

IRELAND IS GOOD MARKET - MILLER

Consul Henry B. Miller Writes Interesting Account of Market for Fruit Offered in Old Erin.

BELFAST, Ireland, Dec. 21.—(To the Mail Tribune.) Enclosed herewith please find copy of my report to the state department on the apple market in Belfast. For the benefit of the fruitgrowers of the Pacific northwest, and of the Rogue River valley in particular, I desire to supplement this report with some special observations.

Oregon apples are already well known in this market and have a first-class reputation. It is a general statement of fruit dealers here that Oregon produces the finest apples that reach this market, and it is their general belief that there is no possibility of overstocking this market with the Oregon apple. California apples are also to be found in considerable quantities here, but are not in the same class with the Oregon product. In fact, the Oregon product here stands in a class by itself. This is most likely due to the fact that Oregon produces not only high-class fruit, but through the organization of fruitgrowers, they not only ship a finer quality of apples to this market, but they are so packed as to arrive in a better condition than from any other locality.

Second Quality Finds Market

Before having any experience in the fruit markets of Great Britain, I had formed a fixed opinion that nothing but the first-class product of Oregon orchards could find a market here. This preconceived opinion has been completely shattered by a thorough examination of the fruit markets in this part of the world, and there is no longer any question in my mind, but that second quality of Oregon product will find an ever-increasing demand at a good profit to the producer. If the packing and shipping is carried on with the same uniformity to a true standard as is done by the fruitgrowers' organizations throughout Oregon of their first quality.

Organization of the fruitgrowers, however, is the key to success. Organizations in different parts of the state should see to it that a reliable standard of grades is established as nearly uniform as possible. Following this, the fruitgrowers' organization of the Willamette valley, together with those of Hood River, Rogue River and others, should select a selling agency for their product, and establish a representative in Liverpool, who would have control of the sale of their fruit throughout Great Britain. There seems to be an opportunity for the Oregon apple-growers to market her ten times the quantity at present shipped into this country. It is important, however, to emphasize the fact that organizations for growing, grading and marketing are the essential features to accomplish this result.

Uniform Grading Requisite

The general tendency of tariffs in Great Britain at the present time appears to be largely in the direction of preferential tariffs for British colonies. Its accomplishment may be not far distant, and may give a favorable advantage to British Columbian and Canadian fruit. It is possible to overcome even this advantage by superior skill through well-developed organizations of growers in producing and marketing. Conditions in Oregon are especially favorable to the establishment of organizations for this purpose.

The first requisite is the production of more Oregon apples of a good quality. The second requisite is the establishment of uniform grades for large quantities. The third requisite is a substantial and intelligent method of advertising and disposing of the fruit. If Oregon takes advantage of the present opportunities in these lines, there is no reason why Oregon apples, and pears as well, should not lead in the markets of the world.

Consumers in this country pay 4 cents a pound for ordinary cooking apples. For table apples, from 6 cents a pound to 4 cents each for Oregon Yellow Newtown Pippins, these bringing the very highest prices. The demand here at these prices is enormous, and the Oregon fruit, with its fine color and juicy qualities, will have no trouble in capturing the largest part of the market.

Having had more than 20 years' experience in producing and marketing Oregon apples, I am convinced that there is a handsome profit to the Oregon grower at these prices.

Demand for Pears Increase

Fall and winter pears sell in this market from 6 to 8 cents each. Rogue River pears bring the highest price.

The pear market seems to have fewer sources of supply than any other fruit here. All the dealers are anxious for a larger supply of pears, and there seems to be a great opportunity for Oregon fall and winter pears in the future markets. Unfortunately the Oregon pear has not yet been received in sufficient quantities to establish its reputation as a distinctly Oregon product, and is advertised under a placard of California pears, although displayed in boxes marked distinctly Rogue River pears from Medford, Or.

There should be a careful and complete investigation of the possibilities in the pear market throughout Europe by the Oregon Horticultural society. This should be followed by a thorough investigation of different varieties possible of production to perfection throughout the Willamette valley, and if my impressions are correct, this investigation would result in extensive plantings of fall and winter pears, for my observations lead me to believe that the Willamette valley has unsurpassed advantages in production of this fruit.

Canal Will Reduce Cost

The cost of transportation to any of the markets of Great Britain should not exceed 75 cents a box of one bushel each. This will leave a fair margin for the dealer, and a splendid profit to the producer, the market being reliable at these prices and the quantity consumed simply enormous.

When the Panama canal is completed ships will load at Portland for Liverpool and many other European ports. The cost of transporting apples when the canal is completed will not exceed one-half of the present price. This will undoubtedly insure a profitable market throughout Europe generally for Oregon apples and pears, and will make a certainty of a great market not only for high-class fruit, but for a much larger quantity of common stock. What the Oregon orchardist wants today is not so much a fancy price for A1 stock as a profitable price for the common varieties and grades.

This will be insured by the new route of transportation direct from Portland through the Panama canal to all of the European ports, and will place the Pacific coast on an equal footing, as far as the cost of transportation is concerned, with the great apple-producing sections of Canada.

Work Cannot be Overdone

By the time that orchards planted today come into bearing, this new trade route will be established, and there will then be no question as to the permanent value of Oregon orchards of fall and winter pears. The demand of the European market for American apples may be comprehended by the statement that at this time of the year shipments from Atlantic ports to Europe exceed 300,000 bushels a week, and nine-tenths of this fruit is below the standard of first-class Pacific coast stock.

There need be no fear of Oregon producing too many apples by the time orchards now planted come into bearing. The only problems are the production of good fruit, establishments of standard grades through large organizations, skillful packing and systematic methods of marketing through large associations. Very truly yours,

HENRY B. MILLER,
United States Consul.

JEFF WAXES ANGRY AT JOHN L.'S REPORT

EVERETT, Wash., Feb. 2.—When shown the dispatch quoting John L. Sullivan as declaring the coming championship heavyweight battle is to be a fake, Jim Jeffries frowned ominously, and as his interviewer moved nearer the door, the boilermaker thundered:

"Say, how do you think it makes a man in my position feel to hear all this knocking?"

The newspaper man refrained from hazarding a guess and Jeff continued: "Well, it looks as if certain people were trying to queer this match. If Sullivan knows anything about the 'fixing' he will have to give out his information. Just have him tell all he knows about the 'frameup.' If the fight has been fixed, then old John L. must have been in on the fixing, for I know nothing about it."

PROMINENT GRANTS PASS COUPLE WED

Among the popular weddings of the season to take place in Grants Pass occurred Wednesday evening last at the residence of J. D. Fry, when W. D. Fry and Miss Maud Williams were married. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Robert McLean, in the presence of immediate relatives and friends.

Both were reared in Grants Pass. Mr. Fry is a son of J. D. Fry, a banker, and is now engaged in business for himself as a druggist on the east side in Portland. Mrs. Fry is a daughter of J. H. Williams, of Williams Brothers, largely interested in lumbering and milling.

Wear Kidd's Shoes.

FRISCO HAS TWO HEALTH BOARDS

Taylor Board Resists Efforts of New Mayor to Oust Them—Will Apply for an Injunction.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Feb. 2.—Two boards of health will be in session here next Friday, according to today's status of political affairs. The Taylor board, which is resisting the mayor's attempt to oust them, will hold a session while the McCarthy new appointees are planning to take charge of city affairs. Unless the courts intervene it is likely that a fair-sized municipal tangle will result.

The Taylor board, which refuses to resign, is making preparations to apply for an injunction to restrain the mayor from removing them. They declare that they have done their duty and that they cannot be removed for cause. The McCarthy board, which secured their seats with the aid of a locksmith, who removed the bolts and bars that kept them from the offices of the board of health, will hold its sessions in the regular board room, while their opponents will meet at the offices of one of the contending commissioners.

Dr. Guy E. Manning, a member of the board, who was appointed yesterday by the mayor to the new commission, is placed in a peculiar quandary. It is likely, however, that he will cast his lot with the McCarthy appointees.

The rank and file of the health office apparently are deciding the matter for themselves. Several of the higher officials have tendered their resignations to the McCarthy board, while others have applied to the new board for orders.

In the meantime, the McCarthy

board has selected its subcommittees and is proceeding to routine work of the department.

PITTSBURG FEARS COMING OF GROUNDHOG

PITTSBURG, Feb. 2.—The ground hog has gone wrong for three successive years in Pittsburg and Henry Pennywit, official weather forecaster for this district warns the people to ignore the creature when he emerges from his hole Wednesday. In 1907 and 1909 the ground hog's shadow was plainly visible, yet the weather was mild for the next weeks, in refutation of tradition, and in 1908, when ground hog day was as black as night, six weeks of heavy snow and flood followed.

Incidentally Pittsburg is a bit anxious, since the Paris flood. There are three rivers threatening Pittsburg, while Paris has but one. The weather bureau reports that the snow fall for the past month has been 22.5 inches, the largest for any similar period for 16 years. The guesses are that the abundance of comets or the general wear and tear on the sun might have anything to do with the phenomenal weather this year were met at the local weather bureau with the statement that records at Kew observatory in London, for the past 125 years, showed that the temperature has not varied as a whole one-eighth of a degree.

SAN FRANCISCO MAN BUYS HALF INTEREST IN MOORE

Emil Mohr, of San Francisco, has purchased a one half interest in the Moore Hotel and bar and the new firm of Rau and Mohr went into business yesterday at noon.

Mr. Mohr and his family came here about a week ago and the result of his investigation of Medford's possibilities was an investment in a half interest in the hotel property.

Notice to Union Carpenters.

There will be a called meeting on Thursday eve, February 3. Members urged to be present. Important business. C. E. LEATHERMAN, R. S.

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\$12,000—Eleven acres in Comice and Bose pears, 14 years old. These trees are in full bearing and will pay a good income on the price asked.

\$24,000—Thirty-two acres in Bose and Anjou pears; trees are from 4 to 7 years of age. Complete set of buildings. Close in.

\$7000—Thirty-five acres of black sticky, three miles from Medford, all under the ditch and can be irrigated.

\$13,000—Thirty-two acres, close to Medford; eight acres in Newtowns and Spitzenbergs 5 to 7 years of age; 14 acres in alfalfa; three acres in peaches; two acres in berries; irrigated; buildings.

\$13,000—Twenty acres; 16 acres in 7-year-old Newtowns and balance in 3-year-old Bartlett pears; no buildings.

\$7500—Ten acres, all planted to Newtown and Spitzenberg apples, 7 to 11 years old.

\$18,000—Thirty-five acres, about 25 planted to apples and pears, in bearing. Trees are from 6 to 15 years old; buildings; four miles from Medford.

\$14,000—Thirty-five acres; buildings; exceptionally fine place for a home; twelve acres in apples at 4 pears 3 years old; about an acre of bearing orchard; 11 acres in alfalfa; all fine deep free soil.

\$150 to \$200 per acre—Stewart acre tracts; two miles from Medford; tracts are from 10 to 25 acres in size. Fine building spots on all; can all be irrigated; cheapest tracts in the Medford neighborhood; easy terms.

\$300 per acre—Finest five and ten-acre orchard and garden tracts in the valley; easy terms.

\$35,000—270 acres; buildings; 26 acres in bearing — Spitz, Newtowns and Comice pears; about 60 acres in one and two-year-old apples and pears; fine orchard land.

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