

Rogue River Valley Greatest of Commercial Fruit Belts



The year 1913 marks a most important epoch in the history of fruit growing in the Rogue river valley. Although '13 may have been an unlucky year for some of our neighboring fruit districts, for the Rogue river valley in general, and Jackson county in particular, it will long be remembered as the best year in its history. The fondest hopes of those who have lived in the valley longest have been more than realized; those who have been here only a few years have seen the fruit industry grow by leaps and bounds until now at the close of 1913 and the beginning of 1914 we find an industry of first importance with possibilities far greater than what has already been realized.

Before we proceed to consider the soil, climatic conditions, adaptability of the district to fruit growing and its future as a fruit growing district, we will show its present status by giving a few pertinent facts and figures.

First, the increase in fruit production since 1908, a period of five years, has been almost 1000 per cent. No other fruit district can show so remarkable a gain in so short a period of time.

Second, including express shipments, the total output of fruit, principally apples and pears, has been nearly 1200 cars. Of this output, all but about 50 cars were shipped from Jackson county. The shipments include deciduous tree fruits, but do not include berries dried, canned or processed fruits.

Third, compared with California Jackson county has shipped more than one-sixth as many cars of pears and almost one-sixth as much deciduous fruit as the entire state of California. This, of course, does not include grapes.

Fourth, the prices received for fruit have been generally good, and the receipts have exceeded the \$1,000,000 mark. The net receipts have been far in excess of any previous year's returns for any other agricultural product, not excepting cattle and hogs. There were years when the placer mines of Jackson county returned many millions, but the gold taken out of the ground has left us and with but very little to show for it. Not so with permanent agriculture, our million dollar fruit crop which has gone out of the country has not depleted our agricultural wealth.

Fifth, Jackson county alone, of all the fruit districts of the Pacific coast, exceeded the spring estimates made on the fruit crop. Many districts fell short several hundred cars, while Jackson county shipped considerably more than the estimated crop. This shows that, as a fruit district, Jackson county has advantages. In that crops can be depended upon as climatic conditions during the growing season are favorable.

Sixth, if the entire crop of fruit for 1913 were assembled in a single train

of refrigerator cars, this train would be ten miles long.

Seventh, the success indicated by the above facts and figures has been brought about by the energy, thrift and foresight of the fruit growers of Jackson county. These things do not "just happen," there is a cause, there is a reason. Jackson county fruit growers as a whole have used the very best of judgment in adopting scientific methods in all their horticultural practice. They are themselves responsible for the enviable reputation which has been gained by Jackson county as a fruit district.

The Soils of Jackson County

When considering the soils of any district, whether for general farming or for special crops, three important factors should always be considered. These factors are richness of the soils, natural drainage, and absence of alkali. The soils of Jackson county, taking the above factors into consideration, are not excelled by those of any other district, east or west, north or south. Taking the area covered by the soil survey, 544 square miles, it may be truthfully said that for so large an area no other area of like size can compare with it. In the first place, the soils are generally rich, and of the two general types, residual and alluvial, there are none which considered from the abundance of plant food they contain, may be compared with certain

soils of like types in Italy which have been cultivated for more than 2000 years without the addition of any fertilizer whatever. Scientific agriculture in Jackson county will keep the soils in a high state of fertility without the great expense attendant to the extravagant use of commercial fertilizer as must be practiced by many districts whose soil types are of the light, wind-blown type. It is an axiom that "a lime

country is a rich country." The soils of Jackson county are well supplied with lime so that as a rule the use of lime as a fertilizer will hardly be necessary for hundreds of years to come. While the soils of Jackson county fall principally into the residual and alluvial classes, nevertheless, there are in all forty-seven types. They are all arable and the crops to which they are adapted will vary to

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