

OREGON NEWS OF INTEREST

FINE TIMBER DESTROYED.

Fire on McCully Mountain Supposed to Have Been Set by Campers.

Albany—The forest fires which have been raging in the mountains of Oregon for the past ten days are having the usual effect on valley towns. A pall of smoke, so thick that the eyes burn, hangs over Albany, and the horizon is narrowed down to a very short distance. The sun looks like a ball of fire, being almost hidden from view a part of the time.

The smoke in Albany is particularly bad because of a fire in close proximity to the city. Just east of Lacombe, which is only about 15 miles from Albany, is a fire which has been burning for several days, and is doing incalculable damage. The fire is on the side of McCully mountain, which is covered with one of the finest bodies of timber in the county. There had been a number of fires in that section for some time, but all were under control and the loss was normal. Albany people could see a large column of smoke rising from the side of the mountain east of Lacombe, and later came the news that an immense and destructive fire was sweeping over McCully mountain with irresistible force. The fire is thought to have been started by careless campers, and the authorities are investigating to see if the blame cannot be fastened on someone.

BRING HIGH PRICE.

Last Year's Hops Sell Well, and Picking Soon Begins.

Salem—Krebs Brothers, hopgrowers and dealers, have reported the purchase of 136 bales of 1903 hops from the A. J. Lucas Hop company at 25 cents. This is the highest price paid for some time. Speaking of the hop situation, Leonard Krebs said that the greatest danger is that growers will begin picking too early. Some are talking of beginning September 1, which Mr. Krebs says is fully a week too soon.

In the Butteville, Hubbard, Aurora and St. Paul districts in particular the hops are usually too green, causing a loss in weight and also in quality. Mr. Krebs says that in view of the absence of vermin this season, there is no danger in letting the hops remain on the vine until they are ready for picking.

Exhibits of State.

Salem—From information that has been received by Secretary Wylie A. Moores, of the state fair board, it is evident that the state fair next month will equal, if not excel the splendid exhibitions which have been held here for the last five years. There are more horses in training on Lone Oak track now than ever before at this time of the year. Many breeders of livestock who have never been here before are making arrangements to come with their herds, and the livestock department will be as great an attraction as ever. Space in the main pavilion is being rapidly taken for county and general premium exhibits, and many new displays will be seen.

Hop Market to Open.

Salem—Though 20 to 21 cents is freely offered for contracts for 1904 hops, nothing of consequence is being done in this market. Growers are preparing for the harvest, which will begin about September 8 to 10, and are worrying very little about prices. The hops in this vicinity are in excellent condition, so far as quality is concerned, and there has been no change in the estimates of the probable yield. Al Jannan, who still holds 200 bales of hops of the 1903 crop, has refused an offer of 23 1/2 cents a pound for the lot.

Urges Fruitgrowers to Organize.

La Grande—A meeting of Grand Ronde horticulturists was held at the Commercial club last week, Professor S. B. Green, of the Minnesota Agricultural college addressing the meeting, who came here with Colonel Judson, of the O. R. & N. The professor urged the necessity of organization of the fruitgrowers, and believes the Grand Ronde one of the grandest fruit sections he has had the pleasure of looking over in the West.

Wheat Crop Ready.

Salem—Because spring wheat is ready to harvest, farmers are hauling little grain to town now, and there is little activity in the wheat market. All the flouring mills in this vicinity are paying a premium of 2 1/2 cents above the export quotations, and buyers for export are meeting the milling price.

Forest Fires Create Havoc.

Eugene—A number of forest fires are creating havoc in Lane county. Considerable damage has already been done and heavy losses are feared. A large fire is now burning in some of the finest timber on the McKenzie river. Several fires prevail.

Harvester Burns in Field.

Wasco—While the harvest crew were at dinner the combined harvester of Henry Howell, near Wasco, caught fire and burned up completely. The cause of the fire is unknown. Loss \$2,000, with no insurance. Only a small lot of wheat was burned.

Wheat Market.

Portland—Export values: Walla Walla, 75c; bluestem, 79c; valley, 80c; milling, Walla Wa., 76c; bluestem, 81c; valley, 81c.
Tacoma—Bluestem, 81c; club, 76c.

HOP MEN IN HIGH GLEE.

Crop Will Be Large, and Quality Better Than Last Year.

Albany—Prospects are very bright for Lane county hopgrowers this year. The yield is expected to be fully as large as that of last year, and the quality of the product much better.

The weather has been all that hop men could desire, and the crop is free from vermin. Picking will commence the last of this month. The prices for picking will be the same as last year.

But few contracts for sale of hops have been made up to this time. The prevailing price for those few sales that have been made is 20 to 21 cents. Although growers have made no effort to sell their hops before the season is fairly opened, yet there does not seem to be any disposition to hold the crop, as there was last year. This is thought to be due to the fact that the slump in prices late in the season last year caused a loss of thousands of dollars to those who were holding for top prices.

Land Patents Held Up.

Albany—Word has been received in Albany by Ed Dorgan, the timber locator, from the interior department at Washington, D. C., that Albany claimants of timber land in the Klamath and Lake county districts will have to wait some time yet before receiving their patents. All the claimants have proved up on their claims and hold receipts from the local land officers, but Messrs. Jones, Erickson and Brown, the special agents sent out by Secretary Hitchcock, have recommended that the land be held up for further investigation. This is a great disappointment to the holders, who have waited for a long time for their patents. And the large number of people in Albany who have timber claims in the Eastern Oregon districts have a considerable amount of money tied up in the land.

Road to Aid Three Counties.

Albany—County Judge Scott, of Marion county, has been in conference with County Judge Stewart, of Linn county, regarding the proposed road to connect the Willamette valley with the Deschutes country, in Crook county, and the outcome is very favorable to the road. Hon. John Minto, father of the scheme and discoverer of the pass through which the road will go, is now at his mountain home on the line of the road, and will co-operate with the county judges in an effort to secure a conference with the judge of Crook county, to see if the three counties can work together and divide the expense of constructing the road, which will be a mutual benefit.

Crops in John Day Valley.

Prairie City—The hay crop in the John Day valley is this year as good as usual, on an average. While some stockmen are complaining over a slightly inferior crop, others have harvested a superior one over those of previous years. George W. McHaley harvested 25 tons of timothy hay from a five-acre parcel of land. Haying is now well under way, and in about another week the hay harvest will nearly be completed. Only a small amount of grain is being grown here, but it is of good average quality. The fruit crop is excellent, with the exception of a few orchards that was damaged by late frosts and hail storms.

Cove Cherries Get Prize.

La Grande—Union county cherries carried off the prize at the St. Louis fair. C. M. and O. G. Stackland of Cove, one of the greatest fruit sections in the state, have received word that their Royal Ann cherries sent in were given the 100 per cent mark by the judges. Oregon has her own way at the fair in the line of cherries, and those from Union county are considered the best. The county has shipped out 20,000 boxes of the best varieties this season, besides the big home consumption.

Incorporate at \$1,000,000.

Eugene—The Willamette Valley Electric railway company, which last week secured a franchise from the county court to build a system of trolley lines along Lane county roads, has filed articles of incorporation with the county clerk. The incorporators are: Congressman J. F. Wilson, of Prescott, Ariz., and M. F. Taft and W. J. Wilsey, also of Prescott. The capital stock is \$1,000,000, divided into shares of \$10.

Remove Name's Stigma.

Salem—That the name of the Oregon State Reform school be changed to Oregon State Industrial school, is one of the recommendations made in the biennial report of Superintendent N. H. Looney. This change is advised because the present name is to many a stigma of disgrace when applied to youths whose characters are not formed. "It is not the intention of the state to brand these boys when what they want is encouragement," says Superintendent Looney.

Sulphite Mill Closed.

Oregon City—Having on hand a large surplus of the mill's product, the Crown Paper mills has temporarily closed down its sulphite mill, throwing out of employment 40 men. The wood mills of both local paper companies have suspended operations also, because of the low stage of the river. Because of this more than 100 men have been placed out of regular work temporarily.

MEANS MOVE TOWARD MURDEN.

Japanese Concentration Shows Attempt Will Be Made to Cut Line.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 11.—Although Lieutenant General Sakharoff reports that there is no change in the situation around Liao Yang, it is evident from the special dispatches to the Associated Press from Liao Yang and Siantantin that the Japanese are continuing their preparations for a flanking movement which may possibly alter the nature of the expected engagement at Liao Yang, and which may also further delay the crucial development.

The concentration of a strong Japanese force at Siamatz indicates an intention to press forward toward Mukden, and if possible to cut the communications and prevent General Kuropatkin from retiring northward. General Kuropatkin is evidently aware of this move, and is sending out reconnoitering parties from Siantantin along the Siamatz road. This is shown by the slight encounter with a Japanese outpost within 30 miles of Siantantin. The Japanese are also bringing strong forces from Yinkow.

Column marching from Niu Chwang with the evident intention of flanking Liao Yang from the westward, included 10,000 Chinese from the island of Formosa, who are Japanese subjects. The Associated Press correspondent at Liao Yang points to the alarming character of this development, and fears that the example may prove contagious. If the local Chinese are induced to join the Japanese it will be impossible to distinguish the Formosan and Manchurian Chinese. This revives the specter of Chinese embroilment, with the more remote possibility of foreign entanglements.

There is considerable anxiety regarding the presence of General Yuan Shi Kai, commander in chief of the Chinese forces, and General Ma, with strong forces of troops in the north, lest, should a convenient opportunity present itself, they would be tempted to overstep the bounds of neutrality.

ALASKA MAY FIND FAULT.

Department Docs for Bankers What It Would Not for Territory.

Washington, D. C., Aug. 11.—The postoffice department, by issuing an order today at the behest of capitalists and bankers of New York, eliminating all weight restrictions on first class mail matter addressed to foreign countries where domestic rates do not apply, lays itself open to criticism of discriminating against Alaska. Last winter an effort was made to induce the department to waive the weight restrictions on first-class mail matter, so that Alaska miners might ship their gold to states by mail in packages weighing more than four pounds, but this privilege was denied. Shippers represented through congressmen that they were now at the mercy of the transportation companies, who were charging exorbitant rates to bring gold to the states, and they therefore sought the privilege of shipping by mail. The department then held it could not amend its regulation. Now, however, it amends the regulation in order that the banks may more conveniently ship their securities abroad.

VEST IS NO MORE.

Ex-Senator Passes Away at His Home in Missouri.

Sweet Springs, Mo., Aug. 10.—After lingering for weeks between life and death, ex-senator George Vest passed peacefully away yesterday. He had been so near death for the last three days that the end came without a struggle. He was conscious until about 2 o'clock Sunday morning, when he sank into a state of coma from which he never awoke. He lost the power of speech Saturday morning, but for several days before that he talked very imperfectly, and during the last 36 hours of his life his breathing was barely perceptible. The flutter of his pulse was all that showed that life still remained.

At the bedside when the end came were his wife, Dr. Jarvis, the family physician; Senator Vest's son Alexander, his daughter, Mrs. George P. Jackson, and her husband, and Mrs. Thompson, a niece of Mrs. Vest. The remains were taken to St. Louis last evening for interment in the private car of A. A. Allen, vice president and general manager of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas railroad.

Will Inspect Submarine Mines.

Washington, Aug. 11.—Captain George F. Barney, of the artillery corps, was today detailed for special duty as inspector of submarine mines, and will proceed to the harbors of San Diego, the mouth of the Columbia river and Puget sound for the purpose of inspecting and reporting on the condition and sufficiency of submarine mining material and the scope and extent of submarine instruction in those harbors. Upon completion of this duty he will report to the commanding officer of the artillery district of Puget sound.

Capital City Finally Chosen.

Melbourne, Victoria, Aug. 11.—The location of the federal capital, so long in dispute, is believed to have been finally settled by a vote today in the house of representatives, approving Dalgaty, in the Bombal district. Dalgaty had previously been selected by the senate. Dalgaty is situated 296 miles south of Sydney, New South Wales, and is 23 miles from the nearest railroad station. The population is under 300.

Japanese Losses Put at 23,000.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 11.—The Russ estimates that the Japanese losses thus far as a result of the siege of Port Arthur, aggregate 23,000 men.

TO END STRIKE

Butchers, Grocers and Others Hold Conference.

WILL WAIT ON THE PACKERS

Effort Will Be Made to Settle Struggle by Mediation—Gompers Asked to Come to Chicago.

Chicago, Aug. 12.—Determined efforts are now being made to settle the stockyards' strike by mediation. Negotiations begun today between the retail Butchers' and Grocers' association with representatives of several labor unions, which will undoubtedly be involved in the strike, should it be prolonged much longer, resulted tonight in the appointment of a committee composed of those who attended today's meeting, to negotiate with the packers tomorrow morning in an attempt to bring about a joint meeting between the employers and the striking unions. It was the sentiment of all who attended today's conference that should the meeting be arranged between the two opposing interests, a settlement satisfactory to both sides could be realized.

Meantime, Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, has been summoned from New York to see if he cannot accomplish something through mediation. Mr. Gompers will arrive here Sunday morning.

The packers tonight declined to make any comment on what, if any success might be expected from the meeting.

"We cannot very well discuss this matter now," said one of the packers' representatives tonight. "We now have our affairs in a better condition than at any time since the strike was declared, and as for myself, I am unable to see on what grounds we could meet the strikers."

Under the direction of Mayor Harrison, who was urged to take the step by a committee composed of labor leaders and several aldermen, an investigation into the sanitary conditions of the various packing plants where strike breakers are being housed was begun today. Several of the plants were visited, but no flagrant violations of the law were found. The investigations will be continued.

Tonight the packers sent a communication to Mayor Harrison, denying that they are keeping lodging houses not in compliance with the ordinances.

ARMY IS AWAY.

The Russians are Retreating North of Liao Yang.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 12.—Again the chance of a decisive battle between General Kuropatkin and the commander of the Japanese army seems to be disappearing. According to a statement issued by the general staff tonight, rains are again falling over a wide area of Manchuria with the prospect of impeding operations, but even more important is the information reaching the Associated Press tonight from an exceptional source that the Japanese have once more delayed too long. General Kuropatkin has now withdrawn the bulk of his army safely north of Liao Yang.

According to this information, the Japanese have about 300,000 men in the armies operating against Kuropatkin, rendering it too hazardous for him to risk a general engagement. The general staff has no information bearing on the reported presence of a large force of Japanese at Paithui, a place that cannot be located on available maps. The report agrees, however, with the general tenor of the information received by the Associated Press and here given, that General Kuropatkin is already retreating north of Liao Yang.

The advantages of the new Japanese base at Niu Chwang in greatly simplifying the problem of provisioning their army is fully realized. The rumor that they are moving towards Siantantin, a short distance west of Mukden, from Niu Chwang is generally believed. The appearance of the Japanese on the other side of Mukden would almost pocket General Kuropatkin and he resolved to accept battle with his whole army at Liao Yang.

What Porte Expects of Russia.

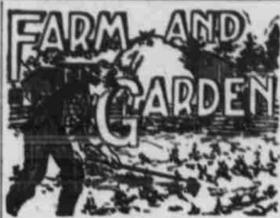
Constantinople, Aug. 12.—The porte has definitely accepted the assurances of Russia as to the character of the volunteer fleet vessels seeking to traverse the Dardanelles. In a note to the Russian embassy agreeing to the exit of the steamers the porte emphasizes the fact that its understanding of the Russian statement is: Vessels of the volunteer fleet shall not carry arms or munitions of war; they shall fly the commercial flag throughout the voyage, and shall traverse the straits separately at stated intervals.

Condemns the Thea.

Vladivostok, Aug. 12.—The prize court today condemned the German steamer Thea, which was sunk by the Vladivostok squadron off the coast of Japan, July 24, and declared that the Russian cruisers were justified in sinking the vessel. Evidence was produced that the Thea was chartered by a Japanese company and that since March 26 she had been engaged exclusively in the Japanese trade between Japanese ports.

Bandits Surprise Russia.

London, Aug. 12.—The Tientsin correspondent of the Standard says that 3,000 Chinese bandits attacked the Russian camp in the Tieb Pass August 2. The Russians were taken by surprise and many were killed.



FARM AND GARDEN

Automatic Fountain.
An Ohio man gives this description of his poultry fountain: Every poultryman knows how difficult it is to keep good, clean water for a large flock of hens shut up in a house or yard. If furnished in an open vessel it is soon lowered out of reach or filled with dirt and litter by their scratching. Various small fountains are on the market which do for little chicks, but large fowls shut in a warm house drink a great deal and require lots of time and attention. The accompanying cut shows an automatic fountain which I devised for use in my poultry house. It is made of a 10-gallon keg. A pint tin cup is connected by a small tube to the lower end, from which the chickens drink. To fill the keg the tube is corked, then the cork is taken



FOUNTAIN FOR POULTRY.

out of the top. When it is filled make the bung tight and open the tube below. The water will not run out of the cup if the tube be an inch or more below the top. One cup will water a good-sized flock. Two or more cups may be used if necessary. The fountain should be set on a box about eight inches high, just so the hens can reach it and not throw dirt into the cup by scratching. With this arrangement they have plenty of clean water and require our attention but once a day.

Care of the Horse.

During the busy months of the year, farmers are anxious to get all the work possible out of their horses, which is proper enough. Food alone will not do the trick. A horse may be fed the best of rations, but he needs care in addition, so try these things which may seem simple, but which will do a great deal toward making the horse contented and more valuable to you. Keep his coat clean, not only by brushing and the use of the comb, but use water on him freely, especially during the warm period.

When his work for the day is done take a sponge and wash each part of his coat where the harness touched. If his muscles are sore, take equal parts of iodine and sweet oil, mix them and rub the mixture well into the joints and tendons. Wash out his mouth occasionally and take care of his feet. Above all, in warm weather, see that his stable is well ventilated and that screens are placed so that vermin are kept from annoying him. In watering the horse, let him have it before eating, and also a small supply between meals, even if he is warm. It will not hurt him unless you give him too much.

Handy Harrow.

The harrow herewith illustrated is 8 feet long by 4 feet wide, with eight teeth in each beam. The teeth should be of 1/2-inch steel and put through not more than two inches. This makes a fine comb harrow which cuts all the top and does not pull up trash. Each beam is attached to the pulling bar with a hook and drop link. Through the middle is an inch rod put through thimbles, one being slipped over each beam as shown at a. This makes the harrow flexible. By withdrawing the inch rod and unhooking from the pull-



HARROW IN POSITION.

ing bar, it can be sheltered in very small space. A boy can handle it. The harrow is very easy to draw, the beams being near the ground act as levers, while the teeth cover every inch of ground. — J. Flomfell, in Farm Visitor.

Money in Berries.

Puyallup, Wash., is the home of a man who gets \$1,000 a year from one acre planted in berries. His crop consists of the Washington dewberry and red raspberries. The little farm is in the center of the city and contains a neat six-room cottage and nice front lawn. A cow and flock of 200 chickens assist in making the income approximately \$1,000 every 12 months. The owner is almost an octogenarian. He merely sits on the porch and watches the pickers gather his golden harvest. The chickens do not injure the berries, but destroy the bugs and

keep down the grass and weeds. The berries are marketed through an association of local growers. A yield of 350 to 600 crates is considered the average from an acre.—Commercial Tribune.

Renewing Strawberry Beds.

Without doubt the digging of new plants and setting them regularly in the place they are to grow is the best way of obtaining the new strawberry bed. True, this requires considerable labor and the selection of the best runners from the old bed. If this plan is to be followed the best plants will be obtained by going over the old bed as the runners are forming and keeping the tips cut off to one or more plants, so as to obtain strong plants for re-setting. Another advantage of this plan is that just the number of plants that may be set in a given period are dug, so that none are left to dry out as with plants bought.

The other plan of making the new bearing plantation is a good one, and quite generally followed, especially where the berries are grown on the matter row plan. The mower is run over the field after the crop is gathered and, after raking off the cut plants, a light plow is run through the field and about one-half or more of the plants cut out, leaving the new ones, which will be about a foot apart, composed of the new plants. Care is required in this work, but the results will be profitable, provided the new plants formed are strong.

The "Golden Belt."

Kansas grows more and better wheat than any State in the Union. The crop of 1901 was 90,000,000 bushels; the crop of 1903 was still larger. This is one-seventh of the entire crop of the United States, one-third of the world's wheat crop. No wonder a hot wind or a rain in Kansas causes a flurry in the wheat pit of Chicago.

To those who would but do not know it may be said that the "golden belt" implies a section of Kansas consisting of about 50 counties running north and south through the central part of the State. Thirty-five of these counties in 1903 yielded over 1,000,000 bushels of wheat each. In 1901 one county (Sumner) was credited with a yield of nearly 7,000,000 bushels of wheat, which is greater than the total output for the same year of all the New England States and several additional States thrown in for good measure. Of this vast quantity of wheat only about 12,000,000 bushels is consumed in Kansas. The rest must go elsewhere, until now there is not a country on earth where Kansas wheat or flour is not favorably known.

Selecting Seed Corn.

The true selection of a better breed of corn is not confined to the selection of the best ears by any means, although this is the popular idea of corn improvement. As every corn raiser knows, certain seed will raise corn that is almost ideal, so far as the ear goes, but there are but few ears on a plant.

This being the case, it is evident that the true selection of corn is the selection of the plants which show the desired characteristics all through their growth up to the time of harvest, so that the plants should be closely watched from the time they break ground and thus securing the habit of growth as well as the perfection of ear so desirable.

Many of the plants will make a stronger growth than others and ripen the full crop earlier; if such a plant is what is desired, it can only be found by watching its growth through the season. Then if the yield is all that is desired one comes pretty near having the ideal plant and one which is, probably, capable of even greater improvement.

Age of Eggs.

An Eastern paper recently published a lengthy article on how to tell the age of eggs. While the article is very interesting and the information it contains is no doubt accurate and reliable, we are of the opinion that to the farmer that makes the most money out of eggs it is not very material. The only good egg is the fresh one, and the way to make the most money out of the sale of eggs is to get them into the hands of the consumer as soon as it can be done after they are laid. Guaranteed strictly fresh eggs always find ready sale, and generally at a premium this time of year.—Exchange.

Poultry Pickings.

The time of hatch, more than the breed regulates laying.

In-breeding should not be tolerated for more than two years.

The best stock is the cheapest, therefore, never sell the best and never buy anything but the best.

Fowls in confinement need a variety of food, and one of the most important of them is green food of some kind.

In no case can we make good, mature fowls of poorly-fed and badly-managed chickens. It is economy first and last to feed well.

Put a good flock of hens in the plum orchard and the trees will be less subject to curculio and will produce good crops of fruit.

So far as can be done, green food should form a part of the daily rations through the year, as it seems necessary to insure health, productivity and fertility. The poultry business is one of many details, and they need close following. Unless a person is willing to give attention to little things, and not only to them once, but many times, as occasion may require, it is not advisable to go into the business very extensively.