G. Werner. A life of the great showman. "Because he was so typical and at the same time so unique, Barnum remains today one of the outstanding figures of our national life, for Barnum was a most typical American without ever becoming an average American."

"Interior Decoration" by Amy Rolfe. This is a practical book for the small house.

"The Log Cabin Lady." A chronicle, typically American, is this of the girl brought up in a western log cabin, later to become the wife of a distinguished diplomat.

Wonder if the man in the moon saw his shadow on the earth yesterday.

The Bank of Gresham pays 5 per cent interest on time deposits.—Adv.

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POTATO MEN SHOULD SELECT SEED NOW

Now is the time to hill select potatoes for next year's seed supply. Hills that show green and vigorous later than the average are usually best. The leaves of these hills should be normal for the variety and without any unusual wrinkling and should be especially free from any mottling. Any plants showing a mottled leaf appearance should not be saved, as such plants are usually affected with mosaic. Leaves that show this disease have small yellow areas—just a little lighter in color than the greener tissue. In some cases the diseased plants have leaves that appear to have thin spots in them. Select only the plants having uniform green, smooth leaves, as they are best. These plants may be staked now and dug later, or dug now and put in crates for storage after they are cooled out. Selecting the seed pays for the commercial fields and is of especial value for the seed plot for next year.

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OSCAR HOW DID YOU BECOME SUCH AN INTIMATE FRIEND OF MR. VAN GREEN AS TO RIDE IN HIS CAR?"

AHEM! I DID IT BY AUTOSUGGESTION

WONDERFUL! BUT TELL ME HOW YOU DID IT!

WELL-ER-HE WAS RIDING ALONG IN HIS AUTO - AND I STOPPED HIM AND SUGGESTED HE TAKE ME HOME

HOME HABITS

A I SENT THIS ONE - "MY LITTLE BOY INSISTS UPON STANDING ON HIS HANDS AND HEAD WHEN VISITORS COME TO OUR HOUSE YOU SEND US ONE!"