

Fruit Crop Outlook Down, USDA Reports

Prospects for a smaller pear crop in Jackson county that were reported Monday by the Rogue River Valley Traffic association were confirmed today by the United States department of agriculture in a summary of 1950 fruit prospects which show that the same situation will prevail throughout Oregon.

The production of tree fruits and nuts in Oregon in 1950 promises to be the smallest in many years, the crop reporting service of the USDA said. Though pear production here is expected to be only about seven per cent below last year, the picture for the state indicates that total tonnage of tree fruits and nuts will probably be 40 per cent under last year's large crop. Last winter's severe temperatures were said to be the principal cause of the poor prospects.

Apricots and peaches have been hard hit in every part of the state except southern Oregon, according to the crop reporting service. The Oregon apple crop is not expected to be as large as in 1949 except in southern Oregon where it will be larger than last year.

Peach Crops Hit
The 1950 peach crops around the nation is forecast at 56,151,000 bushels—three-fourths of last year's production and four-fifths of average. The peach crop is short everywhere except in California and southern Oregon. In the 10 southern peach-producing states, prospects de-

clined further during May and the production forecast is now 5,914,000 bushels—less than half of the small 1949 crop and about one-third of average. The Oregon crop is forecast at less than a third of the 1949 production. Winter injury was "very severe" at Hood River, The Dalles, Milwaukie valley but a fair to good crop is expected in southern Oregon.

The Oregon pear crop, the USDA said, is about average but only three-fourths of the record large 1949 crop. Bartlett's are forecast at two-thirds of last year with the prospect varying from one-half to two-thirds of last year in the Hood River valley and from two-thirds to three-quarters of 1949 in the Rogue River valley. The reduction is said to be due largely to winter injury at Hood River and to spring frosts in this area. Rogue valley boscs are short but prospects are favorable for the anxious and comice.

WRONG JUROR CALLED
Fort Worth, Tex.—(U.P.)—One juror called for jury duty was excused as soon as his name was spotted on the list. He is District Attorney Stewart Hellman, who was to prosecute criminal cases set for trial during the jury period.

Children's Playground in San Francisco's Golden Gate park was the first to be established in a public park in America.

Speaker Tells Of Bureaucratism in Civil War Times

The "five percenters" of today are pikers compared with those of Civil war days, Prof. Douglas McDougall of Southern Oregon college told Medford Rotarians in a luncheon address Tuesday at the Hotel Jackson. To illustrate his point, the speaker told of the fraud, graft and corruption which existed in the army ordnance bureau during the war between the states, and the refusal to accept efficient arms because of the stubbornness of the 67-year-old bureau chief in resisting changes.

Standard arms for infantrymen were muzzle-loading flintlocks dating back to 1809, despite the fact that breech-loading rifles had been invented and were far more efficient. Tactics of the armies were dependent upon this type of arm, which necessitated loading in a standing position. Terrific casualties—up to 25 per cent of the men in action—was attributed to this type of gun.

Cites Red Tape
Similar laxity in providing cannon of efficient type was also laid to stubbornness and red tape in the ordnance bureau. As early as 1861 repeating rifles were available but little used. Professor McDougall pointed out that one regiment finally outfitted with those more modern arms held off two brigades of confederate soldiers at Gettys-

GIVES REAL SERVICE
Dunnellon, Fla.—(U.P.)—L. A. Bridges, Jr., service station manager, found a billfold left by a Kentucky motorist. He climbed into his automobile, chased the tourist to Chiefland, 40 miles away, and returned the wallet.

burg in 1863. Condemned Austrian, Belgian, Prussian and British muskets were purchased in great quantities for the troops.

A highlight of McDougall's discussion of ordnance was the fact that tanks and flame-throwers were invented during the Civil war, but only flame throwers were given a brief test. Other Rube Goldberg-type inventions, suggested by enthusiastic inventors, were also described.

Bureau Powers Grow
In concluding, the speaker reminded his audience that all bureaus tend to break down under stress, increase in size and seem unable to shake off firmly set and antiquated procedures and routines. Bureaucratic powers likewise grow in time of emergency, he said.

George Milligan, head of Mercy Flights, Inc., spoke briefly of the urgent need for \$500 to purchase a new motor for the local mercy flight plane and urged public cooperation. This airplane ambulance has been pressed into service every month since it was purchased last January and has been the instrument of saving life and relieving suffering. Drew Pearson's recent commendation of Medford's mercy flight facilities was mentioned.

Material used in construction of Navajo Bridge, across the Colorado river in the Grand Canyon, was transported down Bright Angel trail on muleback.

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