

Jackson County Wide Awake for Good Roads

The year 1912 witnessed the completion of the Central Point-Medford boulevard, the finest stretch of macadam road in southern Oregon, at a cost of approximately \$30,000. Other road improvements made during the year bring Jackson county well into the lead in graded and macadamized highways, with a total expenditure in roads and bridges of several hundred thousand dollars.

Jackson county has for several years, led the highway agitation in Oregon. It voted bonds for a \$1,500,000 road system, which the supreme court held invalid. In an effort to remedy the situation, the Medford Commercial club initiated a constitutional amendment at the last general election which met defeat. Legislation was enacted however, which if followed by a proper enabling act by the legislature, will enable the county to issue \$750,000 of road bonds.

A progressive county court has been elected, pledged to construct good roads, and with federal and state aid, it is expected that highway construction will rapidly advance in Jackson county.

The county possesses the most modern road building equipment made and it will be but a few years until there are 300 miles of good highway in the county.

Jackson county is perhaps the most fortunate county in the entire country in having an ample supply of road building material of easy access, having the best of basaltic rock, shown by government test to be the very highest in efficiency, and distributed so thoroughly over the county that crushers may be set up at different points, making the maximum haul of material not to exceed five or six miles. Besides this, we have the material in the Rogue



Macadam Roads in Various Stages of Construction.

River valley for the manufacture of the highest grade Portland cement, and with cement manufactured at home, avoiding freight, we can build a hard surface road of our rock, bound together with our high-grade cement, that will be second to no road in the world, at a cost that will be well within the bounds of reason and economy.



Soil Survey of the Rogue River Valley

Although all of the field work on the soil survey of the Jackson county area has been completed, it will be some time before the results will be published.

Notes on the Rogue River Valley, Oregon, Survey.

The "valley" is a lowland belt formed by the more rapid erosion of a belt of soft rock, along the strike of which it lies, than has taken place on the harder rocks lying on both sides of it. Its floor is uneven, except when made even by the construction work of the streams that flow along or into it. A large part of the present floor of the valley consists of smooth but strongly sloping surfaces made by the smaller streams which flow into it from the adjacent streams.

The bounding valley walls differ strikingly. The western wall, extending around the northern end, is timber covered, usually steep and has been left almost entirely uncleared. The eastern wall, on the other hand, has an uneven slope, broken by many breeches and is covered with cleared, though steeply sloping, land well toward the top. It has the appearance of never having been heavily timbered. This slope also has a number of remnants of an old colluvial valley filling, occurring, apparently, only in the southern end of the valley. They are now long ridges with uniform slopes from high up above the valley floor, the highest series starting from 500 to 700 feet above the valley, downward toward the axis of the valley, ending in a steep drop to the stream flood plain along the axial line of the valley. There seems to be at least two series, a higher and a lower, of these colluvial remnants. They are really remnants of former fans formed at a time when the valley floor had not yet been eroded to its present depth.

In addition to these features, the east slope is characterized by a great many narrow benches and escarpments. In fact, this and the alluvial fan remnants form the characteristic features of the eastern slope of the valley. They are much more pronounced, however, in the southern than in the northern end of the valley.

Geology—The Rocks

There are five sources of material for the soils of the Rogue river valley. They are:

1. A series of hornblende, micaeous, feldspathic rocks usually metamorphosed into slates, serpentines and schists.
2. A series of granites and granite gneiss.
3. A series of rather soft sandstones, shales and conglomerates. The sandstones and sandy material in the shales and conglomerates seem to be made up to a considerable extent of other material than quartz. They are not at least pure, or nearly pure, quartz sandstones. The pebbles in the conglomerates, however, are many of them quartz. They are thus of Quartzite and other metamorphic rocks and of various fine grained igneous rocks.

4. A series of basalts, tuffs and possibly breccias.
5. The valley filling consisting of material from all the rocks named, as well as material carried from greater distances. The greater part of it, however, is derived from the rocks described in 1 to 4.

Geology—The Geological Structure
The rocks all dip eastward except some sheets of volcanic rocks in the northern end of the valley which lie nearly or quite horizontal. The reason for this, whether due to a flow that took place subsequent to the folding of the other rocks or to a decrease of the folding in that direction, was not determined.

As a result of the eastward dip, the older rocks lie to the west and the younger ones to the east. The older rocks, the metamorphic rocks, and the granites are relatively hard rocks and form the mountains of the western side of the valley. The metamorphic rocks seem to be softer than the granite rocks; and along at least a part of the valley boundary they form a series of lower mountains with the higher granitic hills lying back of them.

The sandstones lie next above the granitic and metamorphic rocks. Being soft, they have been eroded, and it is on them that the valley has been worn. They form the low hills lying in the valley and along the valley boundaries. They lie up on the slopes of the lower metamorphic hills and the western side of the valley, but do not seem to reach more than a very few hundred feet above the valley floor. The conglomerate beds seem to be responsible for a number of low hills out in the valley.

Basalt Flows Above

Above the sandstone series lie the basalt flows and the tuff and breccia beds. They form the eastern valley wall, but crop mainly on the higher slopes, the sandstones dipping into the mountain below their outcrop in



Jacksonville Rock Quarry.

the lower slopes. There is some indication that the upper part of the sandstone series has one or more tuff beds and possibly some lava sheets interbedded, but this was not definitely determined. From the oil standpoint, however, it is relatively unimportant, however important it may be from the geological standpoint.

A very small proportion of the tillable soil of the valley lies on the basaltic rocks, because they outcrop high above the valley floor. In the northeastern portion of the valley a number of ovens extend eastward into the basaltic regions when the soil is residual on the basaltic rock. The basalt material is an important modifier of the soils along the eastern slope of the valley, especially; and great deal, in fact, the predominant part of the material of the valley filling on the eastern side is basaltic.

Geology—Geological History

The first or oldest event, or series of events, seems to have been the formation and metamorphosing of the series of metamorphic rocks lying along the western flank of the mountains. So far as my observation goes, it seems to have been mainly eruptive in origin. How far west it extends, or what change in character takes place in that direction, is unknown to me.

The next important event seems to have been the intrusion into these metamorphic rocks of the granites which occur along the west side of the valley and in the higher hills west of it.

Peaches and Prosperity

By Fred Lockley

E. D. Briggs, who was recently re-elected president of the Ashland Commercial club, despite his protests against holding the office again, tells an interesting story of how he came to choose Southern Oregon as his home:

"Something over twenty years ago," said Judge Briggs, "I took the western fever. I came, originally from New York state, and had got as far west as Minneapolis. Minnesota is pretty far west from New York, but in the summer of 1890 I decided not to stop half way, but to go clear to the shores of the Pacific. I spent the summer of 1890 traveling up and down the coast investigating conditions and comparing localities. Finally my choice lay between San Jose, Cal., and Ashland, Or."

"I spent some time around San Jose. It is a beautiful country and

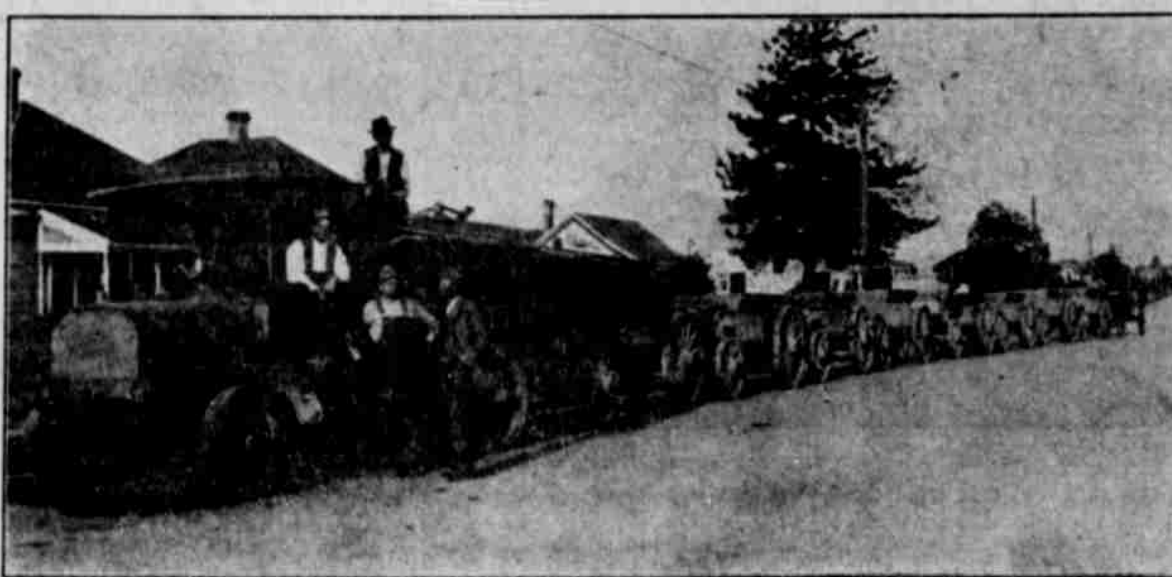
I like it. But the beauty of Ashland and its nearby streams and mountains, its abundant and splendid water, and the low price of its land decided me upon my choice of Ashland for my future home.

"I returned to Minneapolis, loaded my goods in a car and we bought our tickets for Ashland, Or."

Decides on Oregon

"The first thing I did upon arriving in Ashland was to look around for a place. I found one that just suited me, forty acres, two and one-half miles southeast of town. I bought it, paying \$25 an acre for it. I had thirty acres cleared. It was heavily timbered and the sawlogs and cordwood almost paid for the work of clearing it. I was out an even thousand dollars for the land and the clearing, fencing, plowing and other work cost about two thousand more.

"I am a book farmer and keep



Work Gang in Quarry.

careful account of all I spend or take in for the satisfaction of knowing how I am coming out on my investments.

"I put out thirty acres to orchard—apples and peaches—Splizenberg, Newtowns and Baldwin apples and Alexander, Early Crawford, Late Crawford, Hale's Early, Elberta, Salway and Muir peaches.

"For the first three years I planted beans, corn and potatoes between the rows of trees, which just about paid the expense of the cultivation and care of the orchard. The third year I sold \$480 worth of peaches from my orchard. The fourth year I received \$1100 for my peach crop. The following year I had a big crop, but the prices were low, so I only received \$1800. From then on, however, I never had a year when I did not make from \$2500 to \$3000 from the orchard, as the apples were beginning to do their share toward revenue-producing. The last year I

owned the place, I rented it out. I received one-third of the proceeds, which brought me a check at the end of the season for \$2380. I sold the orchard the next spring for \$15,000. But had I waited less than two years I could have gotten \$30,000 for it. However, I had the pleasure of handling it, and my total net receipts amounted to a little over \$28,000, so I am well satisfied.

Some Rules for Success

"In working with that orchard I discovered a number of very interesting things, and one of them is that there is no truth in the commonly accepted statement that peach trees are only good as fillers in an orchard, as their life is not over twelve years. I found that by cutting them back aggressively and not allowing them to exhaust their vitality by over-production they will bear prolifically up to twenty-five years. In fact, I know of peach trees in the Rogue River valley that

Auto Truck and Wagons Hauling Crushed Rock.

are forty years old and still producing a good quality of fruit.

"There are hundreds and thousands of acres of hill land in the Rogue River valley suitable to the raising of peaches and other fruit—land that can be bought for from \$25 to \$40 an acre. All it requires is clearing and intelligent industry to make its owner a competence.

"What we need is the middle western American farmer, who is not opposed to work, or the thrifty German or Swiss immigrant. We have lots of room for them, and their opportunity is here."

History of Fruit Growing

Sixty years ago a few hardy pioneers, braving the dangers and hardships of a transcontinental journey by slow wagon trains, brought into the Rogue river valley seeds and sections of the fruits with which they were familiar in their eastern homes. They were not horticulturists or fruitgrowers as the term is applied today; they grew apples, pears, peaches and other fruits more for the pleasure of growing them than for any profit that might have been made from them. They were too busy getting the absolute necessities of life to think of commercial fruitgrowing. For the most part the varieties of fruits which they grew were without name, that is to say, they were seedlings; and today many of the sturdy old trees that sprang from the seeds which these men planted in the fertile soils of the

Griffin Creek Quarry.

Rogue river valley are without a horticultural name. Nevertheless, many of these old fruit trees have borne prolifically in all the years that have passed since they came into bearing. The pioneers who settled the valley not only had good fruit, but plenty of it.

Among the pioneers of commercial orcharding in the Rogue river valley were men who knew of eastern varieties and eastern conditions and naturally followed the beaten trail. They knew little of the valley's soil conditions, excepting that they were good, and the adaptability of the various varieties of fruits to suit these conditions. However, they made fewer mistakes than have been charged to them. They were in a new country, working in the dark, mostly with unknown quantities, but out of it all came the happy results which rewarded them for their efforts. They constructed for future generations the foundations of an industry that cannot be surpassed the world over.

While the real beginning of fruitgrowing dates back to the early 50's, the commercial side of the industry dates back only 25 years. However, let us say that while commercial fruitgrowing began a quarter of a century ago, it was only a beginning. About that time the Stewart, Gore, Olwell, Weeks, and a few other well-known orchards were planted, and only a short time thereafter did such men as Stewart, Olwell and Weeks establish markets for our fruits, not only in the east but also in the markets of Europe. Those of us who are living in the valley today should have a profound respect for these men who staked their all in an enterprise which at that time was merely one of chance, but of wonderful importance as it has since proven. Even now, the valley is only beginning to come to its own. In a short time it will be producing tens of thousands of carloads of the various orchards' fruits, especially apples and pears. It already has planted an acreage large enough to produce an output of 30,000 cars per year; all that is required will be the proper attention necessary to the growing of the trees into bearing. The soil and climate are perfect, all that we need is time and well directed labor.

There is probably no fruit district in the United States where so great attention is paid to the matter of the health of the orchards as in the Rogue river valley. Not only are the orchards well cultivated, but every attention is given to the treatment of orchard fruit diseases.