

Home Rural Telephone Company.

(Continued from second page.)
these different lines in accumulating would come in, and I asked him which is the best system? He said our conditions here are directly opposite to those at Newburg and that this system under one management is much the best, and have the directors build the line down there.

L. Morse—It seems to me it is unnecessary for us to fool our time away discussing this report. We will be necessary for us to organize before anything can be done. It seems to me that the best and only thing we can do is to have the committee file articles of incorporation.

C. Evans—Any three members can file their articles, but they cannot organize until they have issued half of their stock. In Newburg it costs 50c, a month in the city and the rural telephones cost 25c, a month to maintain lines and telephones. As the lines get older will not the expense of repair increase?

J. H. Shoemaker—They had enough in the proposition and I think they managed their system about as well as Mr. Thatcher.

E. Morse—Let us go on and file our articles of incorporation and get a head to this movement so that if any one has a proposition to offer they will have someone to go to. We are on the right track. It is a big jump from \$2 to \$50 cents a month.

G. E. Williams—I am not speaking now in the interest of the telephone company, but I want to say a few words from the business man's standpoint. If you reject Mr. Thatcher's proposition I realize that it will double the expense of the telephone service of the merchants of Hood River, for we will be obliged to retain our present phones in order to reach patrons of that line and we would want one of yours to do business with you. I cannot get it through my head why you cannot accept Mr. Thatcher's proposition. It is practically the same as the Newberg proposition. You will have the expense of building into town and the expense of central office if you do not take his proposition, while if you accept his offer you will save the expense of the extra central office. If you have the two systems it will always be a source of annoyance for they will not accept any courtesies from each other. I don't think that you understand what an advantage it will be to have your telephones kept in order. None of you, perhaps understand keeping them in order. If you were using your own phones and anything went wrong with them, the expense of the repair would come out of your pocket, while if you accept Mr. Thatcher's proposition and anything goes wrong with your phone, bring it into the office and we will give you a new one in the place of it free of cost. It is not a difficult thing to do to take care of the lines, but to take care of and repair the delicate mechanism of the phones requires the necessary tools and machinery and skilled workmen to use them, this, you know, is expensive. And this expense you will avoid by accepting Mr. Thatcher's proposition.

Adjourned to meet in the A. O. U. W. hall, Saturday March 7, at 2 p. m.

THE INSTITUTE.

An Interesting Gathering of Fruit Growers in Hood River.

The farmers' institute held under the auspices of the Oregon Agricultural College and the citizens of Hood River met in an interesting session on Monday, March 2, in A. O. U. W. hall. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 by Hon. E. L. Smith, chairman. There were present from Corvallis, A. B. Cordley, state entomologist, and of the faculty of the college, Dr. James Withcombe, and Professors A. L. Knisley and J. F. Kent. Of our citizens there were in attendance about 100, principally prominent fruit growers of the White Salmon and Astoria. Mayor Cook gave an address of welcome to our visitors to which Dr. Jas. Withcombe replied as follows:

I desire in behalf of my colleagues to express our appreciation of the very cordial welcome which has been accorded us. It is profoundly gratifying to meet so many who are doubly interested in horticultural pursuits. A well conducted day's interchange of ideas is equally beneficial to the experimenter and the practical grower. The Agricultural College has done much to stimulate the horticultural and agricultural interests of our state. It has also done much for the young men of our state by providing for more active services in life. The Agricultural College offers liberal education for the young farmer among all scientific lines relating to biochemistry. But the great need cannot avail themselves of the college, hence the present institute takes the place of the college, and thus practically brings the college to your door. Farming is a science; it is a master science; it is the science of sciences, the art of arts. Yet this wonderful art and science is not well developed in its utmost limit. The hope of our state rests upon a prosperous population; the hope of our nation rests upon the intelligent, progressive, honest farmers of the state. Oregon owes her great debt of gratitude to Hood River for demonstrating to the world that unity means the fulfillment of a definite purpose. You market to the best advantage because you have impressed upon your minds the advantages to be derived from unity of methods in planting, growing, and marketing. Hood River is known far and near for what it has accomplished. As competitors, not merely as instructors, but simply to mingle with you and exchange thoughts that are mutually helpful. The experiment station wants to know your troubles; we are here to assist you, and hope our coming here will be of some benefit to you. We hope that you will avail yourselves of this opportunity; that you will not be backward in asking questions. We want to discuss all papers thoroughly.

phosphoric acid and 4 pounds potash;

most of the rest is water. In a ton of cherries there are 16 pounds nitrogen, 12 pounds of phosphoric acid, 4 pounds potash.

A crop of any one of these varieties of fruit does not carry off very much plant food. Now when we must apply plant food, we apply nitrogen, phosphoric acid, and potash. One of the main sources of nitrogen at the present time is the commercial product called nitrate of soda, imported mostly from South America. This contains about 16 per cent of nitrogen, and retails somewhere between \$60 and \$70 per ton in the west. Another source of nitrogen is sulphate of ammonia. This is a by-product from the manufacture of coal gas. In the Southern states cotton seed meal is used, that is left after the pressing out the oil. Dried blood contains 10 or 12 per cent of nitrogen and fish blood 7 or 8 per cent. Then, around the world, there are many other sources, which is a source of nitrogen, containing about 10 or 12 per cent. The main commercial fertilizer which is used as a source of nitrogen is nitrate of soda. In the United States something like 100,000 tons are used annually; it retails in the East at from \$40.00 to \$50.00 per ton, in the West from \$50.00 to \$70.00 per ton.

Another element which becomes deficient in the soil is phosphoric acid. We can get that from a number of sources; for instance, one source is ground bone, 20 to 30 per cent; also, from the Southern states, the source of a great industry, called rock phosphates. These rocks are mined, and contain from 10 to 30 per cent of phosphoric acid. All of this is not available; they treat it in sulphuric acid and make dissolved rock. This rock contains about 16 per cent phosphoric acid. In the West we get it as Thomas Slag. Some also comes from Germany, containing 15 to 20 per cent. Of this there is 7 or 8 per cent available; the rest will gradually become available in the soil. Some of these contain a certain amount, about 1 to 3 per cent.

Potash is another thing which can be applied to soil at times when it becomes deficient. Most of the potash now comes from Germany. The mines are located at places called Stassfurt and it is mined there in large quantities. It is in form called muriate of potash. Practically all of the muriate of potash in the whole world comes from that place in Germany. Most of the sulphate of potash comes from the same region. Both muriate and sulphate contain about 50 to 55 per cent of actual potash. Kalnit is mined in Germany. It contains about 15 per cent potash and sulphate and common salt; it contains 10 to 15 per cent actual potash. Wood ashes contain 4 to 8 per cent of potash, sometimes a little more. Some have said that no ashes from fir wood is not good. We have made several analyses and find that fir wood ashes contain a large amount of potash, 10 to 12 per cent.

Fir wood ashes is lighter and will not weigh more than half as much as the same amount of ashes from scrub oak, but a pound of fir wood ashes contains as much as a pound of ashes from scrub oak or ash wood.

If we have an orchard which seems to be unthrifty, and the foliage is rather thin, and the trees are stunted, and do not make much wood growth, the probability is that the soil lacks nitrogen. If you have an abundance of nitrogen in the soil you get a large wood growth, the leaves large, and the tendency of the fruit not to be of good quality. If you stimulate the tree too much with nitrogenous fertilizer, you get a big wood growth at the expense of the quality of the fruit, and the color is not so good. In applying fertilizers to an apple orchard, we might advise putting on say from 50 to 100 pounds of nitrate of soda per acre; from 1 to 2 pounds of nitrate of soda per tree. Of phosphoric acid, put on 200 to 400 pounds, 3 or 4 pounds per tree. Potash, 100 to 200 pounds, each tree 2 to 3 pounds. In using this plan, however, do not put the fertilizer at the base of the tree; the feeding roots are away from the tree a distance of 10 or 12 feet from the base.

Phosphoric acid and potash compounds may be applied any time in the spring or late in the winter; superphosphate can be put on at any time. Apply nitrogen, or nitrate of soda, just before the start of the growing season; if applied in the fall, being very soluble, it will leach out of the soil. Phosphoric acid and potash fertilizers do not leach out of the soil unless the soil is almost pure sand. Then almost any kind of fertilizer will tend to leach out of it. Sometimes it is better to apply the nitrogen in some other form. For instance, if you can get it to a small extent stable manure will furnish nitrogen in small quantities and also furnish organic matter and humus for the soil. In a region where we can grow any of the clovers, or vetch, they will take the atmospheric nitrogen and fix it in the soil so that the tree can get the nitrogen, and that is the cheapest way to get nitrogen into the soil. In the orchards I would advise using some cover crop, possibly a little fall rye or vetch, possibly a little clover, and turn under the next spring. This will add a little nitrogen to the soil; that is the cheapest way.

As a general thing, I would advise a farmer to put on his fertilizer broadcast and not apply it around each individual tree, for this reason: The tendency is to put it too near the tree, and put too much there. If it is put on broadcast there is not enough around one tree to cause injury. A large tree would not suffer so much injury from this cause as a small tree, but it is no danger to small trees; in a general way, it is advisable to put fertilizer on broadcast. Potash and phosphoric acid can be applied broadcast any time. For apples, apply nitrate of soda 50 to 100 pounds per acre; phosphates, 200 to 400 pounds; muriate, 100 to 200 pounds. On making an application of fertilizer you may or may not get good results. The older the orchard the longer it takes to affect the trees. On a young orchard there will be results the first season; on an orchard 25 years old you may not see any effect the first year, and may not the second year; probably the third year you will begin to see the effect. If the soil is not very rich in plant food, possibly it would be well to put on some fertilizer each year. Wood ashes contain all the elements of plant food in just about the right proportions, with the exception of nitrogen. They contain no nitrogen. The mineral elements, potash, phosphoric acid, lime, are all in wood ashes. Wood ashes is one of the very best things we can put on the ground, apple orchard or strawberries.

Prof. Knisley—I presume part of the question is as to one of the cover crops.

We will get more about on the texture of soils. Trees must have enough moisture; if they do not have enough, they do not make a normal growth. If they have too much moisture they do not attain their natural growth. Water itself is a plant food. J. H. Shoemaker—Do you not think it would be advisable to irrigate our trees, our old orchards.

Prof. Knisley—If they lack moisture it certainly would help them. There are regions I know where a man will have an orchard, and through the summer season it dries up and suffers from drought very much, and at the same time another man whose orchard does not suffer from drought at all. Both have the same amount of rain fall. The orchards I am thinking of are in New York, and some are cultivated thoroughly, and others have no cultivation. Good cultivation is better than running them through the season all bearing.

E. L. Smith—Orchards bearing a heavy load of fruit would undoubtedly be benefited. J. H. Shoemaker—The conditions are such in some localities that we should raise clover without irrigation. Where we can not raise clover without irrigation, it is possible to irrigate, do you think it would be profitable? Prof. Knisley—You might try it in that way, but I would not advise it. J. H. Shoemaker—Would that take the place of fertilizer?

Prof. Knisley—If the soil is deficient in potash or plant food, it would not take the place of fertilizer. In that way benefit the trees. At present we are carrying on some experiments. On one row we applied land plaster, but as yet have had no marked result at all. Land plaster is especially beneficial to clover. A. J. Mason—In regard to the soil, the soil is not the best in the valley we are troubled with a brown spot which is most quickly found in a Baldwin apple. We have heard of various plans to prevent this. Some have recommended the use of lime.

Prof. Knisley—In regard to the brown spot of the Baldwin apple spot, it is sometimes called, this matter was brought up in our experiment station, and several other experiment stations, and no cause for it has been discovered, nor any remedy. There have been several theories, but no satisfactory demonstration as yet. At Corvallis we sprayed two out of three trees with Bordeaux mixture, and the two that were sprayed were almost entirely free of the spot. The other tree was badly injured. The Vermont station tried the same experiment with negative results. No definite information on the subject is obtainable.

Joe Wilson—My next neighbor had quite a number of Baldwin trees planted in 1885 which bore 150 bushels of apples last year which were entirely free from spots. When the trees were young the apples were spotted. He has been using muriate of potash.

Prof. Knisley—How may we know when we need potash and phosphoric acid? Prof. Knisley—I presume in much the same way as some physicians do. They have a special test and they start by doctoring him and try certain remedies a week or two, and then say they have to change medicines. There is a good deal of guess work about it. It is easier on small trees than on large trees. If you had a strawberry patch and you were not doing it very best, it would be about 100 lbs. of nitrate of soda, 100 lbs. of muriate of potash and 200 lbs. of superphosphate. Or on one row I would put on a few applications of nitrate of soda broadcast, and on the other row muriate of potash; on the third row, superphosphate, and would watch those rows that year and see how they seemed to do, and which did the best. If that soil was not good, there ought to be a more vigorous growth where the nitrogen was applied. In that way you get a pretty good idea.

On another row put a mixture combining all three plant foods, and watch which row does the best. The best way to find out what the soil lacks, if that soil is sampled and a sample sent to the station we can analyze the soil and find a certain amount of nitrogen, potash and phosphoric acid. Now what we want to know is, whether that plant food is available for the plant or not. The chemist does not know. Up to the present time there is no method of getting the available; we can get the total, but it is a hard matter to tell whether it is available plant food or not.

mostly leach out. It might as well go down the river as to be in the soil.

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plants that were diseased in some way.

found it was due to bacterial disease. Last year I made a visit to that plantation and found quite a serious condition there. The owner had perhaps eight or ten acres of strawberries in one of his patches, and about one-third of his plants had been killed by the disease. There is no doubt that we have in the state a bacterial disease of the strawberry, unlike anything else.

There are two or three pests that I mention, they are familiar with in a small way. The strawberry leaf curl, which may do damage, but usually does not. The strawberry leaf blight in the Willamette valley nearly always does damage, but not seriously. The two last mentioned have the strawberry sections of the East have been controlled by mowing the vines and burning them when the crop is off. The two borer I spoke of, and which I consider the worst pest in the state, cannot be eradicated, but they are very common, because they are inside the plant. The only thing to do is to destroy the plant as soon as you see it is infested, or dying. It would be well to do this before the first of May. The only object in mowing the plants and to destroy the insects with them, to keep them from spreading.

This concluded the professor's speech. The question of grubbing in manures and insect effect on plants was brought up. The professor said that grubs are harmless to plants, and manures can be safely used. There is another grub closely resembling the manure grub which does work in plants in the same manner, and is very injurious. It is the white grub, and is very common. It is the only one that does any harm to plants. The only thing to do is to destroy the plant as soon as you see it is infested, or dying. It would be well to do this before the first of May. The only object in mowing the plants and to destroy the insects with them, to keep them from spreading.

Mr. Williams described the use of castor oil pomace in connection with one of his peach orchards in the East. He said that he had used it for several years, and it had done him good. He said that he had used it for several years, and it had done him good. He said that he had used it for several years, and it had done him good.

Mr. Gessling—Several parties in Belmont growing clover without success, that is, crimson clover. Dr. Withcombe—Crimson clover will grow better if sowed in July. I would recommend a leguminous crop for getting the soil rich. If you cannot get leguminous crops, get some other crop. Get rye, get winter rye, or winter wheat.

Unknown man—I sowed about six acres of vetch, sowed five acres with oats and one acre with clover. The vetch is now about one inch high, and looking well. The acre sowed alone did not come up, and there is no stand. There are two kinds of vetch, which is the best? Dr. Withcombe—The common vetch. A. J. Mason—Expressed himself as having great difficulty in plowing around his trees near enough to plow under any crop. It was recommended that when the trees get too large to plow near them, to omit planting a surface crop, and plow the soil around the trees by surface cultivation.

G. R. Castner—In localities where we cannot irrigate, where we are above water, if we plow a surface crop under us, we do not have the very best land for use after that time. We could preserve the moisture in the soil? Would it not do us harm in drying out the soil? Dr. Withcombe—If you have a very large growth, and the soil is open and loose, the water that would evaporate is extensive soil evaporation. Plow earlier. If you can grow clover or vetch you don't want anything better.

A. H. Jewett—My crop of clover is six inches high, is that sufficient? Dr. Withcombe—Yes, sir, you do not want anything better than that. A. H. Jewett—This is grown without irrigation on dry soil. We also at White Salmon are growing two crops of clover without irrigation. H. F. Williams—Do fertilizers have any effect upon the color of fruit, and what? The speaker cited instances where the use of potash had increased the color of the fruit. Dr. Knisley—I do not believe I can answer that. So far as I know there is no experimental work that is at all absolute on that. Sometimes the application of fertilizer seems to affect the color, and on certain plants the foliage is made in nature that is a brighter color and a firmer fruit. H. T. Williams—I have myself noticed that the use of potash increases the firmness of the fruit skin. The speaker here mentioned an experiment he made in the East with tomatoes where the use of potash the skin of the tomato was made firmer and brighter colored, the skin did not crack nor rot, where without the use of potash great difficulty was experienced in shipping the fruit. A crop grown with potash was a brighter color and a firmer fruit. It is not a hard matter to tell whether it is available plant food or not.

Ghent varieties. This is a species growing three and four feet high and yellow, orange and red flowers, and possesses a delightful perfume.

(The paper read by Mr. Williams is too lengthy to attempt to reproduce it here in full, and we regret to be compelled to omit his description of the different shrubs and plants, and end with his closing remarks.) Nearly all of these examples of floral wealth I have named to you are perennial inhabitants of the ground. They do not need renewing from year to year; once placed in their home, they are there for all time and need but slight attention and care. When the bloom is in our orchards and we feel the sense of floral glory, and all the elation that comes to every sense, can we not perpetrate these delights by a little more attention to the flowers that surround the house. They do not cost us much, but they are wonderful to observe.

Blooms there a flower with beauty full adornment. Or many shrub with tender drooping fronds, Or lily white, in radiant glow heaven born; Or lily tree with strong majestic grace, But tell us this one story, sweet to know, I have named to you a number of plants, and I want to say that I think the Pomona is all o. k. I have sprayed several orchards with it each year besides my own, and it has always given good satisfaction. I have given a dozen spray pumps today I would like to have you try. Yours truly, W. H. SEARS.

At the evening session, Monday, H. T. Williams of Hood River read an interesting paper upon the following subject: DECORATION OF COUNTRY HOMES. In these days of thoughts of practical utility and strife for financial gain from our farms, it seems to me there is much to be derived, aside from great financial gain, in the proper decoration and ornamentation of our country homes. A handsome row of trees in front of a farm will cause that farm to sell for enough more to pay for those trees than it would without; and think of the large dividends of comfort and pleasure year after year while you live there enjoying the work of your hands. People do not like to part with beautiful trees; and many a tree has enhanced the value of land far more than the tree itself cost even with years of care. A citizen of Geneva, N. Y., who has a valuable tree that was mired and disfigured by the acts of men putting up telegraph wires, promptly used and recovered the sum of \$185 for the value of that one tree to his place. What more beautiful object in nature than a beautiful tree? A story is told of some little children born in New York who had never seen the country, and when they were given a summer outing in one of the children's excursions, they were lost in amazement and delight at the sight of trees of green grass and the beautiful trees. One little child was so blessed with the sight she went up to one of the trees, threw her little arms around it and hugged and kissed it in delight of ecstasy. It seemed a being from heaven to be adoring heart. We live surrounded by such blessings; why not use them to our best advantage, enjoyment and happiness? Why should we not give to our children such coveted pleasures as trees, and let them grow up surrounded by objects of beauty on every side, which will cause them ever to think of home as the dearest place on earth to them? No child ever forgets the first objects of beauty it beholds, and the first tree of your country homes brings you three-fold value in the pleasure to yourself, contentment and enjoyment of your family, and sufficient financial gain in value of your property to cover all the sums you spend in their embellishment.

I doubt not if all the streets and avenues of the valley, lovely as they are, were lined with ornamental shade trees, the value of property would be increased in worth and estimation fully 25 per cent in the thoughts of visitors. When once you begin to entertain thoughts of decoration, choose something of real elegance, creating satisfaction. For street trees, I would choose the Norway maple. Always massive and noble in its proportions, it never fails in giving good value for your expense. If you can afford it, there is something still better, a royal tree, called Schwedler's maple, or Norway maple, a variety which has all the beauty of form of the Norway, but its young shoots and leaves are of a purplish or crimson color, which changes to purplish green as the lower leaves fall. This is a royal tree in magnificence. If it was to choose one tree alone for the front yard, with something of elegance and surpassing beauty, it would be the Colorado spruce. In all the trees of the world, I do not know of anything that surpasses this beautiful gem of creation. Finished, complete in all its stages of growth, its leaves of glowing, silvery blue, more and more glorious as the years go by, it surpasses description in its natural attractiveness. I do not believe there are adjectives enough in a worthy dictionary to do it justice. One or more trees of this kind between your house and the road will attract universal admiration.

If your grounds are ample enough, and you desire to plant something of unusual value and striking beauty, plant along the sides of your lawn lead-hungry native evergreen shrub, a row of the new double lilacs, such as Rothmagnesia rubra, Emile Lenoire, Pres Grey and others are very tall, have immense spikes of flowers, perhaps 18 inches in length, of greatest size, and double flowers of many shades of color. They are grand beyond description. At the base of these, a few feet away, I would plant a row of your native or selected, finest Rhododendron from the Cascades. This country is the home of the Rhododendron, and it should be a success everywhere. It only needs partial shade and a mulched soil to retain moisture. The glory of this double row of bloom from these shrubs will send you up for your trees with attention. For the opposite side of the lawn I would repeat the row of tall double lilacs, and at their base I would plant samples of either the Kalmia latifolia, the mountain laurel, a beautiful native evergreen shrub, with silvery foliage and dense clusters of pink or nearly white flowers; or still better, I would choose the Azalia, the

The Irishman and the Sun.

An Irishman who had just landed in New York from his home in Ireland was strolling around the city, taking in the sights. In the course of his walk he came across Battery park, and seeing a bench unoccupied near the water front, sat down. It was just about sunset when the Celt took his seat in the park, and as he gazed across the water at Governor's island, the big guns at that place boomed, announcing sunset. Now, this noise was new to the Irishman, and he said to a policeman who was passing by: "Phat's that noise fur?" "Aw, it's the sun goin' down," replied the officer.

"Begob," remarked the Celt, "the sun never went down that hard in Oireland."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

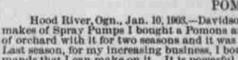
Saved From Perdition. Ballington Booth has been telling his friends about a woman who stood up to testify to her conversion in the days when he was with the Salvation army. She said: "I was very foolish and vain. Worldly pleasures, especially the fashions, were my only thought. I was fond of silks, satins, jewelry, ribbons, and laces. But my friends, I found they were dragging me down to perdition. So I gave them all to my sister!"—New York Times.

Land to Rent.

Apply at the Prather Investment Co.'s office, or to R. R. ERWIN.

TESTIMONIALS.

Hood River, Oreg., Jan. 25, 1903.—Davidson Fruit Co.—Gentlemen: I bought a Pomona Spray Pump from you three years ago, and I want to say that I think the Pomona is all o. k. I have sprayed several orchards with it each year besides my own, and it has always given good satisfaction. I have given a dozen spray pumps today I would like to have you try. Yours truly, W. H. SEARS.



POMONA. Hood River, Oreg., Jan. 10, 1903.—Davidson Fruit Co.—Gentlemen: After using four or five of your Pomona Spray Pumps I bought a Pomona and found it a great success. I sprayed 30 acres of orchard with it for two seasons and it was still as new and had cost nothing for repairs. Last season, for my increasing business, I bought a Sentinel Jr., and this equal to any I made that I can make on it. It is powerful, durable, readily cleaned, and easy to work, even at 100 to 125 pounds pressure. Yours truly, W. H. SEARS.

We are agents for spray pumps and other things that the fruit growers need.

Davidson Fruit Co.,

The Spot Cash Grocery

- DEALS IN Groceries, Salt Salmon, Flour, Feed, Hay, Grain, Buckwheat Flour, Vegetables, Butter, Lard, Bacon, Hams, Dry Herring, Hominy, Fruit, Eggs, And all Country Produce taken in exchange for goods.

J. E. HANNA.

SEXTON & WALTHER,

The Dalles, Oregon, Agents for the Celebrated

Smith Grubbing Machines.

We also carry the best Steel Wire Cable for Stump Pulling; Rope Shorteners; Snatch Blocks; Grubbing Hooks and extra Rope Hooks.

Write for Prices.

GET IT AT

CLARKE'S!

When in need of

Anything

In the line of

Drugs, Patent Medicines, Paints and Oils

Get it at CLARKE'S

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