

### \$80,000 PAID FOR WHEAT BY LOCAL MILLS ANNUALLY

By W. W. WATSON.

Eighty thousand dollars paid to the farmers of Rogue River valley in a year for the cereals they produce marks a most encouraging beginning for a local commercial enterprise; and yet that is what the Medford rolling mills, under the management of H. O. Nordwick, proprietor, has begun to do, after six years of idleness made necessary by the failure of the farmers to produce the grain in sufficient quantity to enable the mill owner to operate his plant profitably.

That is a goodly sum to pay to these farmers who raise grain in this valley each year, and it requires less than one hundred thousand bushels of cereals of the few kinds produced to command that total price. If they produced twice that amount of grain each year and the consumers of the output of the mill would perform their full duty in helping to create and maintain the market for it, the proprietor of the Medford rolling mills could and would, most gladly, pay to the farmers of this valley \$160,000 annually. He would operate his plant two shifts every twenty-four hours and thus double the payroll of the mill, yielding in wage to local workmen more than a thousand dollars a month.

#### Can Be Easily Done

The purpose of this article is to show to those most intimately concerned in the progress of such an enterprise in this community how most certainly they may aid the manager of this local rolling mill to distribute \$160,000 annually for cereals produced in this valley and an additional \$15,000 for help to operate his plant in converting these raw products into the manufactured articles so staple in the merchandise of the world as to be known as "the stuff of life."

A moment of retrospection will recall to oldtimers in this valley that the institution now known as the Medford rolling mills was established about thirty years ago, when the chief agricultural product of the valley was wheat. That was before the breathless invasion of the fruit man. Great fields of golden harvest waved challengingly to the man of the sickle and thresher and bade the pioneer farmer to be of good cheer, while the maw of the mill was filled to capacity with the product of a virgin soil. Time came, however, when the soil, robbed of its vital elements of life, manifested its loss of strength in the weakness of its yield. Each succeeding year intensified the distress of the situation, until someone led the deflection from cereals to fruit. As a result thereof, the grain area had been so reduced as to render the operation of a flour mill in the valley unprofitable—and the blinds were drawn on every sash in the Medford rolling mills.

#### King Fruit Took the Mill

The topsoil of the grain fields was plowed deep under the subsoil and virgin elements of growth were laid bare to the warmth of the sun for the first time since their incarceration under the surface of the valley floor. What luscious fruits they produced; what splendid tree growth; what perfect wood fruit; what fortunes lay between the picturesque walls of this beautiful vale for the producer of fruits! Thus, as the orchard area grew by leaps and bounds, the grain acreage was correspondingly reduced until the old millstones ceased to turn for lack of something to grind. The fruit pendulum made a long stroke in six years, but it has begun to swing back, and, in obedience to the laws of commerce and responsive to the insinuation of opportunity, the millstones again began to turn.

Millwrights were engaged all of last summer in rebuilding, rehabilitating and modernizing the Medford rolling mills, and in August last the new institution became a thing of business, turning out cereal flour, meals and breakfast foods equal to the choicest quality of such goods produced anywhere in the world. The mill represents an outlay of \$25,000, which is at once an earnest of the proprietor's confidence in the superior cereals raised in this valley and the purpose of the farmers to produce them in sufficient tonnage to supply the mill for one shift a day at present, with excellent promise that it may be made double that run ultimately.

#### Farmers Realize Situation

The farmers of the valley realize the situation. The fruit specialty has a limit—and that limit has been reached in this valley, under present conditions. They have wisely concluded to diversify their crop production. The soil of old wheat fields has been resuscitated by use for other purposes. It will produce better wheat in greater yield than ever before. The area of cultivation is being extended. Intertillage of orchards is common—though not wise, unless they be planted to shallow-rooted

### STATE HIGHWAY BOARD REFUSES CRATER LAKE AID

SALEM, Ore., Nov. 11.—Had it not been for the Vester bill appropriating \$45,000 a year from the state highway fund for the Siskiyou section of the Pacific highway, it is extremely likely that Jackson county would have received but a small appropriation for road work the coming year, so great is the demand from all parts of the state for aid. Because the appropriation has been exhausted for 1915, the commission refused the request of Jackson county and W. G. Steel of the Crater national park that the state co-operate with Jackson county and the United States government in making a survey from the park to Medford, upon which to base an appropriation to be asked of congress for the construction of a national highway.

For the administration of the state highway department and for bridges, the commission set aside \$25,000. Clatsop county was given \$26,500, and \$9000 of this sum will be expended on the Columbia river highway in rock work. The sum of \$36,000 was awarded Columbia county, and \$22,000 of it will be expended on the Rainier mill. To reimburse S. Benson for money paid for services in Hood River county, \$5000 was set apart, and \$45,000 was awarded to Hood River and Wasco counties for the construction of a road from Hood River to Mosier. This provided Wasco county votes bonds. For Crook county \$10,000 was set apart for experimentation on lava cinder in road work, and \$11,500 was given Washington county for the Rex-Ti-garville road. Douglas was given \$18,000 and Josephine \$7000. The first named sum will be expended on a bad grade on the divide between Josephine and Douglas counties, and the latter in the elimination of a grade at the summit of Wolf mountain. Lane and Polk counties were given \$5000 each, the first to use its apportionment on a road leading from the Douglas county line north, and the second to expend its apportionment under the direction of the highway engineer. In compliance with a law passed by the last legislature, \$45,000 was apportioned to Jackson county for use on the Siskiyou mountain road. Yamhill and Tillamook counties were given \$9000, to be expended on a highway leading from Willamina to Tillamook.

Vegetables or corn. But when they must raise, because it pays to supply it to the mill—and the mill must have it, because its patrons must have flour; and they prefer the local brands, for two good and sufficient reasons, namely: They are the best they can obtain and in purchasing them they keep home money at home. That's the essence of the philosophy found in the phrase, "Patronize home industry." Instead of impoverishing the community by sending your money away, enrich the community by converting the raw materials into the finished product for home consumption, thus paying the mill a profit on its products, its operatives a profit on their labor and the farmer a profit on his harvest.

That is the only way to develop local resources profitably. It is the only way to create a local market for local products, and it is the sole medium through which to invite and secure local prosperity. Ignore this system of local growth and you destroy the energies vital to local progress. That done and you have touched the fatal match to the local home, the arsonist's fuse to the local business house and hidden the messenger of death to come and claim his own.

In another article the manner in which the system of civic pride, business loyalty and home growth is being applied in Medford to local enterprises, will be set forth more in detail. It is an excellent system.

### MONEY IN ONIONS IN VALLEY PROVED BY TALENT GROWER

William Packard, who resides a mile south of Talent and cultivates 22 acres of orchard and garden, located there five years ago, having come from New England states, where intense cultivation of the soil is the only system that pays. Careless tillage such as he finds in many sections of the west would send a farmer there to the poor house.

Among the growths that will engage his special attention this year will be an acre and a half of onions of the Silver King and the Prizetaker varieties. The former is early and sweet and grows to perfection under proper treatment in this valley. The latter is a later variety and grows to large size. They are excellent varieties for production here.

Mr. Packard has onion plants up six inches high now. He transplants them, 120,000 plants to the acre, in February. He has onions to sell by the ton at the early prices eagerly offered by the market before his neighbors are ready to prepare for onion harvest.

#### Twenty Tons Per Acre

Last year Mr. Packard sold his early onions for three cents a pound. His yield was good, but he declares it will be much better this year because he is in better shape to take proper care of them. "More than that," he remarked with a smile, "I know how to raise onions in this soil and climate." That's the secret of Mr. Packard's success—he knows how. As an eastern farmer he had to know how. The conditions there taught him a very salutary lesson. It is worth money to him now, as it was there; but here he has the advantage of doing better because of the more nearly perfect natural conditions under which he works the soil, together with the fact that he has a much better soil to handle.

Onions under proper treatment in this valley have been known to produce twenty tons to the acre. That shows what we can do when we know how. That tonnage is worth \$800 an acre gross, at two cents. In good market years this is a very conservative price to obtain. But the whining skeptic is always on the heels of the man who succeeds,—the skeptic, mind you, with his hands in his pockets and a hungry cluster of wrinkles about his eyes emphasized with a sneer in the hollow of his cheeks. Here's a forbidding person, but it is necessary to endure him till his clan "dies off." He will insist that that estimate is "too big, too big." So let's say half that. Yet, the farmer has \$400 an acre gross.

#### Money in Onions

Mr. Packard, it is perfectly safe to guess—because Mr. Packard has irrigation for his little ranch—will do better than that next year. And yet the people of this valley eat imported onions at the big market price, with the cost of the shipment added. It may be said, also, that most of the imported onions come from districts where the onion is not produced in such perfect growth as to flavor and size as right here in Rogue river valley. We pay the enterprising farmer somewhere else a big profit for doing that which we can do better at home. Instead of getting two profits—the one we should make on onions, but which we now pay to the other fellow in another state, and the one we make on some other product which goes away from home for something we can produce at home, for shipment to less favored districts where the farmer cannot raise it. We should be exporters instead of importers. What a vale of comfort this would be if we had the business sense to do that.

Is there any excuse for wonder that the delinquent tax list is so voluminous in Jackson county?

### LAND SHOW SENDS CHILDREN THANKS FOR LETTERS SENT

Following the presence in this city about three weeks ago of prominent speakers representing the Portland chamber of commerce in its work in promotion of the Manufacturers' and Land Products show, on which subject they addressed the local high school students, Superintendent Hillis required the students to incorporate into their regular work in English letters to the Portland chamber, expressing appreciation of the speakers' effort and purpose here. Over 300 letters were written in this manner by the local high school students, to which George E. Hardy, executive secretary of the Portland chamber, replies as follows in a letter to Superintendent Hillis:

"The Portland chamber of commerce sends its sincere thanks and high appreciation of the co-operation which enabled the speakers representing the Manufacturers' and Land Products show to hold a successful meeting in your city.

"It is an all-Oregon show and its managers are making every effort to present the advantages of your county to the thousands of visitors who are in attendance daily."

A large majority of the letters written were of unusual excellence, both in diction and construction, and were real boost letters for southern Oregon. The students of Medford high school deserve special commendation for their progress in English class-work.

#### Our Best Seller

We are selling more of Meritol Eczema Remedy than all the others put together. This large sale is due to the fact that it is a preparation of unusual merit, made expressly for one purpose, eczema in its various forms. If you are afflicted with this loathsome disease, do not delay using Meritol Eczema Remedy. Prices 50c and \$1.00. Exclusive Agency Haskins Drug Store.—Adv.

### HIGHEST PYTHIANS TO VISIT MEDFORD

It is a source of gratification to all citizens of the Rogue River valley and especially to the Knights of Pythias to know that the supreme chancellor of the world will visit Medford. Next Saturday, November 20, Supreme Chancellor Brig S. Young of Ada, O., together with Oregon grand lodge officials, will make an official visit here and all the lodges of southern Oregon have been notified of his coming. The meeting will be held at 8 p. m. in the Pythian castle hall and will be open to all members of the order and, whether dues are paid up or not, they are urged to see and hear this highest Pythian official in the world.

These high officials seldom favor such small places as this, and so far west, as he will make but three stops in Oregon, all Medford should feel honored and do honor to the Pythian chief, who is also the head of the uniform rank of that order.

#### SOCIETY ITEMS

Lee Parker was given a very pleasant surprise at his home on Knight street Friday evening by the students of the seventh and eighth grades of the Jackson school. The Misses Hansen and Catkin, his teachers, were dinner guests and about 7:30 the other guests arrived. It being his birthday, he was given a handkerchief shower by his friends. The evening was spent with games and a very enjoyable time had by all present.

### Anticipating The New Baby

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