

Rogue River Orchards Healthiest in the World



Packing House Scene Co operative Fruit Association.



Cooperative Fruit Association Packing House.

of from 100 acres to 300 acres have shown but from one to three cases; any number of orchards, upon inspection, have not shown a single case of living infection. All of which goes to show that Jackson county's orchards are in excellent condition, and that the hearsay reports are without foundation or fact.

The personnel of Jackson county's orchardists as a whole is such that the fruit industry will continue to grow. There is no "mossbackism" in the ranks of those who own and control the magnificent fruit farms of the richest agricultural spot in the entire state of Oregon. These men see the possibilities of the future, and their knowledge of the favorable soil, climatic and regional factors is the firm basis upon which they stand. In the next five years the increase in production will be the same geo-

metric ratio as the past five years; nothing is more certain.

RECORD OF A YOUNG ORCHARD

Following is the record of the yield for four years from a small block of young pear trees in which I am interested. The tract consists of ten acres, located in the foothills on the west side of the valley. There are about 550 trees, from five to nine years of age, the principal varieties being Anjous and Winter Nellis, of which there are about 225 each. There are a few Bartletts and Comice, and about 50 young Bose.

In 1910 there were 21 boxes of Bartletts, 23 boxes of Anjous and 66 boxes of Winter Nellis.

In 1911 there were 25 boxes of Bartletts, 40 boxes of Anjous and 95 boxes of Winter Nellis.

In 1912 there were 62 boxes of

Bartletts, 115 1/2 boxes of Anjous and 235 boxes of Winter Nellis.

In 1913 there were 62 boxes of Bartletts, 266 boxes of Anjous, 6 1/2 boxes of Comice and 369 boxes of Winter Nellis.

Besides the pears, there are about an acre and a half of bearing Tokay grapes. These paid net in 1912 \$119.24, and in 1913 the net returns were \$136.61.

The net returns for the pears in 1913, as shown by the books of the Co-operative Fruit Grower's association, which handled the crop, after deducting all charges of every kind, were \$1143.61. Adding the money received for grapes, the net receipts this year were \$1279.22.

A. H. Ross

J. W. WAKEFIELD

REAL ESTATE

LOANS and INSURANCE

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(Formerly resided in Minnesota)

Rogue River Valley Greatest of Commercial Fruit Belts

(Continued from page 1)

a certain extent, dependent upon the various types. The mountain and foothill soils are largely residual, but include some colluvial material. They vary in texture from fine sandy loam to a clay adobe, the average texture being a clay loam. Many of these areas are among the richest soils of the district. The soils of the valley floor are mostly alluvial, and their texture ranges from fine sandy loams to clay adobes, the average being a heavy loam. Generally, the heavy adobe soils are very rich in lime.

No Alkali

The most careful survey of the entire agricultural area of Jackson county has not shown the presence of alkali. We have heard much of the volcanic ash soils and their richness; however, such soils always have a more or less dangerous alkali content which, sooner or later, gives trouble to the farmer. Such soils must be irrigated, and unless irrigation is carefully practiced, the alkali content ultimately destroys the agricultural value of the land. The fact that alkali is unknown in the Rogue river valley is one of the most important factors governing the agricultural possibilities of the district. The era of irrigation is already here, and the fact that the irrigator will not have to contend with alkali should be considered most important. Many a district in the arid and semi-arid sagebrush country has come to grief because of alkali.

Soil Drainage

Good soil drainage, especially where irrigation is to be practiced, is a factor which cannot be overlooked. The Rogue river valley by its topography is naturally well drained. The Jackson county area slopes generally to the north and westward, the average gradient being about 50 feet to the mile. As everyone knows a fall of 50 feet per mile affords ample drainage under all conditions of

soil texture. With general irrigation, more or less draining will be necessary, but since there is a good natural drainage, artificial drainage will not generally be required. Many an otherwise excellent area of country is rendered useless because of no good drainage outlet; the entire Rogue river area drains naturally into Rogue river which quickly carries away all surplus water.

Climatic Conditions

The elevation above sea level is such that Jackson county is neither too high nor too low. Fruit growing, or even general agriculture, is not best carried on at too high an elevation or at sea level. Under these extreme conditions the climate is not always favorable and the farmer is always working at a disadvantage. The average elevation of the agricultural area of Jackson county is about 1500 feet and it is at such elevations that the best pears and apples are produced. Climatic conditions are naturally affected by elevation, and the climate of Jackson county is such as to be most favorable for fruit growing. The climatic conditions during the summer or growing season are such that the difficulties attendant to fruit growing in humid or rainy belts are unknown to the Rogue river fruit grower. In Jackson county the fruit grower is required to spend much less time and money for spraying than in any other district in the United States, and yet have the largest percentage of perfect fruit. Of the 27 inches annual rainfall, about 10 per cent falls during the summer months. For this reason, and others, the atmospheric humidity during the summer months is very low, and such diseases as the various leaf spots, bitter rot, brown rot, etc., are unknown. Even apple scab is scarcely known in the Rogue river valley.

Every state in the union has its eyes on Oregon; every county in the state of Oregon has its eyes on Jack-

son county because Jackson county is "doing things," therefore to Jackson county belongs the credit for many innovations credited to the state of Oregon as a whole. While Jackson county is first in the building of permanent public highways, it is also first in providing for the careful inspection and scientific supervision of its orchards and general agriculture. Jackson county is the only county within the state of Oregon having in its employ an agricultural expert whose duty it is to investigate all horticultural and agricultural problems whether they be in plant pathology, entomology, soils, crops, etc. Since 1907, Jackson county has had as its expert Professor P. J. O'Gara, who gives his entire time to the various agricultural problems. He has had in charge the investigation and control of pear blight, better methods of spraying, orchard heating, varietal selection and planting, frost forecasting and various other important matters pertaining to the care of the orchards. It is well known that pear growing in practically every pear district in the United States is on the decrease, but through the efficient work done by the pathologist's office, pear shipments have increased during the past few years in geometric ratio. In 1911, the pear shipments totaled 125 cars; in 1912, 250 cars, while in 1913 the number of cars shipped was about 450. These figures alone show that pear blight in the Rogue river valley is under control, and that the future of pear growing is assured. That Jackson county has an enviable reputation is evinced by the fact that many districts, jealous of what we have, and what we have done, have reported that blight "is wide-spread, abundant and beyond control." However, Jackson county's inspection force finds that the contrary is true. An inspection of 30,000 trees mostly in one large holding showed but three cases of blight; other orchards

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