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SALE

NOTES ON HORTICULTURE.

Original contributions to this department are solicited by the Glacier from the Hood River fruit growers. Articles and discussions may touch on any phase of the fruit industry. All matter furnished will be properly credited.

NO ONE WANTS TO BE THE SECRETARY

At the first meeting of the new board of directors of the Hood River Fruit Growers' union, last Saturday, there seems to have been an unwillingness on the part of the members to take the positions of president and secretary. Mr. Coon was finally persuaded to take the presidency and Mr. Benson was elected vice president. Each of the other three members were nominated for secretary, but each declined, and as it was getting late, they arranged for

Northwest Horticulturist, Tacoma, Wash; Professor E. R. Lake, horticulturist, Oregon Agricultural college; R. P. Ober, general agent Refrigerator Car line, St. Paul, Minn.; Professor A. B. Cordley, entomologist, Oregon Agricultural college; J. B. Baird, general freight agent Northern Pacific railway, St. Paul, Minn.; W. K. Newell, commissioner Oregon state board of horticulture.

As they are all men of education and experience and thoroughly informed scientifically and practically in everything relating to fruit and fruit culture, a very high order of addresses may be expected. Mayor Williams and other prominent citizens will probably make addresses on this occasion, and a musical and literary entertainment will be given one evening during the session at some hall not yet selected.

As the National Livestock association is to be in session in Portland January 11 to 15, it is desirable that as fine a showing as possible of Oregon fruits and other products should be provided for their inspection, and all the officers and delegates to the meeting of the Fruit growers' association will be requested to put forth special efforts to secure the best possible exhibits of fruit, etc., obtainable in their respective sections.

Following is a list of the officers of the Northwest Fruit Growers' association: Dr. N. G. Black, president, Walla Walla, Wash.; J. W. Otwell, Central Point, vice-president for Oregon; B. Burgunder, Colfax, vice-president for Washington; J. H. Forney, Moscow, vice-president for Idaho; Professor S. Fortier, Boise, vice-president for Montana; Professor J. R. Anderson, Victoria, vice-president for British Columbia; W. S. Offner, treasurer, Walla Walla, Wash.; George H. Lamberson, secretary, Portland, Or.

Irrigation in Humid Italy.
The following article from the October issue of the Department of Agriculture's Experiment Station Record, will prove of interest just now to irrigators in "humid" Hood River:

Elwood Mead, chief of the irrigation investigations of this office, returned in September from Europe, where he spent the summer in studying irrigation. Germany, Switzerland, Italy and France were visited, but the greater part of his time was spent in Italy investigating the laws and practice of that country. Some of his observations are of special interest as showing the conditions under which irrigation has been developed and is managed in that humid country, and the manner in which some of its problems are disposed of.

The reason for paying special attention to the valley of the Po was the similarity of its conditions to those of many sections in the Eastern part of the United States. The rainfall of this part of Italy is about 40 inches a year, which is above that of Omaha, Kansas City or Cincinnati. Farmers do not irrigate be-



HON. T. R. COON,
President Board of Directors Hood River Fruit Growers' Union.

Mr. Geselling to perform the duties of secretary for another week. The treasurer's report was not reached and Mr. Geselling will perform those duties until they make some arrangements about that.

Mr. Geselling says he had fully intended to stay out of the management entirely this year, but the day of the annual meeting some of the prominent strawberry growers asked him to serve as director again and he consented, but owing to the harsh criticisms passed on him last year by some of the growers because of his inability to control the weather and build refrigerator cars, he does not care to again take the management. He has the utmost confidence in the business ability of the new board of directors, and will labor as hard as ever for the success of the union. He began shipping with the union in 1894, and has shipped strawberries through the organization every year but one since, and will continue to do his business with it, as he believes that in these days of combinations of capital it is necessary for the farmer to combine.

Mr. Geselling has recently made a real estate deal by which he again becomes a grower.

Notable Meeting of Fruit Men.

The meeting of the Northwest Fruit Growers' association, to be held in this city January 11, 12, 13 and 14, 1904, bids fair to be the largest, most interesting and important ever held by that body. Following is a list of those who have been sent invitations by Secretary Lamberson, of the state board of agriculture, to deliver addresses on that occasion:

Dr. N. G. Black, president Northwest Fruit Growers' association; J. R. Anderson, deputy minister of agriculture, British Columbia; Professor J. M. Aldrich, entomologist, University of Idaho; Professor N. O. Borth, horticulturist, Washington Agricultural college; Hon. E. L. Smith, president state board of horticulture; Professor C. W. Woodworth, entomologist, University of California; Rev. F. Walden, Seattle, Wash.; Professor L. F. Henderson, botanist University of Idaho; A. Van Holderbeck, Washington state horticultural commissioner; Professor L. B. Judson, horticulturist, University of Idaho; E. A. Bryan, president Washington Agricultural college; Colonel Henry E. Doseh, Hillsdale, Oregon; Professor J. A. Balmer, Cle Elum, Wash.; Dr. James Withycombe, director Oregon Agricultural college; C. A. Tompesson, editor



E. N. BENSON,
Vice President Board of Directors Hood River Fruit Growers' Union.

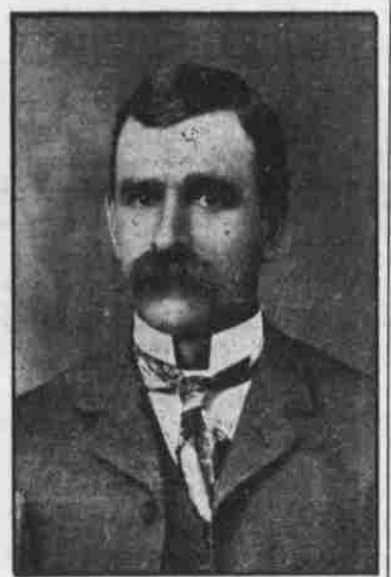
cause they have to, but because it pays. In the greater part of the country the staple crops are the same as those of the northern part of the United States, corn, wheat and clover being the leading products. The fields in which these are grown are also frequently planted with mulberry trees, which furnish food for silkworms. Irrigation increases the yield of mulberry leaves about one-third. It enables a crop of corn to be grown after the wheat crop has been harvested, and doubles the yield of alfalfa and clover.

Rice and maricite, two important crops, could not be grown without the aid of irrigation, and these cannot be grown everywhere in the irrigated districts.

The most profitable crop is maricite.

The most profitable crop is maricite, which are kept green the year through by running the water over the land for a short time every day. In winter the water for this kind of irrigation comes principally from springs and is warm enough to keep the grass growing in the coldest weather. The grass is cut when it reaches a height of about 15 inches. It is chiefly used for feeding dairy cattle, and in the vicinity of large cities like Milan, where there is a local demand for milk and butter, the annual value of this crop is surprising, the product from some of the fields last year having sold for \$800 an acre.

Land and water rights in the best maricite districts surpass in price the fruit lands of Southern California, some of the farms near Milan being held at over \$3,000 an acre, and rights in the canal selling for over \$1,200 an acre. These are maximum prices and are far



G. J. GESSLING,
Member Board of Directors Hood River Fruit Growers' Union.

higher than the prices of lands and water rights where only wheat and corn can be grown. The minimum prices for lands with rights in the ditches in the districts recently brought under irrigation range from \$160 to \$180 an acre. Unirrigated land in the same neighborhood sells for about \$100 an acre. The appearance of the crops on the unirrigated lands in July and August was very like those of Kentucky, Indiana or Missouri. The grass along the roadside was green, and there were no sharply defined lines between the irrigated and unirrigated lands, as is true in the arid part of the United States. The same crops grow above ditches as below them, but there was a luxuriance and perfection in the irrigated farms not seen where they depended on rain.

The oldest canal inspected in Lombardy was constructed in 1150. This was built by the Monks and was small and crooked, as were nearly all the canals built during the next 500 years. The land could be farmed without irrigation, and the building of canals meant increased expenditure, more people to cultivate the land, more houses for them to live in, and more barns in which to store the products. The large outlay in other directions, besides the cost of ditches, retarded this change, but in recent years progress has been rapid because of the need of finding employment and support for the dense population, there being about 380 people to the square mile in the province of Milan. There are several important ancient canals which are used for navigation, but many of the large irrigation canals have been built within the past 50 years. Among those visited, the last to be completed cost about \$1,200,000 and has been finished about five years.

One of the instructive features of Italy's irrigation system is the way in which farmers have united in co-operative societies to build and operate canals or to distribute water from laterals. The largest of these societies is the irrigation association at Vercelest. It has 14,000 members and controls the irrigation of 123,500 acres. It supervises the operation of over 7,000 miles of canals and

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E. R. BRADLEY.

ditches, with 40 watermeters, and has about 150 miles of telephone lines. It buys water at wholesale and pays on an average \$170,000 a year for the quantity purchased. The main society is divided into 40 subordinate societies, each of which elects a member to a general assembly which directs the policy of the association. This society transacts a business of about \$60,000 a year.

One of the effects of these co-operative societies is the absence of friction and controversy between neighbors and neighborhoods so often manifest in the United States. In the society above referred to there has never been an appeal from the decision of the manager



E. H. SHEPARD,
Member Board of Directors Hood River Fruit Growers' Union.

nor a single instance of a member failing to pay his water rentals. In traveling through a region in which 28,000 cubic feet of water per second was being distributed every day there was not a single complaint of injustice or extortion, or fear expressed by any farmer that he would not receive his share of water when his turn came.

Much of the land is farmed by tenants, and as the area each cultivates is small, the general practice is to rotate the use of water along laterals. These rotations are worked out with a system not approached anywhere in the United States outside of Utah and a few ditches in Southern California. In one instance the turn of a farmer was only one hour each week. It began at 7 o'clock Monday morning and ended at 8 o'clock. That was his single "rain" in seven days which could be relied upon. The farmer paid about \$6 a year for the watering of each acre. In looking over the accounts of one association, the largest annual payment by any farmer for water was found to be about \$1,200, and the smallest four cents.

The government exercises absolute control over the public streams and regulates the amounts each canal may divert. Parties wishing to build new canals must obtain the government's consent. No perpetual rights to water are now granted. Appropriations are treated as franchises and their life is 30 years. On the other hand, the government is liberal in its treatment of meritorious projects, frequently extending aid by paying the interest on bonds issued to secure funds to build canals, the usual plan being to pay three per cent for the first 10 years, two per cent for the second 10 years, and one per cent for the third 10 years, so that the interest payments by the government end with the expiration of the water right. When the right expires it may be renewed just as franchises are renewed in this country.

In many sections of Italy canal companies have experienced the same losses and farmers suffered the same injury from seepage as are met with in this country. In some instances canals have had to be cemented for their entire length. Drainage has also had to follow canal-building, as the seepage water fills the farmers' fields and the cellars of houses in towns. In recent years the granting of rights to build canals is frequently conditioned on the canal company constructing along with its irrigation works a complete system of drains to carry off the surplus water. In some districts drainage works have been built under an agreement whereby the canal company pays 60 per cent of the cost of drains and receives the water they



E. A. FRANZ,
Member Board of Directors Hood River Fruit Growers' Union.

collect, the farmers pay 20 per cent, and the municipality the remaining 20 per cent. Mr. Mead believes that irrigation is certain to be a large factor in increasing

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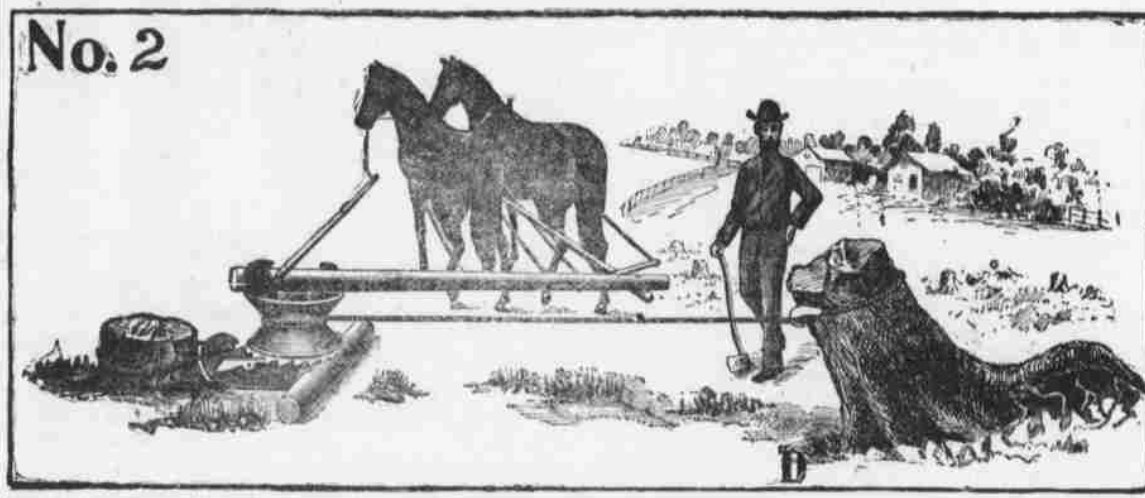
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OVER

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