

# JACKSON COUNTY IDEAL SPOT FOR SUGAR BEETS

**President Kerr of O. A. C. Tells What Experts Found Regarding Cultivation and Yield—Possesses All Requirements for a Sugar Factory—Percentage of Purity High.**

In response to an inquiry regarding data compiled by the Oregon Agricultural college regarding the growing of sugar beets, Dr. W. J. Kerr, president of the college, writes as follows:

"Corvallis, Or., Dec. 19, 1914.

"Dear Mr. Putnam:  
Your letter of the 15th inst. inquiring in regard to the beet sugar industry and the growing of beets in this state, was duly received. I am glad to give you such information as we have, but regret that it is not as complete as desired.

The experiment station of the Agricultural college conducted beet sugar investigations during the eight years from 1890 to 1898. During these investigations seeds of standard varieties of sugar beets were furnished to farmers in different parts of the state, under an agreement that the farmers would cultivate the beets under the direction of the experiment station and would report the yield and send samples for analyses. During these investigations hundreds of samples were analyzed and the data tabulated. As a result of this work, five bulletins were published, namely: Bulletin No. 17, February, 1892; No. 23, February, 1893; No. 44, March, 1897; No. 53, April, 1898, and No. 59, December, 1899. Unfortunately, all of these bulletins are out of print. If I can succeed in securing copies of any of them, I shall send them to you.

**Bulletins Out of Print**

All of the work mentioned was under the direction of Professor G. W. Shaw, who at that time was chemist of the experiment station. The work related primarily to the sugar content of beets grown in different parts of the state. Some data, however, was obtained in relation to the yield in the various sections. So far as I can ascertain, there is no data available on the cost of production. Such data, however, would be of little value at the present time on account of changed economic conditions.

"Director Cordley of the experiment station has compiled from the official copies on file of the bulletins mentioned the following data relative to the sugar beet investigations in Jackson county:

"According to results reported in Bulletin No. 17, ten different samples of beets grown in Jackson county showed an average of 13.95 per cent sugar in the juice, as compared with an average sugar content of 13.38 per cent for beets grown in the Willamette valley. In Bulletin No. 23, the average sugar content of beets grown in the different natural divisions of the state during 1892 was summarized as follows: Willamette valley, 44 samples, 14.7 per cent; eastern Oregon, 11 samples, 19.2 per cent; Southern Oregon, 10 samples, 15.1 per cent. The average yield in Jackson county in 1892 was 14.7 tons per acre."

**Most Favorable Conditions**

"Dr. Shaw's conclusions are summarized in Bulletin No. 53. After speaking of the unfavorable conditions in the Willamette valley due to the fall rains, he continues:

"In eastern and southern Oregon, however, these conditions do not hold true. In each of those localities the conditions are admirably adapted to the industry, wherever water, limestone and fuel can be had at reasonable prices.

"Samples received were planted between April 2 and May 1, a month earlier than was the case at La Grande. The harvesting took place from August 9 to October 9. I hardly think those harvested in August were mature. In all probability all the beets harvested in August would have shown higher results had they been left in the ground another month. The average was 15.5 per cent sugar in the juice, 81 per cent purity, for a beet weighing 15.4 ounces and a yield of 16.1 tons per acre. This average yield was also much reduced from the fact that several plots are included which were grown on the hill lands where the yield was small, and on soil which I do not consider adapted to beet culture in this locality; and still further from the fact that in many cases the stand was poor from not having used a sufficient amount of seed. Wherever there was a good stand on soil adapted to the culture there was a most excellent yield.

"While these results are not quite

as high as those obtained in Union county, it should be borne in mind that they were obtained under more unfavorable circumstances. I do not think they represent the best that may be expected in Jackson county. As it is, however, they are very favorable.

"The manufacturing conditions of this part of the state are about the same as exist in the eastern portion. While there are not so many acres suitable for beets in this county as in Union county, yet there are fully 50,000 acres adapted to the industry, sufficient to supply beets for two or three factories of ordinary size. There are points near which a factory would find a good location, each possessing a little advantage in some respects over the other. It would be entirely feasible to bring abundance of water to Medford at a comparatively slight expense, which would not only be available for factory purposes, but might also be used for irrigation for beets and other crops when thought advisable. Both fuel and limestone are abundant in the locality. In the light of these facts I certainly believed that Jackson county possesses all the requirements for a sugar factory."

**Cost of Production**

"As an assistance in getting information that might be helpful to you, I telegraphed Mr. Mark Austin, manager of the sugar factory at Sugar City, Idaho, and Joseph Quinny, Jr., manager of the factories in southern Idaho, and northern Utah. Mr. Austin replies as follows:

"Impossible to tell cost of raising ton of beets, as cost varies with climatic, soil, fertilizing and other conditions."

"Mr. Quinny telegraphed me as follows:

"Cost per acre for twelve-ton crop, \$36.70 to \$42; for twenty-ton crop, \$47.20 to \$49. Hand labor contract, \$20 per twelve-ton crop, plus 50 cents for each additional ton. Hand labor, \$2.50 to \$3 per day; team and man, \$3.50 to \$4 per day. Sugar content varies from 14.5 to 17 per cent."

"Mr. Quinny says that he is sending more complete information by mail. As soon as received I shall forward same to your address.

"If I can be of further assistance to you I shall be glad to have you let me know.

"Very sincerely yours,  
"W. J. KERR, President."

**Portland Livestock Market**

PORTLAND, Dec. 21.—Cattle—Receipts, 526; 25 cents above Saturday. Prime light steers, \$7.25@7.50; prime heavy steers, \$6.75@7.25; good, \$6.25@6.50; medium, \$5.75@6.00; prime cows, \$5.65@6.00; medium, \$5.35@5.50; common, \$5.00@5.25; bulls, \$4.00@4.50; prime light veal, \$8.00@8.50; prime heavy veal, \$6.00@7.50.

Hogs—Receipts 5836; steady. Prime light, \$7.40@7.50; medium, 7.20@7.30; smooth heavy, \$6.85@7.10; rough heavy, \$6.40@6.50.

Sheep—Receipts 1680. Ewes 25c higher, others steady. Wethers, \$5.25@5.60; ewes, \$4.50@5.70; lambs, \$6.50@7.50; yearlings, \$4.50@6.00.

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Colonel Cody in the Indian wars at the Star theater tonight and Tuesday—Matinee and night.

5.25; bulls, \$4.00@4.50; prime light veal, \$8.00@8.50; prime heavy veal, \$6.00@7.50.

Hogs—Receipts 5836; steady. Prime light, \$7.40@7.50; medium, 7.20@7.30; smooth heavy, \$6.85@7.10; rough heavy, \$6.40@6.50.

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## TIME TO EXPEL INVADERS STATES GENERAL JOFFRE

BERLIN, Dec. 21, (by wireless).—In the official statement issued today the great activity shown by the French along our entire front has been explained by an army order dated December 17 and signed by General Joffre, commander-in-chief of the French troops, which was found on a French officer. This order reads as follows:

"During three months the enemy has made numerous fierce attacks without being able to break through our lines. Everywhere he has been victoriously repulsed. The moment now has arrived for us to make use of the weakness which he has shown. After having reinforced ourselves with men and material, the hour of attack has arrived. We kept the German forces in check, and it is now our business to clear the fatherland of the invaders.

"Soldiers: More than ever before France relies upon your courage and

your desire to conquer at any cost, the Marne and on the Yser at Ypres, will know how to conquer until the You already have been victorious on in Lorraine and in the Vosges. You final triumph."

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