

## STATION SEEKS MOST DESIRABLE PEAR VARIETIES

Experiment Farm at Talent Reports Efforts Made to Secure Blight Resistant Stock and New Species—

Experiments With Fertilizers Under Way—Orchard Cover Crops Given Trials.

(By Prof. F. C. Reimer.)

The Experiment Stations were established in this county for a definite purpose. Those responsible for their establishment intended that they should actually experiment with plants and animals; that these institutions should discover, by experimentation, new facts regarding plants and animals. To make such work of permanent value and of general application it should deal with fundamental principles.

The Experiment Station is not a Demonstration or Model Farm. It was not established as such and should not be maintained as such. Wherever experiment stations have attempted the model farm plan they have evaded the law, and in most instances have accomplished very little permanent good.

**Work of Southern Oregon Station**  
The Southern Oregon Experiment Station is a state institution, and is supported solely by the state. The work at this station is devoted primarily to experiments with fruits and vegetables. This does not imply that this station would neglect other lines of agriculture in southern Oregon, but at present some of the most difficult and urgent problems needing solution here are purely horticultural problems, and all of our energies are being devoted to a solution of these problems. The work, then, is for the purpose of solving problems for the farmer which the farmer cannot be expected to solve for himself.

**Testing Varieties of Fruits**  
The station is devoting considerable time and space to the testing of new and promising varieties of fruits. Valuable varieties of fruits from all sections of the United States and Europe have been planted and are being tested to determine their suitability to the climatic and soil conditions prevailing here. Special attention will also be given to determine their resistance or susceptibility to disease. We are making a special effort to find new and valuable varieties of pears which will not be as susceptible to pear blight as most of the standard varieties now grown. This will be by far the largest variety collection of pears ever assembled in America. To make this work of as great value as possible the station has arranged with orchardists in different sections of the valley to co-operate in this work. They will be supplied with and will plant a few trees of each of the most promising varieties of pears. In this way the soil requirements of these varieties will soon be determined.

We have also planted all of the newest and most promising varieties of raspberries, and some of them produced fruit the first summer after planting. One variety produced fruit which measured an inch long. Another ripens its fruit earlier than any of the varieties heretofore cultivated. We are also testing forty-eight varieties of strawberries. Some of these have proved of very great value in other states, and it is hoped that these will prove as valuable here. Included in this collection are all the famous new fall bearing varieties. Some of these produced fruit the first fall after planting.

All the finest new varieties of currants have been planted, with the hope of finding varieties which are larger, better flavored and more productive than those now grown.

New varieties of peaches, plums, prunes, cherries, Japanese and Chinese persimmons, pecans, figs, olives, and jujubes have been planted, and these collections will be enlarged this winter.

**Blight Resistant Stocks for Pears**  
The experiences that pear growers have passed through during the past two seasons have shown conclusively that the old French pear stock, formerly used so extensively, is very seriously affected with blight, and that more resistant stocks must be found. This station has been introducing all the resistant strains of pears of which pear growers throughout the world have any knowledge. Extensive experiments have been begun in budding and grafting our standard varieties and all the promising new varieties of

## MAN FAVORED BY PRESIDENT WILSON FOR CONTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY



JOHN SKELTON WILLIAMS.

That President Wilson intends to nominate John Skelton Williams, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, to be Controller of the Currency, which will be one of the most powerful offices in the government under the new currency system, was indicated in Washington. This brought forth a positive statement that the choice would meet with vigorous opposition in the Senate.

appears on these resistant stocks. It is only reasonable to expect that from these various blight resistant strains new and valuable pear stocks will be found which will be well adapted to this valley. In this connection it should be stated that the writer is corresponding with and having the co-operation of the pear growers and experimenters throughout the United States, Europe and Asia. He has been able to procure scion wood for propagating purposes of all the valuable new species of Chinese and Japanese pears discovered by government and private plant collectors. With the new strains and species which are being propagated by the station we will have growing next summer at least twenty-two distinct species of pears. In addition to this there will be between seven and eight hundred cultivated varieties.

**New Stock for Peaches**  
We have also received seed and trees of the famous wild Chinese peach which will be tested here as a stock on which to grow our standard varieties of peaches, plums, prunes, and apricots. This stock has been tried in two other sections of the country and there has proved far superior to other peaches or plums as a stock for these fruits. It is hoped that it will prove equally valuable here.

**Breeding Valuable New Pears**  
One of the most important lines of work being conducted by this station is the breeding of new and more desirable varieties of pears. We are crossing the very finest flavored varieties with the blight resistant Chinese strains and growing them in very large numbers with the expectation of combining the desirable characteristics of both in one variety. According to the best blight experts very valuable and promising results should be accomplished from such work. That this is possible is evident from some of the promising hybrids of these two species of pears which have appeared in recent years. The writer knows from the results obtained from his grape breeding work in the east that the possibilities of such breeding work are almost unlimited. In this breeding work attention will also be given to other characteristics besides resistance to blight, such as quality, early and heavy bearing, size, keeping and shipping quality.

**Experiments With Fertilizers**  
We are conducting very elaborate fertilizer experiments in various sections of the valley, to determine the fertilizer needs of the various types of soil. Most of these experiments are being carried on with fruits; but during the past two seasons considerable attention has also been given to fertilizing alfalfa. Some very valuable results have already been obtained with alfalfa. In some instances the alfalfa crop has been doubled and in one instance an increase of 500 per cent was obtained, by the use of superphosphate. It has also been shown that other fertilizers, as potash and nitrogen, are of little value on alfalfa in this valley. The action of fertilizers on fruit trees is much slower and the results so far have not been so marked as on alfalfa; but in some of the orchards it is already apparent that certain fertilizers are having marked effects. In our work the fertilizer has been applied in various ways. Usually it is applied to the soil, but

other methods have also been tried. One of these consists in dissolving the fertilizer in water and spraying it directly onto the trees early in the spring. Some interesting and valuable results were obtained from this method in California. This method of applying it in the form of a spray was first tried in this valley during the summer of 1912. The results of this work will be published in the near future.

**Orchard Cover Crops**  
The great need of orchard cover crops has become very apparent in some of the orchards in recent years. The old methods of seeding and growing these usually gave unsatisfactory results. We have shown that by early seeding with a seed drill, and by using larger quantities of seed than were formerly used, very satisfactory results can be obtained. We are also trying legumes at the station which are entirely new to the valley. This year we have found at least two new legumes which appear far more valuable than Oregon vetch, which is the cover crop usually grown here. The indications now are that these new legumes may entirely replace the old Oregon vetch as a cover crop in this valley in the future. It might be stated that one of the legumes which we are testing this year, and which was planted last September, already has the largest nitrogen nodules on the roots of any legume ever grown in this valley.

We are also giving special attention to the amount of seed to sow for best results, and our cover crop plots are giving some very valuable results from this. It has been found that the usual seeding is too light for best results.

**Pruning Experiments**  
Extensive pruning experiments with fruit trees have been started and the work will be continued for many years. It is hoped as a result of this work that the best methods of pruning may be worked out for our conditions. From some of the co-operative pruning experiments in young bearing orchards it has already been found that far better results can be obtained in such orchards by materially reducing the amount of pruning now being done by many orchardists.

**Experiments With Vegetables**  
During the past season a limited amount of work was carried on with vegetables. Limited space prevents going into a discussion of this work. We wish to say, however, that work was carried on with tomatoes, potatoes, lima beans, garden beans, sweet corn, egg plants, cabbage, and peppers. A detailed report of this work will be published in the near future.

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## 30,000 IRON MINERS THREATEN STRIKE TO END COPPER STRIKE

MARQUETTE, Mich., Jan. 3.—A strike of 30,000 upper Michigan iron miners threatened today.

If called, it will be to force a settlement of the Michigan copper mine strike. The vote in its favor was taken only by the Ishpeming and Negaunee locals, but the miners' leaders said the sentiment was general throughout the upper Michigan district.

It was added that, if necessary, a strike would be called in the iron industry throughout the country.

The Ishpeming and Negaunee resolutions demanded federal intervention in the copper strike and a congressional investigation of its causes and of the deportation of President Charles H. Moyer of the Western Federation of Miners from the copper country. Otherwise, it was declared, a strike would follow. Compliance with their demands, too, the iron miners insisted, must be prompt.

## GIANTS-WHITE SOX TEAMS IN SYDNEY

SYDNEY, N. S. W., Jan. 3.—The members of the New York Giants of the National league and the Chicago White Sox of the American league arrived here today from Brisbane on their globe-circling trip.

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