Harvest Scenes in Orchards in Medford District

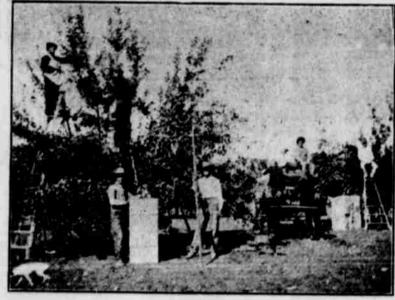




Chiefly because of the large acreage planted to pears in the Rogue River valley, the 1910 census ranked Oregon second among all the states of the Union in the number of young pear trees planted-being excelled only by the state of New York. The same figures give Oregon sixth rank in the quantity of pears produced in 1909; and fourth rank for the value of this production.

The increase in fruit production since 1908, a period of five years. has been almost 1000 per cent. In the year 1914, just closed, the total output of fruit, principally apples and pears, including express shipments. has been about 1150 cars. These figures do not include berries, dried, canned or processed fruits. Compared with California, Jackson county shipped in 1913 more than one-sixth as many cars of pears and almost one-sixth as much deciduous - tree fruits. The net returns for the 1913 fruit crop reached well above the Pacific coast exceeded in output the spring estimate made on the fruit crop, showing that climatic conditions are such that estimates may be depended upon. To show what the Jackson county fruit output for 1913 would look like if assembled, it has been estimated that it would require a solid train of refrigerator cars ten miles long to move the crop. Specialization in Pears

Among the many varieties of fruits that have been and can be successfully grown in the Rogue River valley, there is a decided tendency toward a specialization in pears. New orchardists are advised by the resident fruit-growing expert to plant at least 80 per cent pears—the remainder apples. Certain sections of the valley, notably in the vicinity of Ashland, have specialized more or less in peaches but the greater number of peach trees are merely considered as quickly maturing "fillers." planted between the rows of apple and pear trees, the peach trees to help in providing running expenses and to be removed when they begin to crowd the permanent trees of the orchard.



the order in which they ripen.

This specialization in pears, and

The production of pears, like the this sifting down to best varieties Rogue River valley, has had a grad- ent factors. Pear trees, where the and today popular approval seems to do apple trees. It was early proved jou, Comice, Bosc, Winter Nells and of an exceptional quality of pearscompetitive awards.

Large yields and record prices to the acre, for example.

production of fruit in general in the was brought about by many differ- pears received in the London mar- certain; this notwithstanding the fact ual evolution. In the original family variety and the soil and the climate the fact that one Bartlett pear or- valley Spitzenberg - including the ized protection of the valley from ororchards and the first commercial or- are specially adapted, are very easily chard of seven and one-half acres in sweepstakes prize at the National chard pests. And the presence of this chards of the valley are from thirty cared for, comparatively. Vigorous the Rogue River valley has yielded apple show in Spokane in 1909, in organization, and its unanimous pubto fifty different varieties of pear pear trees require much less atten- approximately 6000 boxes of pears competition with other apple-grow- lic support, is the strongest possible \$1,000,000 mark. Jackson county trees. These different trees have tion and return a relatively much every year for several years past—ing districts of the Pacific northwest. assurance that the district will albeen observed, the unfits sifted out, larger and more consistent yield than and Bartlett pears have averaged ap- On the other hand, a carload of New- ways maintain its world reputation districts. The horticultural laws for center on the following seven differ- that the Rogue River valley was for the past six years. Bartlett in their class at the Canadian inter- atic among horticulturists that any ent varieties-Bartlett, Howell, An- splendidly adapted to the production pears have been the heaviest yield- national apple show at Vancouver, section especially adapted to the pro-P. Barry, which are here arranged in proved by many market records and high records to their favor-Winter in the Rogue River valley is about sons especially favorable to fruit

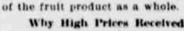
ily establish the future of any ex-

but they do afford an interesting in- two varieties the Newtown seems the demands a careful selection of soil dex as to competitive possibilities, decided favorite, since it is more in order to secure maximum results. other factors being equal. With these adaptable to the various soils of the Especially is this true for the Spitzreservations, records may be men- valley, and since the quantity and enberg. tioned—the fact that fancy Comice quality of yield is more regular and Organization for Orchard Protection kets what is credited to be the high- that several much coveted prizes ceptional success of the Rogue River est price ever paid for green fruit; have been captured by Rogue River valley as a fruit section is the organ-

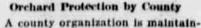
Spitzenbergs having high records of The chief varieties of apples grown | 520 boxes to the acre, and Newtowns tensive orchard district or prove av- in the Rogue River valley are New- 592 boxes to the acre. The planting erage yields and average profits town and Spitzenberg. Between the of apples, as in the planting of pears,

One of the chief factors in the exproximately \$1.35 per box f. o. b. town apples were awarded first prize for quality production. It is axiom-Nelis yielding as high as 435 boxes one-fourth that of pears, and large pests. Hence every orchard section apple yields have been reported, must sooner or later meet the fruit

has already met this fight-and has won. And the winning of this fight is one of the decided strengths of the Rogue River valley orchard district -for there has resulted a fruit protective organization which is unique. As has been said, one of the strengths of the Rogue River valley as an orchard district is its separation from other orchard districts. The valley is almost entirely surrounded and protected by mountains, exceptionally favorably located as to climatic advantages for fruit production. Public sentiment in Jackson county realizes the necessity of hiring and paying for the best of practical and scientific care for the preservation of the orchards and for the maintenance of the high quality



The acreage devoted to pears, in the west as a whole and in the United States as a whole, has decidedly decreased during the past few years. because of blight. So critical has the situation become, in general, that practically all state agricultural experiment stations have advised that no additional pear trees be planted until blight control has been secured. Many pear districts have been practically wiped out; others badly diseased, and belated fights are being waged. This is one of the reasons why the Rogue River valley-where the orchardists have gained control over the pear blight situation-received for the 1913 crop of pears the highest prices received for several past years. And this is one of the reasons why it is confidently expected that the pear acreage of the valley may be increased several times without risk in overstocking the coast, the national and the world market for high quality fruit, year after year.



ed for the protection of the orchard the state of Oregon are stringent and community sentiment in Jackson county permits and demands their ers, but other varieties have good B. C., in 1910. The apple acreage duction of fruit is for the same rea- strict enforcement. An absolute quarantine is maintained against seed, trees or fruit from certain districts where orchard pests are especially prevalent. And all orchard supplies imported into the valley are rigidly inspecteed. Also, all fruit to be shipped from the county or offered for sale in the county is subject to inspection, and the law provides a heavy penalty for violations. Pear Blight Controlled

> A central office is maintained in Medford, in the heart of the main valley, which office is a general clearing house for orchard ideas and general free information for both the new and the established orchardists. Several deputies devote their time to inspecting the fruit trees and fruit products of the valley, and disease tendencies are closely watched and summarily attended to. This work of disease prevention and the upholding of the quality of the product is further aided by a large group of volunteer "secret service" inspectors scattered throughout the valley.







Snowy Butte Orchard, Typical Orchard Home in Central Point District, Famous in World Fruit Marets for Winter Nells Pears