

OREGON FIR TO BE ADVERTISED

John Barrett Has Provided For Use of This Material in Construction of New Buildings.

PORTLAND, Jan. 5.—(Special)—Splendid examples of fir finishing, said to be the most elaborate ever sent from the northwest, will be shipped this week to Washington, D. C., where they will enter into the new building being erected by the bureau of American republics, under the direction of John Barrett. The wood will be used in the reception room of the new building, which will be completely finished in fir. This will result in a big advertisement for this wood as finishing material.

The wood has been prepared for shipment east and goes as a gift from the Oregon & Washington Lumber Manufacturers' Association. The finishing consists of panels, scrolls, medallions, desks and brackets of the most elaborate hand-carved design. The grain of the wood is shown to splendid advantage and is stained with an oak finish.

Lumber Trade Booms.

Loggers of the Columbia river expect the new year will see more raw material handled in their camps than ever before in the history of the industry within a similar period. The lumber trade is said to be booming and the coming year promises great activity. Many mills are short of logs and camps will resume operations in February instead of waiting for spring. New mills in the Columbia river district have drawn heavily upon the usual log supply until it is less than usual at this season of the year. Mills are said to be filled up with orders that will keep them busy for the coming three months.

A general revision of rates on the North Bank road that is favorable to the shippers of the northwest has been announced and will go into effect February 1. The new rates will apply between points on the road in Washington and between all stations and Portland. New and more favorable rates will be made on packing house products and fresh meats in carloads. These concessions by the Hill line will add to the business of Portland livestock packing plants and increase the prestige of Portland as a packing house center.

CALIFORNIA LEARNS FROM ROGUE RIVER

Fresno Fruit Growers to Take Advantage of Their Own Experience and Rogue River Growers.

The real estate board of Fresno, California, at their annual luncheon December 29, discussed the matter of the growing of pears in that section again, in spite of the fact that the trees had been destroyed by blight several years ago.

The Fresno Republican of December 30, says: "At the luncheon of the Fresno Real Estate Board yesterday in the Sequoia, President F. J. Haber read a letter from P. J. O'Gara, government pathologist, stating that pears may be raised in Fresno county again as before blight appeared among the trees. At the same time, Mr. Haber reported the effects of investigations he had made, showing that bearing orchards in this state are yielding fine results, paying \$400 to \$500 per acre.

"Between the years 1899 and 1904 the pear orchards of this county as well as those in other parts of the state, were practically wiped out by blight. Steps are now being taken with a view to reviving the industry here. With this in view the investigations have been made and Mr. O'Gara and his assistant, W. S. Ballard, will be invited to Fresno, to look into local conditions.

Prof. O'Gara's letter written from Medford, was in part as follows, and incidentally shows how through the combined work of the orchardmen of the Rogue river valley and the state agricultural board the disaster which overcame the pear growers of California has been avoided by those of Oregon. Prof. O'Gara says:

"Replying to your letter of December 24th, relative to the possibility of growing pears in the Fresno section, I wish to say that pears may be grown there as they have been grown in the past, providing the same amount of care in the inspection of the orchards and the eradication of

COPPER MINES AGAIN AT WORK

Assured by Great Northern That Ore Trains Will Be Moved—Mine Announces Reopening of Work.

GREAT FALLS, Mont., Jan. 5.—Following the assurances by the officials of the Great Northern railroad that they will guarantee the moving of ore trains between Butte and Great Falls, it was announced today that the great Boston and Montana of the Amalgamated Copper company will resume operations.

In making their promise to move the ore trains, the railroad officials declared that they would go personally into the yards and do necessary switching if it was found impossible to find a sufficient number of regular switchmen to do the work.

Many local smelters were forced to close during the recent switchmen's strike. Thirty-five hundred men were thrown out of work in this city.

AERONAUT INJURED IN AUTO ACCIDENT

OAKLAND, Cal., Jan. 5.—F. P. Rugg, inventor of an aeroplane which he had entered in the Los Angeles aviation meet, is at his home at Fruitvale, suffering from injuries sustained when his automobile was hit by a street car on the outskirts of this city.

Rugg crossed the path of a street car which was traveling at a high rate of speed. The machine was struck broadside and hurled into splinters to the side of the track.

The blight is exercised as is now the case in the Rogue river valley. I remember very well the orchards of the San Joaquin valley before their destruction. Those beautiful orchards aggregating fully half a million trees, were destroyed between the years 1899 and 1904. During all this time scarcely a thing was done to prevent the spread of the disease. Before the blight reached California the people were warned by the United States department of agriculture that they should be on the lookout for it, but the warning was not heeded, with the results which need not be mentioned.

"As to the methods employed in the eradication or control of pear blight in the Rogue river valley, I may say that the good results are due, first, to a very efficient state board of horticulture, which compels careful and complete eradication, which means an absolute compliance with the state horticultural laws. When an inspector orders a thing done in the Rogue river valley his orders are not questioned.

In the second place, the fruit growers of this valley are, as a whole, a very intelligent lot of men, and the methods laid down by our office, for the eradication of the pear blight, have been rigidly adhered to.

"Pear blight cannot be treated by a spray or any other method than by eradication the hold-over blight from the orchards of an entire section. If every orchardist does not do careful work, the work of holding the disease in check in other orchards, is very difficult. Any spraying done in the pear orchards is for the scab, scale or codling moth and not for blight. Any treatment, such as boring holes and filling them with certain chemicals, treating the soil with poisonous salts, etc., is a waste of time.

"While the climatic conditions in the Rogue river valley may be slightly more favorable so far as pear blight is concerned, I believe that California could do the same good work of holding pear blight in check, or possibly eradicating it if the people had the desire to do so, and if the state horticultural board would enforce the horticultural laws as they are enforced in Oregon. It may not be the fault of the California state board of horticulture, but rather that of the people themselves who have made no demand upon the state board, which would willingly comply with any reasonable request. Unless public sentiment stands up for a certain thing it is almost a waste of time for anyone to attempt to do anything; even an officer of the law finds himself very much handicapped."

In addition to the reading of this letter Mr. Haber stated that he had inquired of a friend acquainted with the conditions in the pear orchards about Sacramento, and had found that last year these orchards paid \$400 to \$500 per acre.

The pear crop of this state, once large, is now small, on account of the great number of orchards destroyed and put out of bearing by the blight.

JACKSON COUNTY CUT 3 MILLION

State Board of Equalization Lowers Assessed Valuation to \$23,891,700 From \$26,438,668.

The state board of equalization has completed the work of equalizing the assessment rolls of the various counties and has embodied its findings in a statement which was filed on Monday in the office of the secretary of state. The statement shows:

First: The total taxable property in each county and of the state as last assessed by the county assessor and equalized by the county board of equalization and certified by the various county clerks to the secretary of the state board of tax commissioners as of the date of the last county assessment.

Second: The total taxable property in each county as last assessed and equalized as adjusted and equalized by the board of state tax commissioners.

Third: Proportion, in percentage which the equalized value of taxable property with each county bears to the total amount of taxable property in all of the counties of the state, as so determined and equalized, which proportion is also the proportion of the state taxes to be paid by the several counties of the state.

Many Changes Ordered. In many counties sweeping changes are ordered from the valuations as equalized by the county boards of equalization. Baker county is increased something over \$6,000,000; Benton county is increased nearly \$3,000,000; Columbia county is reduced about \$4,000,000; Douglas county is reduced nearly \$2,000,000; Jackson county's assessment is cut slightly less than \$3,000,000; nearly \$6,000,000 is added to the valuation of Lane county; the valuation of Marion county, where property was assessed at as near cash value as any county in the state, is cut something over \$1,000,000; Multnomah county's valuation is reduced about \$4,000,000. Tillamook county is reduced \$1,000,000 and Umatilla county \$5,000,000. Wasco is increased \$2,000,000 and the same is true of Washington county. Wheeler's valuation is reduced \$1,000,000 and Yamhill is increased by \$2,000,000.

State Needs \$1,528,400.

While the statement filed by the state board does not include the amount of state tax to be paid by each county, the figures in the last column of the table given are semi-official and approximately correct. The amount of money to be raised for state purposes is \$1,528,400.79, and on the valuation of \$694,727,631.90, there will be required a levy of two and two-tenths mills, which is slightly less than the original estimate of the levy.

Counties.	State Board's valuation.
Baker	\$ 16,284,420.00
Benton	10,156,930.00
Clackamas	22,043,720.00
Clatsop	15,089,490.00
Columbia	11,865,950.00
Coos	15,214,550.00
Crook	7,933,800.00
Curry	3,112,390.00
Douglas	25,003,260.00
Gillman	7,857,380.00
Grant	5,071,160.00
Harney	6,565,180.00
Hood River	7,440,540.00
Jackson	23,891,700.00
Josephine	8,677,150.00
Klamath	10,309,760.00
Lake	6,099,710.00
Lane	28,205,960.00
Lincoln	5,592,560.00
Linn	25,315,880.00
Malheur	6,613,810.00
Marion	32,443,800.00
Morrow	9,100,940.00
Multnomah	24,726,520.00
Polk	13,276,260.00
Sherman	7,030,650.00
Tillamook	10,890,600.00
Umatilla	33,965,255.50
Union	7,947,690.00
Wallowa	7,947,690.00
Wasco	11,310,180.00
Washington	17,145,890.00
Wheeler	3,313,850.00
Yamhill	16,305,276.40
Total	\$694,727,631.90

Hookworm Appears in Fresno.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 5.—According to the diagnosis of Dr. Herbert Gunn, of this city, made public today, the hookworm disease has made its appearance in San Francisco.

Dr. Gunn, who was called upon to diagnose a disease which attacked Mrs. Marian Jimenez, an aged Spanish woman of this city, declared that the patient was suffering from an attack of the pest, probably contracted during a visit to Honolulu.

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