

27 CARS IN 1915 60 CARS IN 1916 ON BEAR CREEK

What Irrigation Did for Bear Creek Orchard the Past Season Set Forth by Manager—Despite Poor Setting, Due to Previous Year's Drouth, Good Yield Fancy Fruit Secured.

The district south of Medford has perhaps been the most prosperous part of the valley this season, and it has been due in a large measure to irrigation, which was practiced on a large area for the first time this year. Everyone around here that I have heard express themselves are highly pleased with the benefits received from the use of water. Water increased the yield of Bear Creek orchard from twenty-seven cars of fruit in 1915 to sixty cars in 1916.

Some have said the water helped, but was not equal to a large rainfall, as they had a larger fruit crop in 1913 (a wet year) than they had this year with irrigation. That is easily accounted for, as 1913 was a wet year following a year of heavy rainfall. There was plenty of rain during the spring and summer of 1912 to make an abundant wood and root growth, strong, healthy buds were formed and the trees were in a fine physical condition to produce a large crop the following summer.

Effect of Drouth.

In contrast to that of last spring, the majority of unirrigated trees were in a very poor physical condition, owing to the two preceding dry years. The water would have shown more marked results had the trees been normal at the beginning of the season.

On the Bear Creek orchards in the spring of 1914 we had a good set of fruit, but as week after week went by without rain our prospects for any substantial fruit production vanished. We had acres and acres that we would have given \$50 per acre for one good soaking that summer.

In the spring of 1915 we again had a good setting of fruit and were very hopeful, so were our neighbors—surely nature wouldn't go back on the valley twice in succession, but she did, and we had the driest year on record except some other dry years that had almost been forgotten. The late Samuel Rosenberg, owner of the orchard, believed our only salvation was irrigation, and Mrs. Rosenberg herself is just as strong an advocate of irrigation.

Saved by Irrigation.

In the spring of 1915, at much expense and work, we installed pumps and pipe lines and secured enough water to mature part of our pear crop. We had no water for our apples, and they dried upon the trees.

In the spring of 1916 we had a good setting of fruit and we knew we were safe. We had a good gravity irrigation system. We irrigated three times, shipped more than double the 1915 crop of the finest pears produced in the valley, and a big apple crop, also have brought our trees back to a healthy, vigorous condition and have been enabled to plant cover crops to enrich our soil. Irrigation increases quality as well as size thereby.

Bear creek furnishes a good supply of water, enough to insure us good yields of fruit every year. However, we are willing and anxious to have the high line system built, or at least investigated by the authorities of an irrigation district. We realize the added cost above the Bear creek system might easily be paid by having an available water supply later in the season than Bear creek would ordinarily furnish it.

The investigation of an available water supply for the Rogue River valley is too large and expensive an undertaking for an individual, and if one person did investigate it to his satisfaction his neighbors would hesitate to take his conclusions. Signing of contracts for the required acreage to justify building the high line system have failed largely on this account. The people didn't know for sure what they were buying.

Why court adversity longer by depending on the uncertain rainfall when irrigation gives us assurance of larger yields?

Water is our greatest need; let us not be a united progressive people to secure it. **BERT B. LOWRY,**
Manager Bear Creek orchards.

BRITISH STEAMER ITONUS SUNK BY SUBMARINE

LONDON, Dec. 22.—Lloyd's reports the sinking of the British steamer Itonus.

The Itonus, 5340 tons gross, was owned in Melbourne. She was in the service of the British government.

FIRST PICTURE OF NEW RULER AT WORK



This is the first picture to reach this country showing Charles Francis Joseph, at left, as emperor of Austria-Hungary! He is shown at the front Kronsstadt, in war council with Gen. Falkenhayn, leader of the advance of central power armies into Rumania.

STOCKS RECOVER BUOYANTLY FROM RECENT SLUMP

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—Buoyant recoveries of from three to over ten points at the opening of today's stock market, prompted by the overnight developments in the peace situation, caused a hurried covering of short commitments and a strong tone throughout the forenoon session.

There was a pronounced change of sentiment in all quarters, attributed in a measure to a clearer view of the contents of President Wilson's note to the belligerent powers and to Secretary Lansing's second explanatory statement published after the close of the market yesterday.

The weeding out of numerous weak accounts yesterday was a factor of importance contributing to a stronger technical position in the market today. King George's speech prologuing parliament also was an influence apparently toward higher prices.

The volume of trading, moreover, was materially diminished. Transactions during the first hour amounted to 650,000 shares and although they reached 1,200,000 shares by 12 o'clock, this total did not equal the trading of yesterday during the same period.

Compared with that frenzied session, the market resembled the calm after a storm.

Banking interests regarded today's movement as a logical reaction from the recent market excesses and continued to urge caution, reinforcing this attitude by further discrimination against stocks of shifting value.

The market crept slowly upward in the last hour some issues repeating or passing best prices of the morning. The closing was strong.

BRITISH SURPRISED AT WILSON APPEAL

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 22.—The Post referring to President Wilson's note suggesting that the belligerents make known their desires concerning peace says: "President Wilson must not be surprised if, as far as the allies are concerned, his intervention produces a state of mind contrary to that at which he aims. The allies will readily give the president credit for the best of intentions, but they will be justified in wondering whether, from their point of view the note is not particularly ill timed and ill judged."

"The president's assurance that the recent German overtures had no prompting influence on his proposals must be accepted. At the same time it is, to say the least, somewhat maladroit that we should be so appealed to by the United States at a moment when the allies are at the height of their power and Germany knows her own apparently favorable position cannot possibly be maintained.

"On the other hand there is the possibility that Mr. Wilson's efforts are directed toward eliciting from Germany concrete terms of peace, which she withheld in her extraordinary approach to the entente. In that case a useful purpose may be served, for we then would be in a position to judge whether war weariness is associated with the consciousness of criminality of which Germany has been found guilty in the eyes of the civilized world and the extent to which this will induce her to yield to the allies' inexorable demands for guarantees against future barbarism."

SEEK 4 MONTHS OPEN SEASON FOR NETTING IN ROGUE

(From Grants Pass Courier.)

There was a good attendance at the meeting of the Game and Fish Protective association held at the Commercial club rooms Wednesday night. The special committee that had been appointed at a previous meeting had its report ready for consideration, the report covering the question of fishing conditions most fully. It included statements from health officers covering the condition of the river during the time that all commercial fishing was prohibited, and of the men who were employed by the authorities to harry dead salmon that accumulated along the river within the city and near and above the water supply intake. Statements were also included showing the value of the commercial fishing industry to the community, while anglers added their testimony as to sport fishing during open and closed seasons.

The report recommended that seines and set nets be prohibited from all the waters of the Rogue, and that only the drift net of 18 1/2-inch mesh be permitted. It also endorsed the establishment of the deadline at the mouth of the river by the state fish and game commission, and asked that the drift net be permitted upon the waters of the upper river during the chinook season, from April 15 to August 15, with closed water for 1000 feet below every dam, fishway or obstruction.

The report showed that shortage of fish in the upper river was caused largely by reason of inadequate fishways at Golden Drift and Ray Gold dams, periods of low water such as prevailed during the past two seasons holding many of the fish below the dams.

The committee, composed of Messrs. M. J. Anderson, Frank Bramwell, George Dickinson, Frank McFarlane and James Wertz, that had prepared the report, was instructed to have it printed and supplied to each member of the state legislature.

LIKEN PEACE NOTE TO DAYS OF CIVIL WAR

LONDON, Dec. 22.—The Daily News, which is the nearest to pacifist among the London newspapers, says today regarding President Wilson's note:

"No one can fail to appreciate the spirit in which the proposal is made or approve the cautious terms in which it is couched. The history of the great struggle in his own country is too recent and too memorable for President Wilson to be unaware of the perils of too hasty intervention.

From our side, it was the spectre of European intervention that haunted Lincoln, especially in those days when the cause of the north was passing through its darkest phase.

"Mr. Wilson is far too wise to add that trouble to the enormous burdens of the nations engaged in the struggle for liberty not less vital and far greater. He is taking soundings. If he finds the water still too deep he will wait until a more favorable opportunity."

The newspaper says the central powers would accept the note eagerly and despite their arrogance the door should not be barred and bolted in their face.

CHEAPER RENT FOR WORKMEN SEEN IN FUTURE

As Result of Prevailing Labor Troubles, Large Employers Co-operate to Solve Housing Problems for Employees—Better Times and Lower Rentals.

By GILSON GARDNER.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—One result of the widely prevailing labor troubles will be better houses and lower rents for workmen. This is to come not as charity, but from the necessity which moves the employer to keep his men and women workers contentedly at his business.

Such is the opinion of Dr. John Nolan of Cambridge, Mass., voiced in an address before the American Civic association, at their convention here in Washington.

Housing Workmen.

"Employers," said Dr. Nolan, "are having much difficulty in getting and holding laborers and they are already so impressed with the fact that they face new conditions—conditions which entail great inconvenience and enormous cost—that they are ready to consider any practical proposal which will lessen their troubles."

One practical proposal, he pointed out, is to reduce the workman's rent. The employer has had to face the proposition that his employe pays out too large a proportion of his wages for rent. The ordinary capitalist does not allow over ten per cent for rent; ten per cent of either capital or income. The laboring man pays 25 or 30 per cent—a quarter or even a third of his total earnings—for this one item of rent.

"Why not get the rent down to a 10 per cent basis for the workman?" the employer is beginning to ask.

Housing a Business.

"Housing," says Dr. Nolan, "is a big business and should be handled as such. More than two billion dollars is spent for dwellings in the United States each year; and a large percentage of these dwellings are poorly conceived and wretchedly constructed for their purposes."

"The minimum desirable house of four to five rooms cannot be provided in the United States for less than about \$1800 to \$2000, with improvements. A house costing that sum cannot be offered on the basis of an economic rent of, say 5 per cent or 6 per cent net, for less than \$15 a month. Unless a wage earner, with a normal family of a wife and three dependent children, has an income of \$15 a week, or \$800 a year, he cannot pay \$15 a month rent. More than half of all workmen receive less than \$15 a week.

"Either the cost of the house and lot must be substantially reduced or the standard of healthful living must be lowered or the wages of the poorest paid workmen must be raised."

STATE POULTRY SHOW TO MEET HERE IN JANUARY

Medford has been definitely selected as the meeting place for the 1917 show and business sessions of the State Poultry association. The show will be held in the building formerly occupied by the Korinek Remedy Co. and will open Monday, January 8, and close Saturday night, January 13.

Officers for the state association were elected last week, the balloting being done by mail. The following men were elected to office for 1917: President, E. J. McClanahan, Eugene; vice-president, C. R. Ringhouse, Lane county; secretary, C. F. Williams, Salem; treasurer, Elmer Paine, Corvallis. W. W. Watson of this city was elected a member of the executive board.

Coops are being built for 750 birds, to accommodate single birds, trios and pens. The entries will close the evening of January 4. Birds must be in the pens Monday, January 8.

Judge R. F. Keeney of Eugene, who will act as judge, will begin his work Tuesday morning. Judge Keeney officiated in a similar capacity at the Medford show last year.

Three hundred people from points north of Medford are expected to be in attendance when the show is formally opened Tuesday noon. Ernest Webb of Central Point has been appointed superintendent of the show.

WORLD PEACE CHRIST'S IDEAL SAYS TOLSTOY

Son of Noted Russian Paints Great Religious Revival—Describes His Christmas at the Russian Front—Non-Resistance Is True Christ Teaching.

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—"All wars are evil! Patriotism produces war, and patriotism is selfishness, egotism! World peace can come only when we universally accept in act as well as in faith the true Christ teaching of non-resistance!"

That would be the 1916 Christmas message to the warring world of Leo Tolstoy, Russia's greatest novelist, the past century's most famous interpreter of the Christ spirit, and the man whose amazing prophecy of the present European conflict has won him the name of seer and prophet.

This message which the great Leo Tolstoy would have given to the world this Christmas, were he still alive, was voiced by his famous son, Count Ilya Tolstoy, who has just arrived in America to begin a nation-wide lecture tour in which he will explain his father's life and doctrine. Count Ilya Tolstoy shares ardently his father's striking form of Christianity, and in an interview he told how he would apply it to the world crisis of today.

Is An Anarchist.

"I am an anarchist," he said, "but not an anarchist as you understand it here. I mean by the word simply that I am opposed to nationalism. I believe further, as did my father, that Christ's greatest teaching was non-resistance, and that we should follow that doctrine not only in our individual lives, but in international relations as well."

"I believe that already the world is swinging back toward a more profound acceptance of the greatest ideals of Christianity! I have seen in Europe unmistakable signs of this new spiritual awakening."

"But even had I not seen these signs, I would know that a religious revival must surely follow the war. A few years ago I saw materialism sweeping Europe. Immorality had tainted art, literature, even music and the dance! Psychology, a spiritual reaction was inevitable."

Christmas at the Front.

"What is Christmas like at the front?" I asked.

"Christmas at the front is a sad and solemn day," said Tolstoy. "I was with the 'Wild Division,' under Grand Duke Michael last Christmas, in the Carpathians, and from vivid recollections of that experience can easily describe how tragically the soldier's Christmas contrasts with your merry Christmas here."

"We had no gifts, no merriment. All the day before Christmas we worked with the wounded in the hospital. On Christmas eve I and a few of my fellow officers rode thru the night to a neighboring village, where Grand Duke Michael held Christmas service in a little church. It was a grave ceremony."

"Then we returned to our own quarters, and there we actually had a little Christmas tree! But no gifts. There were none in the land! Everything had been destroyed, for the Russians and Germans had fought back and forth over that territory. And our Christmas dinner was the dinner of every other day—black bread!"

H. H. Lord of Central Point was a Medford business visitor Thursday.

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