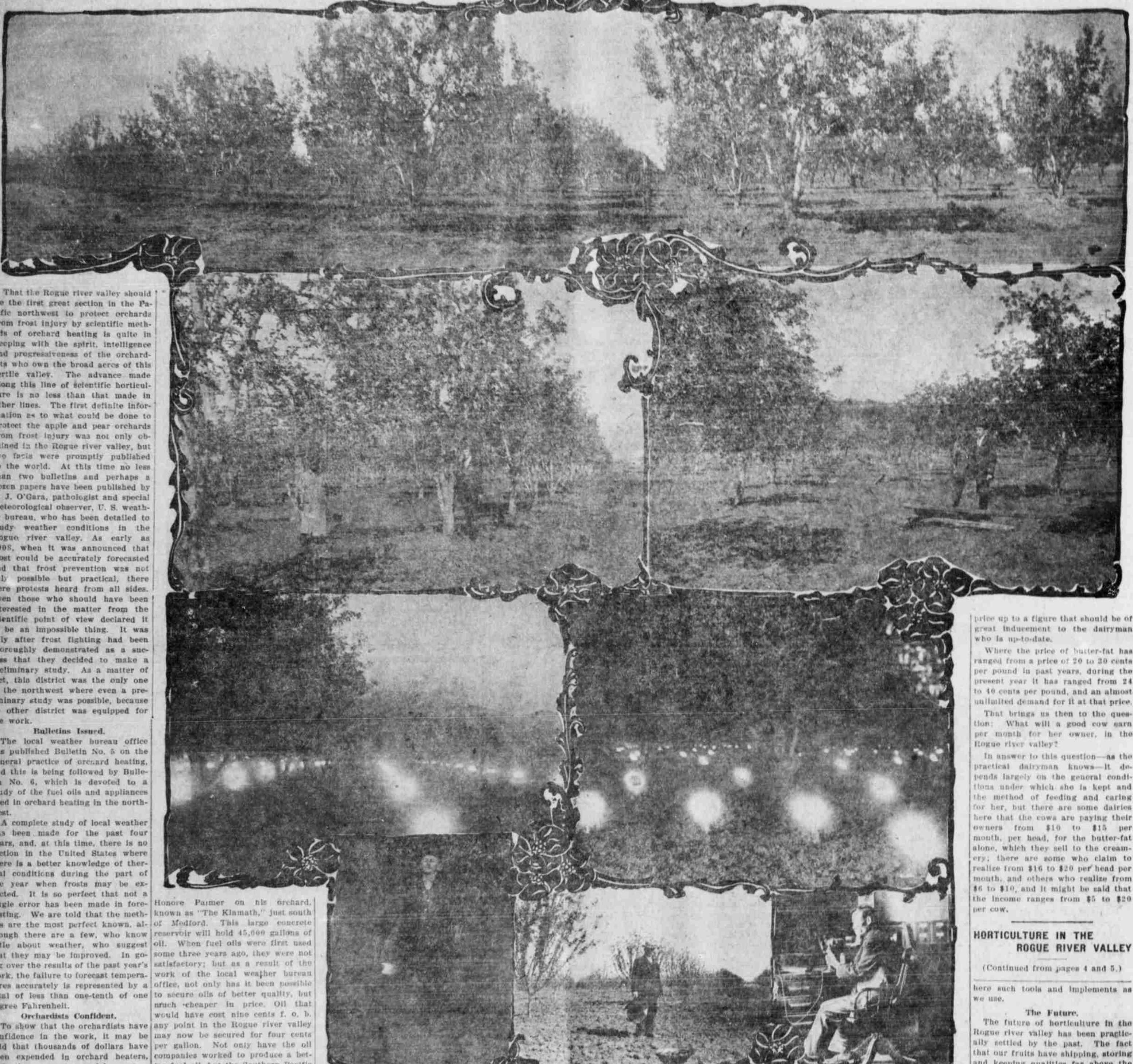


Saving a Rogue River Valley Fruit Crop From Frost



That the Rogue river valley should be the first great section in the Pacific northwest to protect orchards from frost injury by scientific methods of orchard heating is quite in keeping with the spirit, intelligence and progressiveness of the orchardists who own the broad acres of this fertile valley. The advance made along this line of scientific horticulture is no less than that made in other lines. The first definite information as to what could be done to protect the apple and pear orchards from frost injury was not only obtained in the Rogue river valley, but the facts were promptly published to the world. At this time no less than two bulletins and perhaps a dozen papers have been published by P. J. O'Garra, pathologist and special meteorological observer, U. S. weather bureau, who has been detailed to study weather conditions in the Rogue river valley. As early as 1908, when it was announced that frost could be accurately forecasted and that frost prevention was not only possible but practical, there were protests heard from all sides. Even those who should have been interested in the matter from the scientific point of view declared it to be an impossible thing. It was only after frost fighting had been thoroughly demonstrated as a success that they decided to make a preliminary study. As a matter of fact, this district was the only one in the northwest where even a preliminary study was possible, because no other district was equipped for the work.

Bulletins Issued.

The local weather bureau office has published Bulletin No. 5 on the general practice of orchard heating, and this is being followed by Bulletin No. 6, which is devoted to a study of the fuel oils and appliances used in orchard heating in the northwest.

A complete study of local weather has been made for the past four years, and, at this time, there is no section in the United States where there is a better knowledge of thermal conditions during the part of the year when frosts may be expected. It is so perfect that not a single error has been made in forecasting. We are told that the methods are the most perfect known, although there are a few, who know little about weather, who suggest that they may be improved. In going over the results of the past year's work, the failure to forecast temperatures accurately is represented by a total of less than one-tenth of one degree Fahrenheit.

Orchardists Confident.

To show that the orchardists have confidence in the work, it may be said that thousands of dollars have been expended in orchard heaters, and other apparatus, and large storage tanks for the fuel oils. One of the largest storage tanks in the United States built for orchard heating purposes was constructed by Mr.

Honore Palmer on his orchard, known as "The Klamath," just south of Medford. This large concrete reservoir will hold 45,000 gallons of oil. When fuel oils were first used some three years ago, they were not satisfactory; but as a result of the work of the local weather bureau office, not only has it been possible to secure oils of better quality, but much cheaper in price. Oil that would have cost nine cents f. o. b. any point in the Rogue river valley may now be secured for four cents per gallon. Not only have the oil companies worked to produce a better fuel oil, but the Southern Pacific Railroad company has seen fit to reduce the freight rates on oil. Co-operation has been secured on all sides.

Dairying Conditions

By EARL C. GADDIS.

In presenting the conditions and opportunities that exist, relative to dairying in southern Oregon, it is not the intention of the writer to "paint with rosy hue" the results which have been attained in that line, but rather to present the possibilities of this important line of business to those who might be interested, and at the same time give a few facts and figures as to the income per cow that has been received by dairymen of the Rogue river valley.

The conditions existing at the present time as to the procuring of land suitable for dairy purposes are such that it would be necessary for the prospective dairyman to seek a location, not in close proximity to Medford, but rather in the outlying sections within a 5 to 25 mile radius

of our city; at the same time being sure to locate near one of the main county highways, so the question of getting their products to market would not be difficult to solve, as our roads are easy to travel fully eight months out of the 12, and the time is fast approaching when they will be excellent roads the year round.

Orchards Close In.

While the land in the immediate vicinity of Medford is very fertile, and therefore would be well adapted to dairying, these lands are being utilized for the apple and pear orchards, for which the Rogue river valley is famous; consequently the value of such lands have gotten far above the price that would make them profitable for the purpose of dairying. It is true that our retail milk deal-

ers have their dairies near the city, but even in those cases the majority of such lands has gotten far above cows on a cheap tract of land and buy their hay and grain for feeding purposes, rather than have several hundred dollars per acre tied up in a ranch for the purpose of raising alfalfa for their stock.

There are two large herds of milch cows and numerous small herds that furnish the daily milk and cream supply for the city of Medford, and the number of cows in these herds will total several hundred.

Small Valleys Good.

We have a number of small val-

leys adjacent to the Rogue river valley where the price of land is more in keeping with the prices of land that is used for dairy purposes, which are excellent places for the building up of a good dairy business—from the standpoint of selling cream to the creameries—and it is to these sections that we must devote our efforts toward increasing the dairy business of southern Oregon.

The Little Applegate, Big Applegate, Little Butte, Big Butte, Antelope, Sams valley and Upper Rogue river valleys should prove interesting to the prospective purchasers of dairy farms, as the ranches in these sec-

tions will produce alfalfa and corn in abundance, as a large percentage of them are irrigated from the waters of the creeks adjoining them, thus assuring the owners of large crops of excellent feed for the cow.

Varieties of Feed.

It will be interesting to the dairymen of the east and middle west to know that the lands of these valleys produce these varieties of feed, for they realize the value of alfalfa as a part of the ration for the cow, also the value of green corn for making into ensilage to provide the cow with a good succulent food during the

time of year when they find the greatest need for it.

Another recommendation for these valleys from the dairyman's standpoint is the closeness in a great many instances, of outside range which could be utilized for early spring pasture at just the time when the cow would need building up—after her long winter's work.

There is a limited amount of dairying being carried on in these sections at the present time, but only on a small scale, as in a majority of cases the dairies do not exceed 10 or 12 cows to the farm, when they could easily handle three to five times that number.

Demand for Dairies.

There is a growing demand in this section for the practical dairyman owing to the dairy business being practically new to a large majority of those engaged in it at the present time, and as the population of our valley has doubled up so rapidly, as against a loss in the amount of dairying carried on, it has brought about a very strong demand for all kinds of dairy products and has put the

price up to a figure that should be of great inducement to the dairyman who is up-to-date.

Where the price of butter-fat has ranged from a price of 20 to 30 cents per pound in past years, during the present year it has ranged from 24 to 40 cents per pound, and an almost unlimited demand for it at that price.

That brings us then to the question: What will a good cow earn per month for her owner, in the Rogue river valley?

In answer to this question—as the practical dairyman knows—it depends largely on the general conditions under which she is kept and the method of feeding and caring for her, but there are some dairies here that the cows are paying their owners from \$10 to \$15 per month, per head, for the butter-fat alone, which they sell to the creamery; there are some who claim to realize from \$16 to \$20 per head per month, and others who realize from \$6 to \$10, and it might be said that the income ranges from \$5 to \$20 per cow.

HORTICULTURE IN THE ROGUE RIVER VALLEY

(Continued from pages 4 and 5.)

here such tools and implements as we use.

The Future.

The future of horticulture in the Rogue river valley has been practically settled by the past. The fact that our fruits have shipping, storing and keeping qualities far above the average, is a factor which very few other districts can boast of. Our export apples and pears have the reputation of standing up without undue loss from storage rots and other troubles incident to fruits of many other districts. The pear has been called, by those who only know it in their particular district, a perishable fruit; but we have shown that such varieties as Anjou, Rose, Comice, Nells and others may be held until the spring of the following year. With us practically all the pears hold up as well as the red apples. No district in the world commands better prices on the whole than does this district. In making this statement it is to be understood that a single season's conditions are not taken into account, but rather the average of a term of years. The future of apple and pear growing depends entirely on keeping up the standard of excellence for which this district is noted. It depends upon keeping the orchards in a state of vigorous health, and this can be done by continuing and encouraging that degree of scientific care for which the orchardists of the valley are especially noted.

