

# MOSIER BULLETIN

## ADVANTAGES OF MOSIER, OREGON FRUIT DISTRICT (FROM BETTER FRUIT)

Mosier Valley is only a section of the "Hood River Country," and makes no pretensions to being "the whole thing." Like the larger and more famous valley of Hood River, which joins it on the west, it is naturally, principally and enthusiastically a fruit valley. Here Nature furnishes the proper combination of soil, climate and altitude to produce the handsomest, finest flavored and all-around fanciest fruit known to the world, whether it be in fruit exhibitions or in the markets. The scientific, up-to-date methods of the fruit growers who make their homes here are accomplishing results unsurpassed in any locality.

It has been found that irrigation is not necessary or desirable for fruit growing, the annual rainfall being over thirty inches. Moisture is converted by clean summer cultivation. Spraying is a universal custom, to kill what pests may appear and to prevent their ever obtaining a foothold. Thinning, too, is practiced, for no community better appreciates the virtue and profit that lies in quality. Packing is done by expert crews under the direction of foremen of the fruit union, so that the trade has learned to have perfect confidence in the brand sent out. Fruits are sold f. o. b. Mosier station, and rejections are unknown. A large proportion of the Mosier fruits are marketed through Hood River channels and sent to all parts of the world.

Mosier Valley extends from the Columbia River southward to the foothills of Mount Hood and comprises some 50,000 acres. Probably half of this is suitable for fruit growing and other cultivation. The other and rougher half affords range and pasture. At present there are about 1,000 acres set to orchards and only 100 of these are in full bearing. These figures are very significant to those who can recognize opportunity.

Many of the first orchards planted in Mosier were Italian prunes. These were formerly shipped dried, but of late years have been bringing greater profits when packed and shipped fresh. Twenty carloads were shipped last year. For the last ten years most of the orchard planting has been in apples, with cherries and pears next in order.

The fruit growers of the Hood River district do not apprehend a coming overproduction of apples, but they argue that even if it should ever come in the country at large it would scarcely affect them, for "there is always room at the top," and as their apples are "tip-toppers," they will always find eager buyers, even if common stuff be sent to the "dump."

The effect of the difference in climate between the coast regions and the eastern foothills of the Cascade Mountains is strikingly shown in the clear, waxy complexion of the apples, the high flavor of all fruits and their unequalled shipping qualities.

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Even the smaller fruits, such as strawberries, cherries, peaches and plums, are shipped clear across the continent by express, as well as in car lots, with perfect success. Apricots and grapes thrive here as they do in few other places.

Particular note should be made of the generous profits realized in growing sweet cherries, which "stand up" to carry to Eastern markets, whose supplies of this kind are all drawn from the West. Mosier is just far enough from the Pacific to escape the last lingering showers of the rainy season, so that cherries are never cracked or softened at picking time. Even the six miles of distance from Hood River affords more sunshine in April and May and a week earlier ripening of berries and cherries.

Space will not permit telling in detail of all the methods by which the fruit growers of Mosier are gaining their brilliant successes, nor to mention characteristic examples of personal achievement of settlers, who, when they reached here, had little but faith and courage, but by grasping opportunity and adding their industry have now comfortable and happy homes, with assured incomes. Let it be said, however, that similar opportunities are still open. It is a remarkable fact that most of the newcomers to Mosier are comparatively near-by regions. For several years past a majority of all buyers have come from Portland, showing that those who have the best opportunity to know of and investigate conditions here and elsewhere choose Mosier.

As to climate, that of Mosier is neither extremely cold in winter nor excessively hot in summer, and is free from the late cold spring rains and fogs prevalent near the coast. The northwest trade winds that reach it during the summer months are laden with moisture and become warm and pleasant as they pass inland. This gives Mosier an excellent growing season, with days that are warm and nights that are cool and restful. It also gives its fruit a quality that includes delicious flavor and fine keeping qualities.

For those who desire a home

outside the city, yet not so far away as to be entirely beyond the reach of its advantages, Mosier has an ideal location, combined with the fact that it offers great inducements to the man of moderate means, on account of the reduced price at which desirable fruit land can be bought in a section that is practically the same as that of its near neighbor, Hood River.

While the town of Mosier is but four years old, it has made a substantial growth and is rapidly developing. It has adequate schools with a ten-grade course in the town and six school districts, each supplied with competent teachers, in the valley. Churches of several denominations are to be found there, with stores and other business conveniences necessary in a growing community.

Situated on the main line of the Oregon Railroad & Navigation Company, it is provided with the transportation facilities which only a great transcontinental railroad can give, in addition to that of several boat lines, and probable connection with the new railroad just built down the north bank of the Columbia River.

### School Notes

Laura Kibbee is now registered down stairs.

Fronia Denny is absent from Mrs. Gove's room.

The sixth grade took the final examination in history this week.

Jenny Carroll is absent from school on account of whooping cough.

Guy Stinson left Mosier for Portland last Wednesday. The fourth grade miss Guy and wish him success at his new home.

The pupils are spending some time getting work ready to send to the exhibit at the Seattle fair. Much interest is being shown.

As Friday is Arbor Day, the morning will be spent in cleaning up the school yard and making it look better. In the afternoon there will be a joint program up stairs. All of the friends and parents are invited.

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